



# West Exmoor Federation

*'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'*

13.10.2017

Dear Parents/Carers

## **LONDON RESIDENTIAL – YEAR 5 & 6**

It was an absolute privilege to accompany our Year 5 & 6 children on their amazing residential experience last week to North London. To link in with our theme for the term they visited Bletchley Park where they learned about the part played by the code breakers during WWII and had the opportunity to see an Enigma machine in action. They also visited the Imperial War Museum and the Churchill War Rooms. At the IWM the children were particularly fascinated by a new exhibition, 'A Family in Wartime', which tells the story of how ordinary people braved the challenges of life at home during WWII through the eyes of the Allpress family, who lived in Stockwell, London. The Churchill War Rooms was equally interesting and enabled the children to step back in time to the 1940s. During the trip the children also enjoyed a day of canoeing, climbing and raft building. They also spent a day at the Lee Valley Velopark, experiencing the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The children learned about the regeneration of the Lee Valley site and the architectural design of the VeloPark. They had the opportunity to look behind the scenes of the Velodrome where Team GB dominated the track events during the 2012 Olympics, winning seven out of a possible ten gold medals plus one silver and one bronze. The children also took part in a BMX workshop, riding on the BMX track used during the 2012 Olympics; it really was a truly awe-inspiring day. Throughout the week the behaviour of the children was impeccable and wherever we went members of the public commented on how polite and engaged they were – they were a real credit to themselves, their families and the federation.



## **HARVEST FESTIVALS**

Thank you so much for all the wonderful harvest produce that is already being brought into school. Donations can continue to be brought in up until the end of next week, after which we will arrange for the items to be taken into the Freedom Centre in Barnstaple. Please do come along and join us at one of our services. The children have been busy practising and, as always, we'll be in for a real treat. The Lynton children will be celebrating Harvest at St Mary's on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am, whilst the Parracombe and Kentisbury children will be holding their service at Christ Church, Parracombe on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October, also at 10.30am.

## **CHURCH TO SCHOOL WEEK**

When the children return to school after half-term, we will be enjoying our annual Church-to-School Week. A range of activities will be planned for the week which will culminate with a Church Service at St Mary's, Lynton on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November. During the Service the children will show-case what they have learnt through the week. We would be delighted if you could join us and further details regarding times will be sent home next week.

## **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AT WOODY BAY TRAIN STATION**

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, we will once again be participating in an Act of Remembrance at Woody Bay Train Station. As our theme this term covers WWI and WWII we have decided to take all of our children to the Service. The Service will begin at 10.45am and you are more than welcome to join us. After the service the children will all enjoy a short ride on the train with the carriages being pulled by the engine Axe, which was used on the front line. In order to link the service to our theme as much as possible, we would like the children to come to school dressed as an Evacuee. This doesn't need to be an elaborate costume and we do not expect you to incur a great deal of expense (it's quite possible that the costumes the younger children had for Mary Poppins could be adapted).

However, in order to maximise the use of the costume we will also be asking the children to wear it again on Children in Need Day which is on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

## **NO NUTS!**

We now have two children within the federation who suffer a severe anaphylactic reaction to nuts. After careful consideration we have decided to introduce a 'No Nuts' policy across the federation. This includes all nuts, pine kernels

and coconut. I appreciate that this may result in you needing to make some changes to your child's packed lunch and/or snacks, but I am sure that you can understand the need for this approach. We are not excluding items which state 'may contain nuts', but any produce which has nuts, pine kernels or coconut within the ingredients should not be brought into school. Initially, if we see an item in a child's lunchbox that contains nuts we will simply give the child a 'No Nuts!' sticker to bring home. However, after a period of transition which will cease at the end of the Autumn term, any items within lunch boxes that contain nuts will be removed and replaced with an alternative snack. A Nut Policy has been added to our website and a printed version of it can be provided by my admin team. However, you will see below the extracts from the policy that are particularly pertinent to you as parents:

*The West Exmoor Federation aims to practise a nut free policy although we recognise that this cannot be guaranteed. This policy serves to set out all measures to reduce the risk to those children and adults who may suffer an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to nuts to which they are sensitive. Our Pre-school, Little Berries, aims to protect children who have allergies to nuts yet also help them, as they grow up, to take responsibility as to what foods they can eat and to be aware of where they may be put at risk.*

### **Parents**

*We ask parents not to bring in any food or treats (such as for birthdays) unless they have checked the ingredients carefully, likewise for snack and lunch box choices. Homemade snacks or party food/PTFA cake contributions, etc, must have a label detailing all ingredients present. Packaging of purchased items must be checked for:*

- *Not suitable for nut allergy sufferers*
- *This product contains nuts*

*Lunch box items will be removed by staff and replaced with alternative items if they contain nuts or nut products.*

Once again, I appreciate that this may cause some inconvenience but really do hope that you understand the reason for this decision and that you will help us keep all of our children as safe as is practically possible.

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

*Our theme this term for Collective Worship has been 'Our Planet and its People: Thinking Globally'. Throughout the term we have thought about issues around the world relating to water, food, refugees and natural disasters. We have considered the need for peace and prayed for world leaders in the hopes that the world may one day live as one.*

### **Class News – Streams**

#### **Class Dojo App**

Most of you have now signed up to Class Dojo. Please sign up if you haven't yet done so. It is a fantastic tool to send out quick messages and pictures of the children's learning. Please see Mr Mackenzie if you have any technical issues.



#### **Coats**

Please make sure your child is coming to school with a warm coat. We go outside in all weathers. The children in foundation stage spend a considerable amount of the day outside so it is vital that they have a coat.



### Curriculum Focus

Over the next couple of weeks, we would love it if you could focus on Geography with your child. We have been learning about where we live in the world. The children have been looking at our location in the world and the places that are near to us. We have been learning about vocabulary such as village, town and city. In years 1 and 2 the children have been exploring the countries within the UK and Europe. If you have an atlas at home it would be fantastic if you could take some time to explore this further with your child and help consolidate their learning.



### Parents Evening

Thank you to all the parents that have signed up for parents evening. If you are yet to sign up, the appointment sheet is located in the school office. As you would have seen, there is lots of parents to see so we are going to have to be strict with how long each parent consultation lasts. Please be assured, if there is anything that needs further discussion we are happy to make an appointment to speak at another time.



### Harvest Festival

Our Harvest festival will be taking place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at St Mary's church at 10:30. As part of the service the children will be standing at the front and singing a song. This will be a big occasion for the foundation children as this is their 1<sup>st</sup> performance in front of such a large audience. It would be wonderful to see all of you there.



### Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Next week we will be visited by the Samaritans as part of their Christmas Shoebox Appeal. This is a fantastic initiative which gives children around the world a present at Christmas. Please take the time to look at the website and see all the fantastic work the Samaritans do. In Streams, we will be collecting for a class shoebox. If you are unable to donate a whole shoebox of gifts but would like to give something, please bring in a gift and we will add it to donation from the class. The children will be bringing home a leaflet regarding what sort of gifts to donate next week. In the meantime, information can be found on their website.



Thank you to our volunteers Kelly Peacock, Eve Parkinson, Naomi Gubb-Fradgley and Pat Taylor.

Mr Mackenzie

### Class News – Rivers

In English, we are writing explanations about life in the trenches. After half term we will be writing poetry for remembrance day and presenting our poems as a piece of art. In English, you can help your child by encouraging them to read every night at home.

Our Maths topic is on number and place value. We have been working on rounding this week and will be focusing on problem solving until half term. After half term we shall be moving onto addition and subtraction. Each week we will complete a Magic Maths Times Table quiz and the children will have the opportunity to earn certificates for each level they reach. You can help your child in Maths by ensuring they learn their times tables. In art, the children are still learning how to cross stitch and have persevered well with this task. We are also making our own world war scrapbook which the children are enjoying. They are able to be creative and add their own individuality to their scrapbooks.

Many thanks, Miss Martin.

## Class News – Oceans



We continue to be very, very busy in Oceans: raft building; rock climbing; BMX riding; singing in a 200 strong choir; and exploring our theme of WW1 & 2 in Bletchley park, the Imperial war museum and the Curchill war rooms. We're exhausted but we've learnt lots. Next week we will be concentrating on our Royal Ballet project and performance poetry in English to start building our vocabulary for our WW1 / 2 story next half-term. In maths we are moving onto calculations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and that will take us up to the last week/ week and a half of this autumn term. We hope to see you all at our Harvest festival next week and we will be receiving donations of food for Barnstaple's food bank.

A big thank you to Christine who has been helping us learn how to sew on Fridays we really enjoy our small group D. T. time. Thank you all again for your continued support.

Regards,

Sarah Adams Lemon

## Class News – Young Buds

We have had a brilliant first half term in Young Buds. The Reception children are now professionals at being in school and the Year 1's and 2's have adjusted so well to the new challenges in their year groups. We are really proud of all of them.

Young Buds have really seemed to enjoy our English sequence on 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We will finish off next week with the children choosing their own animal to look for and describing a new obstacle in their path. In Maths, we will be moving on from working with numbers to pattern sniffing. I have been really impressed with how much the 1/2 children understand about 2 digit numbers.

This term, our class focus has been about independent learning, and Young Buds have definitely been trying hard to be more independent. Reception children have been completing challenges in Continuous Provision to earn their lolly sticks and Dojo points and the 1/2's have been working hard on completing tasks set in lessons with greater independence to earn their lolly sticks and Dojo points.

A huge well done to so many children who have read at home 25 times and have got their sticker. They are Henry P, Joe, Jack, Layla, Timea, Clover, Henry B, Dougal, Mia, Reuben and Rie. They will all have their pictures taken for our reading display next week so look out for that.

Wow, Young Buds have achieved a fantastic 100% attendance this week. This is amazing, well done everyone. Lets' hope we can keep it up.

Don't forget to sign up for your slot on parent's evening. The lists are by Mel's office with the main slots available on Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, which will be held at Parracombe, and some slots from 3.30-4.30 available on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> at Kentisbury. It would be lovely to see as many parents as possible so that you are up to date with how your child is getting on.

Our Harvest Festival is on the last Friday of term at Parracombe church at 10.30 am. Young Buds have been busy practising their song so if you are able to make it, they would love to sing it to you. Please send tinned donations into school before then.

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Sally Pile and Jill Kelly.

### **Class News – Oaks**

Last week, I went along with the year 5 and 6 classes on their week long residential to London. We had such an amazing time, tiring, but amazing! I hope everyone has recovered (I'm beginning to).

Whilst we were in London we were able to visit many iconic places, which also relates to our federation theme of world war. As well as visiting museums and the Velodrome, we were able to go climbing, canoeing and do some raft building, which was really fun. The Velodrome was an amazing experience for us all, although us adults were not allowed to take part in the BMX experience because we weren't young enough (I know, how mean).

Despite having such an amazing time in London, I am glad to be back with my year 3 and 4 class, who also had a lovely week with Mrs Hamer. This week will be finishing up our number and place value topic. We will be looking at problem solving, roman numerals and negative numbers.

In English we have just started working on our information text sequence. This will be focused on an area of the war, based on their choice. They will be conducting their own research to gather the facts and information they will need. Feel free to do additional research at home.

This week we have also looked different mediums in art using a range of equipment and resources to draw poppies, based on the style of Georgia O'Keefe. Apologies of your children came home a bit messy on Wednesday.

In science we are continuing to investigate and learn about living things, in particular plants.

This Monday, the 16<sup>th</sup> October, is parent consultation evening. If you wish to make an appointment, please phone the school to book a time. If you are unable to make the given evening, I am more than happy to arrange a different date and time. I look forward to hearing from and seeing you.

Miss Johnston

### **Little Berries News**

After a busy start to the term, we are delighted that all of our new children have now settled in to a routine and that all of our Little Berries are happy and enjoying their time with us.

With the changing season, we are now focusing our attentions on all things Autumn. When the weather has been dry we have been exploring the visible changes in and around our own environment, discussing these changes around us, collecting leaves, apples and twigs and using these in different ways including counting, printing and creating some lovely art pieces.

Next week we will be planting some spring bulbs, getting ready for the spring and will watch these grow in time. To acknowledge Halloween, we will be focusing on the story Pumpkin Soup, exploring the colour, smell of pumpkins and we are even hoping to make our very own soup.

Your Little Berries team

### **Admin News**

#### **Parents Consultations**

Don't forget to book your slot for the parent consultations on the 16<sup>th</sup> October for Kentisbury and Parracombe and 17<sup>th</sup> October for Lynton. If you're not sure where the lists are, please ask at the office.

#### **Music Lessons**

There are limited spaces for piano or violin lessons at Kentisbury on a Thursday within school. For more information, please email Jenny at [jennyayres@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyayres@hotmail.com)

With many thanks

Wendy, Jacqui, Mel and Vikki

### **Dates for your diary**

- 16.10.17 Two Moors Festival Recital @ Lynton for the whole federation
- 17.10.17 Speak Out/Stay Safe Workshops by the NSPCC
- 19.10.17 Lynton Harvest Festival @ St Mary's, 10.30am
- 20.10.17 Parracombe & Kentisbury Harvest Festival @ Christ Church, 10.30am
- 20.10.17 End of Half Term

## **COMMUNITY**