



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

Spring Term 2018 – Newsletter No 3 - 9th February

Quick Reminders

PARENT CONSULTATIONS – Monday 19th @ Lynton and Kentisbury, Tuesday 20th @ Parracombe – Please remember to make an appointment.

WE THE CURIOUS – Please return any outstanding consent forms. Early start (8am Bottom Meadow Car Park, 8.15am Blackmore Gate) and late return (6pm Blackmore Gate, 6.15pm Bottom Meadow Car Park). Packed lunch and plenty of non-sugary snacks and non-fizzy drinks required. No spending money necessary.

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our new look newsletter. Following discussions with my teachers and administrators, as well as a number of parents, we have tried to streamline the newsletter to make it more user friendly and less repetitive. As you will see, there is a quick reminder section at the top of the newsletter for those immediate things that you need to action or remember. Within my section of the newsletter you will be able to read about federation events as well as other more general news or advisory items. Our Early Years, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two teams will then report upon specific Key Stage activities and curriculum learning, some of which will relate to specific classes. There will also be an information section from our admin team, the Governors, the usual diary dates section and finally any community information that we have been asked to pass on. Your feedback and any further suggestions regarding the format of our newsletter would be much appreciated.

TRIP TO ROSEMOOR – A HOME FOR ROBIN

Little Berries, Young Buds and Streams enjoyed a wonderful day at RHS Rosemoor last week. The children took part in a workshop entitled 'A Home for Robin'. They learned about what a bird needs to survive and what makes a good habitat. The children then explored the garden using identification and classification to gather and record data within graphs to assess whether or not Rosemoor was a good habitat for a robin to live in. Finally, based upon their observations of a real nest, they found a safe place to build a nest which was then tested out by the resident Rosemoor robin, Robbie. Whilst at Rosemoor the children also had the opportunity to walk through the gardens looking at some of the incredible sculptures that are currently on display. They also enjoyed playing in The Brash, a beautiful natural play area.

It was an absolute pleasure to accompany the children on their visit to Rosemoor. As always, their behaviour was impeccable and it was lovely to receive so many positive comments about their engagement in learning and the way in which they all generally conducted themselves throughout the day. Well done children - I am very proud of you.



Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ Support

MATHLETICS



Thank you so much for all of the positive feedback that we have received regarding our trial of Mathletics. As you may well have noticed, access to Mathletics was briefly interrupted earlier this week as we moved from our trial period into a full subscription for the next 12 months. Please do encourage your children to make use of this excellent resource. After half-term we will be introducing some of the additional features that are now available to us, including set home learning activities.

SIX ONLINE SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN FROM THE BBC

Good Behaviour - Think about the way you talk about or react to what you see online (especially on social media) and try to model good manners and kindness just as you would in other areas of life.

Joint Activity - If you're using a phone or tablet with your child, try to make it a joint activity. For example, you could look at photos together and talk about the memories that are attached to them.

Device Free Time - Talk together as a family about how you can strike a balance between screen time and other activities. Try setting some 'device-free' times or rooms at home (at mealtimes and before bed can be a good place to start). You could even have a phone-free day trip together.

Use Devices Together - Using devices together really helps young children learn from what they're doing. A grown-up asking questions and commentating on what's happening makes it easier for younger children to relate what they're learning on screen into the real world. There are lots of great games to play together in the [CBeebies Playtime Island app](#).

Commentate - It can be useful to commentate on what you're doing when you do need to use your device in front of your child. Saying things like 'I'm sending a message to Grandma to say we will meet her at the café' helps younger children understand how adults use devices to communicate and shows you're not just ignoring them!

Sharing - [Think about what you're sharing online](#), and if your child is old enough, ask how they feel before posting a photo of them on your social media profile. Doing this while they're young is a good way to start a conversation about how we behave online, which will stand you in good stead later on!

Find more resources for keeping older kids safe online on [BBC Own It](#)

NAME LABELS

During the course of the week we have been trying to reunite a large quantity of lost property with its rightful owners. Unfortunately, much of it is unnamed which makes it extremely difficult to return. Over the course of the half term break could you please check all of your child's clothing, including coats, PE kit and shoes, to ensure that their name is clearly marked or that they don't have someone else's items. I know that this can be quite time consuming but it saddens me to see so much clothing unclaimed and just a few minutes spent checking clothing could save you the time and expense of having to buy new uniform.

Finally, I hope that you all have an enjoyable half term break and I look forward to welcoming our children back to school on Monday 19th February.

Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

This term within Collective Worship we are exploring Christian Values. We have been thinking about the values which are important to us and how living by these values impacts upon our family, friends and those within our community. Over the last two weeks we have been focusing upon friendship and forgiveness. We have also been praying for those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

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Streams & Young Buds



Home learning

Streams and Young Buds have been loving the home learning tasks this term. The children have been presenting their home learning in show and tell. We have been staggered by the effort and enthusiasm that they have put into making their models and presenting them. Well done children – we look forward to seeing even more home learning coming into school after the half term break.

Big Bird Watch

Earlier this week, Young Buds took part in the Big School Birdwatch as a follow up to our visit to Rosemoor. The children designed and made their own binoculars, considering camouflage and the habitat that they would be watching the birds within. The children then honed their observation and data collection skills whilst recording the type and number of birds that they could see at any one time. Once they had collated their data they submitted their results online. During the birdwatch they saw 1 blackbird, 2 blue tits, 4 buzzards, 2 house sparrows, 9 jackdaws and 10 robins.



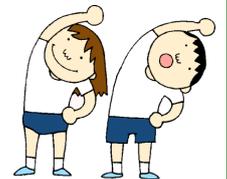
Curriculum Focus



After half term we will be writing information texts about Mars, Venus or Jupiter. The children will be making their own information posters based upon their research. If your children are looking at non-fiction books about space at home, it would be great if you could help them to use an index or contents page to locate specific information. Any facts that they can gather would be great. This would fit in nicely with the home learning tasks which, if you have not already done so, will no doubt be doing over the half term holiday.

PE kits

Please make sure your child has a full PE kit in school every day. We have a large number of children not bringing kit on a regular basis. This can have a huge impact on their learning. For example, some of the tasks undertaken can be extremely difficult to carry out if a tight fitting uniform is restricting their movements.



Rivers, Oceans & Oaks

In Lower Key Stage 2 we have been designing our own space holiday resort. We have really enjoyed writing travel adverts to convince the public to come to our hotels. After half term we will be planning and writing our own space story. We can then present our narratives in a story book form and design our own front covers in art.

In art this term we have been working on the artist Kandinsky. We have created some fantastic copies of Kandinsky's work focusing on shapes and different types of line. We are now using our own imagination and creating our own design on the theme of space whilst based on Kandinsky's style.

In maths we have just finished our topic on multiplication and division. You can help your child by encouraging them to learn their times tables. All children have taken home a copy of all times tables up to 12 in order to help them practice. After half term we will be moving onto fractions and decimals.

During the following half-term Upper Key Stage 2 will be researching and writing biographies and autobiographies. To keep our focus firmly on space we will concentrate on astronauts and scientists for our research. In maths we are exploring algebra before moving onto geometry.

We are not setting English and Maths homework in upper key stage 2 so that time can be given to our theme homework and year 6 can if they choose to use their time to continue to go through their revision books.

Admin

Payments for School Dinners

Please can we remind parents that all school dinners should be paid for on the day they are taken or in advance, this is a requirement of Devon County Council. Any payment should be put in an envelope and marked with your child's name and the amount enclosed, this prevents any confusion as to who has paid and how much. Any cheques should be made payable to Devon County Council.



World Book Day

As you may know, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 1st March. We are encouraging all children (and staff) to come to school dressed as their favourite book character and bring the book to school in which they feature. Each class will be taking part in some enjoyable book related activities throughout the day whilst we celebrate the wonderful world of books.

Many thanks,

Wendy, Mel, Jacqui and Vikki

Diary Dates

19.02.18	Children return from Half Term break
21.02.18	Federation Trip to 'We the Curious'
01.03.18	World Book Day
12.03.18	Science Week
20.03.18	Inter-House Rugby Competition
21.03.18	Gifted & Talented Basketball Event for Year 5/6 @ Ilfracombe Academy
27.03.18	Theatre Alibi Performance – The Boy Who Climbed into the Moon
27.03.18	Easter Service @ St Mary's, Lynton – 1.30pm
29.03.18	End of Term
16.04.18	Children return to school

Community

Saints Southwest Soccer School and Multi sports Camp

Saints Southwest will be running their popular Soccer Schools & Multi-Sport Camps during February Half Term with prices from JUST £7.50 for a full course, 10am-3pm in Paignton, Dawlish, Lapford, Ottery St Mary, Plymouth, Crediton, Langport, Exeter, Dartmouth, Chulmleigh, Taunton, Kingsbridge, Newton Abbot & Okehampton. Ages 7-12 can attend 10am-3pm. Ages 4-6 can attend 1.30pm-3pm.

To BOOK please visit www.saintssouthwest.co.uk or call 01803 206350.

Saints Southwest Soccer Schools offer exceptional value for money, and the opportunity for young players to improve their skills through a structured and enjoyable coaching programme devised and delivered by experienced and FA qualified coaches. The Soccer Schools are action packed days which allows children to learn new skills and improve match play whilst having fun.

How to Book? Call 01803 206350 to book your child onto a holiday soccer school.



DEVON – February Half Term Courses 2018

Area	Venue	Date	Time	Ages	Facility/ Surface	Cost
Plymstock	Plymstock School PL9 9AZ	Tuesday 13th February	10am- 2pm	Boys and girls aged 5-11	Astroturf	£5
Barnstaple	Tews Lane, EX31 2JU	Thursday 15th February	10am- 2pm	Boys and girls aged 5-11	Grass	£5

Book early to avoid disappointment

Players will need a drink and packed lunch

Kevin.Weir@TheFA.Com

WWW.THEFA.COM/SKILLS



FA Skills Team

During the February half term, the FA Skills team in Devon are running football sessions for BOYS and GIRLS aged 5-11 for just £5 a day. The FA Skills holiday football coaching sessions are perfect for children who want to develop their football skills, meet new people, be active and have some fun during the holidays. All children who attend the session will be entered into a draw to win a signed England football shirt from the players.

Thursday 15th February, Tews Lane, Roundswell, Barnstaple
BOYS and GIRLS aged 5-11, 10am-2pm £5
Please bring a packed lunch and pay upon arrival

To book a space please email Kevin.Weir@thefa.com or visit our website www.thefa.com/skills