



# West Exmoor Federation

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

*Autumn Term 2018 – Newsletter 1 – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018*



## Quick Reminders

**YEAR 5/6 RESIDENTIAL** – Please ensure that you arrive at Bottom Meadow Car Park or Blackmore Gate in good time for our planned departure times (6.45am & 7am respectively)

## Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

### WELCOME BACK

I hope that you had a wonderful summer break and were able to enjoy some quality time with your children. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school; they all look so happy and have very quickly settled into the new school year. It has also been a genuine pleasure to welcome our new reception children, as well as a handful of other new children who have started across our year groups. I have been extremely impressed by how quickly they have all settled into school and I wish them much happiness and success during their time within the federation. I have also been impressed by how smart all of the children look; it is lovely to see them all wearing appropriate school uniform – thank you.

### ANGLO SAXON ENRICHMENT DAY

Last week our children enjoyed a wonderful day with an Anglo Saxon Warrior. During the course of the day they learned about life in Britain from the end of the Roman occupation to the Battle of Hastings. They explored why the Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain and examined a range of artefacts to find out about daily life, food, clothing and trade. The children learned about some of the colourful Kings during this period, as well as the religion and mythology of the time. They also had the opportunity to bear weapons, re-enact a battle, find out about the challenges of sailing the seas in a long boat and discover how the Anglo-Saxons buried their most powerful Kings and Warriors. It really was an extremely inspirational day and has certainly sparked enthusiasm for our theme learning this term.



### STAFFING/LEAD TEACHERS

It has been a delight to welcome Charlotte Taylor, Harmony Constant, Sammy Mirow and Miranda Tyson to our team this year. It has also been wonderful to welcome Gini Hynes back into the federation. With a full staffing compliment the Governors and I have been looking to address the feedback that we received from parents/carers last year, regarding who you should talk to in the event of any concerns or sensitive issues. Ordinarily, this should always be your child's class teacher. However, we appreciate that at times you may feel that this is not appropriate for a variety of reason. Therefore, we have established Lead Teachers across the federation who will be available to talk with you prior to 9am, or at the end of the school day, on the days when I am not based at your child's school. At Lynton you should speak with Joe Mackenzie; at Parracombe you should speak with Charlotte Taylor; and at Kentisbury you should speak with Jill Kelly. As

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always, I can be contacted by phone at any time and am always happy to receive emails via [jayne.peacock@westexmoorfederation.org.uk](mailto:jayne.peacock@westexmoorfederation.org.uk)

### **CHILD/ROAD SAFETY**

A number of issues have been brought to my attention regarding the safety of our children around our school premises at the start and end of the school day. Please may I remind all parents to drive slowly and cautiously when approaching our schools. Although you are permitted to drive up to 30 miles per hour along these roads, I urge you to cut your speed to 20 miles per hour or less in order to ensure the safety of our children. If travelling to Lynton by car, children should be dropped off in Bottom Meadow Car Park rather than outside of the main school entrance to ensure that the main pedestrian access into the school is free of traffic. At Parracombe we respectfully request that parents/carers wishing to park do so in the Village Hall Car Park to minimise congestion outside of the school. At Kentisbury we also ask that parents/carers park in the Village Hall Car Park, rather than the newly created staff/minibus parking area, to ensure that access for the school bus is not blocked. I appreciate that our growing pupil numbers are making access in and out of Parracombe and Kentisbury a little trickier than in the past, but urge all parents/carers to show consideration and respect to other road users and to be patient and courteous to one another. Thank you for helping us to keep your children safe.

### **USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

Could I please remind you that the federation provides guidelines on the parental use of social media. This has been previously circulated and is also available on our website and from our school offices. It is imperative that these guidelines are adhered to and that users of social media such as Facebook bear in mind that even comments made between 'friends' can end up in the public domain. If you have any concerns or comments to make regarding the federation, its pupils, staff or governors, I urge you to use the appropriate means of communication. Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation regarding this matter.

Best Wishes



Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

**In collective worship we have been celebrating the start of our new school year and thinking about gifts and talents within the context of CARIS. We have been talking about the importance of love and how this underpins all that we do and that we are.**

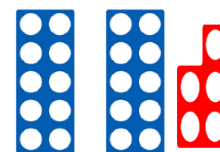
### **Streams & Young Buds**

Firstly, we'd like to say how blown away we have been by all the children in both Lynton and Kentisbury schools. They have returned after the summer break eager and ready to learn.

We'd like to take this opportunity to give a very warm welcome to our Reception children and their parents in both schools. The children have settled into school life brilliantly and we are all excited to see their achievements throughout their first year and beyond. We have also had some new children start in years 1 and 2 and would like to welcome them and their families to their new school.

### **Curriculum Focus**

In Maths, the children be learning about place value of numbers in various ways including identifying numbers that are greater than or less than another, tens and ones and sequencing numbers correctly.



In English, the children will be writing mini-biographies of themselves by asking themselves 'what makes me a me?' You can help at home by talking to your child about their hobbies, likes and dislikes and remind them about the wonderful things that makes them a unique child.

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We are also having a big focus this term on handwriting and letter formation across the whole federation. We teach the children pre-cursive from Reception and move onto cursive as they progress through the school. If your child is doing some writing at home, please encourage them to form their letters correctly. See your class teacher if you are unsure, alternatively, you can get examples from Google.

Are you able to help to read with children in school? If you think you would be able to spare some time to come into school to help us with this extremely important job, we would be very grateful. Please see your class teacher if you are able to help.

Spellings and home learning will be sent out soon. It is also important to check your child's book bag daily for any correspondence that has been sent home for you.

Please ensure your child has a full PE kit in school. Now that the weather is cooling down, they might require tracksuit bottoms or leggings for outdoor PE sessions. If you know your child has had PE please check it to see if it is wet or muddy so that it can be washed. Children must also have a coat in school as we try and get outside at playtimes as much as possible and it can now be quite cold.

Thank you for your continued support.

Your KS1 team.

## **Rivers & Oaks**

Welcome back Oaks and Rivers!

The Autumn term has started off with a bang. All of the children have settled back in to the school routine really well. We could not be more proud of all of your children. Great start Year 3 and 4, well done 😊!

We have been very fortunate to have an extremely enjoyable and educational WOW! day to start off our Anglo-Saxon topic. The children thoroughly enjoyed it and learnt loads, and so did we. I'm sure you've heard all about it. The level and quality of questions asked blew us all away. It's going to be a very interesting and exciting topic to explore.

We will be sending some home learning ideas to you very soon. Our overarching theme this term is 'Who do you think you are?' and the children will be looking into their families, comparing features and briefly discussing genetics. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are starting our learning journey this term by studying number and place value. Please encourage your children to read and examine numbers in a variety of contexts. This will support your children's number understanding in real life situations. We are also beginning to explore instructional writing for cause and effect as our sequence in English lessons. Alongside this, we are encouraging children to develop their application of vocabulary and understanding of texts. We are asking you to read with your children every evening and record this in their reading records. You could support and reinforce the skills we are teaching in school by asking questions about the texts they have read; there are some example questions in your child's reading diaries.

The children will now be tested weekly on spelling and time tables. Please help us by practising both at home with your children. It is a national requirement for children in year 3 to know their 2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, 8x and 10x times tables. Children in year 4 are now required to know all times tables, up to 12x, by the end of the academic year.

Children in Oaks (Parracombe year 3 and 4), will be taking part in two PE sessions a week. One will be on Tuesday afternoons and the other will be a tag rugby session taken by an experienced coach on Thursday mornings. As this session will take place in the morning, the children can come to school in their PE kit if

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they wish. If so, please do send their school uniform in with them as they will need to change after the session. Rivers (Lynton year 3 and 4), have tag rugby on a Monday afternoon and PE on a Friday afternoon. Please make sure the children have a PE kit with them for the start of the week. If you have any concerns about kit or activities, please feel free to contact us. If the weather is looking unpleasant, the children can wear tracksuit bottoms and a coat.

As always, any questions or queries, please do contact to us. We're both very excited to be working with you and your children this year. Let's make it a cracking year ☺.

Miss Johnston and Miss Constant

## Sports News

### SCHOOL GAMES GOLD AWARD



We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2017/18 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success. Our sporting achievements last year included high-level coaching in tag rugby, tennis, gymnastics and swimming; extensive opportunities for our children to experience new sporting activities, especially during our KS2 residential trips; a variety of intra-house competitions; and participation in a wide range of competitive events across Devon including tag rugby, swimming and cross-country running. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who enabled our children to benefit from such a broad range of sporting opportunities last year and, in particular, Jill Kelly, who has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of PE and sport across the federation. To achieve the Gold Mark Award is true testament to how we all value this aspect of the curriculum and I have no doubt that we will continue to build upon this further throughout the coming year.



## Admin

Do you have any empty matchboxes and cotton bobbins for model making? If so, please could you give in to the school office to be given to Mrs Watts in Parracombe.

### School Dinner Payments

Please remember that school dinners for children in Key Stage 2 (year 3 to year 6) are £2.30 per day. Payment should be brought in to school on the day the meal is taken in a named envelope. Alternatively, you could pay an amount in advance for the term or half term for example. Cheques should be made payable to Devon County Council.

### Vacancy - Breakfast Club Assistant, Lynton

Lynton School are currently looking for a casual helper for at least one morning at week for Breakfast Club starting at 8am. This involves serving breakfast and supervising an activity with the children until they can go in to their classroom. As with any work with children, you would need to complete a DBS check, which would be processed and paid for by the federation. If you would like more information, please speak to Vikki Brown at Lynton School Office or Mrs Peacock.

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## Governors News

### WELCOME BACK FROM THE GOVERNORS.

Well, the summer break seemed to end all too quickly, as we saw the children return to the Federation last week. At least this year the break had some good weather for us all to enjoy.

We also welcomed some new children into the Federation, as well as some new staff, and some returning back after being absent last year for a variety of reasons; so a fond welcome to all, especially Ms. Harmony Constant and Ms. Sammy Mirow (Lynton), Mrs. Charlotte Taylor at Parracombe who are joining the Federation, and to Mrs. Sarah Adams Lemon and Mrs. Sally Pile at Kentisbury, and Mrs. Gini Hynes who will be working across all three schools.

Last school year was a dramatic one for the Federation. We lost some staff during the year for a variety of reasons, and both staff and pupils were absent due to often reoccurring illnesses. And then, there was the snow, which closed us down; no doubt providing great entertainment for the pupils, who may have seen snow in those proportions for the first time!

As we said a farewell to the year 6 children leaving last term, the Governors and Senior staff had a chance to reflect on the challenges of the year, and to hope that the new year would be, somewhat less testing.

Alas that was not to be, with Little Berries needing to be temporarily relocated to the Village Hall, but we can continue to hope for a fruitful year with a full complement of staff, and a pleasing expansion of pupil numbers.

The Governing Body has a very full programme this year. On Tuesday, we held out annual “housekeeping” day where we could all complete the necessary paperwork for Devon C.C. It was also a chance to arrange diaries for the various actions and duties of the Governing Body. We, also, were able to reflect that the good work going on within the Federation means that we have a large pupil population, with some classes being full. In my five years of being a governor this is the largest we have ever been, and reflects well on the way the Federation is viewed, not just locally, but also beyond, our traditional “catchment” area. The meeting also gave us a chance to reflect on the history of our schools, and the Federation, which is beautifully captured in the mural at Lynton, which commemorates the bi-centenary of schooling in Lynton. The governors wish to extend a big thank you to the designers and artists involved in the mural, and to the support offered by the PTFA in achieving this memento.

At this meeting, we were able to plan for all sub-committees to meet before half term, with the Full Governors meeting again towards the end of term. We have, also, planned a learning walk to visit all three schools, with a focus on how Maths is taught in October, and in November we will meet for a half day “planning” session where we can explore the depth and understanding of CARIS across the Federation, and the way it impacts on our children’s learning. At the moment the Governing Body is at full strength, but we will always welcome any person expressing an interest in becoming a governor in the future to get in touch to discuss how to progress with this. Anyone interested is invited, in the first instance to contact the Clerk, Mrs. Jacqui Skelton Norrish at Parracombe school, or myself via any school office or email [jan.stokes@westexmoorfederation.org.uk](mailto:jan.stokes@westexmoorfederation.org.uk). Further details of the governing body can be found on the Federation website [westexmoorfederation.org.uk](http://westexmoorfederation.org.uk)

Jan Stokes  
Chair of Governors, West Exmoor Federation.

## Diary Dates

17 <sup>th</sup> September	Y5/6 Residential to Whitemead Forest Park
24 <sup>th</sup> September	Individual School Photographs – Parracombe & Kentisbury only
1 <sup>st</sup> October	Author, John Townsend, visiting Lynton & Parracombe
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Author, Claire Barker, visiting Kentisbury
8 <sup>th</sup> October	Olympic Athlete, Robert Mitchell, visiting Lynton & Kentisbury
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultation Evening

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16 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival at Christ Church, Parracombe, 10.30am
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival at St Mary's, Lynton, 10.30am
19 <sup>th</sup> October	End of Half Term
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Children return to school

## Community

### Donations

We have a grandparent within the Federation who works with North Devon Animal Ambulance who are desperately seeking any unwanted blankets, old sheets, duvets, pillows, pillow cases, tea towels, flannels or anything like this that you would normally put in the bin. They are also asking for any unwanted dog/cat food, dog beds, cat beds, leads, collars, coats or any other unwanted animal products.

She also works with a homeless charity who are asking for donations of any old coats of all sizes but especially large mens.

If you have anything you would be willing to donate it would be greatly appreciated. Please bring donations in to the school office and we will pass them on to Parracombe School to give to the Grandparent.

Thank you for support.

### From the Rectory

Throughout the summer St Mary's, Lynton and St Brendan's, Brendon have been hosting exhibitions commemorating those from this area who fought and died in World War I. The exhibitions will remain in place until November 11<sup>th</sup> and are well worth visiting if you haven't already. The care and thoughtfulness that is evident in the gathering and assembling of the information and exhibits has, in itself, been an act of gratitude and honouring of those who suffered so that we might live as we do today and I am deeply grateful to all involved. I, like many who have moved here, or who visit, have not lived in such a tight knit community before and I find it sobering and profound to recognise the local names of those commemorated, so familiar because descendants still live here. Visiting the exhibitions is a timely reminder, in this hundredth anniversary year of the ending of World War I, of the blessing of living now – in a land where we are not suffering direct warfare.

Of course, this is not so for too many communities across our world. Our news media show us scenes of the devastation of war in countries where violence is being used as a means of settling differences and seeking power; such violence breaks out in terrorist attacks in countries not directly at war too. Using force to get your way is not confined to a national scale – as violence in streets and homes shows. Much of the political rhetoric we hear is divisive and aggressive rather than aimed at reconciliation of difference and unity of spirit. I suspect few of us can claim truly peaceful hearts ourselves. Our world is far from peaceful.

In early August in 1918, the King asked the country to pray for peace and a hundred days later the Armistice was signed. This year, the church has suggested that one way to mark anniversary of the Armistice is for us to take up again the call for a national wave of prayer for peace – praying daily, in our own way, for the peace of our world. Here we are consciously praying for peace each day in our Morning Prayer and at services on Sundays. There is a basket for peace prayers at the end of exhibition in Lynton. Can I invite you to join in this wave of prayer in your own way too?

May peace fill our hearts, our homes, our nation and our world, Amen.

God Bless,  
Samantha

Revd Samantha Stayte, The Rectory, 20 Lee Road, Lynton. EX35 6BP Tel. 01598 752289.

### **Christmas Concert:**

Friends of St Mary's are delighted to announce they will be hosting a Christmas Concert by Exmoor Carolers, in St Mary's church, Saturday December 8 starting at 7pm. Admission £7 will include an Exmoor Supper. Tickets are now available from any of the members of the Friends of St Mary's committee or from Tricia Morgan, Kingford House, Longmead. 01598 752361

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