



# West Exmoor Federation

*'Educating with love, for life in all its fullness'*

*Autumn Term 2019 – Newsletter 1 – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019*



## Quick Reminders

**Year 5/6 Eden Project Residential final payment of £40 now due**

## Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your children managed to enjoy some quality family time together over the summer. It has been lovely to welcome our children back to school; they certainly look well rested and eager to settle down to a term of exciting learning.

## WONDERSTRUCK

Oh my goodness me, what an amazing start to the term we had when Wonderstruck visited us at the beginning of this week – it was certainly a day full of awe and wonder. To kick start our overarching theme for the term, 'Inventions' our children enjoyed the most incredible science day. The day began with an explosive science show before our children took part in a compressed air-rocket workshop and a fan-powered car workshop, each ending with a fiercely fought competition! The range and complexity of science covered during the course of the day was fantastic and I have no doubt that it has further fuelled our children's passion for science.



## YURT COVER

Thank you to everyone who sponsored our children last term when they took part in their class marathons. So far, £517 has been raised towards the replacement costs of our yurt cover. If your child has not yet brought in their sponsorship money, it's not too late for them to do so. Thank you also to Barbrook Garage whose collection raised £123.

## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

This term we have introduced Knowledge Organisers for all of our curriculum subjects, excluding English and Maths. These clearly outline the key facts and information that our children need in order to have a basic knowledge and understanding of a topic. They are intended to help our children gain, retain and build the knowledge and skills set out in our curriculum overview. They include essential facts, key vocabulary or technical terms and their meanings, images such as maps or diagrams, links to real-life contexts, etc. The children have copies of these within their theme learning books and they will also be bringing a copy home for your information. It is intended that our children will be able to refer to them to assist with their learning and, as the year progresses, to refer back to them to refresh their memory of what they have learned. We would very much appreciate your feedback about the Knowledge Organisers when you receive them. For example, do you find them useful as a parent to understand what your child is learning on a termly basis? Do they help you support your child's learning at home? Does your child refer to them at home? Is there any further information that you would find useful? Should you have any queries regarding them, please do not hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher, lead teacher or myself.

## PUNCTUALITY – MINIBUSES AND SCHOOL ARRIVAL TIMES

I would like to remind everyone that school starts at **8.45am**. By this time all of our children should be in their classroom ready to start their learning. In order to help us have a punctual start to the day can you please ensure that your children arrive at school by 8.40am at the very latest. If your child travels on one of the school minibuses, please ensure that they are at the pick-up point and ready to get on the bus 5 minutes prior to departure. In order to ensure a smooth start to the school day all of our buses need to leave punctually; even if they are just a few minutes late, it has a knock-on effect

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to the rest of the day. I have asked Gini and Caroline to leave Kentisbury and Parracombe on time; if your child is not sat on the bus at this time they will be leaving without them and you will be responsible for getting them to their respective school. Thank you for your support regarding this matter.

## **ATTENDANCE**

As we start a new academic year, it is a good time to reflect upon how important it is that our children maintain good levels of attendance. Being absent from school can be extremely disruptive to our children's learning as lessons are strategically planned within sequences to develop the understanding of concepts, skills and knowledge in a progressive way. Being absent from lessons results in our children missing out on some of this layered learning and these gaps can be difficult to fill if absence is frequent. It is well documented that school attendance, even within the primary years, has a direct correlation to how well children achieve when sitting their GCSEs. Obviously we do not expect our children to come to school when they are genuinely poorly but we do expect them to attend at all other times. In exceptional circumstances, requests for holiday absence will be approved, but this should not be viewed as an entitlement. Within our Attendance Policy it clearly states what is considered an exceptional circumstance. It also states that requests for absence under an exceptional circumstance will not be granted if a child's absence is less than 96% or at certain times during the academic year. A copy of our policy is available to view of our federation website; if you would like a paper copy, please ask a member of my admin team.

Across the federation we have a higher than average number of children whose attendance falls below 90% and, therefore, our attendance is being monitored closely by the Local Authority. If your child does not attend school on a regular basis it is likely that our Education Welfare Officer, Linda Webster, will be in touch with you. Fines for unauthorised absence may also be issued by the Local Authority. Should you wish to discuss your child's attendance with me, please do not hesitate to do so.

## **SCHOOL MINIBUS TRANSPORT**

Could I please remind all parents/carers who drop off and/or collect children from the federation minibuses that children should be accompanied to and from the bus to ensure their safety. Also, I kindly remind you that you should not smoke within close proximity of the minibus and that vehicle engines should be switched off whilst waiting. Thank you so much for your co-operation.

## **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

If you need to contact staff outside of normal school hours, could I please ask that you do so either via our federation email accounts ([firstname.surname@westexmoorfederation.org.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@westexmoorfederation.org.uk)) or through DoJo. Other forms of social media, such as Facebook, should not be used for school related communication. Could I also respectfully ask, to ensure the well-being of my staff, that messages are not sent between 7pm & 7am, or at weekends. If, like me, you tend to send messages or emails when you 'think of something', it is possible to delay the sending of both DoJo messages and emails – please ask if you are unsure of how to do this. Thank you for helping to ensure that all off my staff are able to have a little bit of personal down-time.

As always, the door to my office is open. Please do not hesitate to pop in and see me if there is anything that you would like to discuss. Generally, I will be at Lynton all day on Monday and Thursday; at Kentisbury all day on Tuesday, as well as Friday afternoons; and at Parracombe all day Wednesday and also on Friday mornings. However, this can be a bit of a moveable feast, so please check with my admin team if you need to speak to me urgently or before making a special trip into school. I am always happy for you to contact me by email ([jayne.peacock@westexmoorfederation.org.uk](mailto:jayne.peacock@westexmoorfederation.org.uk)) and, whenever possible, can juggle my diary around to meet with you at your child's school at a mutually convenient time.

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

**In collective worship this half-term, we are asking the Big Question, 'Who am I?'. We will be linking this to our CARIS value of curiosity and using 'Jesus the Good Shepherd' as our Big Story.**

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## Reception , Year 1 & Year 2 – Streams and Young Buds



A huge welcome to our new children and families and welcome back to all of the existing children and parents/carers. We all hope that you had a good Summer break.

Many thanks for the support that we have received with regards to welcoming the children back and settling them into the school routine, swiftly and ready to go! It is safe to say that we have hit the ground running and got the term off to a busy and fun start, starting as we mean to go on!

The visit from Wonderstruck saw the term go off with a 'BANG!' and it was wonderful to see the children working together in teams, working collaboratively with each other, across the year groups, as they problem solved to build, adapt and race their paper rockets and fan assisted cars.

We all began our first week with our 'Wobble week' where the children considered what it truly feels like to learn, succeed and fail. The children took part in various team building and trust games which saw them taken out of their comfort zones, alongside considering our feelings. We looked into how we sometimes have to struggle before we truly begin to dig and dive deeper into our learning and how success isn't always plain sailing...sometimes, experiencing difficulty can then make us feel prouder and happier with ourselves, if we have had to really dive deeper to get there! It is OK to make mistakes, as we can learn from them! Ask your child about 'The Learning pit', can they explain it to you?

In English, we are looking at the text 'How to wash a woolly mammoth', whilst considering instructional writing. What do instructions look like, why do we need them and what happens if we get them wrong? This links into unplugged ICT and the importance of programming correctly to gain the desired outcome.

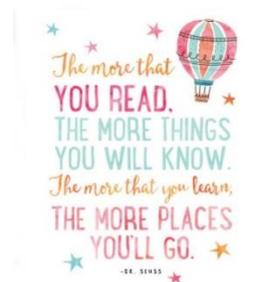
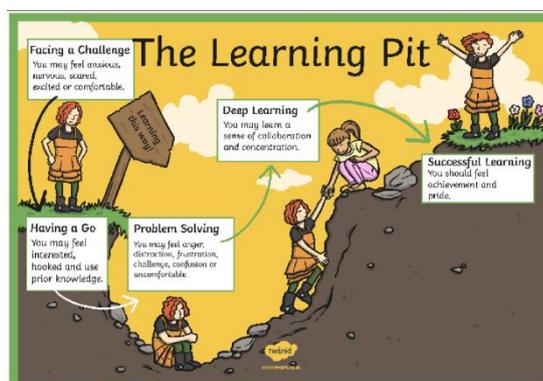
In Maths, we have begun the term by looking at place value and what a number truly is, for example, how many tens and ones are there within a 2 digit number and how can this help us to understand number.

Can we please remind you that children need PE kits in school at all times. We continue to access high quality coaching, this term, focussing on Football multi skills, as well as our hour of PE.

Many thanks to those of you who have started as you mean to go on with the daily/nightly reading – it is wonderful to see that some of the children have read every night already! It is vital that the children read at home as often as possible (a minimum of 5 nights a week, preferably) in order to support their learning within school.

We look forward to the rest of this term and what it has to offer,

Your KS1 team



## Year 3 & 4 - Rivers & Oaks and Year 5 & 6 – Oceans and Forests

### A welcome back from the KS2 team - Lynton and Parracombe

As a KS2 team, we would like to welcome all the children and parents back to their respective schools for another wonderful year of learning. The children have settled in well to their new classes, are adjusting to any changes and are beginning to adapt well to the change in expectation.

Throughout this year, we will be focusing on improving the independence of all the children, especially those that have come into year 3, developing our learning attitudes and growth mindsets and challenging all children to push themselves as far as they can and showing resilience within this.

A reminder of expectations in KS2,

1. Children are expected to read a minimum of 5 times a week and have this signed off by an adult
2. Homework is to be completed and handed in each week
3. PE kits and school uniform labelled

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We would be very grateful for your support in all of the above areas throughout the year.

Any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher, lead teacher or myself if needed.

Kind regards

Mrs Taylor (KS2 Lead)

## Sports News

### **SCHOOL GAMES GOLD MARK AWARD!**

We are delighted to be able to tell you that each of our schools has gained Gold standard in the Sports mark award, for the second year running.

We are over the moon with this achievement which celebrates the sporting provision that our children benefit from. This includes 2 hours of PE a week as well as an additional 30 minutes of physical activity each day, through daily fun fit and activity breaks. Selected older children are ambassadors for activity at lunchtime as they lead our Playmaker active lunchtime activities. Each child has access to their general hour of PE as well as an hour of high quality coaching per term and every child is entitled to 1 free club per week, which can include sport in each school, as well as additional sporting opportunities, often at highly subsidised rates. Each child takes part in personal best competitions as well as Inter and Intra school competitions and our excellent swimming programme which has enabled 100% of our most recent Year 6 swimmers to leave our Federation being able to swim a minimum of 25 meters. We are delighted with the Gold award and are looking forward to striving for the same excellent provision during the year ahead.

Many thanks for continuing to support our sporting activities, by either volunteering as a supporting adult or contributing to the voluntary costs. As a federation, we always aim to heavily subsidise the costs but these events are only made possible and sustainable through your voluntary contributions.

Many thanks in advance of your continued support,

Mrs Kelly



## Admin

### **Road closure at Kentisbury: 14th October-20th December**

We have received notification that the B3229, past the garage at Kentisbury, will be closed during this period, due to work on the edge of the carriageway. Access will still be available from Kentisbury Ford or from Waytown down past the church.

### **School Dinners**

To ensure there is no misunderstanding the KS1 children (Years Reception, 1 and 2) will continue to receive the Government funded free school meals this term. The KS2 children will need to pay for these from Year 3, the cost of which is £2.30 per day.

Can we please ask that dinner money is paid in advance on a Monday morning, or if you wish this may be paid on a monthly, half-termly or termly basis to suit you. Cheques should please be made payable to Devon County Council.

Please send in all money in a sealed envelope, with your child/ren's name and details on it, so that we can be sure it is allocated to accordingly.

### **Breakfast Club at Parracombe School**

Children travelling from Combe Martin to Parracombe School, will not be required to pay the full session cost, but a charge of 10p for toast will be charged. It will be necessary for this to be paid in advance or on the day, so if your child would like a piece of toast, can we please ask you to send this in with your child.

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A charge of £2.50 will be made for any other children wishing to attend breakfast club. As per our After-School letter, breakfast club at Kentisbury and Parracombe Schools can be used on a drop-in basis, starting at 8.00am, but breakfast club at Lynton School, will need to be pre-booked.

### **Name Labels**

Please ensure all items of uniform and PE kit are labelled with your child's name. You will have received a leaflet from My Nametags at the end of last term, they make stickers that can stick on uniforms and other things like drinks bottles and lunch boxes. By purchasing through My Nametags, you will also be helping to raise funds for the school if you enter the school code from the leaflet when you order.

### **Applying for your child's Secondary School Place**

If your child is in year 6, you will hopefully have received letters last week about applying for your child's secondary school place. Here is a brief reminder about how to apply for their place.

You can now apply for your child's secondary school place (from 1 September 2019 to 31 October 2019). It is quick and easy to do online: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school->

Please note that the system is only available for those families that reside within Devon. If you have any queries with the process, please email: [admissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@devon.gov.uk)

Information on open evenings can be found at : <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/open-days>

Please note the open evenings for Ilfracombe Academy and Pilton Academy are being held in September

### **Yurt**

We are pleased to say that the new cover and repairs have now been made to the yurt and it is now up and running for this term's Forest School activities. A big thank you to Colin Peacock for his time in making the necessary repairs/changes to the yurt base in readiness for the return of the yurt. This is much appreciated by all, especially when the weather is bad.

Kind regards,  
Wendy, Jacqui, Mel and Vikki

### **Diary Dates**

23 <sup>rd</sup> /26 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 5 & 6 Eden Project Residential
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Life Education Classroom
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Visiting Poet – Joshua Siegal Parracombe & Kentisbury Harvest Festival, Christ Church, 9.30am – 10.30am
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Lynton Parent Consultations
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Kentisbury Parent Consultations Lynton Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church, 11am – 12pm.
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Parracombe Parent Consultations
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu immunisations End of Half Term