



# West Exmoor Federation

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

*Autumn Term 2019 – Newsletter 2 – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019*



## Quick Reminders

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

The B3229, past the garage at Kentisbury, will be closed during the dates above due to work on the edge of the carriageway. Access will still be available from Kentisbury Ford or from Waytown down past the church.

## Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

### **EDEN PROJECT RESIDENTIAL**

It was a great privilege to take our Year 5 and 6 pupils on a residential trip last week to the Eden Project. The children had a fabulous week exploring the incredible Eden environment. They took part in a number of workshops led by the Eden Team which enabled them to learn about adaptation, sustainability and the need to protect our planet. One of the highlights was entering the Rainforest Biome after dark and when it was closed to the public – a truly magical experience which I am sure the children will remember for many years to come. They also enjoyed an adrenaline rush afternoon at the Hangloose Adventure Centre where they had the opportunity to abseil and climb as well as leap off various platforms, either onto a giant inflatable pillow or whilst being lowered by a descender – I was so proud of how courageous all of our children were, pushing themselves to try new things and overcome their fears. As always, our children were exceptionally well behaved with many members of the public commenting positively about their behaviour. In particular, a lady staying at the YHA said that she was overwhelmed by how polite our children were, despite her initial shock when they all entered the common room on the first evening of her stay! I thoroughly enjoy taking our children away on residential experiences; you can see their confidence and resilience grow before your very eyes and I am very proud of how we continue to offer our children these experiences throughout Key Stage 2. I would like to say a huge thank you to Natalie Martin, Barbara Watts and Miranda Tyson for giving up their time freely to enable this trip to go ahead; it is very much appreciated and without their willingness to spend time away from their own families these trips would not be possible. I would also like to say a big thank you to Vikki Brown who worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to ensure that the trip ran smoothly.



### **JOSHUA SEIGAL – APPLIEDORE BOOK FESTIVAL**

We are very much looking forward to welcoming the internationally acclaimed poet, Joshua Seigal, to the federation on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October. If your child ordered one of his books, I am pleased to say that they have been delivered and will be distributed during the course of Joshua's visit so that children can have them personally signed. Joshua will be at Lynton at 9.30am, Parracombe at 11.15am and Kentisbury at 1.30pm. If you are able, please do come along and join our children as they are inspired by this wonderful poet and performer.

### **PARENT CONSULTATIONS & DROP-IN SESSIONS**

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for our parent consultation sessions; if you have not yet done so, please do pop in or call the office to make an appointment. These consultations will enable you to find out about how your child has settled into the new school year and to discuss strengths and areas for development within their learning and how you can best support them at home. After half term we will be running drop-in sessions across the federation to provide you with information about our current spelling initiative, Decision Spelling – watch this space for further information.

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## PADDLING, SNORKELLING & DIVING

Have you heard your child talking about Paddling, Snorkelling and Diving at home and wondered what on earth they're talking about? If so, let me try and explain. The National Curriculum puts great emphasis upon children showing mastery within their learning, rather than simply rushing off ahead as soon as they have purportedly understood something. As a federation, we have grappled with how best to explain this to the children and, having explored a number of ideas and strategies, we have settled upon Paddling, Snorkelling & Diving! If a child is paddling they have a basic understanding of a concept or skill. They are most able to

name, describe, following step-by-step instructions and prescriptive methods to complete a task. Once they are snorkelling they are working at a more advanced level. They are able to use their learning to solve problems and are able to explain their methods. At the deepest level of understanding the children are diving. They can solve non-routine problems using their learning, appraising their success, explaining concepts and hypothesising. At a basic level, '2 + 2 = ?' is a paddling question. This becomes a snorkelling question if the maths is required to solve a problem, for example, 'Jack has 2 cats and Jill has 2 dogs. How many pets do they have altogether?' or if it needs to be applied in a different way, eg,  $4 - ? = 2$ . At a mastery (or diving level) a child might be asked,  $? + ? = 4$ . How many different possibilities can you find? We talk openly to the children about whether or not the tasks they are completing are asking them to paddle, snorkel or dive and actively encourage them to think about the depth of questions that they are asked, or ask of others. Why not try having a go at home? Perhaps you could apply this to the questions that you ask your child when they are reading to you and even ask them to grade the level of your questioning! If you would like to find out more about Paddling, Snorkelling and Diving please ask your child's class teacher.



## ATTENDANCE

Thank you to all our families who have tried hard to ensure that their children have maintained good attendance; our over-all level of attendance currently stands at 96.1% at Lynton, 97.5% at Parracombe and 94.7% at Kentisbury. I know that maintaining good attendance can be challenging, especially when chicken pox and various other ailments are doing the rounds, but we are appreciative of how most parents are now booking routine medical and dental appointments for the school holidays and only requesting term time leave in exceptional circumstances. We now have a new Education Welfare Officer (Linda Webster) who is very proactive in following up poor attendance, even when it is authorised due to illness, especially when attendance in the previous year has been below 90% (persistent absence). We are also under the scrutiny of the Local Authority because we have a higher than average rate of both authorised and persistent absence. As a consequence, I will not be able to authorise any requests for exceptional absence which fall short of the criteria outlined in our Attendance Policy and unauthorised absences will be followed up by the Local Authority with fines possibly being issued. If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's attendance with me, please do not hesitate to do so.

## MONTI UPDATE



We have just received the following update on Monti, our adopted Orangutan:

Monti has continued to take motherhood in her stride. With her adopted child never more than an arms-length away from her, she swings gracefully through the trees of 'Pematang Rangkong' island, teaching Anggun everything she needs to know about life as an orangutan. Since the last update, Anggun has started to show signs of independence, often testing the patience of Monti, who wants nothing more than to keep Anggun out of harms way! She likes to play and forage for her own food. This is amazing to see, as it shows that Monti has effectively been able to teach Anggun essential survival skills, despite not being her biological mother. This gives us great hope for the prospect of Monti and Anggun's reintroduction back into the wild and also the future of the surrogacy project as a whole.

## ONLINE SAFETY

I know only too well what a minefield it can be to monitor the applications that our children are accessing on line and to make informed decisions about which apps we feel are appropriate and/or safe for our children to use. We have recently received the following guidance about some recent apps which your children may be using (or asking to use) with advice on how to keep them safe:

Highrise allows users to join a virtual world and communicate through cartoon avatars that they've created. The app also allows users to create environments, chat rooms and games. In app purchases can be made to buy items such as clothes,

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furniture and accessories however there are free options available. Users can chat to each other within these rooms in private or publicly and also post statuses and images on the newsfeed in a similar way to Facebook and Instagram. Users are rewarded with in app currency for gathering likes on posts and are encouraged to complete missions by socialising with others and by visiting rooms created by other users. The app does contain some security features such as blocking unwanted users; there is also a reporting tool on the app. There is no option to hide your profile and users can be contacted by anyone unless blocked. Administrators can ban users from the app however this may only result in a warning or temporary ban. Users must be aged 13 or over to create an account however there is no age verification in place. The use of cartoon like avatars and games make this an appealing app for children and young people. Further information can be found on the site website [www.joinhighrise.com/contact-support/](http://www.joinhighrise.com/contact-support/)

Gacha Life is a virtual world app that allows users to create their own anime style character; features include clothing, hairstyles, weapons and different backgrounds. Online reviews of this app have raised concerns of the characters available on the app, some have described characters wearing little clothes and being placed in inappropriate positions. YouTube videos have also been created featuring characters from the app displaying inappropriate and abusive language. Users are able to enter life mode gaming which enables them to explore different areas and meet new friends using chat, play games and collect gems. When the character's stamina gets too low users are required to spend gems in order to continue playing, users can also send others gems to advance their friendship levels. There is no information on the developer site regarding blocking and reporting, there is also no apparent minimum age in order to access the app.

PicsArt is a free photo editing app similar to Flickr and Photoshop type apps but has far more features such as the use of layers, stickers, collage maker and drawing. Users are able to post their images directly on the app and can also share their creations on other networks such as Facebook and Instagram. There is a risk of users being exposed to mature content such as nude pictures that others have posted. Users are also able to comment on posted pictures and there is also a risk of this containing unwanted content. The app can be used as a photo editor only without the social and public aspect; users can also block and report others. Images can be hash tagged and searched easily using these tags, images can also be placed into different categories which makes it easier for users to browse their interests. Users can also participate in challenges to test their creativity skills on drawing, photography and editing. Users must be aged 13 or over to create an account however there is no age verification in place. Further information can be found on the website <https://picsart.com/>

Further information about keeping your children safe on-line is readily available on-line. However, we would specifically recommend the following sites:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/keeping-young-children-safe-online>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Best Wishes



Jayne Peacock

Executive Headteacher

**In collective worship this half-term, we are asking the Big Question, 'Who am I?'. We have been thinking about, and giving thanks, for what makes us who we are, how our experiences shape us and how faith can also mould us as individuals. We have been considering Jesus as the Good Shepherd and linking this to the concept of unconditional love.**

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



#### Reading

It is brilliant to see so many children collecting their first certificates for reading 25 nights. We love celebrating their reading in our celebration assemblies. Well done and we can't wait give out some more certificates in the coming weeks.

#### Lynton Library

We would love to see the children using the books from our school library on a regular basis. The children are welcome to borrow 1 book at a time from the library in addition to their coloured reading book. All we ask that



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parents/guardians accompany their children before or after school to the library and sign the books in/out. This is a chance to read a greater range of fiction and non-fiction books for pleasure.

### PE kits

There are still a significant number of children not bringing in PE kits. This term the children are being taught football skills so appropriate footwear is essential.

PE days

Lynton – Monday

Kentisbury – Thursday



### Mathletics

The children have now received their Mathletics sign in cards. The children can access the tasks through the website [www.mathletics.com](http://www.mathletics.com) or through the app. The new sign in cards come with a QR code. This means the children can simply scan the QR code with the camera from your phone/tablet/laptop when prompted at the sign in screen.

### Home learning

We have been blown away by the fabulous home learning. Some examples include Van Gough's 'Sunflowers' created using autumn leaves, homemade board games, butterfly catchers and presentations on programming skills. We look forward to the children bringing in their home learning to present at 'Show and tell'.



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

Well done all for having a wonderful start to the new term. Doesn't summer feel like a distant memory? The children have settled wonderfully and are tackling school head on. In maths, we are currently working on our place value knowledge, comparing and ordering numbers. Keep going with each times table. They all have a copy of all the times tables in their homework book to refer to. Our fantasy narratives are coming to an end in English. The children have proven to have wonderfully creative minds with some stories including 'bunycorn's and a Pegasus'!

As a federation, we have started a new spelling programme called 'Decision Spelling'. The children have been introduced to this and daily spelling lessons are based around the concept that a good speller is someone who makes increasingly accurate decisions with spelling - not someone who gets it correct every time. When practising spellings, the children may say that each spelling is out of 3. This is true. The children's spelling tests are scored out of 30, not 10. How this works is that each attempt gets one point for being chunked (split into syllables), one point for being phonetically plausible and the final point for spelling the word correctly. This enables children who are anxious about spellings to still gain points and encouraging everyone to chunk, segment and blend each word to gradually increase their spelling accuracy.

Can I remind everyone that Oaks have forest school on a Friday so casual clothing is needed. We are having lots of children forgetting drinks bottles and PE kit. Please can these be in every day.

## **Admin**

### Choir

Just a reminder that Choir is currently running on a Wednesday afternoon at Lynton and is ran by Miss Constant. There is a bus that runs from Parracombe to Lynton but parents need to collect the children at 4:30pm from Lynton.

### Recycle your used ink cartridges and toners at school.

We have teamed up with The Recycling Factory as a collection point for used printer cartridges. You are now able to bring your used ink cartridges and toners in to school to recycle and the Recycling Centre will pay a small donation to the federation for every eligible printer cartridge they receive. If your cartridge is not on their list of eligible cartridges, we can still send them to the Recycling Factory who will ensure the materials are recycled responsibly. Please bring your used cartridges to the school office and help us to proactively recycle for a cleaner future whilst helping to raise funds for your school.

Kind regards,  
Wendy, Jacqui, Mel and Vikki

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## PTFA News

### Easy Fundraising

Did you know that you can raise money for your school whilst doing your everyday shopping, simply by making a couple of extra clicks? We are registered with Easy Fundraising, who are linked to most online shopping outlets including Amazon.

For Kentisbury & Parracombe, please visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kentisburyparracombe/>  
for Lynton, please visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lyntonptfa/> to register and start raising money for our Schools every time you shop.

### Kantisbury and Parracombe PTFA

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 10th October, 3.30pm at Kentisbury Village Hall. We will be talking about Halloween activities for the children - please come along!

## Governor News

The Governing Body of West Exmoor Federation hopes that your child has had an enjoyable, and instructive start to their school career.

You will, obviously be familiar with the staff who at your child's new school, but there is another group of people who work very hard to ensure a good educational provision for all the children at WEF, namely the Governing Body. Your child will meet a governor, as all classes have a link governor, but unless you are in school at the same time you may not see a governor except at events like school productions and sports days. However, the governors have a very important part to play in the life of WEF, as generally we act as a sort of management board who oversee the work of the school and what they provide. We are, if you like an accounting body who hold the schools to account for what they do, or do not do.

In essence there are 3 core functions of a governing body;

1. Ensuring a clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding school leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure that money is well spent.

Put in those terms it seems quite dull, but actually the role is much more hands on and enjoyable. The current governing body has a vacancy, which would be great to be filled by a new parent (carer, grandparent included) who wants to know more about how the Federation works, and would like a say in how it works. The post is voluntary, though reasonable expenses are paid, as is childcare subject to certain provisos. The commitment is one 2hour meeting a term, currently held from 5-7pm, and one sub-committee meeting (again usually about 2 hrs). For a non-committal chat, please get in touch with me via any school office or via [jan.stokes@westexmoorfederation.org.uk](mailto:jan.stokes@westexmoorfederation.org.uk)

## Diary Dates

7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Life Education Classroom
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Visiting Poet – Joshua Seigal 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

## Community

### From the Rectory

Dear Friends,

“We plough the fields and scatter the good seed,  
But it is fed and watered by God’s Almighty hand....  
All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,  
So thank the Lord, yes thank the Lord, for all his Love.”

From the churches around the Lyn Valley this hymn will be echoing out regularly this month as communities come together to give thanks for the land and sea we share, the produce and livestock it supports and the work of the farmers and fishers who enable us to receive it. This is a good opportunity for me to extend a warm welcome to everyone to come to one of these. We live in such a beautiful area, and are closely aware of our dependence on the land and those who are so committed to farming it and Harvest-tide is a splendid opportunity to share with each other the joys this place offers us and the thankfulness for all those who we depend on.

Harvest is a time when we stop and recognise the web of dependence in which we share. At the heart of our celebration is thankfulness for the generosity of sharing that enables us to receive our basic needs. We are given this beautiful creation – God sharing his creative love with us in our very existence so that the land shares its riches; those who work the farms and the oceans share with us the produce of their labour, and further, in our communities we depend on one another for all the activities that keep us safe, bring us fulfilment, offer hospitality to those who bring their spending power here while seeking rest, keep our vehicles running, attend to our health and wellbeing, pray for us.....

“Sharing” was the theme of the penultimate Pentecost prayer station. With it was an account of the way the earliest Christians were inspired by the Holy Spirit to organize their churches (by which I mean their communities or gathering together of brothers and sisters). They pooled their resources and began to notice in each other the special gifts each person had which they could offer to the community so that jobs could be shared out too, according to skills, what brought each person joy and built up the group – valuing each person’s gift equally and being able, as a community to meet everybody’s need. It is my prayer that our celebration of all God shares with us this Harvest-tide may inspire us to mirror those early Christian communities in each sharing all that we have and are gifted with for the building up of our community as a whole.

God Bless, Samantha.

Revd Samantha Stayte, The Rectory, 20 Lee Road, Lynton. EX35 6BP. Tel. 01598 752289. [samantha.stayte@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.stayte@gmail.com)

### Devonshire Tennis Academy Tennis Camps, October Half Term

As the October half term is quickly approaching you can now book your child on to our fun filled tennis camps at either Braunton or Park Lane, Rock Park.

#### **Camps:**

**Junior Camp:** 5 - 14 yr olds | 10am – 1pm | £20 per day\*

**Tiny Tots Camp:** 3 - 4 yr olds | 10 - 11am | £6 per day

**\*Bring a Friend or Sibling for FREE!\***

*For every full day purchased on our Junior Camp, bring a friend or sibling for free to either the Tiny Tots or the Junior Camp!*

#### **Dates:**

Monday 21st - Friday 25th October

#### **Locations:**

Barnstaple - Park Lane Tennis Club, Rock Park, EX32 9AH

Braunton - Braunton Tennis Club, Wrafton Road, EX33 2BP

**To book send your child's name, dates you'd like & location**

email [bookings@devonshiretennisacademy.com](mailto:bookings@devonshiretennisacademy.com) or

call 01271 600855

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