



West Exmoor Federation

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

Spring Term 2020 – Newsletter 6 – 24th January 2020



Quick Reminders

Year 3/4 Lee Abbey Residential, first instalment of £25 is now due. Please pay online if you haven't already.
First instalment of £50 for Year 5/6 Residential to London in September is due 27.01.2020

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of a new school term. I hope that you and your children enjoyed a restful Christmas break – it seems like a long time ago now!

ANCIENT GREEK ENRICHMENT DAY



The new term got off to an exciting start with our Ancient Greek enrichment day. The children were completely captivated by our visiting historian and learnt so much during the course of the day with him. Highlights definitely included the handling of artefacts, including the opportunity to try on an Ancient Greek helmet, learning lots of amazing facts such as how the Ancient Greeks made toothpaste from ground up animal bones and chewed gum!



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We currently have the Scholastic Book Fair at Lynton until Wednesday 29th January. We are pleased to advise that Kentisbury and Parracombe will also have the book fair at both schools between Wednesday 29th January and Wednesday 5th February. Your child should have brought home a letter about the fair; if you have not received it, or it has been mislaid, please contact Mel, Jacqui or Vikki for another copy.

COFFEE MORNING

Our Associate Governors from Year 5 & 6 will be hosting the monthly charity coffee morning at Parracombe Village Hall on Tuesday 28th January between 11am – 12pm. Our Parracombe & Kentisbury Associate Governors will also be talking about their role across the federation. The children's chosen charities are International Animal Rescue and Cancer Research. If you are able, please do come along and support this event. If you are unable to attend, but would like to contribute cakes and/or a donation, please drop them into school on or before Tuesday 28th. Many thanks.

TOOTH BRUSHING PROGRAMME

If your child is in Reception or Key Stage 1, they should have brought home a letter about our involvement in the supervised tooth brushing programme. I am delighted that we are able to offer this programme to all of our Key Stage 1 children, not just our under 5s. Dental health is so incredibly important and I know, from personal experience, just how difficult it can be to encourage a young child to clean their teeth properly and regularly. Hopefully this programme will help to instil into our children the importance of daily brushing and further support you at home to maintain an effective tooth brushing routine. Please return your form to the office as soon as possible.

THREADWORM AND HEADLICE

We have already had reported instances of threadworm and head lice this term. A growing number of parents/carers are becoming increasingly frustrated that, despite their vigilance and prompt treatment of both parasites, eradication is virtually impossible because some parents/carers chose not to check and/or treat their children. Neither threadworm or head lice are pleasant for children and I implore you all to check your children on a regular basis and, if necessary, treat accordingly.

KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE

With the evenings slowly beginning to get a little lighter, it is lovely to think that our children can start to enjoy more time outside playing in the park, etc. Although we are incredibly lucky to live in an extremely safe, protective community we all have a duty of care to know where our young children are and to teach them how to keep safe when they are out of sight and beginning to develop their independence. We cover this within our PSHE programme at school, but please do spend some time talking to your child about your agreed boundaries, how to keep safe when out playing with their friends

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and what to do if they find themselves in a situation that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. You may find the Clever Never Goes resources for parents useful. For further information, please visit:

<http://clevernevergoes.org/parents/>

THANK YOU

Thank you to Harriet and the Old Station Inn (Blackmoor Gate) who arranged a charity Bingo evening over the Xmas period. The event raised £400 for the Kentisbury & Parracombe PTFA.

With Best Wishes



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

In collective worship this half-term we are thinking about what we desire for ourselves, our family and friends, our community and our world. We have been praying for those affected by the bush fires in Australia and for all those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

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

Welcome back to everyone, it's been wonderful to welcome the children back and hear about their Christmas breaks. We have another action packed term ahead.

In English, the children have been revisiting past tense when writing recounts of their Christmas holidays. They are now moving onto explanation texts where we will consider living things and their habitats through writing their own explanation texts about animals in the UK. It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying reading lots of non-fiction books at the beginning of the topic as they consider the key features of an explanation text and what the differences are between fiction and non-fiction.



In Maths, we are continuing with our focus on money. The children have been looking at different ways to make the same amount, adding coins and will now move on to subtracting, as we begin to look at giving change. Can your child/ren, help with the money this weekend at the shops? Can they count out how much they need? Can they work out how much change they will receive?

Our theme learning saw us welcoming an Ancient Greek and then go on to make their own Greek pinch pots. We will move on, over the coming weeks, to look at the Great Fire of London. We will combine this history focus with Geography as we revisit our homes, where we live and cities (London). Please do keep an eye out for the Home learning posters which will be coming out shortly.



We continue to celebrate the reading around the Federation, with those children who are reaching their many nights of reading - well done children, keep it up!

Many thanks for your continued support as we move into this next busy term ahead!

Your Key stage 1 team.

Year 3 & 4 - Rivers & Oaks

Happy New Year! What a wonderful start to the new term. We were very fortunate to have a Greek WOW day where the children got to explore Greek artifacts, try their hand at games such as 'Knuckle Bone' and practise their acting skills. As Ancient Greek is our topic this term, any home learning involving this era in time would be wonderful.

In class, we have been studying La Luna - a video style story told with no words! Take a look at it on Youtube! The children have been working on adverbial phrases and prepositions. If you ask them what a preposition is....watch out! You may get sat ON!

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Please can I remind everyone that times tables are a constant to be working on. A new statutory test for year 4's has been issued this year, where children will be given only seconds to answer up to and including 12 x 12. Information can be found in the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/multiplication-tables-check-development-process>

Year 5 & 6 – Oceans and Forests

Welcome back to the new term. It is lovely to see the children all so refreshed and eager to settle down to their learning. In English we have made a start on reading the novel, Holes by Louis Sachar. The children have certainly been gripped by the first few chapters and are eager to read on to see what happens to the main character, Stanley. We are currently using the book to help us investigate the features of high-quality character descriptions before moving on to explore the skills specific to formal and informal letter writing. In maths we have been focusing upon fractions. The ability to work effectively with fractions is intertwined with a solid recall of multiplication facts, so we have been paying particular attention to revising our tables as well. Weekly homework continues to be set, all of which helps to reinforce our learning within the classroom, and we would be extremely grateful if you could encourage your child to complete this on a regular basis, together with daily reading and tables revision. As always, if you have any queries regarding your child's learning, please do not hesitate to ask.

Your Y5/6 Team - Mrs Taylor, Mrs Peacock & Mrs Peacock

Maths News

Top Ten Mathematics pupils

Students	Activity Points	Live Points	Total Points	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Tayla D	5300	208	5508	1	0	
Phillip C	5140	32	5172	2	1	
Alice B	3690	0	3690	2	0	
Livy W	2180	0	2180	2	0	
Parker K	2140	0	2140	1	0	
Brooke R	2010	4	2014	1	0	
Lillian T	1670	0	1670	1	0	
Abigail L	1390	0	1390	0	0	
Betsy R	1340	10	1350	0	0	
Bobby D	1090	0	1090	0	0	

Admin

Logs for Forest School Yurt

We are still desperate for logs for the wood burner in the yurt for the Forest School lessons/club and we would really appreciate any logs parents are able to spare, however small amount that may be.

Tennis & Dance Club – Spring 2020

Lynton Primary

Dear Parents

We have a few spaces remaining on our after-school Tennis & Dance clubs at Lynton Primary in the Spring term.



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Dance

Monday 13th January – Monday 23rd March 2020 (*excluding 17th Feb for 1/2 term*)

3.15 – 4.30pm

Reception, Years 1 - 6

*£30 (10-week course)

Tennis

Thursday 16th January – Thursday 26th March 2020 (*excluding 20th Feb for 1/2 term*)

3.15 – 4.30pm

Reception, Years, 1 - 6

*£30 (10-week course)

*School subsidises fees using PPG

To book please email your child's details, contact numbers across to: bookings@devonshiretennisacademy.com and pay via bank transfer to SC 30-98-97 AC 57684068 using your child's name/school as a reference.

Piano

Would anyone like a piano? Due to downsizing, one of our staff members has a piano that is surplus to requirements. It measures 124cm wide x 92cm high x 55cm deep. If you are interested, please contact your school office or Wendy at Kentisbury.

Governor News

Meet the Governors - Carol Brunner Foundation Governor (Parracombe)



I am a Primary School Teacher with 35 years' experience. I am an Early Years Specialist with an MA Ed from Winchester University. I have taught in a range of settings including schools in London, Essex, Wiltshire, Hampshire and most recently North Devon.

I have experienced a range of educational environments including large inner-city schools, an independent sector school, and small village schools with their strong ties to the local community. Whilst I have not experienced working within a Federated School, I worked closely with the Headteacher and Governors during the amalgamation of Nomansland School where I was based and Landford School, a local village school a mile and a half away. The schools (in Wiltshire) amalgamated in 2009 and was renamed The New Forest School. I oversaw the design and alterations to the KS1 classroom and outside area. Once the school started to work across two sites I had responsibility for the KS1 site when the head teacher was based on the KS2 site.

My husband and I moved to North Devon in 2010 and consider ourselves privileged to live in the Heddon valley, a very beautiful part Exmoor. We attend Christ Church Parracombe, and both of us serve on the PCC. We have two sons and two daughters, who all gained much from being taught in small village schools. I hope to use my knowledge and experience to fulfil my role as Foundation Governor and support WEF to offer an excellent education to all the children in their care.

Parent Governor Vacancy

If any parent of any pupil in the Federation would like to know more about the Governing Body, and its' work, with a view to becoming a governor could they please contact me on the contact below, or via any school office.

jan.stokes@westexmoorfederation.org.uk

Jan Stokes; Chair. West Exmoor Federation Governing Body.

Diary Dates

22 nd - 28 th January	Scholastic Book Fair at Lynton
30 th January	Key Stage 2 Trip to We the Curious
31 st January	Key Stage 1 Trip to We the Curious
5 th February	Devon Ability Games
6 th February	KS2 Choir Trip to Ilfracombe College's We Will Rock You
13 th February	Year 5 Forest School and Year 6 SAT's practice at Parracombe
14 th February	Kentisbury Year 1 Forest School
17 th – 21 February	Half Term

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Community

From the Rectory

In my Epiphany sermon this year I focused on the gifts that the wise men bring the baby Jesus – gold, frankincense and myrrh. We often look at them as symbols of Jesus' identity and life to come: gold for his kingship, frankincense for his holiness and priestly life, and myrrh for his suffering and death that sets us free; but I think we can also see them as symbols of what we are called to offer God in worship too. Then gold represents our wealth and possessions, frankincense stands for the time we give to God in prayer, praise and love and myrrh the comfort we can try to bring to those who are suffering, or the way we bear the suffering that comes to us.

These early months of the year are a good time to review how we are using what we have in expression of what we believe and what is important to us. In Christian language – how we live out our discipleship in the practical decisions we make with our money, our time and the way we are with others. Lent (which starts with on Ash Wednesday on 26th February) is a good time to focus on putting our beliefs and values into practical action in a serious way so that we create permanent habits that shape our lives to become as more generous, loving reflections of the God who created us. The traditional practices for Lent were fasting, prayer and giving. Next month I am going to reflect of fasting in relation to the challenges of our damage to the created world, but for now I want to reflect on giving and prayer. It struck me that they connect with the symbols of the gold and frankincense of the wise men given to Jesus.

We are not always comfortable talking about money, but the giving Lent encourages is something between each one of us and God. It is a reality that each of our churches needs a greater income for its life of faithful worship of God, its presence in our communities to bless the everyday, the holiday feast, and our special moments of birth, love and death, to be sustainable; and around us there are many causes that would benefit from the generosity we are able to offer. It may not be just about giving, but also about the way we the influence of our spending for good – buying with ethical concerns in mind. How might you use your gold in wise ways this year?

Then there is this thing we call prayer: opening ourselves to the wonder of what is beyond us, given the name God. This might take the form of gratitude – counting our blessings; or taking some time in stillness to see what silence brings; looking for signs of spring and noticing the inspiration of nature; using well-loved and well known words, or speaking to God as you would a friend. How might you fill more of your time with the incense of prayer this year?

With prayers for the blessings of a good Lent and wise preparation for it this month,
Samantha

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

JUST PLAY SPORTS
FEBRUARY HALF TERM SESSIONS
PROFESSIONAL PRESSURE FREE SPORTS FOR AGES 4-11

EARLY BIRD OFFER
£10 PER DAY FOR ALL
ENDS 31ST JANUARY

BIDEFORD	BARNSTAPLE
MONDAY 17th FEBRUARY TUESDAY 18th FEBRUARY 9:30am-2:30pm St Mary's School, Chanters Road EX32 2QN	WEDNESDAY 19th FEBRUARY THURSDAY 20th FEBRUARY 9:30am-2:30pm Park School, Barnstaple EX32 9AX
Prices: £13 per day £10 per child, per day for members of Just Play Sports, Barnstaple Youth, Sharnwickshire Youth, St Mary's School	Prices: £13 per day £10 per child, per day for members of Just Play Sports, Barnstaple Youth, Sharnwickshire Youth, St Mary's School

TO BOOK
FACEBOOK – JUST PLAY SPORTS TEXT – 07953008133 EMAIL – WJUSTPLAYSPORTS@OUTLOOK.COM

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