



# West Exmoor Federation

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

*Spring Term 2020 – Newsletter 7 – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020*



## Quick Reminders

Year 3/4 Lee Abbey Residential, 2<sup>nd</sup> £25 instalment was due 10.02.2020. Please pay online if you haven't already.  
Year 5/6 London Residential, 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of £50 is due 24.02.2020

## Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers,

Oh my goodness, didn't that half-term pass by in a flash? I can't believe that we are half way through the academic year. This half-term has been a slightly unusual one for me as I have been teaching English to Oceans whilst awaiting the arrival of our new teacher, Ms Claire Stachan. I have thoroughly enjoyed being back in the classroom and would like to say a HUGE thank you to the children for making it so much fun. I would also like to thank Sharla Bowden-Berry for looking after me, as well as Anne Roper and Cate Johnstone who have been teaching maths, science, RE and theme to Oceans throughout this interim period.

## WE THE CURIOUS

What a fabulous time we had when we visited 'We the Curious' in Bristol. The day was packed with scientific enquiry and exploration. Our visit to the 3D planetarium was a very definite favourite, as were the space related workshops. So much learning took place throughout the day and the children have been buzzing about it ever since. Thank you to Miss Harmony Constant for organising such an awe inspiring trip.



## BOOK FAYRE



Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Scholastic Book Fayre. It was wonderful to see the children browsing the books, talking about their favourite authors and genres and selecting high quality texts to purchase. Scholastic matched every purchase made by the by the children which, thanks to your support, has enabled us to select over £700 worth of new books to rejuvenate our classroom libraries!

## SCHOOL LUNCHES

Would you like to occasionally have a school lunch with your children? If so, we warmly invite you to join us for a school lunch on a day of your choosing. Just pop into the school office and speak with Jacqui, Vikki or Mel who will be delighted to order a lunch for you and take the necessary payment. We are very proud of school lunches and would love for you to see for yourself just how wonderful they are and how much your children enjoy them. Jacqui, our school cook, is always happy to discuss the menu or service with you and is always keen to receive your feedback. Please call the office at Lynton if you would like to discuss anything with her.

## CONTACTING TEACHERS

As with many professions, my staff work incredibly long hours and are extremely conscientious. In recent weeks there has been a growing number of parents/carers emailing or sending DoJo messages to my staff at unreasonable times of the day. I appreciate that when sending these messages, you may not be expecting an immediate response but many of my staff receive these messages at the time that they are sent and feel duty bound to respond within a timely fashion. Furthermore, some parents/carers have started to use Facebook Messenger to contact staff members which contravenes our Social Media Policy. In order to protect the well-being of my staff, can I please ask that emails and DoJo messages are only sent to staff between the hours of 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. Messages should not be sent at the weekend or during school holidays. If you wish to compose a message a time to suit yourself, please use scheduled send to ensure that it isn't received outside of acceptable working hours. Under no circumstance should Facebook Messenger be used

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to contact staff members with regards to school matters as these are accounts personal to the individual and not linked to the federation. Any serious matter that needs to be reported outside of acceptable hours should be directed to myself via email: [jayne.peacock@westexmoorfederation.org.uk](mailto:jayne.peacock@westexmoorfederation.org.uk) Please do not use DoJo to contact me urgently as I run multiple accounts and will only pick up your message if I am logged in to the correct account. Many thanks for your cooperation regarding this matter.

### **FAMILY FUN COOKING CLUB – LOOK WHAT WE STARTED!**

About 18 months ago, at a Diocesan Headteacher's Briefing, I talked briefly about an initiative that we had instigated at Parracombe. We were concerned about food poverty with the summer holiday approaching and set about teaching some of our older children how to cook cheap, nutritious meals using items that could be found in the store cupboard such as tuna and pasta bake and bean casserole. Additionally, we ensured that the ingredients for these simple recipes were available within the 'Give as you Can/Take as you Need' box housed within the porch of Christ Church. Little did I know that the Diocese would run with the idea and set up the Family Fun Cooking Club!

The Family Fun Cooking Club is an exciting new community initiative designed to help families enjoy cooking together. These budget-friendly recipes are easy to follow and can be taught in schools, clubs or church groups as well as being used at home. Churches and community organisations can also prepare bags with specific ingredients and recipe cards for families to access in school holidays or other times of year. It is a zero waste initiative because any ingredients not used can be donated to foodbanks. To join in this initiative, you can download the recipes for free and you can become a virtual member of our cooking club #familyfuncookingclub

The Family Fun Cooking Club is being officially launched on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February and, if you tune into Radio Devon, you might just hear me being interviewed about how our humble initiative at Parracombe has grown into something so much bigger. To know that families experiencing food poverty across the county may now be helped by this initiative fills me with immense pride – what a wonderful example of our CARIS values in action!

I hope that you have an enjoyable half-term break despite the dreadful weather forecast. I look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

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 finding out about Chinese New Year celebrations, considering how important happiness is and praying for those affected by illness and poverty around the world.

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



We have really enjoyed the varied and rich topics in the curriculum this term. The children have been learning about Ancient Greeks, the Great Fire of London, Money, life cycles, food chains pictograms, sculpture and countless other topics. The children's enthusiasm for learning is infectious and we are looking forward to planning another exciting half term of learning.

Thank you to Chris Hope who helped to organise a real life demonstration of the Great Fire of London for the children at Lynton School. The children learnt how the close proximity of the houses allowed the fire to spread.

#### **HOME LEARNING**

Children are bringing in home learning on a regular basis which is wonderful. Please continue to complete the home learning tasks over the half term and don't forget to keep checking Mathletics for assigned activities. Spellings will be sent home as usual.

We would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to every volunteer who has helped with reading, trips and various other activities. Your continued support is invaluable.

Your Key stage 1 team.

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## Year 3 & 4 - Rivers & Oaks

In year 3 and 4, we are currently writing up our own space themed narratives which have a focus on setting description. After half term, we will be moving on to studying myths, with the aim of writing our own. This ties in nicely with our Ancient Greek focus. We are also at the end of our multiplication and division sequence and will be beginning a new sequence after half term.

New information has recently been released regarding the year 4 multiplication check. During this three-week period, beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020, children in year 4 will be required to sit an online times table test that will test their multiplication fluency in the 2-12 x 12 tables. More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/multiplication-tables-check-development-process>

Have a lovely half term.  
The year 3/4 team

## Year 5 & 6 – Oceans and Forests

### English

This term we have used the text 'Holes' to support the development of our writing. This is a complex and challenging text, that is used in some secondary schools and Upper Key Stage 2. We have used this to explore the different characters and their traits. This has enabled us to write character descriptions of the main character Stanley. As we move into the second half of the spring term, we will continue to use this text to develop our narrative and letter writing skills. The children have also started developing their scenery for their 'Holes' animations, which we will be completing after half term.

### Maths

What a challenging term we have had! Fractions are a difficult topic but our children have not given up. We have looked at simplifying fractions, finding equivalent fractions, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing them as well. As we move on after half term, we will begin looking at percentages and decimals alongside fractions.

### Topic

Our topic of the Ancient Greeks has been well received. The children have learnt about city-states, Greek writing a range of myths and will be food tasting after half term. Alongside the Ancient Greeks, our Earth, Sun and Space topic has taken off. The children have been excited to research the different planets, find out exciting new facts and learn about how the Earth rotates, Day and Night.

## Maths News

### Top Ten Mathematics pupils

Students	Activity Points	Live Points	Total Points	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Phillip C	14000	66	14066	4	1	0
Livy W	7460	200	7660	3	1	0
Parker K	5370	0	5370	3	1	0
Bobby D	5000	0	5000	2	0	0
Alice B	4590	190	4780	3	1	0
Liaana G-F	3960	584	4544	2	0	0
Skye B	1850	2235	4085	1	0	0
RJ F	3920	0	3920	3	1	0
Brooke R	3550	0	3550	1	1	0
Oliver H	3120	0	3120	1	0	0

## Forest School

All Winter the reception children across the Federation have been enjoying Forest School on a Wednesday morning and next week Yr 1s from Kentisbury and Yr 5 from across the Federation will start 6 weeks of Forest School. It is the time of the year, once again, for planting and growing therefore any donations of seeds and compost would be greatly appreciated.

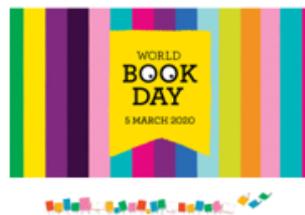
The mud kitchen is an amazing area for the children to experience and explore, so, any old saucepans or cooking utensils would be an enormous help.

Thank you to the Brays and the Langley families for donating fuel for the fire!!!! Wood donated means that the children can keep warm and have a cookout at the end of their Forest School experience.

Thank you all for your continued support,  
Gini Hynes.

## Kitchen News

Please see our special Menu for world book day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March



## World Book Day Menu

**Gruffalo Sauagza**

Or

**Hungry Caterpillar Pasta**

(Macaroni Cheese)

Served with

**The Witcha Stieka**

(Potato Wedgza)

&

**Mr Stink Beans**

(Baked Beans)

Or

**Jacka Magie Green Beans**

(With Tomato Ketchup)

And

**The World of Books Biscuits**



## Admin

### Outstanding Payments

Please ensure all payments for this half term are up to date. Payments should be made online. If you are having any trouble with the online system, please speak to your school administrator.

Best Wishes  
Wendy, Mel, Jacqui and Vikki

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## Governor News

### Meet the Governors - Jo Harrison



I moved with my husband, Harry, to Parracombe in June 2019 from Hertfordshire in order to take on a house renovation project and experience a change of lifestyle. We have three children, all in their 20s, having fled the nest and now living independent lives in various locations nationwide.

I have prior experience in Governorship as a parent governor for my children's infant school and also as a staff governor at the secondary school where I taught Maths and was an Assistant Head in charge of pastoral care.

I am looking forward to working with the staff and parents at the West Exmoor Federation and will be Link Governor for SEND, Years 3/4 at Parracombe and Children in care. When I am not project managing my house renovation, you will mostly find me endeavouring to grow vegetables or learning to surf as well as walking the coastal and moorland paths.

### Parent Governor Vacancy



### URGENT NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS, CARERS, GRANDPARENTS

The West Exmoor Federation is looking for 1 Parent Governor to join our existing board of governors.

Governors perform the most important voluntary role in education and a full and diverse governing body can be a source of enormous strength to a school. Volunteering as a governor is a great way to contribute to your local community, meet new people and improve the lives of local children. You will develop transferable skills and learn more about the education system whilst putting existing skills and experience to good use. You will become part of a team of successful governors working together to support the Federation. There are many training opportunities within the federation and beyond to help you fulfil this role.

Governing bodies are responsible for the strategic management of a school and will make decisions about a wide range of issues. The core responsibilities involved are:

Ensuring accountability, Acting as a 'critical friend' to the Head Teacher, Monitoring and evaluating the school's progress, Budgetary allocation and control Planning for the long term future of the school, Setting the school's aims and values and Appointing senior members of staff including the Head Teacher.

For more information about this very worthwhile role and an informal chat please contact Jacqui Skelton-Norrish (Clerk) 01598 763338.

Jan Stokes; Chair. West Exmoor Federation Governing Body.

## Diary Dates

17<sup>th</sup> – 21 February      Half Term

## Community

## TENNIS CAMPS 2020



Learn the fundamentals of tennis whilst having fun, making new friends & playing games.  
Our dedicated, passionate & engaging coaches welcome all ages & abilities in the great location of Rock Park.

### Dates

Feb half-term: 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February

Easter: 30<sup>th</sup> March – 9<sup>th</sup> April

Summer: 27<sup>th</sup> July – 21<sup>st</sup> August

### Tiny Tots Camp

3 - 5 yr olds | 10 - 11am | £6 per day

### Junior Camp

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

Bring a Friend  
or Sibling for  
FREE!\*

### Location

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

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

[www.devonshiretennisacademy.com](http://www.devonshiretennisacademy.com)

\*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!



Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service offer free home fire safety visits. This visit will include fire safety advice and free fitting of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms if required. The service is completely free and could save the

lives of you and your family. If you would like to book a visit or want more information please send your name, address and phone number to [kpearce@dsfire.gov.uk](mailto:kpearce@dsfire.gov.uk) or text the information to 07971 773493.

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