



West Exmoor Federation

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

Spring Term 2020 – Newsletter 8 – 13th March 2020



Quick Reminders

Year 5 Forest School on Thursdays until 19th March 2020

Kentisbury Year 1 Forest School on Fridays until 27th March 2020

Year 3/4 Lee Abbey Residential, 2nd instalment of £25 is overdue, final instalment of £25.00 due 09.03.2020

Year 5/6 Residential to London 2nd £50 instalment is now overdue.

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Following the meeting of COBRA yesterday, the advice to schools regarding Covid-19 remains unchanged despite the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring coronavirus a pandemic and the UK Government moving into the 'Delay' Phase of their plan to tackle coronavirus. There has been a significant but still relatively slow rise in the number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the UK, with a small number confirmed in Devon and in our neighbouring local authority areas. Most cases so far in Devon are the result of people having returned from affected countries with the virus and, as of the end of yesterday, there were no confirmed cases within the north of the county. For now, advice from PHE is very clear: We need to keep things running as normally as possible. This includes keeping our children in school, continuing with planned events and ensuring that our parents, families and carers can continue to work and carry out their normal activities.

Please rest assured that the Governors and I are being guided by the Local Authority (LA), the Department for Education (DfE) and PHE regarding the current coronavirus situation. As you can appreciate, this is changing daily and updates from these departments are being received and carefully studied on a regular basis. Decisions that we take as a federation will be based upon this guidance and, as such, may change at short notice depending upon the advice given. At this moment in time we are advised not to alter our day-to-day business other than to ensure that our children and staff are encouraged to practice good respiratory and hand hygiene.

Across the federation, in order to protect our adults and children, we are following DfE and PHE guidance which clearly states that washing hands with soap and warm water is more effective than using hand sanitisers. Furthermore, unless a hand sanitiser contains a minimum of 60% alcohol there is no evidence to suggest that it is effective against coronavirus. We are, however, currently awaiting the delivery of appropriate hand sanitisers and dispensers to enable a 'belt-and-braces' approach. Once delivered, we will be asking all adults and children, including parents/carers, to sanitise their hands upon arrival at school, with the children then being asked to wash their hands again before the school day begins. At present hand hygiene is being reinforced several times a day within each class. Our children have been taught how to wash their hands correctly, and I've certainly heard many children singing 'Happy Birthday' (twice of course) in the loos! Our children are being asked to wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day, with supervision where appropriate. **Additionally, in line with guidance issued yesterday, we also request that if your child has a temperature OR a new, continuous cough that you keep them away from school for a period of 7 days.**

Should you wish to discuss the current situation with me, please don't hesitate to get in touch. If I am not in your child's school, the easiest way to contact me is via my email account – jayne.peacock@westexmoorfederation.org.uk

For further information, you may find these links useful:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101/resources/5016>

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<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools>

<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/how-talk-your-child-about-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround#more-stories-2>

CHOOSING THE CORRECT READING BOOK

A number of parents have asked for assistance in helping their child to choose an appropriate book to read when visiting the library, book shop or selecting a 'reading for pleasure' book within school. Mr MacKenzie has been encouraging his children to think about the 'Five Finger Rule' to ensure that they choose a book that is just right. A poster explaining this rule can be found towards the end of this newsletter.

ONLINE SAFETY

In recent weeks we have sadly had to deal with a number of instances where some of our older children have been using apps such as TikTok to post and share inappropriate, hurtful content. Although this has happened outside of school, the ramifications within school have been all too evident and we have felt duty bound to address each incident robustly. Online Safety is a challenge for all parents, especially as the internet can be accessed freely via so many devices, but it presents a genuine risk to all of our children and cannot be ignored. As parents we can sometimes find it difficult to guide and support our children with online safety as they frequent a virtual world that most of us did not experience as a child. We all have a duty of care to teach our children how to use this tool safely and considerately and to monitor their usage, guiding them where necessary to modify their on-line behaviour. An app that I have recently been made aware of, is the BBC Own It App. It is both a keyboard and an app and, among other things, it is designed to help young mobile phone owners make appropriate choices about the way in which they interact with others on line. To find out more, please visit <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/own-it-app>

Further good advice regarding online safety for parents, including how to use parental controls, can be found at the following sites:

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

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

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

With Best Wishes



Jayne Peacock

Executive Headteacher

In collective worship this half-term we have been thinking about what support we need to achieve our desires, and how we can support others to achieve their desires. We've also been thinking about Jesus' journey to Easter.

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

It was a pleasure to welcome all the children back after half term ready for an action packed 2nd part of the Spring term.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

In English we are excited to be returning to narrative text as the children consider what makes a story an adventure story. They will look at a range of texts, including 'Where the wild things are', 'Lost and found' and 'Gorilla', as well as looking at various other stimuli to inspire their imaginations.

What better way to get this off to a flying start than by celebrating World Book day and supporting the scheme 'Share a million stories'. Many thanks to those of you have started to share and record those reads with your children, the focus for this will last for the month of March, so there is still lots of time to get going and keep going! Please keep an eye out over the course of the month for some other fun ideas and activities, to keep reading for pleasure as one of our main focusses and activities.



In Maths, the children will finish up looking at multiplication and division, including odd and even numbers and then move onto shape and statistics. Thank you to those of you who have continued to support the use of Mathletics, keep an eye out for our leader's board within this newsletter!

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In theme the children will continue to look at The Great fire of London in History and we are excited about making puppets with Design and Technology as well as continuing our Science theme of Living things and their habitats and sculpture in Art.



Many thanks to those of you who have offered your help this term; from those who have supported trips and to those of you who have listened to readers. If you would like to support, then please do speak to your Lead teacher at your given school.

Your Key stage 1 team.

Year 3 & 4 - Rivers & Oaks

What a busy term it has been and we're only half way through! The children have been working hard on telling the time, looking at 12 and 24 hour clocks and converting analogue to digital time. Please can this be practised at home on a regular basis? The more the children practise time in a real life context, the more fluent they will become.

We have been teaching English in a cross-curricular method: writing a biography about the famous and courageous Tim Peake (our science unit this term in KS2 is Earth and Space). The children have been in awe, researching the tremendous skill needed to become an astronaut. Any extra home learning about Earth and Space is highly encouraged at home!

Year 5 & 6 – Oceans and Forests

Maths

We have been practising the skills we learnt using decimals, fractions and percentages. We have focussed on place value and accuracy in our calculations. Times tables have also been a focus as we need to ensure we are fluent in these.

English

We have been using our Holes text to write an informal letter from Stanley to his mother. We have looked at the differing features for this text type and have focussed on ensuring we understand shifts in formality.

Book Month - Share A Million Stories

We have been sharing texts in school, redesigning our favourite book covers and have completed an extreme shared read.

Maths News

Top Ten Athletics Pupils

Students	Activity Points	Live Points	Total Points	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Brooke R	4660	0	4660	2	0	0
Betsy R	2950	70	3020	1	0	0
Phillip C	2770	0	2770	2	0	0
Emily H	1420	667	2087	1	0	0
Skye B	0	2070	2070	1	1	0
Livy W	2010	41	2051	2	0	0
Alisha G	1040	872	1912	1	0	0
Neve P	1380	0	1380	1	0	0
Alice B	960	296	1256	0	0	0
Isla P	0	1232	1232	1	0	0

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Admin

Mothering Sunday Service at Christ Church, Parracombe

Parracombe community are holding a Mothering day service at Christ church, Parracombe on Sunday 22nd March at 9.30. There will be posies for all mothers and refreshments served after the service.

PTFA News



Lynton PTFA

Lynton and Lynmouth Bowls Club are holding a quiz night on Friday 24th April. Lynton PTFA will be hosting the raffle and the proceeds from the raffle will go to the PTFA's fundraising efforts. Please see the poster for full details. We would love to see as many of you there as possible. Please speak to Vikki at Lynton to book your team place.

We would welcome donations of any raffle prizes. If you have anything you would like to donate, please could these be taken to Lynton school office by Monday 20th April.

Governor News

Meet the Governors - Ronnie Moughton



My name is Ronnie Moughton. I am married with 2 children, both of whom have been through Lynton School. We have lived in Lynton for 18 years. When Saskia first started pre-school I became much more interested in the federation and volunteered by helping in any way that I could. I followed this through to Lynton School and now enjoy developing this further as a governor.

As a family we run a catering business. I have a level 3 NVQ in hospitality and training. I have also worked as sports manager for a government scheme 'Sport for All' teaching sport and fitness to young and old alike. I feel that I have some skills that could help the federation become even stronger and better.

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 jan.stokes@westexmoorfederation.org.uk, and Jacqui Skelton-Norrish admin@westexmoorfederation.org.uk

Jan Stokes; Chair. West Exmoor Federation Governing Body.

Diary Dates

20 th March	Tempest Photography at Lynton. Sibling, Individual and Class Photos
20 th March	Swimming Gala at Ilfracombe Swimming Pool
22 nd March	Christ Church, Parracombe Mothering Sunday service at 9.30am
23 rd March	Federation Easter Service 1.15pm at St Mary's Church, Lynton (please note change of date)

Community

From the Rectory

Last month I reflected on two of the practices associated with Lent: giving and prayer. This month, which falls entirely within Lent, I am going to talk about the other practice most associated with it: fasting.

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I have spent most of my working life teaching in boarding schools as a housemistress. There, where many of the girls were more worried about their weight than they should have been, talking about giving things up for Lent was something I grew wary of. Giving things up can so easily be seen as depriving ourselves in a negative way, and that was never the intention of the Lenten invitation to fast.

It is, rather, an invitation to strip out excess, to focus more on our deepest needs and less on our wants. In our consumer world, this can be a really healthy invitation. There is much around us encouraging to spend more on what we think will make us happy, without pausing to notice the basics that we need and which will be truly satisfying. In some ways fasting is an invitation to really positive care of ourselves and those we love, thinking carefully what is really good for us; in Christian terms, thinking about the all that God supplies us with and our dependence on that love.

As we become increasingly aware of how our excessive consumption is damaging our planet, we can see our fasting as part of a bigger picture. The well-knowing saying that there is enough in our world to meet everyone's need, but not everyone's greed is another way of reflecting on the Lenten invitation to remember that we depend on what we receive from the created world as God's gifts, to be cherished not profited from or squandered.

We are learning (or relearning) more and more about how to live more lightly on the earth: reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, reducing the food miles of what we eat, rejecting single use plastic, reusing as much as we possibly can, mending rather than replacing clothing and household items. In our community, our older members are able to share their memories when so much of this was still the norm, and they are being enthusiastically joined by our children who are taking up the urgency of the message that we have to be careful with our resources. Their enthusiasm is not about self-deprivation, but about realising how beautiful the gift of our world is, how much they love its animals, birds and sea-life, and how worthwhile it is to cut down on what they thought made them happy to preserve what is really of value.

This Lent, perhaps we can join up the ancient practice of a fast with the modern challenge of our planet: can we give up one thing we use too much of as an act of love for the remarkable Creation we have been given, and a response to the love of the Creator from whom it is all such a gift?

God bless
Samantha

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

PARRACOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Invite tenders for **CLEANING SERVICES** for the Coronation Playing Field public toilets.

This is a temporary contract for the next few months until the proposed project to convert the pavilion into a village shop gets underway.

Hours: to a maximum of 3 hours per week - involving weekly/monthly tasks to provide a reliable service and maintain high standards of cleanliness.

The toilets also require daily opening/closing: currently 8.30am / 4.30pm during the Winter and a later closing time during Summer months. (A complete service is preferred although separate arrangements for opening/closing could be discussed, if necessary.

A 'Cleaning Specification' can be obtained from the Parish Clerk:

Email: ppc_clerk@outlook.com / Tel: 07788 950583

Tenders/expressions of interest should be made to: Email: ppc_clerk@outlook.com or Post: The Parish Clerk, Lovely Cottage, 2, Spurway Gardens, Combe Martin, Ilfracome, Devon.)

Free NHS Sleep Workshops

A good night's sleep can make all the difference and is important for health, wellbeing, work and family life. Learn all about sleep and proven techniques to help you sleep better.

Wednesday 1st April 5pm – 8pm Bideford

Or

Wednesday 15th April 5pm-8pm Chivenor

To book a place please call or email us and provide a few details to register with the service:

0300 555 3344

dpt.talkworks.northdevon@nhs.net

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Choose a Book That's Just Right

Once you've picked a book, use the five-finger rule to check it's right for you:

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- 1** Read the first page.
 - 2** Put up a finger for each word you can't read.
 - 3** Did you put up all five fingers? Choose a new book.
 - 4** Did you not put up any fingers? This book may be too easy, so choose a new one.
 - 5** Did you put up less than five fingers? Then this book is 'Just Right' for you!

Multi-Sport Camps

Easter & Summer Holidays 2020



Book them onto our action-packed Activity Camps this Easter & Summer and your child will discover new passions, make new friends & build their confidence while enjoying a variety of different sports, activities and outdoor pursuits.

Activities:

Football, Cricket, Netball, Hockey, Rounders, Dodgeball, Crafty Arty Party, Nature Trail, Athletics, Capture the Flag, Tennis, Garden Games, and more...

Times: 9am - 3pm Weekdays

Ages: 5 - 14 year olds

Price: £30 per day per child*

*For every full day purchased bring a friend or sibling for free.

Easter

Monday 30th March - Friday 3rd April

Half-Term

Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th May

Summer

Monday 27th - Friday 31st July

Monday 3rd - Friday 7th August

Location

Kingsacre Primary School, Greenacre, Braunton EX33 1BQ

To book email: bookings@devonshiretennisacademy.com

www.devonshiretennisacademy.com



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