



West Exmoor Federation

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

Autumn Term 2020 – Newsletter 1 – 25th September 2020



Quick Reminders

Please remember to phone any absences through to school by 9.15am each day.

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome Back

How wonderful it has been to properly welcome all of our families back to school this term. I am so proud of how quickly our children have settled back into the routine of learning and adapted to the new routines that we have put in place. The way that all of our children have managed 'pick up where they left off' is real testament to the support that you gave them during lockdown. It has been wonderful to hear their many and varied stories of all the incredible things that they got up to whilst making history! That said, I think each and every one of them is pleased to be back at school, seeing their friends and enjoying a more normal life experience. Here's hoping that the coming months are kind to us within North Devon and that disruptions to our daily lives are minimal.

Face Coverings

In response to the number of covid-19 cases increasing across the country, as of Monday, staff who are on the playground 'meeting and greeting' at the beginning of the day, or 'sending home' at the end of the day, will be wearing a face covering to provide additional protection for themselves, our children, families and wider community. Although not compulsory, we would also very much appreciate it if parents/carers dropping off and picking up children could also wear a face covering. This will make any necessary conversation of a more personal nature a little easier to achieve as the need to stand a little closer together will not be so awkward. Under normal circumstances though, we would also like to remind everyone of the need to maintain social distancing and 'the rule of 6' at either end of the school day and to adhere to the one ways systems which we have put in place. Thank you so much for your continued co-operation regarding our efforts to ensure that our schools remain covid-19 secure.

Covid-19 Symptoms

If you, your child or any member of your household has symptoms of covid-19 (temperature over 37.8/new, continuous cough/loss or change of sense of smell or test) you must self-isolate as a household and arrange for the symptomatic member of your household to have covid-19 test. You must also notify us as soon as possible. Please refer to the guidance sent home via DoJo earlier this week for further information on what to do in specific cases. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to ask. I appreciate the challenges that self-isolating brings about and I understand how frustrating it is, especially if you are fairly confident that the symptoms are as a result of a different ailment, but it is imperative that we all follow the guidance to keep our children, families and communities safe.

Remote Learning

My teachers and I have been working hard to put in place a programme of remote learning which can be accessed by children who are working from home in the event of needing to isolate. We have cross-referenced our curriculum to the offering being made by the Oak National Academy, matching as closely as possible our learning in school with lessons being provided by the Academy. Generally, these lessons start with a quiz to determine what a child already knows, which is then followed by a taught video session with some activities, concluding with a final quiz to assess the progress made during the lesson. We are currently exploring how best to embed this within Google Classroom and hope to share this with you more fully in the next week or two. In addition to these lessons, there will be suggested activities and links to other forms of learning which will help to minimise the impact of covid-19 related absence from school. In the event of an entire bubble needing to close, this remote learning will be supplemented with face-to-face contact with class teachers via Google Classroom. Within school, we are currently ensuring that all of our children are familiar with Google Classroom so that they can use this platform effectively from home with minimal adult support. For those households where children do not have access to a computer with a keyboard we will, as within lockdown, be loaning out devices for the period of isolation. For our very small number of families who do not have internet access, we will be making alternative arrangements and will discuss these with you individually.

Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ Support

Parent Consultations

Parents Consultations will be taking place prior to half-term. In order to comply with current guidance, we will be offering telephone consultations rather than face-to-face meetings. Further information will be provided in due course.

Free Eye Tests

All children are entitled to receive free eye tests on a regular basis. If you have not already done so, please do take advantage of this free service which is available, by appointment, at any opticians. This is especially important at the moment, given the inevitable increase in screen time that many of our children have experienced. Even if your child appears to have perfect vision, it is still worth booking a test for them to ensure that they have good eye health.

With Best Wishes



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

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



A huge 'welcome' to you all! Whether it is a welcome back to our Year 1's or 2's or a welcome to our new Reception cohorts and their families. It has been wonderful to welcome you all and we are very excited about the term ahead.

The children have settled back beautifully and have adjusted incredibly well to the variation in procedures. Many thanks for your ongoing support with these. All guidelines are live and ongoing and we will continue to act accordingly in line with advice from the Government. Please do ensure that you are signed up to Class Dojo, for any regular updates.

As a Federation, we are very aware of the impact that these months have had on the children both positive and negative. Please be assured that we will be using a wealth of PSHE opportunities to support the children's well-being, and we will adjust these in line with any given situation, reacting to the children's needs.



We have welcomed a new sports coach, Ross Middleton, to the federation this week. He will be coaching the children in fundamental football and movement skills. Lynton's PE day will be on a Thursday and Kentisbury will have theirs on a Monday. The children should continue to arrive and stay in their PE kits for the full day on these days. We are also delighted to be able to continue to offer our Forest school provision for our Reception children, one session per week. Lynton's will be on a Friday and Kentisbury's will be on a Wednesday.



Many thanks to all of you who have continued to support the children's reading during the last few months. Every child has now been given their reading record and a book to support their current level. Please do continue to read every day/night. The children's ability to read opens the door to the whole of their education!

Many thanks again for your ongoing support,

Your KS1 team.

Key Stage Two

Welcome back everyone!!!

I would first like to say that it has been so lovely to be back and see all of those smiling faces again. We've missed you lots. Our first couple of weeks back have been packed with lots of activities to support us all coming back to school. We have been focused on our emotions upon returning back to school and how we can all help support one another. In regards to curricular activities, our overarching theme this term is 'the world beneath our feet'. A very interesting and exciting one, with lots of fun activities to do to support learning.

Lower Key Stage 2 – Young Buds, Oaks & Streams

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At Lynton, we have begun by looking at the layers of the Earth, focusing on the different layers of soil. We have made edible soil profiles and are now writing a set of instructions based on what we did. We have decided to link English and topic where possible this year and our current theme seems to be working well.

Children at Parracombe have started by looking at the different types of rocks that can be found and discussing how they can be grouped. In Maths, we have started the year by recapping some of last year's objectives as well as moving forward onto place value of 3 and 4 digit numbers. We will be continuing with this sequence for another couple of weeks.

Upper Key Stage 2 – Forests & Oceans

In years 5/6, the children have started off the year in the same way as their peers in years 3/4, but diving a little deeper into the layers of the Earth and travelling right down to the core! They have also been writing a set of instructions for a Lynton and Lynmouth volcano eruption plan and studying place value and numbers up to 1 million. This term the Upper Key Stage 2 theme is evolution. The children have been discovering more about this topic, including facts and the work of Charles Darwin.

Sports News

Schools Show Jumping Competition



The Schools Show Jumping Competitions took place this year during the summer holiday, when a Federation Team was entered and we are pleased to report that the team did exceptionally well during the course of the 4 competitions.

The competition ended with the final on the 5th September, when our young team consisting of Taylor Floyd, Mia Harris, Blake Goodman and Jack Payne, jumping 40cm, were placed 2nd as a team and with Jack being placed 6th individually. The points accumulated by the riders over the 4 competitions, to include Heidi Kelly, placed them 3rd overall. Jack also did well by being placed 3rd individually, with his accumulated points over the 4 competitions.

Tiarna Falco, Abi Payne and Jack represented the Federation in the 50cm height in the final, when they all also rode well, with fast clear rounds and being placed 2nd overall.

Well done to all the riders for taking part and to their parents for transporting their children (and ponies); the Federation is very proud of your achievements. If there are any other children, who enjoy riding and would like to be part of the Schools Show Jumping Competition next year, which normally takes place between April and June, please let Wendy (wendy.heywood@westexmoorfederation.org.uk) know.

Admin

School Lunch Payments

Just a gentle reminder that school dinners should be paid for online for year 3 to year 6, either in advance or by the day they are taken. Please ensure payments are up to date as soon as possible.

Governor News

Meet the Governors - Jayne Peacock - Ex-Officio (Executive Headteacher)

Early in my teens I decided that I wanted to be a teacher. This was, in no small part, due to having a younger sister who is profoundly deaf. I spent a great deal of time supporting her learning as she progressed through school and I found this to be extremely rewarding. However, I made a conscious decision not to go straight to University from school and, instead, undertook a Business Studies Course before spending two years working as the Personal Assistant to the Managing Director of a construction company. During this time, I also worked on a voluntary basis for 'Friends of the Young Deaf', organising holidays and training programmes for disadvantaged hearing and deaf children/young adults; my involvement with this organisation continued until I moved to Devon.

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I graduated from Brighton University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Education (Hons) Degree, specialising in Primary Education, English and Special Educational Needs. My teaching career began in East Grinstead, West Sussex before I took up a post in Hammersmith, West London, where I taught in a Unit for Hearing Impaired children. Eventually I returned to mainstream teaching in Lindfield, West Sussex, where I took on the role of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator before being appointed as the Deputy Headteacher and eventually Acting Headteacher. During this time, I also completed a Masters of Arts (Education) Degree and successfully completed the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers (NPQH). In 2001 I moved to Devon to take up the Headship of Lynton CE Primary School and, in turn, was appointed to the Executive Headship of the West Exmoor Federation in January 2007. Alongside my Headship of the federation, I have worked as a remodelling consultant for the Local Authority, trained as an Ofsted inspector and been appointed, amongst other things, as a Local Leader for Education by the National College for Teaching and Leadership.



When I'm not working, I love nothing more than spending time with my family. Together we very much enjoy walking (we managed to bag a couple of munros in the summer), cycling, spending time on the beach, reading, playing scrabble and chess and trying to tame our rather wild garden!

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

1 st October 2020	Kentisbury & Parracombe Tempest Photography
1 st October 2020	USA Theme Menu

Community