



West Exmoor Federation

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

Autumn Term 2020 – Newsletter 2 – 23rd October 2020



Quick Reminders

Children in Need – Friday 13th November – We will be holding a non-school uniform, wear spots to school day, with a £1 donation.

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

Oh my goodness me, hasn't this half term gone by in a flash? It has been so lovely to see all of our children back in school and truly thriving. I am incredibly proud of how seamlessly the children have returned and how quickly each class has been able to focus upon high quality learning. The learning outcomes that the children are producing within class, especially at the end of teaching sequence, are absolutely wonderful and their enthusiasm to show me what they have been doing when I pop into class is truly infectious. That said, they all look absolutely exhausted and I think each and every one of them is ready for our extended half term.

EXTENDED HALF TERM

A number of parents/carers have questioned the rationale behind our extended Autumn Half Term Break, especially within the context of the amount of schooling that many of children missed last year. We introduced our extended break for two main reasons. Firstly, absence through illness between October and December was incredibly high, especially for our younger children with many a Nativity ending up with a highly depleted cast as the children limped towards Christmas! Our hope was that the longer holiday would break the colds and tummy bugs cycle and give our children a chance to recoup fully and return refreshed and able to maintain good attendance through to Christmas. This certainly proved to be the case with significantly improved attendance during the second half of the autumn term. Secondly, the longer break enables families to benefit from cheaper holidays during our second week, at a time when the peak holiday season is over. In line with Government guidance, we are not able to authorise holiday absence on the grounds of it being cheaper to travel 'off-peak' but this provides a little flexibility for those families who wish to get away out of season. In order to make the two week break possible, we put together our two 'exceptional days' (holiday to be determined by the school) and three of our five training days. If not taken at this time, the days would be taken at other points in the school year, so please rest assured that the extended break does not mean that your child is missing out on any schooling. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this further.

CATCHING UP

Some parents/carers have asked how we are supporting our children and enabling them to 'catch-up' following the partial of closure of schools last year. First and foremost, our priority is to provide all of our children with high quality teaching within the classroom. Each lesson planned is based upon formative assessment undertaken during the previous lesson, enabling every child to make progress based upon their own personal needs. In addition to this, we have adjusted the timetable to deliver as much of our English curriculum via theme. Not only does this motivate our children more, it results in more time being spent focusing upon the core subjects (English, Maths & Science) but without reducing the breadth of our curriculum. For example, Year 5 & 6 have been learning about adaptation and evolution and one of their main English sequences this half term has culminated in the production of an information poster about Charles Darwin. The quality of their finished learning is just stunning.

We are also focusing heavily on reading. Reading has always been the cornerstone of our curriculum but now even more so. Much research, including that of the Education Endowment Foundation, cites reading as the key to closing the learning gap. With this in mind, we have been using the shared reading of high quality texts to support our theme learning and to provide all of our children with a reading-rich curriculum. This includes reading as a whole class (our class cuddle), reading in groups and reading on a 1:1 basis, including specific interventions for those children with the greatest gaps. Within these sessions, we have been focusing upon decoding but also upon reading comprehension skills, encouraging our children to draw on their wealth of prior knowledge, while also gathering evidence and spotting vital clues within a text to support their predictions and inferences as they are challenged to fully comprehend what they are reading. If there is just one thing that you can do to support your child at home, it is reading with them and to them on a daily basis

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(regardless of their age), talking about what they are reading and making connections between their reading and things within their immediate experience. If you would like any further guidance on how to support your child with their reading at home, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

REMOTE LEARNING

If your child is having to self-isolate and learn from home, we have put together a programme of remote learning. This is available on the home page of our website and will also be reposted on DoJo on a regular basis.

Our planned learning matches, as far as practically possible, the learning that will be taking place in school. Much of the learning is via the Oak National Academy which provides video lessons with quizzes and short learning tasks. We have worked through some of these lessons with our children to ensure that they are familiar with the format. Completed learning should be submitted via Google Classroom. For learning undertaken via the Oak National Academy, you just need to send a message to say that your child has completed a lesson (or series of lessons) with the initial and final quiz score. All of our children have a Google Classroom account which they have used within school to ensure that they are familiar with it. If your child does not have access to a laptop or computer at home, please do let us know as we have a number of Chromebooks which can be loaned to children who are self-isolating. For those few families without internet access, alternative work will be provided by your child's classteacher.

In addition to the traditional learning offered by our remote learning programme, our Theme Home Learning also provides a range of suitable activities to undertake whilst at home. This is further supplemented by Athletics and, after half-term, we will be rolling out an English App to run alongside Athletics.

If your child is self-isolating, their class teacher will keep in regular contact with you during their absence and will, where appropriate, respond to learning on a daily basis. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher should you experience any difficulties.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thank you to those families who have already ordered Christmas Cards and returned their child's artwork to school. Online ordering for Christmas Cards closes on 5th November and orders placed after this date cannot be placed without incurring an additional fee. I need to post the original art work back to APFS on Tuesday 10th November at the very latest. If you have placed an online order, please ensure that the original artwork is returned by this date, otherwise your order will not be processed.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your support and understanding throughout this half term. I appreciate that the measures we have had to put in place to ensure the safety of our children have caused an element of inconvenience, especially when it has resulted in you being unable to follow your normal route into school, but thankfully we have all made it to half-term relatively unscathed! I would also like to say a big thank you to all of my staff who have worked incredibly hard this half term to ensure that all of our children have had the very best possible start to the new academic year. I wish you all a restful and safe half term break.

With Best Wishes



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

In collective worship we have been thinking about freedom and about how to support others within the context of our CARIS values. We have been praying for those who are less fortunate than ourselves and for those whose freedom is restricted.

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

And in the blink of an eye, it is half term! Wow, we're not quite sure where that half term has gone, however, we have been amazed and in awe at how the children have all either settled into their new schools, or come back since lockdown. Well done children, it's been a pleasure to be back and working alongside you all!

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Many thanks to those of you who have booked parent consultations with your class teachers. If you are yet to do so, then please follow the links that have been shared via Dojo. If the available times are not suitable, then please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher and request an alternative time.

After half term, EYFS and KS1 will be focusing on the history strand of timelines, considering timelines suitable to them and their family, alongside considering humans, including animals. LKS1 will take this one step further and begin to consider where that sits within the timeline of Stone age to Iron age, drawing on DT and art to complement their learning.

Over half term, please do consider to log onto Mathletics and keep up with the daily reading. It would be wonderful to celebrate nightly reads with the children, on our return.

Above all else, we hope that have a wonderful, safe half term and look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 9th November

Key Stage Two

What we have been up to:

Upper Key Stage 2 have had a very busy few weeks. We have been completing our gold write up about Darwin and his fantastic trip around the world to discover the adaptations of different species. The children then visited Exmoor Zoo to support their understanding of adaptation and evolution. In maths, we have been working on multiplication! We have been using the short method and carrying over. Practice of this at home would be great! Keep an eye out for October homework and any extra practise (via mathletics) would be beneficial. Have a fabulous half term - you have all worked extremely hard!

Meet the Associate Governors!

We are proud to announce our new Associate Governors. The children were chosen from a high standard of candidates from Year 6. Well done Christopher, Evie, Lexi, Skye, Levi and Kacey.



Meet our new Play leaders.

Introduce our new Lynton Play Leaders. These children will be working with Miss Johnston to run playtime activities with children on the playground. This role will include planning, organising and running the activities. We are sure these important life skills will benefit all the children involved.

Exmoor Zoo

Years 5 and 6 from Parracombe and Lynton had a wonderful (rainy) day at Exmoor zoo. As part of our topic on Evolution and inheritance the children attended a number of animal talks on the subject. We will be writing about this next half term and we can't wait to share it with you all. This is a handmade model that Steve the zoo keeper made himself!



Home Learning

Please continue to practice weekly spellings at home and complete the weekly Mathletics task set by your class teacher. Reminder, you are aiming to achieve 1000 points a week on Mathletics to achieve your certificate.

All children should be aiming to get a bronze certificate each week. Home learning tasks have also been sent home. Please bring in any home learning tasks into school or send pictures to present in class.

Reading at home

We will be running an 'In it to win it' competition between each KS2 class in the federation. Each week, we will be counting up how many times the children read at home and see which class is reading the most. We have been really

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pleased with the increasing amount of home reading, particularly as this can drop as children get older. Reading with your child is important through their entire childhood. Not only is it a time to check that they understand the text and vocabulary, it is a time to discuss themes within the text. Reading to your child is proven to improve mental health and develop language skills.

Maths News

Top Ten Mathletics Pupils

| Students | Activity Points | Live Points | Total Points | Bronze | Silver | Gold |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|--------|--------|------|
| Mia R | 5020 | 0 | 5020 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Henry P | 2320 | 281 | 2601 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Walter B | 2470 | 0 | 2470 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Skye B | 1430 | 953 | 2383 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Reuben Y | 1400 | 625 | 2025 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Rosie C | 1950 | 0 | 1950 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Parker K | 1940 | 0 | 1940 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Oliver H | 1930 | 0 | 1930 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Kauri T | 1900 | 0 | 1900 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Joseph C | 1740 | 28 | 1768 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Little Berries News

Casual Vacancy

We are currently looking for casual sickness and holiday cover for our Little Berries Preschool. You will require a Level 2 or 3 qualification in childcare, or an equivalent qualification. The person/s will work under the supervision of the foundation stage Senior Practitioners, and will need to be warm, patient, caring and have a genuine love and enjoyment of working with young children from babies to 4 year olds.

Being available at short notice, for sickness cover would be a bonus.

If you are interested in applying, please contact Nikki Pierce or Michelle Tearall our Foundation Stage Senior Practitioners on 01271 828660 or email michelle.tearall@westexmoorfederation.org.uk.

Admin

Board/Card Games Donations

If you have any unwanted board games or card games that you would like to donate to Rivers class at Lynton they would be greatly received. Please send in with your child to school marked for the attention of Miss Johnston at Lynton School.

Absence Reporting

Please remember to report all absences by 9.15am on the morning of each day of absence with a reason for the absence. In the event of a child's absence not being notified to the school by 9.15am the class teacher, teaching assistant or administrator will ring the home number to request information. If a suitable reason for absence is not given the absence will remain unauthorised. If the school is unable to make contact with the family, a welfare visit to the child's house may be made. Should a child be absent for more than two days with no explanation for absence being provided, this unauthorised absence will be reported to the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO).

Cleaning Vacancy – Kentisbury



Devon Norse
Careers

we're **hiring...**

Cleaner – Kentisbury Primary School
Part Time – Permanent – Term Time Only

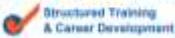
A fantastic opportunity to join a dedicated cleaning team, with opportunities for experienced cleaners and support for those looking to try something new.

15:30 PM – 17:30 PM, Monday – Friday

£19,740.24 (Pro-Rata) Per Annum



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Governor News

Meet the Governors - Reverend Samantha Stayte - Ex-Officio & Foundation Governor



I am the Rector of the Lyn Valley Mission Community which includes the Church of England churches in Brendon, Countisbury and Lynmouth, Lynton and Barbrook, Parracombe, Martinhoe, Trentishoe and Parracombe. I live in Lynton, and have been here since May 2017.

Before I was ordained, I was a Teacher of Religious Studies for fifteen years, and a school chaplain for five. It was the experience of exploring life's big questions and what God is like alongside children that led to my becoming a priest and so my involvement with the Federation, both as a governor and through Collective Worship and festival services, is something that is really important to me in my life and ministry here.

Parent Governor

The Governors are delighted to announce that we have appointed a Parent Governor and would like to welcome Roxanne Tandridge to the Governing Body.

Diary Dates

| | |
|--|---|
| 23 rd October | End of Half Term |
| 9 th November | Back to School |
| 13 th November | Children in Need non uniform wear spots to school day. |
| 18 th & 19 th November | Life Education Visits |
| 25 th November | Tempest Photography individual school photos at Lynton. |

Community

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