



# West Exmoor Federation

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

*Autumn Term 2020 – Newsletter 3 – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020*



## Quick Reminders

4<sup>th</sup> January Children return to school

## Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

Oh my goodness, what an interesting term!! I am so very proud of our wonderful children who have demonstrated incredible resilience from beginning to end. Despite the many changes to their normal routines, they have clearly relished being back at school and their determination to focus on learning has been truly commendable. This was very much apparent during our mini 'lockdown' when, for many of our children, there was a seamless transition from learning in school to learning remotely and then back to school again. This has been, in no small part, due to the fantastic support that you have given your children during these uncertain times and for which I sincerely thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my staff and governors for their hard work and dedication this term. At times, navigating our way through the challenges presented by the covid-19 pandemic has been far from easy. Despite this, the determination of everyone to ensure that our children continue to receive the best possible school experience has been unwavering. I am especially grateful to everyone who has taken on additional responsibilities whilst I have been poorly; it is very much appreciated. Fingers crossed that I will be fighting fit and raring to go in the new year – I have desperately missed being in school, especially at this magical time of the year.

I truly hope that you all enjoy the Christmas break and manage to safely spend time with those who you hold nearest and dearest. It will certainly be a different Christmas experience for most of us, but perhaps this will enable us to focus upon the true meaning of the festive season and contemplate what is genuinely important within our lives.

Take care and keep safe.

Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

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

First off, what a fantastic Autumn term we've had this year! All the children have worked extremely hard adapting to a new teacher and going through another lockdown! Next term in English, we are going to be returning to story writing. This time the story will be set in Ancient Egypt! In maths, we are going to be tackling multiplication so have a look on Mathletics to get a head start on that! We are looking forward to getting started! We hope you have a lovely Christmas break. See you all soon.



## Lower Key Stage Two

We would just like to say how proud we are of Year 3 and 4, and all of our children in the federation. They have handled situations thrown their way with strength and resilience. We would also like to say a big thank you to you all as parents/carers for all of the support you have given us this term. We couldn't have done it without you.

When we return after Christmas, we will begin by studying plants as part of Science and English. We will then move on to studying rainforests in both geography and English. We will be writing a story based on The Great Kapok Tree, a lovely book, and looking at persuasive writing in relation to deforestation. In the second half term, we will move onto looking at ancient civilisations with a focus on Ancient Egypt in theme and English. In Maths, we will continue working on multiplication and division. Following the National Curriculum, by the end of year, children in year 3 should fluently

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know their 3,4 and 8 times tables and year 4 should know all of the times tables to 12x12. We will be working on fluency in school, but if you could do extra practise at home, that would be greatly beneficial. The children really enjoy practising using this link - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>. This link can still be found on our google classroom.

Over the holidays, please do continue to record your child's reading in their green reading logs as it all goes towards their certificates and our KS2 federation competition, in which the class with the most reads per term will receive a prize.

Please enjoy this Christmas break, and we look forward to welcoming you and your children back in 2021.

## Upper Key Stage Two



Well done everyone for a fantastic start to the new school year! Everyone has worked exceptionally hard and deserve a break! We have finished multiplication and division and even managed to write up our own Stone Age narratives with accompanying cave paintings. Next term, we will be kicking off with studying plants then rainforests! We move onto fractions in maths so get looking at that on Mathletics! Any questions, please contact us on Class Dojo.

We hope you have a fantastic Christmas, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

## Maths News

### Top Ten Mathletics Pupils

Students	Activity Points	Live Points	Total Points
Phillip C	23470	0	23470
Livy W	15980	114	16094
Madax C	5840	0	5840
Hannah W	4680	115	4795
Mia R	4340	0	4340
Oliver H	3120	918	4038
Brooke R	3570	357	3927
Erin H	2550	1226	3776
Lylah S	3250	119	3369
Emily H	2510	746	3256

## Admin

### Free School Meal Eligibility

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in state-funded schools in England are currently eligible for free school meals. Once children go into Year 3, parents are then charged for school meals (currently £2.30 per day). **Some children are also eligible under the original Pupil Premium free school meal scheme and it is very important that we still identify these pupils. This is because each child registered under the original scheme attracts valuable funding for their school, called Pupil Premium.** £1,345 for each eligible primary-aged pupil will be allocated in the next school year in additional funding. This would be used for the educational benefit of your child and is allocated specifically to them.

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To be eligible for this funding/free school meals, whatever year your child/ren are in, you will need to be in receipt of one of the following:-

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

To apply for this funding, or to check if you are eligible, simply go onto the Devon County Council portal using the link below. This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019. You will need to have the child's date of births and National Insurance number to hand.

[https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en?ReturnUrl=%2FCCSCitizenPortal\\_live](https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/en?ReturnUrl=%2FCCSCitizenPortal_live)

**If you think you may be eligible, we would ask you to please apply, as soon as possible, as a successful application will bring in valuable funding to your school.** Please remember that every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is currently entitled to receive a free school meal regardless of the outcome of an application for free school meals/pupil premium.

## Governor News

### Meet the Governors - Sue Stokes - Co-Opted Governor



I joined West Exmoor Federation in April 2013 with my husband Jan, currently the Chair of Governors. We moved to Devon in 2012 to join family and have 2 grandchildren living in Lynton. Our Grand daughter attends Lynton School and Grandson Stepping Stones.

Having made a firm decision at the age of 18 that teaching was what I wanted to do, I have spent my working life involved with young people. I have a Master's Degree in Education Management and taught young people from ages 11 to adult. My teaching has essentially been in large secondary schools, comprehensive, traditional selective grammar schools, sixth form colleges and establishments for adult education. The last 20 years of my career were in school management, initially in a Community College and

for the later 13 years as a High School Deputy Head with extended periods as Acting Headteacher. My principle responsibilities involved the management of standards within the school, curriculum and the quality of teaching and learning. I have always felt privileged to spend my career doing a job that I loved.

I have over 20 years as a governor working within the school system and try to bring this experience into my current role as Chair of the Federation Improvement Committee. I am passionate about ensuring that young people are given the very best education possible and hope that I can make an effective contribution to the communities of Lynton, Kentisbury and Parracombe.

## Diary Dates

4 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to School
12 <sup>th</sup> February	End of Half Term
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Return to School
1 <sup>st</sup> March – 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Week
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day
1 <sup>st</sup> April	End of Term

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## Community

### Financial Support

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic is continuing to put a huge financial strain on some people. Employment situations are changing rapidly and for some their income now no longer covers what they need or they have lost their jobs completely.

Help is available. If you know someone who is worrying about money and how to pay for basic household essentials, please encourage them to apply for extra assistance through funding made available by Devon County Council via your District Council's hardship fund.

To find out more about what support is available in Devon, including how to access local financial support, healthy start vouchers and free school meals, where to find foodbanks and community larders, free meals during the school holidays and what to do if you're on a low income and need to self-isolate, [please visit Devon County Council's website](#).

