



West Exmoor Federation

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

Spring Term 2021 – Newsletter 4 – 1st April 2021



Quick Reminders

Back to School – Monday 19th April.

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

How wonderful it has been to gradually return to work over the last few weeks. I cannot begin to express how much I missed the children whilst I was poorly and I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to get back into the classroom to see and hear about all of their fantastic learning. As a federation our values are firmly embedded through CARIS and this has really shone through as I have spent time in each school since all of our children returned to school – despite the rather unusual year that we have all experienced, our children's love for one another, their love of learning and their love for the world within which they live seems to shine brighter than ever before. There has been a real sense of joy in each of our schools and I am so very proud of how all of our children have coped through a truly remarkable year – a year within which they have helped to write the history books as our 'rainbow children' and upon which they will no doubt reflect throughout their lifetime.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful team of staff and governors for their incredible dedication to our federation and our children over the last year. I would like to say a particularly special thank you to Claire Strachan and Joe Mackenzie for stepping up and taking the lead in my absence over recent weeks and ensuring the continued smooth running of the federation. I would also like to thank you for supporting your children with their learning during the most recent lockdown; I know from personal experience how challenging this has been and congratulate each and every one of you for doing such a sterling job.

There has been much talk in the media over recent weeks about the need for our children to 'catch-up'. It is true that all of our children have not covered the curriculum in the way that they would have done had they been in school but, as a federation, we are determined to focus on the many positives that have come out of the last year and to encourage our children to reflect upon this and celebrate their achievements. Within school we are focusing upon 'moving on' rather than 'catching up' and we have a comprehensive plan in place to ensure that we identify the gaps in our children's learning and set about to close them. These gaps are as different for each child as the children are themselves and, therefore, we are not adopting a 'one size meets all' but adapting our curriculum and teaching to meet the needs of each child. This may be through whole class teaching, small group work or one-to-one support within the classroom. Additionally, we have invested in Literacy Planet and Nessy to compliment Mathematics, numerous new reading books and we have continued to invest in the high level of teaching assistants that we are so blessed to have within the federation. Although considered normal for us, we are incredibly lucky to have at least one full time teaching assistant within each class – something that many other schools do not have. This, in addition to our small class sizes, enables all of our children to benefit from high-quality adult support. Should you wish to discuss our 'moving on' plans, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or lead teacher.

I hope that you and your children have an enjoyable Easter break and that you are able to get out and about make the most of our new freedoms!

With love to you,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

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

We are so proud of all the children across all of our classes EYFS and KS1 at Kentisbury and Lynton schools. These last few weeks have been so wonderful to have everyone back as we have prioritised welcoming, settling and socialisation for the children. It has been lovely to see and hear them enjoying being back with their friends; chatting, laughing and playing in the classroom, and during playtimes. The children have settled beautifully, and we are all very proud of the resilience that they have all demonstrated during these last few months.

Our priorities have been ensuring that the children have been able to socialise, and have access to daily physical activity, as we continue to settle them back in.

Alongside this, we have also been focusing on reading, phonics and revisiting place value in Maths. In English, all classes have looked at narrative and story, based on traditional tales and fairy tales.

Could we please ask that all reading books and laptops, that were sent home during lockdown, are returned.

PE days will be communicated via Class dojo by your class teacher, and we ask that children continue to come into school in their PE kits on those days.

We hope that you all have a wonderful, well deserved break over the Easter holidays. Fingers crossed for some more of this lovely weather so that you can get outside and maybe reunite with some family and friends.

Try to remember to keep up with daily reading throughout the holidays and don't forget to ask your child lots of questions about the stories to help support them to keep up with all of the skills that they are working so hard on.

Your EYFS and KS1 teams.



Key Stage Two

Since returning on the 8th of March, KS2 have been fully engrossing themselves in the topic of Ancient Egyptians. There has been some brilliant writing including newspaper reports on the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, Biographies of Pharaohs, and much more. At Lynton, the children celebrated the topic with an Ancient Egyptian-themed musical.

Looking ahead to next term the topic will be 'Splash'. This will include learning about the Lynmouth flood, water cycle, and poetry linked with water. We are really excited to be introducing some fantastic technology to enhance the children's learning such as Virtual Reality headsets and a 3d printer.

Our big ask is to focus on reading over half term. We are finding the children are reading less since returning on the 8th March. Reading for pleasure offers so much more than the enjoyment of stories, it develops fluency and comprehension skills that benefit the children's learning in all areas.

Have a lovely Easter break.



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Admin

Absence Reporting

Please ensure any absence is reported to the school by calling your school number by 9.30am at the latest and selecting the option to report an absence. This must be done for each day your child will be absent from school. Please do not message school staff directly on ClassDojo to report absences.

Sporting News

North Devon Schools Showjumping

We are pleased to say that we will be supporting the Schools Showjumping League again this year by sending a team to represent the Federation. Jo Goodman, a parent at Kentisbury, has kindly agreed to liaise with parents on the dates and times. If you would like your child/ren to take part please contact Jo or email Wendy at wendy.heywood@westexmoorfederation.org.uk, who will pass your details on. We are pleased to say that the Federation will cover the cost of one class. The cost for any additional classes entered, will need to be met by the parents. Please see the attached letter with all the details. Please note that the deadline for entries is next week, so please let us know as soon as possible, if you are interested. We wish the team every success and hope they enjoy representing the Federation.

Governor News

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

19 th April 2021	Back to School
26 th April 2021	Scholastic Book Fair Week

Community

Testing for parents and households of staff and pupils

Parents and other adults in households with children or staff at nursery, who do not have symptoms, can now also access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect or order their test to take at home, twice-weekly. For more information about how to access the Lateral Flow test, please visit

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Children of primary school age (and below) are **not** being asked to take regular rapid tests.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates.

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Writing Instrument Recycling

We are pleased to inform you that we are now a recycling collection point for disused writing instruments. Although we are not an official Terracycle drop off point (as they are currently full), a couple of our Lynton year 1 parents have very kindly organised this with a local recycle point and will take our recycling to them periodically. We are delighted that we will be saving more items from landfill that will be repurposed, along with our crisp packet recycling.

Accepted waste in this programme: All writing instruments (except for wooden pencils and chalk) are accepted: Any brand of pen, felt tip, highlighter, marker, correction fluid pot, correction tape, mechanical pencil and eraser pen regardless of their composition.

Note that we do not accept glue sticks, erasers, rulers or other cutting objects that could disturb the recycling process. Please be careful not to include any of those items. For more information visit: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/bic-uk>



The Basics:

On Sunday the 8th of November 2020, the government announced a new initiative; The Covid-19 Winter Grant Scheme. This scheme is designed to provide extra support to households in need this winter as a direct result of Covid-19. This includes distributing £170 million to local councils and unitary authorities as a part of the program, which will be running until the end of March 2021. As such Devon County Council is working in partnership with Citizens Advice to distribute some of this funding in the form of Fuel support.

Fuel Support:

Citizens Advice is offering each household in fuel/food poverty a one-off payment of £80.00, on behalf of Devon County Council, to be used on gas or electric prepayment meters. It is available across the whole of Devon. Those in fuel need without prepayment meters may still be eligible. To make an application to be part of this scheme you can contact Citizens Advice directly using the contact details given on this leaflet.

Additional Support:

If you require additional support further enquiries can be made to Citizens Advice for other issues. This may include (but is not limited to) food vouchers, debt, or employment advice as well as universal credit or other benefit enquires.

Contact Information:

To be considered for the Winter Fuel Voucher Scheme please contact East Devon Citizens Advice through:



Telephone: 01395 265070



AdviceLine: 08082505703



Text Advice: 82727



Email:

enquiries@citizensadviceeastdevon.org

Or to find us on our website:

<https://citizensadviceeastdevon.org/>

You can find the contact details for your local branch for additional support on the universal Citizens Advice website:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

For further information regarding the Covid-19 Winter Grant Scheme can be found on the Governments website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-winter-package-to-provide-further-support-for-children-and-families>



Dear Parent / guardian,

NORTH DEVON SCHOOLS SHOW JUMPING LEAGUE

Now in its fifth year, the North Devon Schools Show Jumping League provides vital competition in the area for equestrians wishing to compete for their school.

We believe that this year the NDSSJL competition is more important than ever before. After the events of the past year we hope the league will bring equestrians back together and give children a goal to work towards... becoming the NDSSJL 2021 champions!

We would love to invite your child to join us for the 2021 league.

There is currently very little on offer in North Devon for children who would like to represent their school in an equestrian event. Our league encourages children to participate in a fun sport which promotes good sportsmanship amongst children in a competitive but safe and friendly environment.

The league will consist of monthly qualifier show jumping competitions held at Coxleigh Barton Equestrian Centre, Barnstaple. To take part in the league children need to have their own horse/pony or have access to one.

The 2021 competition dates are as follows:

- 4th April
- 9th May
- 6th June
- 11th July
- 15th August - Championship Show

A copy of our rules can be downloaded from www.coxleigh.com, but in short, the league can be entered by teams of 3 or 4 riders, or by individual pupils. Riders do not need to be in a team to compete. We have 7 different categories available for pupils to enter with heights from 50cm to 100cm to ensure we cater for all abilities. Over the season, league points will be accumulated, culminating in a Championship Show Jumping competition in August.

Each school is required to have a team manager, this role can be assumed by a parent if the school allows. We'd love to hear from you if you would be interested in representing your school's equestrian team as the team manager. The team manager is responsible for liaising with the NDSSJL organisers, entering all of the riders competing for that school, organising training and putting together teams for the school. It is a very exciting and rewarding role watching the children riding for your school flourish whilst taking part in something they love.

The feedback we have received from those schools that have taken part during 2017 to 2020 has been incredible. We are extremely pleased to be able to offer this opportunity to local children and take great pride in watching every child grow in confidence over the season which teachers and parents tell us is having a hugely positive impact in both the children's school and home lives.

Registration forms can be downloaded from www.coxleigh.com. An annual registration fee of £10 per rider is payable at the time of first entry and each class is £10 per person entry fee. Parents would be expected to cover these fees unless the school chooses to cover these costs.

Entries for each competition must be made via www.horsemonkey.com. Registration fees can also be paid via horsemonkey.

I appreciate that you may have questions arising from this; please do not hesitate to contact me on 07929032165 or office@coxleigh.com and check out our facebook pages for the latest info!

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Fiddes

07929 032165
North Devon Schools Show Jumping League
www.coxleigh.com

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