



# West Exmoor Federation

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

*Summer Term 2021 – Newsletter 5 – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021*



## Quick Reminders

Please return slips for residentials as soon as possible.  
Last day for book fair orders tomorrow 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

## Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been lovely to welcome our children back to school this term and to spend some time in each class talking to them about their learning. There is a real buzz in each class and the children are clearly revelling in being back at school. Here's hoping that we can all enjoy an uninterrupted term and that school life can return to as near normal as possible.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – 'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS' (Matthew 5:15)

In collective worship this half term we are focusing upon our CARIS value of inspiration. We are thinking about how we can be inspired by others and how others can inspire us. As always, the children have amazed me with their depth of thinking with comments such as *'My Mum inspires me because she encourages me to be a better me'*, *'My friends inspire me to go out into the world'* and *'David Attenborough inspires me to try and save the animals'*. We've been thinking about how those who inspire us are often our heroes and how we can all be heroes if we try to inspire others with our actions. If your child has achieved something amazing outside of school, please do send me a photograph so that we can celebrate their achievements and help to inspire others.

## HOLIDAY ABSENCE

As the country continues to move progressively out of lockdown, many of us are beginning to think about family holidays. However, after such a disrupted year of schooling, it is imperative that our children attend school on a regular basis. In line with our Attendance Policy, absence from school for a holiday can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and for only one period of absence per academic year. Exceptional circumstances may include when a family needs to spend time together because of an immediate family member's bereavement, crisis or serious illness; funeral of immediate family member; wedding of an immediate family member; proven parental employment restrictions that do not enable the family to take holiday during the normal school holiday periods.

I appreciate that some families may be transferring an already paid-for holiday that has been postponed, perhaps multiple times. I understand that some holiday companies are not able to offer the equivalent dates to those originally booked and that in some cases holidays booked to coincide with school holidays are now being offered within term time, with no option of a full refund or further postponement. If you find yourself in this situation, please ask your holiday provider to reconsider. If they are not able to offer you dates within the school holidays, please ask for them for confirmation in writing in order that we can consider your request for absence as an exceptional circumstance.

## SAFETY CONCERN – MAGNET TOYS

You may already be aware of a recent "playground craze" toy consisting of very small, powerful round magnets. They are brightly coloured, look like sweets, are traded on the playground and easily hidden. These toys have caused severe injuries to children when swallowed, deliberately, or more commonly accidentally, when doing tricks that involve putting some of them in the mouth with more on the outside of the cheek. A recent incident in the County left a child in hospital. There are numerous newspaper reports of children undergoing significant abdominal surgery to have the magnets removed to avoid serious damage being done because they clump together around internal tissue causing tears. If your child has a set of these toys, please do make them aware of the dangers of putting these balls in their mouth and ensure that they are suitably supervised when playing with them. Please also ensure that your children do not bring these toys into school; if they do, they will be confiscated until we are able to hand them back to a responsible adult.

## THE BIG ASK – A MESSAGE FROM DAME RACHEL DE SOUZA

Please do take a few minutes to read the message below from Dame Rachel De Souza and encourage your children to complete the Big Ask Survey.

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Hi, my name is Rachel de Souza and I'm the Children's Commissioner for England. My job is to speak up for children in England, stand up for their rights, and make sure that the people in power listen to what children need and want. It's time to give something big back to young people like you after COVID — and **we need your help** to do it.



This is the largest ever survey of children and young people in England. We'll use what you tell us to show the government what you think, and what children need to live happier lives.

This survey will only take you **5-10 minutes**.

Please click the link:

[The Big Ask | Children's Commissioner for England](#)

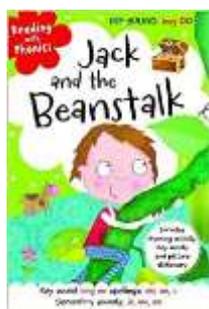
With Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

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

We hope you all enjoyed the Easter break. The weather was kind although a little chilly. Hopefully, you all managed to catch up with friends and loved ones that you've been restricted from seeing for so long!



It has been wonderful to see the children return to school with smiles on their faces and a spring in their step. This has certainly been reflected in all areas of their school life and their attitude to learning. We are extremely proud of how they have bounced back and very much looking forward to the next half term.

In Saplings and Streams, the children will be looking at seasonal changes, plants and their natural environment. They will be reading the story of Jack and the beanstalk, growing their own beans and writing a bean diary. We will be going on an observational nature walk, then creating poems to describe the things that we have found.

In Young Buds, the children will be looking at rivers, states of matter and creating their own poetry piece based on rivers.

Maybe, you could share some nursery rhymes or poems with your child/children and send some favourites into school for them to share.

Warm wishes from everyone on the EYFS and KS1 teams.

## Key Stage Two

### Lower KS2 – Young Buds, Oceans and Rivers

Since returning from Easter, we have begun our topic on the River to the Sea. We have started by looking at how a river is formed, the key features and the journey it takes downstream. We have also started our poetry sequence based on the poem, 'The River' by Valerie Bloom. Over the upcoming weeks, we will also begin to look at states of matter and the water cycle as part of our Science curriculum.

Rivers at Lynton have been fortunate to embark on a river walk where we identified the features of a river in one of our local rivers. We observed how the water moved at different intervals and began to think about how we can describe a river using metaphors and other poetic devices.

In Maths we are currently recapping division, explaining and identifying division as equal groups and using written methods to solve division of larger numbers.

Please can we ensure that we are reading and practicing our times tables each night.



### Upper KS2 – Oceans and Forests

Well done to everyone for a fabulous start to the new term. Although it is a fairly long term, we have so many wonderful things planned...it will fly by! Currently, we are writing a descriptive poem about the river and its uses. We are linking this

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with our learning of the water cycle and understanding the journey from river sea. We are also looking at perimeter, area and volume in maths. Encourage your child by measuring different parts of the home and looking at accurately using a ruler! To stretch and challenge, why not look at converting units of measurements? We are continuing with netball until half term, looking at our shooting positions and footwork. Decision making spelling is working wonders with the children. They have been recapping the 'shun' rules (-tion,-ssion etc) and practising our handwriting daily.

As the weather gets warmer, the children can bring in sun cream but to be personally used and kept safe in their bags/ trays (named please). Any questions, please feel free to contact your class teacher.

## Admin

### **Free School Meals/Pupil Premium Funding**

Please note that a new benefit 'Universal Credit' has been added to the list of eligibility criteria (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).

This is in addition to:

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).

If you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please log onto the Citizens Portal at:

[https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal\\_LIVE](https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE), where you will be able to get an instant decision as to your eligibility. Otherwise please call the Education helpline on 0345 155 1019.

**Children who are eligible for free school meals, also help the school to attract additional funding (pupil premium funding) to support learning. Please do apply for this funding, if you are eligible, even if your child is eligible for the free Universal Infant meals, as it will help your school.**

### **Forest School Pizza Oven Volunteers**

We would like to build a pizza oven and BBQ on the grounds at Kentisbury for our Forest School lessons and for all our future camping residentials and are looking for volunteers to help build this. Would you please be able to give a little of your time to help with this project, which will benefit all of the children across the Federation? If so, please let your School know and what availability you have to help with this. Any help you are able to give will be much appreciated.

## 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](mailto:jan.stokes@westexmoorfederation.org.uk), and Jacqui Skelton-Norrish [admin@westexmoorfederation.org.uk](mailto:admin@westexmoorfederation.org.uk)

Jan Stokes; Chair. West Exmoor Federation Governing Body.

## Diary Dates

28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	End of Half Term
15 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Lynton Tempest Photography Whole School and Class Photos
21 <sup>st</sup> June – 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2021	Parracombe Lee Abbey Residential
23 <sup>rd</sup> June – 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Lynton Lee Abbey Residential
29 <sup>th</sup> June - 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2021	Year 5 & 6 Kentisbury Camp

## Community

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