



West Exmoor Federation

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

Autumn Term 2021 – Newsletter 1 – 08th October 2021



Quick Reminders

KS1/KS2 writing competition - don't forget to get your entries in!



Don't forget to book your Parents Consultations.

Please remember to read with your children on a daily basis, even if they are a competent, fluent reader - this is the most powerful thing that you can do to support your child's learning.

Please remember that dogs should not be brought on to school premises, even if you are carrying them.

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers,

WHAT A FABULOUS START TO THE YEAR

Four weeks into the term and I am SO very proud of all our children. They are tackling their learning with such determination and perseverance and making some really good progress. We are certainly making them work hard and, although it is impossible for them to 'catch up' on the learning missed due to the pandemic, we are ensuring that every minute of each day is targeted to move the children on at pace and make up the lost ground. The children are most definitely rising to this challenge and their confidence in their abilities is really beginning to shine through. To help your child further, please do remember to read with them on a daily basis and to encourage them to engage with Literacy Planet and Mathletics on a regular basis. It is our ambition that by the end of this year the majority of our children will be 'back on track' and attaining in line with where we had projected them to be had their learning not been interrupted by the pandemic.

MAD EDUCATION

Earlier this term, all of our children took part in MAD (a military activity day). Each class enjoyed a training session with ex-military personnel. The children were challenged physically and mentally and pushed to the edge of their comfort zones (especially those working in the rain). They were encouraged to problem solve through a variety of team tasks, honing their communication skills whilst building their confidence, resilience and leadership skills. It was certainly a great way to start the year and very much helped to quickly consolidate new relationships within our classes.



RIB TRIPS

As an introduction to our new topic 'Local Maritime History' our LKS2 children from all three sites enjoyed a fabulous rib trip out of Ilfracombe. They spent an hour exploring the coastline, learning about the history and heritage of this very special area. Work has now begun in school to develop this knowledge further across the curriculum. Many thanks go to Sea Safaris who made sure that the trips were informative and enjoyable!

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INSPIRING AUTHORS - CHITRA SOUNDAR & STEVE COLE

This week it has been an absolute pleasure to welcome Chitra Soundar and Steve Cole into our schools. It was fascinating to hear about Chitra's early life as she grew up in Chennai, India. Chitra loved listening to the stories that her Grandmother and Auntie told her and quickly became a storyteller herself. It was this passion for storytelling that eventually led to her being an author. She shared some of these stories with the children and also made up a story using some characters and objects suggested by the children.



ART PROJECTS FOR SCHOOLS - CHRISTMAS CARDS

I am delighted to tell you that we will be taking part in the Art Projects for Schools Christmas Card scheme again this year. Our children will be creating a Christmas Card design which they will bring home just before half term. If you would like to place a card order, this will need to be completed over the half term holiday and original artwork returned to school immediately after the break. The artwork will be sent to APS on the 9th November with a view to cards, etc, being returned to school for distribution before the end of November. Further details will be sent home with your child's design.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In Collective Worship this half term, we are thinking about our CARIS values and reminding ourselves that, as a name, CARIS means love in Welsh, Greek and Latin. Our federation values place love at the heart of all that we do and we have been thinking about what love is and how we can show those around us that we love them. In particular we have been thinking about the following quotation from Corinthians, "Love never gives up: and its faith, hope and patience never fail." We have also been enjoying the story 'Maybe' by Kobi Yamada and thinking about the endless potential that each and everyone one of us, much of it yet undiscovered. A key line that we have been returning to is 'Do everything with love. Follow your heart and see where it leads you.' The book also considers the importance of standing up for those who can't speak up for themselves and links with our ongoing learning about courageous advocates. To link with this, we have been listening to the music of Nina Simone and learning about her life, considering how she was a courageous advocate by using her music and fame to address racial inequality through the Civil Rights Movement.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

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Raindrops, Streams & Saplings

Wow! What a fantastic start to the new school year, the children are arriving at school each day with growing confidence and smiling faces. They approach their learning with curiosity and eagerness; this is being reflected in their progress, both emotionally and academically.

This half term has seen some wonderful opportunities for interactive learning. Firstly, MAD set up a challenging fun assault course. The children were great at supporting each other as they climbed, crawled and slid around the course, all accompanied by lots of laughter whilst getting wet and muddy!

Weekly access to forest school has given the children the opportunity to learn in our wonderful outside provision and this week we have had visits from the author Chitra Sounder. We were extremely proud of how the children listened carefully to the stories they were told and their ability to ask and answer questions politely and confidently.

In the classroom the children have been looking at the high quality texts, Ruby's Worry, The secret of Black Rock, The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch and Mrs Armitage and the Big Wave. We have been learning about our local maritime history, singing sea shanties and being inspired by the artist Ted Harrison to create our own colourful paintings of local land and seascapes.

In maths the children have been learning all about number and place value and developing their ability to recognise and represent numbers in a variety of ways. This is taught both inside and outside the classroom where children have had the opportunity to explore and investigate through both adult directed lessons and play.

Young Buds, Rivers and Oaks

It has been an exciting and interesting start to the new school year for our LKS2 children! We all thoroughly enjoyed getting wet and muddy during our MAD training and it was great to see such brilliant communication and team work from everyone. We followed that with our rib trip, this is the first year learning about our maritime history so it was a valuable experience to be able to get out on the water and see our local area from a new perspective.

There is a lot of great writing happening inspired by stories of smugglers, caves and shipwrecks and the children are enjoying our guided reading book 'The Skull Rock Mystery'. Lots of practical, hands-on work is happening in maths while we get to grips with place value and addition and subtraction. We have also been enjoying our beautiful new sketchbooks - a perfect place to experiment with colour, keep an eye out for our Ted Harrison inspired seascapes!

We are looking forward to our topic progressing, as we begin to consider the geography of our local landscape. We will consider the physical and human features of our local areas, consider local trade and compare this to our new found historical knowledge.

This week, the children have received a visit from visiting authors, Steve Cole and Chitra Soundar, as part of the Appledore Book Festival. It was incredibly inspirational to listen to them both and see them engage the children in wonderful storytelling and activities.

Well done to those of you who have got off to a great start with their daily reading, Mathletics and Literacy Planet - keep it up everyone! It is fantastic to see you embracing your home learning, and this will set you in good stead in the classroom, reinforcing your learning and setting you up for future topics. If you need support with laptop provision, please do contact your school Lead Teacher, as we may be able to assist you with this.

Oceans and Forests

Year 5/6 have had a fantastic start to the new school year. It has been a busy few weeks and so much has been covered in such a short space of time! The jump from year 4 to 5/5 to 6 can feel quite a shock at times but the increase in workload and challenges presented are being greatly received by the children.

In our English, we have been writing our information piece that focuses on local history throughout the Victorian period. The children have focused on their structure of the writing as well as dipping their toes into relative clauses. Their double page spreads look fabulous and the children were very proud of their first UKS2 piece of writing.

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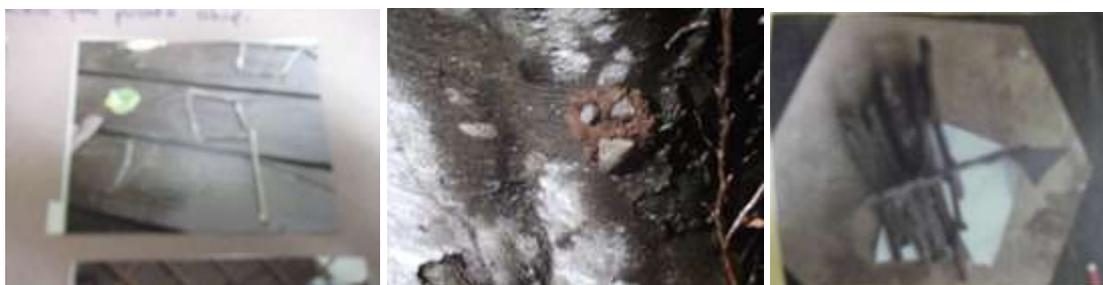
Place Value is our current topic in maths and will be revisited throughout the academic year. It is the foundation for all other units as we look at number value, comparing and ordering as well as negative numbers. We have progressed onto addition and subtraction, building on our LKS2 knowledge.

In theme, we have explored local history, honing in on areas such as Hoar Oak Cottage, Woody Bay Station and observing map details across the 1800's. The children have been able to explore different sources of research, enabling them to have a level of independence in their work.

All children have login details for Tinkercad, Mathletics and Literacy Planet. These will be included in their weekly homework but please encourage them to access these sites as often as possible to support their in-class learning.

Forest School News

This half term I have been working with Streams. We have covered number formation and representation using sticks. The children have considered forest treasure and come up with nouns and adjectives to describe their treasure. They were able to give me a sentence about it, identify the noun and give added description and identify the adjectives. Their topic is pirates and smugglers so they have had fun making pirate ships, treasure, treasure maps and mud tree pirates. The children all took turns hiding the treasure and marking their maps for the other children to follow and find it.



Admin News

Absence

Please remember to call the office for each day of your child's absence for any reason.

As per the communications from Mrs Peacock, with cases of Covid19 still high within the locality it is crucial that everyone remains vigilant, maintaining good hand and respiratory hygiene and arranging a PCR test if any household member develops one of the three covid-19 symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, or a loss/change of taste/smell). It is also important to remember that children can often present with different symptoms such as a tummy ache, sickness, diarrhea, headache, extreme tiredness, muscle aches, etc.

If your child is at all unwell, please run an LFD and do not send them to school until they are well, even if their test is negative. If they have had a temperature, they should not return within 24hours; in the case of sickness and diarrhea they should not return to school for 48 hours. Even if your child is just a little 'under the weather' we urge you to run an LFD before sending them to school.

School Dinner Payments

Children in years 3 to 6 are required to pay for their school meals on the day they are taken or in advance. Please can you ensure payment is added to School Money as soon as possible so the account does not go into arrears. All children in Reception, year one and two receive free school meals as part of the Government's Universal Free School Meals Initiative.

Free School Meals

As well as the Universal Free School Meals initiative as mentioned above, 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

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



URGENT NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS, CARERS, GRANDPARENTS

The West Exmoor Federation is looking for 1 Parent Governor to join our existing board of governors. Governors perform the most important voluntary role in education and a full and diverse governing body can be a source of enormous strength to a school. Volunteering as a governor is a great way to contribute to your local community, meet new people and improve the lives of local children. You will develop transferable skills and learn more about the education system whilst putting existing skills and experience to good use. You will become part of a team of successful governors working together to support the Federation.

There are many training opportunities within the federation and beyond to help you fulfil this role.

Governing bodies are responsible for the strategic management of a school and will make decisions about a wide range of issues. The core responsibilities involved are:

Ensuring accountability, Acting as a 'critical friend' to the Head Teacher, Monitoring and evaluating the school's progress, Budgetary allocation and control Planning for the long term future of the school, Setting the school's aims and values and Appointing senior members of staff including the Head Teacher.

For more information about this very worthwhile role and an informal chat please contact Jacqui Skelton-Norrish (Clerk) 01598 763338. Or email Jacqui- admin@westexmoorfederation.org.uk

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Diary Dates

11th October	Parents Consultations begin, see your children's class teacher for individual dates and times.
15th October	Stephen Shields KS2 Cross Country
22nd October	End of Half Term
8th November	Children Return to School

Community

Flu Immunisation Letter from Virgin Care Services

This year your child will be offered a free flu vaccination in school and we will shortly be sending communication via the school with regards to consent for this. However, we are aware there are some children that due to an underlying medical condition are at increased risk from the flu virus – if you believe that your child is in the category and you would like the opportunity to book them into an early community clinic, please contact our single point of access (SPA) on 0300 247 0082 or email at vcl.immunisations@nhs.net. Please note this is an extremely busy time for our phones and therefore if you are struggling to get through, please don't hesitate to contact us via e-mail and someone will return your call.

School Age Immunisations Team, Virgin Care Services Limited, Telephone: 0300 247 0082
e: VCL.immunisations@nhs.net w: www.virgincare.co.uk

Get a Healthy Start! - scheme for eligible families with children under 4 and pregnant women.

Devon Public Health are running a promotional initiative to raise awareness of the government's national Healthy Start scheme, which provides eligible pregnant women and families with children under 4 with financial support towards fruit & veg, pulses, cows' milk, and infant formula, as well as free vitamins. The Get a Healthy

Start! promotion will provide the following, for FREE to eligible residents in the Devon County Council area: Box of seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables; booklet containing recipes, information on Healthy Start, and signposting; Healthy Start vitamins; fun 10 minute shake-up games for children; breastfeeding support information.

Boxes can be ordered directly by families themselves from devon.cc/getahealthystart and will be delivered in October. Eligibility will be assessed by the sign-up form. More information about the initiative, including eligibility and how to order can be found at:

www.dcfp.org.uk/training-and-resources/get-a-healthy-start-information-for-organisations-working-with-families/

Orders are being taken until 24th September or until all boxes are allocated



Children's events at Barnstaple Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme Time
Wednesdays & Fridays, Term time 10.30 - 11.00
Come along, have fun, join in with some old favourite rhymes and learn some new ones.

Library Lego Builders
Saturdays, 14.00 - 16.00 For all ages
Build a Lego creation to display in the library.

Drop in Children's Crafts & Coffee Morning
3rd Saturday of the month
10.00 - 12.00
Come and stick for a bit! Provided by BFGs-Barnstaple Library Friends Group. Donations welcomed

librariesunlimited.org.uk devonlibraries.org.uk barnstaplelibraries.org.uk



www.christmasvillagenorthdevon.co.uk

Real Skating Ice Skating North Devon



19th Nov - 2nd Jan
Tarka Tennis Centre,
Barnstaple,
EX31 2AP



TARKA TENNIS CENTRE



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