



# West Exmoor Federation

*'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'*

Dear Parents/Carers

12.01.2018

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Welcome to the start of a new school term. I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas break and that the New Year has started well for you. As always, it has been lovely to greet the children back to school and to hear about many of the wonderful things that they have been up to over the holiday. Equally, it has been good to see how quickly they have settled back into the routine of school life and how diligently they are all approaching their learning – I know that this is not always easy after the excitement of the Christmas break. The Spring term is always a busy one, especially for our Year 6 children, as the reality of SATs draws ever closer. With this in mind, may I please urge you all to support your children as much as possible at home with their learning. Listening to your child read daily, even if it's just for a couple of minutes, can have such a positive impact on all aspects of their learning that it really is worth the investment. I know from personal experience that it's not always easy, but I can't stress enough how important it is. If you are unsure of how to support your child with reading at home, please do speak to your child's teacher and, if you have a child in Streams, I know that Sharla Berry is more than happy for you to sit in on a reading session with your child to give you some practical pointers. Please speak directly to Sharla if you would like to arrange this.

## **SPACELAB**

The children thoroughly enjoyed our curriculum enrichment day last week when SpaceLab paid us a visit. The mobile planetarium enabled all of the children to learn about the earth and beyond in a fun and interactive way and has certainly sparked their enthusiasm for this term's theme. During their workshop the children learnt about all manner of space related topics including the solar system, gravity, day and night, the phases of the moon and the stars within our solar system including the sun, the North Pole Star and the many constellations that are visible in our night sky. The night sky has been perfect for star gazing over the last few nights so hopefully your children have already shared with you some of their knowledge and been inspired to find out even more about the night sky.

## **ATHLETICS COMPETITION**

Earlier this week I had the privilege of taking a group of Year 5 and 6 children to an Athletics Tournament at Ilfracombe Academy. The team had been selected following an intra-school competition just before Christmas. Each and every member of the team performed really well and I was so proud of them. I was particularly impressed by their impeccable behaviour and, in this respect, they shone above the other schools. Well done Haven, Leah, Jamie, Jasmyn, Oscar, Poppy, Lanner, Morgan, Zoe, Seb C and Charlie – you were a credit to yourselves, your family and the federation.

## **OPERATION ENCOMPASS**

Earlier this week I attended training to allow the schools within our federation to join Operation Encompass, a project that will run jointly between schools and the Devon and Cornwall Police. You may well have heard about Operation Encompass in the media this week as it is being rolled out nationally. Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has been exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident. Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident. We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

## **NUTS**

Thank you to those parents who have supported our No Nuts policy; your co-operation to enable us to keep all of our children safe is very much appreciated. If you have not yet fully embraced this policy, particularly with reference to Nutella spread and cereal bars, could I please urge you to do so. We do now have several children within the federation who have severe nut allergies which could, potentially, be life threatening. Any item that contains nuts should not be brought into school either as a snack or as part of a packed lunch, although food items labelled as 'may contain nuts' are acceptable. Thank you so much for your co-operation and understanding with regards to this.

## **ARRANGEMENTS AT THE END OF THE DAY**

Should the normal arrangements for your child at the end of the day change, could you please telephone the school office to advise us. There have been a number of occasions when children have told us that they are doing something different

but, in the interests of keeping all of children safe, we are reluctant to accept their word, no matter how trustworthy we believe them to be. This is particularly important when children travel on school transport as we are obviously unable to supervise them and ensure their safety once they have left the school premises. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

### SIHLANGU UPDATE

We have just received the following school photograph of Sihlangu, the young boy who we support in Swaziland. Sihlangu is the first on the left of the middle row. We will be organising a fundraising event later this term to continue our support of him this year. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Sihlangu, he arrived at Hawane Children's Home in Swaziland on the 1 January 2006 at 4 years old. His parents had passed away. He has three brothers and two half-sisters. Sihlangu's name means 'protection or shield'. Sihlangu lives in a 'family-style' home with other children and is looked after by house parents. He attends Bulembu Christian Academy which offers an international-calibre education. He also has access to numerous clubs and after-school activities.

Swaziland is the smallest nation in the southern hemisphere, with a population of just over 1.2 million people. Economic poverty is prevalent and the rate of HIV/AIDS is among the highest in the world. Many of the children are orphaned or vulnerable. Bulembu Ministries and Challenge Ministries work directly with Swaziland Social Welfare to welcome children into their care program. Their vision is to raise up the next generation of Swazi leaders and, with

our help they are providing a bright future full of hope for orphaned and vulnerable children such as Sihlangu. Thank you.

Best Wishes



Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

*This term within Collective Worship we are exploring Christian Values. We have been thinking about the values which are important to us and how living by these values impacts upon ourselves and others. We have been thinking about and praying for support and guidance in upholding good values and for those people who have been affected by extreme weather conditions around the world.*

### Class News – Streams

#### **A very impressive introduction to our space topic**

We had an amazing visit from Mr Barber and his planetarium. It was very exciting crawling through the dark tunnel into the beautiful, star-filled planetarium. The children learnt about the orbits of the Earth, Moon and Sun. Mr Barber then told us a story about the stars. The origins of the constellations and where to spot them in the sky. Next time you are looking at the night's sky with your child, find out what they remember!



#### **New Reading books**

Thank you for your continued support with reading. The vast majority of children are reading at home nearly every day. You may have noticed that we have brought some more books for the coloured band reading scheme. This should mean that children will be able to read a greater breadth of texts from different genres.



### **Curriculum focus**

Space! The children are well and truly inspired by the subject and we are so excited to explore it further with the children. We will be looking at the Moon and its phases over the next week. The children will be bringing home a moon diary. Please take some time in the evening to look up at the night's sky and discuss the wonders of the universe.



### **PE**

PE days will change this term. On Friday's the children will be taught gymnastics alongside a coach from Falcon's Gymnastic Academy. This a fantastic opportunity for children to learn gymnastic skills from an expert. Please make sure they have their PE kit. Children in foundation will also have PE on a Wednesday, Year 1 and 2 will have PE on a Tuesday.

### **Junk modelling**

Thank you to the parents who have been bringing in items for junk modelling. We are always extremely grateful for any contributions.

### **Show and Tell**

Show and tell is on a Tuesday. Please try and make sure that the items brought in are relevant to the learning or have special significance. We are still getting lots of toys brought into school on a daily basis.

Mr Mackenzie

### **Class News – Rivers**

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday.

We are learning about multiplication currently in mathematics. It is very useful for the children if they could learn their times tables for this unit. In English we are writing newspaper reports based on Tim Peake's stay on the International Space Station. As always, you can help your child in English by ensuring that you listen to them read regularly.

This week we have started to make paper mache planets. The children have had a lot of fun researching their planets and then building them.

We are now playing Tag Rugby on Monday mornings so may I please ask that the children bring their PE Kits on Mondays instead of Tuesdays.

Many thanks,

Miss Martin

### **Class News – Oceans and Oaks Year 5/6**

Our first full week back seems to have been a resounding success across both sites for both staff and pupils. Our English and Maths is keeping up with our planned schedule and I have seen progress from all pupils this week which is great. We've competed at Ilfracombe Academy but were pipped by Woolacombe and Ilfracombe unfortunately however we are focussing on upcoming Rugby and Netball competitions.

Our English continues to focus on grouping information logically and refuting points to develop an argument / point of view. Our maths is still concentrating on division and will be moving onto long division after a very productive week on the standard written algorithm for division. If anyone is unsure of how we learn and teach division or if you feel that any of your children are not secure please let me know so that I can arrange booster sessions. Obviously we are watching within class but sometimes people can get all the right answers and follow strategies correctly without feeling totally secure – I want everyone to be confident as we move forward to fractions in the coming weeks.

### **How to help at home.**

English: I have noticed that some of us are not using the correct grammar when speaking e.g. "too much" being used when it should be "too many". Please could we correct this if we hear it as it is then transferring into our writing.

Maths: I'm going to have a big push on all times tables in this half term. Please could we support children to practice these.

Thank you for your ongoing support,  
Sarah Adams Lemon

### **Class News – Young Buds**

Happy New Year to all of our parents and a big thank you from all of us at Kentisbury for the yummy treats and goodies that we were given for Christmas. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Young Buds have returned from their Christmas break raring to go! Many of them have gone up one or even two book bands since last term, which is fantastic after the festive holidays!

In Maths, we are starting off with number bonds to 10 and 20. You can help at home by asking your child quick fire questions about adding 2 numbers together to make 10 or 20.

In Literacy, we are learning about space poems and then Young Buds will have a go at creating their own. You can help at home by sharing lots of poetry with them and point out any patterns, rhythm or rhymes.

Young Buds had an amazing day at the Planetarium at Lynton School last week. They learned so much about our current topic 'Space'. In theme, they will be learning about what is near to them (their own communities) and what is far away from them by creating maps.

Thank you to Heather (Clover's Mum) and Lenka (Timea's Mum) our parent helpers who have started reading with Young Buds this week. Your help with this is invaluable to us. We would also like to thank Heather for starting yoga on Monday mornings with Young Buds.

Welcome to our new starters: Heidi, Logan and RJ. You have all settled in brilliantly and we hope you enjoy learning at your new school.

Many Thanks,  
Mrs Pile and Mrs Kelly

### **Admin News**

#### **For Sale**

**Hot Food Pie Warmer/Heated Warm Showcase Cabinet Unit for sale at Parracombe School. RRP approximately £250 in good condition £100 ono.** For more information, please call Jacqui at Parracombe School on 01598 763338.

#### **Absence**

If your child is absent from school, it is very important to notify the School **before registration** takes place for **each day** of absence. We now have a dedicated absence option on the answer phone service. If no reason is given for your child's absence, we are required to mark this as an unauthorised absence.

#### **Up to date contact information**

If you or one of your child's named contacts move house, start a new job within school hours or any other contact details change, please can you ensure that you have advised the office. It is very important that we have up to date contact details should we need to reach you.

With many thanks,  
Wendy, Jacqui, Mel and Vikki

#### **Home Learning Pack**

Hopefully you will have all seen the home learning sheets now. In my haste the sheets contained grammatical errors, for which I can only apologise. The central speech bubble was meant to be in the style of Yoda (a character from Star Wars), this has also caused confusion. I apologise.

Thank you for your understanding,  
Sarah Adams Lemon

## **Governing Body Update**

### **Governor Vacancy**

The Governing Body has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Applications of interest are welcome from any parent/guardian or grandparent of a pupil at any of the Federation schools. The generic requirement is attendance at 3 Full Governing Body meetings per year, each starting at 5pm and ending no later than 7 pm, and a termly meeting at one of the 4 sub-committees, again lasting no more than 2 hours. No previous knowledge/experience of education is required, as all necessary training will be provided free of charge. The post is voluntary, though reasonable expenses, including, where appropriate, childcare costs, can be claimed.

If you are interested in a position to influence your child's education please contact the Clerk to Governors Mrs. Jacqui Skelton Norrish on 01598 763338, or the Chair of Governors Mr. Jan Stokes via any school office.

### **Dates for your diary**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 15.01.18    | Fire Service Visit  |
| 25-30.01.18 | Scholastic Book Fayre   |
| 12-16.02.18 | Half Term   |
| 21.02.18    | Federation Trip to 'We the Curious' (Previously Learning@Bristol) |
| 27.03.18    | Theatre Alibi Performance – The Boy Who Climbed into the Moon     |
| 27.03.18    | Easter Service @ St Mary's, Lynton                                |
| 29.03.18    | End of Term   |

## **COMMUNITY**