



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

Spring Term 2018 – Newsletter No 6 - 27th April 2018

Quick Reminders

FOREST SCHOOL

Old clothes, wellies and packed lunch needed. Wednesdays for Y3/4. Thursdays for Y5.

TARKA TENNIS

PE Kits needed. Monday for Lynton KS2 & Kentisbury. Tuesday for Parracombe & Lynton KS1.

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of a new term. I hope that you had an enjoyable break and that your children managed to rest sufficiently in preparation for what is going to be a long and busy term. I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your support and understanding whilst the federation continues to be affected by an unprecedented level of staff absence. We are extremely fortunate to have a team of excellent teaching assistants across the federation who all hold a foundation degree in education; this means that they are fully qualified and equipped to deliver lessons to our children based upon agreed plans. The benefit of using our teaching assistants to cover short-term teacher absence is that they know our children well, they know exactly where our children are within a teaching sequence and they also understand and actively promote the high expectations that we have of our children in terms of their learning and behaviour. When teachers are off sick for more than a day or two we always endeavour to employ a suitable supply teacher to cover their absence and, in the case of longer term absence, put together a more permanent plan for cover. This is currently the case at Kentisbury where Lisa Hamer, a very experienced and competent teacher, is covering the continued absence of Sally Pile. As the parent of a child within the class most affected by staff absence, I fully appreciate the concerns that you may have. However, I would like to assure you that maintaining the good level of education that we are so proud of remains our absolute priority. Should you wish to discuss this matter with me, please do not hesitate to do so.

WOW!

I don't know if you've been into the playground at Lynton recently, but the new wall mural to celebrate the bicentenary of Lynton School is really beginning to take shape and it looks absolutely amazing. The children are so excited to see it coming to life and I know that they can't wait to see the end result. I would like to say a special thank you to local artists Helen Purrington-Bolton, who has designed the mural for us, and to John Crush who is assisting Helen with the painting. The mural has been a real labour of love for the PTFA; they have worked tirelessly to raise funds and generously gave their time over the Easter break to ensure that the wall was suitably prepared, ready for painting to begin this term. In particular, I would like to thank Ian Rumbelow, Tamar Madine, Phil Brown, Kelly Peacock, Dan Stone and Steve Hobbs – without your assistance Helen and John would not have a wall to be working on! Further details regarding the exciting plans that we have for the bicentenary celebrations and the story behind our mural can be found in the PTFA section of our newsletter.

WELCOME BACK TO NICOLA SMITH

It is lovely to welcome Nicola back to the federation following her period of maternity leave. Nicola has returned to a new role as Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) across the federation. We are extremely proud of the provision that we make for children with additional learning needs, as well as those

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children who just need a little bit of extra support to keep them on track. Nicola is working closely with all of our teachers and teaching assistants to ensure that our provision continues to be second-to-none. She will generally be working at Lynton on a Wednesday and Parracombe/Kentisbury on a Thursday. On Friday, Nicola will be providing release time for our subject leaders to enable them to effectively lead and manage key subject areas across the federation.

THANK YOU

I would like to say a big thank you to all those parents who assist in school on a regular basis; your support is very much appreciated. We are particularly grateful to those parents who have offered additional assistance at Kentisbury in recent weeks; thank you very much to you all.

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Could I please remind you that the federation provides guidelines on the parental use of social media. This has been previously circulated and is also available on our website and from our school offices. It is imperative that these guidelines are adhered to and that users of social media such as Facebook bear in mind that even comments made between 'friends' can end up in the public domain. If you have any concerns or comments to make regarding the federation, its pupil, staff or governors, I urge you to use the appropriate means of communication. Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation regarding this matter.

YEAR 5/6

Our Y6 children are working incredibly hard as they enter the final stage of preparing for their SATs tests next month; a letter specific to Year 6 will be sent out shortly outlining arrangements for the test week. We are very proud of the diligence that Year 6 are showing and the maturity with which they are approaching the tests. Year 5 are also working extremely hard and being very supportive of Year 6. Over the next few weeks we aim to continue with our current Year 5/6 timetable (see below), although there may well be a few minor changes to this prior to SATs to enable Sarah Adams to best meet the needs of Year 6; for example, there may be more opportunities for the Lynton and Parracombe children to work together. Should you wish to discuss this with Sarah or I, please do not hesitate to do so.

	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm
Lynton	Tennis with Tarka Tennis Coach & Spellings, Grammar & Tables with Laura Staite	Core with Sarah Adams	Core with Sarah Adams	RE with Natalie Martin & Music with Lisa Hamer	Science with Anne Roper	KS2 Theme/Art with Natalie Martin	Y6 Core with Sarah Adams @ Parracombe	KS2 Theme/Art with Natalie Martin	Core with Sarah Adams	KS2 Theme with Sarah Adams
Parracombe	Core with Sarah Adams	French & RE with Wendy Kelly	Tennis with Tarka Tennis Coach & Spellings, Grammar & Tables with Cate Johnston	Core with Sarah Adams	Core with Sarah Adams	Theme/Art with Anne Roper		Y5 Forest School @ Kentisbury	PE with Cate Johnston & Music with Lisa Hamer	Science with Anne Roper

SUMMER TERM EVENTS

You will receive a calendar of events for the summer term early next week. Historically this term is always exceptionally busy and this year is no exception. We are extremely proud of how many enrichment opportunities our children enjoy; it far exceeds those offered by many of our neighbouring schools. Organising so many events puts a great deal of pressure on teachers, teaching assistants and our admin and catering team, but we all passionately value the importance of providing our children with a rich and memorable school experience. We always try to provide parents with at least two weeks' notice of events. However, in some circumstances this is not always possible. Occasionally we are not made aware of events until the last moment

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and, if we feel the event will be of benefit to the children, we will always try to juggle things around to enable them to attend. On other occasions, for example the recent notification of Forest School, unexpected changes in staffing mean that we have to redeploy staff and organise dates around their availability and the rest of the school calendar. I sincerely apologise for any inconvenience that this might occasionally cause, but hope that you can bear with us on these occasions for the benefit of our children.

REVELS

Watch this space for further details about our 3rd Federation Revels Day to be held in Parracombe on Friday 25th May. We very much hope that you will be able to join us as we help to keep the Revels tradition alive and well.

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

Streams & Young Buds

Curriculum days

As part of our topic on Ancient Egypt we will be having a very special ‘mummification’ morning in school. To take part in the morning we are asking children to bring in an old soft toy from home. Please make sure the toy has no sentimental value as the children will be ‘mummifying’ the soft toy which include taking out the stuffing. This will be taking place on **Thursday 10th May**.

Fairy tale day

As part of our English theme of traditional tales we will be having a Fairy Tale dress up day. We would love the children to come into school dressed as their favourite fairy tale character. We would love to see princes, princesses, fairies, knights, wolves, pigs, bears, wizards, ogres, witches, trolls, goats, woodcutters or whatever fairy tale character captures your child’s imagination. This will be happening **on Friday 18th May**.

PE days

PE days will be changing this term. At Lynton PE on Tuesday and Friday. At Kentisbury, PE will be on Monday and Tuesday. Please make sure your child has the correct PE kit.

Curriculum focus

As a maths focus, please work on telling the time. By the end of the Year 2 the children are expected to tell and write the time to five minutes, including quarter past/to the hour, draw the hands on a clock face to show these times and know the number of minutes in an hour and the number of hours in a day.

River, Oceans & Oaks



Years 3/4 Curriculum Focus

In mathematics, we have been learning to tell the time on both analogue and digital clocks. Over the next week, we will be moving onto converting times and finding the durations of events. In English, we are writing our own diaries about a journey through an Egyptian Tomb and will be focussing particularly on inferring emotion through our writing. During the afternoons, the class have created some fantastic collages of the pyramids and the children were very proud of their camel drawings. Our science topic this term is ‘Sound’ and we will be learning how to conduct a full science investigation.

Years 5/6 Curriculum Focus

With just a few weeks until our SATs tests we are focusing on efficiency and accuracy in years 5 and 6. During the first part of our mornings we are working through and developing our grammar knowledge and ability to skim and scan texts for data, as well as increasing our knowledge of and ability to apply our times tables. At this time of year, developing these skills is fantastic for building our self-confidence and resilience. On that note if you would like to further discuss how SATs week is organised or how best to help your child prepare for it, please contact me. Year 5 pupils are also using this time to work on their efficiency and exploring strategies which could help them.



Forest School

Key Stage 2 have started their forest school sessions this week with years 3 / 4 going on Wednesdays and year 5 going on Thursdays. These sessions will link to our history topic of the Egyptians, looking at how things were transported, mummified and built. The focus for mathematics will be measurement whilst the focus for English will be instructions so we can recap the sequencing of events. Hopefully, the weather will be stable for these sessions.

Revels Day

Revels Day is fast approaching and we are planning to celebrate it at Parracombe Playing fields. Although the King and Queen have not been elected at this point we can tell you that the crowning ceremony will be held at Christ Church in Parracombe, on the morning of Friday the 25th May (the last Friday of this half-term). The short service will be followed by activities on the playing fields at Parracombe. Traditionally it has been a lovely way to round off the half-term.

Little Berries

Welcome back to the summer term! We hope you have all enjoyed your Easter break. We are looking forward to hearing from the children about what they have got up to.

Our focus for this half term is going to be 'All things Spring' and we will be looking at mini beasts; please feel free to come in and visit to see what we are up to! We will also be discussing how the Spring season affects our environment, and how the warmer climate makes changes to our surroundings and our bodies. We have started planting peas, cress and spinach. This enables us to look closely at growth and planting and discuss what is needed to help things grow.

We are thrilled with our new, long-awaited outside flooring at Little Berries. The children are truly loving being able to use the space.

Two Year Old Funding

It is now possible for parents to check their own eligibility for Two Year Old Funding for Pre-School places, by using the Citizens Portal at www.devon.gov.uk/2yearoldfunding or by calling their Customer Service Desk on 0345 551013. Alternatively, please call in to see Nikki or Ellie or telephone them on 01271 828660, who can advise you on this funding, along with the 3 and 4 year old funding which is also available.

Admin

Free school meals - Changes to eligibility

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. However, parents and guardians are encouraged to please apply for free school meals, if they are eligible, or become eligible during the time their children are in school, as this can help to attract additional 'pupil

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premium' funding to support learning.

From year 3 onwards, parents can also apply for free school meals and again this will attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support learning.

To be eligible children whose parents are receiving any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- 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 (IBSJA).
- 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).

Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right can also get free school meals.

To Apply:

The quickest and easiest way is to apply through the Citizen Portal (<https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal>) which will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

If you are successful in an application, would you please inform your school.

Please note that from 1 April 2018, all children currently getting free school meals will continue to do so while Universal Credit is rolled out. This will apply even if parents' earnings rise above the new threshold during that time. In addition, any child who becomes eligible for free school meals after 1 April 2018 will be protected against losing these during the Universal Credit rollout period.

Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, any existing claimants that no longer meet the eligibility criteria at that point (because their earnings are above the threshold or are no longer a recipient of Universal Credit) will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education (such as primary or secondary).

The Universal Credit rollout is currently expected to complete in March 2022.

If you have any queries with regard to applying for free school meals, please speak to the Administrator in your school.

After School Clubs

Please note that the after school club at Kentisbury on a Thursday, has been changed to Ball Games. If you would like your child/ren to attend this club, please speak to your school administrator to arrange this.

Minibus Drivers

We are currently looking for Parents who may be able to help us out by driving our minibuses, on school trips or transporting children between our Schools, when we are short staffed. If you are interested, please speak to your school Administrator for more information.

Absence:

Please remember if your child is absent from school, it is very important to notify the School **before registration** takes place for **each day** of absence. If your child has a medical appointment, please provide a

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copy of the appointment card or letter if possible, we are happy to copy these for you. If no reason is given for your child's absence, we are required to mark this as an unauthorised absence.

With many thanks,

Wendy, Vikki, Jacqui and Mel

Governing Body Update

After a rather dramatic previous term, with protracted periods of illness of both staff and pupils, staff absences for various reasons, sadly and tragically, including the loss of family members, not to mention the unusual school closures due to snow, and a failure to appoint new staff, we were all looking forward to a rather less challenging term (except, perhaps, for children taking their SATs later this term!). However, things did not quite go to plan. We again did not appoint a new teacher to the Federation in the first week back. As Mrs. Peacock said in her letter, as recognised by Ofsted we are a Federation of good schools, with some outstanding features. For the continuing benefit of our children, the staff and Governors continue to work hard to further develop our outstanding qualities. This is being increasingly recognised by the comments provided by outside agencies, and the fact that we continue to attract more children into the Federation. As such, recruiting the very best possible teachers is paramount for us, and, consequently we felt unable to appoint this time. We will continue the search, and will be interviewing more candidates on Friday May 11th. Mrs. Peacock or I, am always happy to share information as, and when it is appropriate, and would ask that if anyone has any concern to please contact us directly, via a school office. In the meantime, we would ask respectfully, that speculation based upon rumour, rather than fact, be avoided, as this serves no positive purpose for the Federation.

The Governors have a full programme for the rest of the term, with sub-committees meeting on:

May 4th Early Years
May 15th Federation Improvement Committee
May 21st Resources
May 22nd Ethos

We will also have to re-arrange 2 learning walks, which were cancelled due to the snow.
The Full Governing Body meeting will meet on July 4th.

The strength, and value of the Governing Body beyond West Exmoor continues, with members assisting other Governing bodies, across the Countryside and Coastal School partnership, and being recruited to assist on the Devon Schools Independent Appeals Committee, but these remain secondary to our primary goal of supporting, and challenging West Exmoor Federation to become an outstanding federation of schools.

We are pleased that we continue to have a full membership of Governors, but we are always welcome to discuss possible roles in the future with potential new governors, as a vacancy may become available. Any parent, grandparent or carer who may be interested is asked, in the first instance to contact the Clerk to the Governors, or the Chair, via any school office.

Jan Stokes. Chair of Governors. West Exmoor Federation

Lynton PTFA

Lynton School Bicentenary

On Monday 25th June, Lynton School will celebrate 200 years of a school being present in Lynton. A service will be conducted by the **Bishop of Exeter** at St Mary's church followed by a procession down to Lynton School where Cream Teas will be served in the playground for all the children and guests including the new Mayor of Lynton who will be unveiling the Mural.

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In commemoration of this memorable event, Lynton PTFA is busy painting a Mural which tells a story of how, through good education and values, we look to provide the right environment to enable our children to flourish and thrive. The story is set in the beautiful Exmoor National Park, thus bringing a bit of Exmoor into our playground.

The sign-post represents our school ethos of **CARIS**, which means 'Love'. Through these values of Curiosity, Achievement, Respect, Inspiration and Support, we seek to nurture our children to be the best they can be and equip them with skills that will enable them to flourish within the world.

The 'staircase of books' represents an educational pathway that is important in the development of our children's future. The mural finishes with a 'Tree of Hands' which represents our children as they grow into strong, secure, nourished individuals. Each leaf on the tree will be the 'hand-print' of each child currently at Lynton School, so they too will get their chance to be a part of the mural.

This commission is designed by local artists Helen Purrington- Bolton who has a child at Lynton School. Helen is being assisted by John Crush, another well-known local artist, and parents of the PTFA. **We would, however, like to ask if anyone else is interested in helping to get the mural complete on time, then please do express your interest to Vikki Brown on reception at Lynton School; we welcome all the help we can get to ensure it is finished on time!**

Diary Dates

3 rd May	Meet the Lifeguard Talks
4 th May	Tag Rugby Qualifier
4 th May	Tempest Photography at Lynton
10 th May	KS1 Mummification Morning
11 th May	Rounders' Qualifier
18 th May	KS1 Fairy Tale Day
23 rd May	Devon Air Ambulance Talks
25 th May	Revels Day @ Parracombe including Christian Aid Bake Sale

Community

Love Lyn Valley Coffee Morning

You are all warmly invited to attend a coffee morning on Wednesday 30th May, from 10 to 12, at the URC Hall. This event is being organised by the combined churches in Lynton, including Lee Abbey. Proceeds from the morning will be sent to Christian Aid, whose annual appeal falls between May 13th and 19th, and which this year focuses on the continued need for International Aid to assist 1.9 million people in Haiti rebuild their lives following 8 years of devastation wreaked by the 2010 earthquake, cholera outbreak and the hurricane of 2016. If you are unable to attend, but would like to make a financial contribution, there will be envelopes in the Lyn Group of churches, and the URC, with details of how to donate.

Kind regards,

Lyn White

Lyn Group of Churches Christian Aid coordinator.

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