



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

Summer Term 2018 – Newsletter No 7 - 15th May 2018

Quick Reminders

Year 3/4 Forest School this week rearranged to Monday 21st May. The children will also go to Forest School on Wednesday 23rd May.

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

TAG RUGBY

It was an absolute pleasure to take our Tag Rugby Team to Ilfracombe Rugby Club last week to participate in the Ilfracombe Area Tag Rugby Festival. The children played incredibly well, winning two of their three qualifying matches. In the semi-finals they were up against Woolacombe and despite putting on a heroic performance were unsuccessful in securing a place within the final. I was incredibly proud of our children; they played exceptionally well and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout the event. Our focus on rugby is clearly paying off as a number of the other schools commented upon how much improved our team was this year. Well done team - you were a real credit to yourselves and the federation.



LIFE EDUCATION BUS

As you know, the Life Education Bus will be visiting the federation on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th June. Over the course of the two days, all of our children will visit the bus to participate in age appropriate PSHE workshops such as 'All About Me' for children in Reception, 'Meet the Brain' for children in Year 3 and 'Friends' in Year 5. An information session for parents/carers is also being offered on Wednesday 6th June from 2.45pm until 3.15pm. If you would like to visit the Education Bus, there is no need to make an appointment; simply turn up – the bus will be located in Bottom Meadow Carpark adjacent to the school.

TIME KEEPING

We have noticed in recent weeks that a growing number of children are either arriving extremely early or late for school. I would like to remind you that children should arrive at school between 8.30am and 8.40am in readiness for a prompt start to the school day at 8.45am. If you need to drop your children off at school prior to 8.30am, please make arrangements for them to attend one of our breakfast clubs. At the end of the day, children should not be collected until 3.15pm unless there is an exceptional circumstance. Unlike many other schools, we are all extremely committed to having an open door policy and welcome parents/carers coming into our classrooms prior to the start of the school day. However, if you wish to speak to your child's class teacher about a sensitive matter, or something that requires lengthy discussion, please make an appointment to meet at a mutually convenient time so that the start of the school day is not delayed for the whole class. Thank you.

READING AT HOME

Thank you so much to those of you who read with your child at home on a regular basis; it really does make such a difference to the progress that they make. It also helps your child understand the world around them; develop social and emotional skills; build confidence with communication and extend their vocabulary – all vital

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to ensure that your child reaches their potential. Talking about the books that your child is reading (or that you are reading to them) is also really important as this helps to improve their ability to infer and deduce. Here are a few simple questions that you could ask your child to really get them thinking about the texts that you are sharing: • What do you see on this page? • How do you think the characters feel? • What do you think is going to happen next? When you have finished a book you could ask your child how they feel about the book: • What did they like? • What didn't they like? • What can they remember about what happened? • Who was their favourite character? Why? • Link the story to their own experiences. Can they remember when they did something similar? Most importantly though, have fun and help your child you become a lifelong reader!

NEW APPOINTMENT

I am delighted to tell you that following a rigorous round of interviews last Friday, we have appointed Miss Harmony Constant to the federation. Harmony will join our teaching staff in September taking us back to a full complement of teaching staff at each school. The Governors and I will be meeting shortly to look at our teaching structure for next year and as soon as this process has been completed we will advise you of who will be teaching each class in September.

PARRACOMBE REVELS

Please do come along and join our Parracombe Revels Celebration on Friday 25th May. The day will start with a Church Service at Christ Church, Parracombe at 10.30am. At the Service the King and Queen will be crowned and the renowned Revels Song sung! Following the service there will be a procession to the playing field where the children will have lunch. After lunch there will be maypole dancing followed by a number of organised activities for the children (both big and small) to enjoy. Some of our older children will also be organising a number of fund-raising events, including Christian Aid Bake Sale, so you may wish to send your child into school with a small amount of money to spend at the celebrations.

CHRISTIAN AID BAKE SALE

As part of our Revels Day next Friday, some of our children will be running a Bake Sale in aid of Christian Aid. We would welcome donations of cakes for this worthy fundraising event. Please send any donations into school on the morning of Friday 25th May. Thank you.

LYNTON FENCE

I am pleased to inform you that the Diocese have instructed a fencing contractor to replace our perimeter fence adjacent to Bottom Meadow Car Park. The work was initially scheduled to start on 21st May but the contractor has informed us that there may be a short delay. As soon as a new date is provided, we will let you know. Rest assured that maintaining the security of our site and the safety of our children remains our utmost priority and, until the fence is replaced, the children will continue to be confined to our front playground.

Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

Streams & Young Buds

The last two weeks have gone in a flash!



Our science focus within kS1 has been on our observations of our caterpillars and butterflies. The children have been excited to observe what they are doing, predicting what might happen next and asking lots of questions about what caterpillars and butterflies need to survive.

We have also been looking at lifecycles and the difference between things that are living, things that have lived and things that have never lived and will be moving

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on to considering food chains. Conversations at home about this would greatly support the childrens learning within school.

Well done to those children who have already bought in some of their home learning. We are very excited to see the children's independent work from home and the pride that they show when they bring it in! Keep going everyone with all things Egyptian!



A huge thank you to those parents who are supporting within school; Kelly Peacock, Eve Parkinson and Nicole Oxenham at Lynton and Esther Bray, Lenka Loveless and Heather Grimwood at Kentisbury for their support with reading. Could we please ask that you continue to read as often as possible with the children at home.



A reminder that the fairy tale dress up day is next Friday and we have rearranged the mummy day for next Thursday...details to follow via Classdojo.

As always thank you for your continued support with PE kits for both the Tarka Tennis and PE lessons.

Many thanks,

Your KS1 team.

River, Oceans & Oaks

What we are getting up to in Key Stage two

Out and About



Next Friday the year 6 pupils will be visiting the North Devon show for the day. It is a lovely experience, which enables us to explore a variety of stands, arenas, shows and displays. On previous years we have rung church bells, met llamas, held spiders and snakes, learnt how to spin wool to make yarn. Years 3 and 4 will take a break from forest school next week due to SATs but they will get an additional session the following week to make up for it. Year 5 are also continuing with Forest school – everyone seems to be enjoying their learning in the outdoors.

Curriculum Focus

Our focus in the forthcoming weeks will shift to our school production, “The Sound of Music.” Drama is a very popular skill across KS2. There is much excitement about parts, scenery and performances. In Maths we are going to be looking at measuring and shape through art and practical contexts outside the classroom.



Activities



Last week, we had a vital talk from our local RNLI Lifeguards. We were taught how to read the warning flags they use on our beaches and we learnt how to stay safe whilst playing in the water and on our beaches. Some of us took part in role play so that we could practice how to alert Lifeguards if we got into trouble in the water. We discussed our local beaches and the training required to be a Lifeguard.

Admin

Year 5/6 Residential, September 2018.

Just a reminder that the next instalment of £55 for the residential to the Forest of Dean in September is due on the 21st May, please can you ensure your payments are in by this date. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the admin team or Jayne Peacock.

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With many thanks,

Wendy, Vikki, Jacqui and Mel

Kitchen News

Summer Menu

Please see our new menu for the summer which will start when we return after half term.

MEAL MENU – SUMMER 2018 (WEST EXMOOR FEDERATION)

WEEK ONE	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week Starting 4 June → 18 June → 2 July → 16 July					
Main	Chicken Fajitas (served with seasonal vegetables)	Pizza Muffin (served with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables)	Roast Gammon (served with seasonal vegetables and crispy roast potato)	Spanish Chicken Rice (served seasonal vegetables)	Battered Cod Fillet of Fish (served with baked beans & golden fries)
Vegetarian	Quorn Fajitas (served with seasonal vegetables)	Red Pepper Quiche (served with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables)	Vegetarian Roast (served with seasonal vegetables and crispy roast potato)	Egg Ploughman (served with wholemeal roll and pickles)	Veggie Burger (served with baked beans and golden fries)
Jacket	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling
Dessert	Fruit Bar	Fruit Bar	Fruit Bar	Fruit Bar	Biscuit
WEEK TWO	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week Starting 11 June → 25 June → 9 July → 23 July					
Main	Chicken and Vegetable Pie (served with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables) <i>(GF/D)</i>	Meatballs and Rice (served with seasonal vegetables and pasta)	Roast Turkey (served with seasonal vegetables and crispy roast potato) <i>(GF/D)</i>	Bacon Carbonara (served with seasonal vegetables)	Salmon Nuggets (served with baked beans & golden fries)
Vegetarian	Cheese Ploughman (served with wholemeal roll and pickles)	Vegetable Stir Fry Wrap (served seasonal vegetables and pasta)	Roasted Vegetable Couscous (served with seasonal vegetables and crispy roast potato)	Oven Baked Omelette (served with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables)	Quorn Sausage (served with baked beans & golden fries)
Jacket	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling
Dessert	Fruit Bar	Fruit Bar	Fruit Bar	Fruit Bar	Biscuit
Available each day: Pasta, Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt, Milk & Water <i>GF = Gluten Free; D = Dairy Free/Soya Free</i>					

We will be sending home paper copies shortly. We have teamed up with Berryarbor School for our catering to try to reduce costs by using some of the same suppliers to get better prices and also enable us to have cover in case of any sickness. For this reason, we will be trialling their menu for the remainder of the Summer Term starting after half term. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me, Mrs Peacock or the admin team.

Many thanks,
Jayne Hoskins, Kitchen Manager

Diary Dates

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
28 th May	Half Term Holiday
4 th June	Children Return to School
5 th & 6 th June	Life Education Bus

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Community

Do you love to sing, dance or act?

National Award Winning North Devon All Starz are putting on a Musical in a Week. Within 5 days, the highly qualified team from the West End will teach the actors to perform a much-loved classic musical, which is then performed to the general public. This year we are pleased to present **FAME** from Monday 20th to Friday 24th August, 9am to 5pm. This exciting opportunity is open to boys and girls aged between 8 and 18 years old. There are no auditions, it is first come first served, so make sure you register your place quickly with tolley.angell@yahoo.co.uk

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.

Half Term Events at Barnstaple Library

Saturday 26 May 10-12 Elmer Day Join us to celebrate Elmer with crafts, games & drop in FREE fun! Dress up in your brightest colours & join the Elmer parade! Suitable for any age. Fun for all the family. Grown-ups welcome too!

Tuesday 29 May & Thursday 31 May 10-12 FabLab is in the library foyer! Join us for hands on fun with the FabLab in the library! Come and find out more at these drop in FREE sessions. Suitable for any age. Grown-ups welcome too!

From the Rectory

Dear Friends,

I found a very refreshing comment in a book that I am reading at the moment. The author said that those who had read the book, or been to workshops that he had lead often commented that what he said was something they felt they had always known, deep in their hearts, but had not always out into words, or into practice. What I found refreshing about that was the author's willingness to make clear that he was not claiming great new thoughts – but encouraging others to see clearly what they already knew.

His words have encouraged me to take as a theme for this letter something that many people have said, and we probably all know in our hearts: that it is good to make time for gratitude, for counting our blessings.

I am writing on a glorious spring day – everything is bursting into life, there is blossom on the tree in front of my window, all around the valley there is the miraculous light green of the budding trees, the sky is a perfect blue and the air is wafting in warm eddies through the open windows; even the seagulls are elegant as they arc above Lee Road. What a blessing to be here, right now!

I am also writing in the middle of a long “to do” list, plenty on my mind to try to do by the end of the day, but, what a blessing to be here, right now!

There is something about feeling gratitude that changes our outlook, helps us notice what is really important around us. You notice it when you talk to a person who has an attitude of gratitude – they see the good in things and give it space to grow, they allow themselves wholeheartedly to receive even the small gifts life has to offer and they are generous in sharing good humour with others.

Valuing gratitude is not about pretending life is easier or better than it is, many of us are carrying challenges in our lives that are really hard; but often it in the midst of pain and grief that small blessing become most clear, and most important, in keeping us going. Being a person who gently holds on to gratitude for others is a gift to us all too.

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In these longest days of the year can we cultivate gratitude in our hearts: gratitude for this place and its beauty, for each other and our communal spirit and for all the unexpected blessings we weren't looking for!

God bless

Samantha

Revd Samantha Stayte, The Rectory, 20 Lee Road, Lynton. EX35 6BP. Tel. 01598 752289.

samantha.stayte@gmail.com

Have you tried bowls?

Why not go along to the Lynton & Lynmouth Bowls Club on Saturday 19th May between 11am and 3pm to try your hand at this fantastic sport? Adults and children welcome. Free coaching and Target Bowls Competition. Fat Belly Ale, Wine & Soft Drinks available all day. BBQ 12pm-2pm.