



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing - Together we Love Learning'

Autumn Term 2018 - Newsletter 4 - 16th November 2018



Quick Reminders

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been lovely to welcome the children back from our extended half-term break, although it does feel as though it was quite a long time ago now! The children certainly seem to have benefited from the rest and have returned reenergised and as keen as ever to focus upon their learning. I am so proud of them all; their enthusiasm and determination to do their very best is wonderful. This is especially born out in the incredible home-learning that continues to be brought into school on a daily basis. Thank you so much for supporting your children with this; it really does make a difference and enables them to build an appreciation of the importance of home work in an age appropriate way which will hopefully set them in good stead for second school.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



Thank you to everyone who joined us before half-term as we celebrated Harvest. The children gave thanks through song, drama, poetry and prayer, whilst thinking about those who are less fortunate than themselves. The children brought in a wonderful array of non-perishable harvest produce, all of which has been very gratefully received by the North Devon Food Bank. Thank you so much for your generous contributions.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On 9th November, the children within Rivers, Oceans, Oaks and Forests marked the hundred-year anniversary of the end of the First World War with a special Remembrance Service at Woody Bay Train Station. The locomotive AXE provided a poignant focal point, creating a very real link with those who served on the front line and with those who gave their lives for the freedom that we enjoy today. The children read out some beautiful poems and prayers that they had written and, after observing a two-minute silence, the children placed poppy crosses in the Remembrance Garden. I was so proud of our children, who showed great respect for the occasion and were clearly moved by the service. This is the 10th Year that we have been privileged enough to hold our Remembrance Service at Woody Bay; a tradition that I hope will continue for many years to come to ensure that the younger members of our community continue to understand the importance of Remembrance – a time for reflection and a time to pray for peace; and a time to give thanks for all those who have died in war.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Well done to all of our children who entered so fully into the spirit of Children in Need on Friday. The children thoroughly enjoyed wearing non-uniform with many sporting spotty clothes, Pudsey outfits or pyjamas. The children at Parracombe and Kentisbury also ran a bring-and-buy cake sale with unwanted toys and delicious cakes helping to raise additional money for this well-worth cause. Across the federation we raised an incredible £289.84! Thank you to everyone for making the day such a huge success.



E-SAFETY

Do you know what your child gets up to on-line? Do you know that they are safe? If they are chatting to 'friends' on-line, do you know who they are? We are increasingly concerned about the number of children who are telling us that they are playing games on-line that are not age appropriate and talking to us about the 'friends' that they have made on-line. At school we frequently talk to the children about how to stay safe on-line but I am conscious that we need to

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work together to ensure that our children do not fall prey to potential perpetrators who are increasingly targeting children via mobile apps and games. www.internetmatters.org, www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers and www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/ all provide helpful advice for parents and it's well worth spending some time browsing their sites, especially if you feel your child is more tech savvy than you are! Here are some suggestions from internetmatters for helping to keep your children safe:

Internet safety checklist for young children

Agree boundaries

Be clear what your child can and can't do online – where they can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share. Agree with your child when they can have a mobile phone or tablet.

Explore together

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to ask them to tell you about what they do and what sites they like to visit. If they're happy to, ask them to show you. Talk to them about being a good friend online.

Put yourself in control

Install parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. Set up a user account for your child on the main device they use and make sure other accounts in the household are password-protected so that younger children can't access them by accident.

Use airplane mode

Use airplane mode on your devices when your child is using them so they can't make any unapproved purchases or interact with anyone online without your knowledge.

Stay involved

Encourage them to use their tech devices in a communal area like the lounge or kitchen so you can keep an eye on how they're using the internet and also share in their enjoyment.

Talk to siblings

It's also a good idea to talk to any older children about what they're doing online and what they show to younger children. Encourage them to be responsible and help keep their younger siblings safe.

Search safely

Use safe search engines such as Swiggle or Kids-search. You can save time by adding these to your 'Favourites'. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines, as well as YouTube.

Check if it's suitable

The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. For example, the minimum age limit is 13 for several social networking sites, including Facebook and Instagram. Although sites aimed at under-10s like Moshi Monsters and Club Penguin also have social networking elements.

CHASING OF LETTERS AND PAYING OF MONEY

In recent months my admin team have commented about how much time they are spending chasing up the return of consent letters. On occasions they may send home three or four reminders about the need to return consent forms and even then find that they have to call a number of parents to confirm whether or not their child is going to participate in an event, for the example the pantomime visit. Clearly this is not a productive use of their time and, as parents, we need to take responsibility for checking our emails and/or child's book bag for school communications on a regular basis and then ensuring that we respond accordingly within the timescales set out. In order to reduce the time that my admin team spend chasing up forms, I have asked that they send out no more than two reminders, after which we will assume that those who have not returned forms do not wish their child to take part in the event. In order to avoid disappointment for your child, please do ensure that forms are quickly returned to school. Thank you.

REPORTING ABSENCE

If your child is absent from school, please ensure that you contact the school office by 9.00am to inform us. Alternatively you can report an absence via <http://www.westexmoorfederation.org.uk/parents/report-absence>. Failure to notify us of your child's absence before the close of registration will result in their absence being recorded as unauthorised. Thank you.

With Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock, Executive Headteacher

In collective worship we have been thinking about the Bible and how the books within it can guide us in our daily lives. We have also been exploring spirituality and prayer. We have been praying for those who are sad and for those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Streams & Young Buds

English



In English we are looking at the text 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson. You can help your child with their learning by exploring past and present tenses of words. For example, ran, running, run. We will also be learning about verbs and adverbs. For example: a verb is an action word such as run, walk, cry. An adverb is a word to describe the action for example, **slowly** run, **happily** run, **quickly** run.

Maths

In maths we are learning about addition and subtraction. The children will be exploring how a single number can be composed of different number bonds for example 7 is composed of $0 + 7$, $1 + 6$, $2 + 5$ This will move onto understanding the relationship between addition and subtraction and the children will be using inverse to check their answers. For example: checking that $8 - 5 = 3$ by adding $3 + 5 = 8$.

Please continue to use Mathletics to support your child's learning. The content is closely linked to the subject content at school. If you are unable to access the site through your tablet or computer please do not hesitate seek advice at school.



Christmas Nativity

Our Christmas services will take place on 19TH December at 10:30am and 5:30pm at Kentisbury (am) and Parracombe (pm). These services will be attended by the children from Kentisbury and Parracombe.

On the 20th December Lynton will have their Christmas service at 10:30am and 5:30 also. This service will be attended by the children from Lynton School.

The scripts are in the process of being sent home. Please practice the lines with your child.

Rivers & Oaks

The children have had a fantastic first couple of weeks back. We hope they had a wonderful holiday and are ready for a busy, exciting half term.

In English, we are moving on the narrative where the children will be using their creative imagination. We will be looking at lots of different writing skills and putting them into practise. Please encourage them to read a variety of books of varying themes so they can expand their interests and knowledge.

Addition and subtraction is our new maths unit where we will be focusing on different mathematical vocabulary and methods for adding and taking away. This is a vital skill that is imperative for the children to master.

With regards to homework, there has been confusion over whether it has been set or not and when it is due. Oaks homework is set and due in on a Wednesday and Rivers is set and due on a Friday. Please support and encourage your children to give the homework a go. It shouldn't be a long, tedious task and any queries or questions, please come in and ask.

Admin

Vacancy for Cleaner

We currently have a vacancy for a Cleaner at Kentisbury Primary School for 9.5 hours per weeks (41 weeks per year). Salary £351.20 per month. Full training and uniform will be provided. For more information please contact Stephen Beauregard on 07766 498369.

Application for Primary Places for September 2019

If you have any siblings, who are due to start Primary School next September (born between 01.09.14 and 31.08.15) it will be necessary for you to apply for a place during the period **15th November, 2018 and the 15th January, 2019**. To apply, please access the Admissions website at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline. If you are unable to apply online please call the Admissions Helpline on 0345 155 1019

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Name Labels

Please could you check the names in your children's uniform. We have had quite a few named items of uniform go missing, perhaps they have been taken home by different children by mistake as many of the children have the same items. We also have quite a few unnamed items in lost property, please could you also ensure all uniform items are named.

Bike in Lynton bike store.

There has been a push bike in Lynton bike store for over a year. We are not sure who this belongs to. If this is yours, or you know who it belongs to, please can you speak to Vikki.

Thank you

We would like to thank Andy Charlesworth and Adam Payne for removing the overhanging branches at Kentisbury School, during the half-term period. Your time is much appreciated.

Many thanks,
Mel, Wendy, Jacqui and Vikki

Governors News

Governors were present at the recent Parents consultation meetings, and distributed a quick questionnaire on parent's views. Thank you to all who participated in this, as we are constantly trying to monitor, and develop, what we are doing for our children. The responses were overwhelmingly positive; I am glad to say. To precis the responses they were reflected in the following comments:

You keep our children safe, happy to enjoy their learning and progress well.

Parental communications are good.

A warm welcoming environment, which stimulates learning.

A great range of learning experiences with extra-curricular trips, visits and residential.

Very knowledgeable and committed staff who are very welcoming and responsive.

Children have settled in very well.

In answer to the question **"What can we do better?"** the responses were;

"Just keep doing what you are doing."

"Very happy as things are, my kids are very happy and love school"

There were, of course, a couple of negative comments, and these have been raised with Mrs. Peacock, although as the survey was anonymous no names were mentioned.

The Governors continue to keep busy on behalf of the Federation with on-going sub-committee meetings. Our next Full Governing Body meeting will be next month. This month we also began a new process of half day business/development meetings, holding the first last week, courtesy of The Vanilla Pod, where we had several presentations on CARIS, and spirituality across the Federation. The three Associate governors (year6 pupils at Lynton also gave us an insight into their work).

The Governing Body currently has a vacancy for a governor. Anyone interested in becoming a governor, or working with the governors, in any capacity please contact the Chair. We would particularly be pleased to hear from anyone who could provide specialist advice on financial matters, or help in seeking any available grants. However, this is not exclusive, so we would be interested in hearing from any interested parties.

Anyone interested in joining the Governing Body in some way is asked, in the first instance to contact me via any school office or by e-mail at jan.stokes@westexmoorfederation.org.uk

Jan Stokes; Chair of Governors, West Exmoor Federation.

PTFA News

Lynton PTFA

We are holding meeting to discuss our upcoming events on Friday 23rd November at 3.30pm at Lynton School. We would love to see as many of you there as possible. We always welcome new members, however much help you are able to provide. If you would like to be involved in helping in some way and are unsure of what this entails, please feel free to speak to Vikki in the office or come along to a meeting.

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Lynton PTFA Christmas Bingo

We are now taking bookings for the Christmas Bingo on Friday 7th December at Lynton Bowls Club. Booking is essential to ensure your table and you definitely don't want to miss this. £10 per person for a night of entertainment and lots of fantastic prizes. Eyes down at 8pm. Please call Charlotte Smallman on 07851 692977. We will be selling raffle tickets at the event and during the day on Friday 7th December. Prizes include an Amazon Kindle Fire Tablet, Amazon Echo Dot and Kindle Fire TV Stick, Beauty Hamper and attraction tickets. We would still love to be able to offer a few more prizes so if you have anything you are able to donate this would be greatly appreciated.

Diary Dates

12th December Kentisbury Home Learning Assembly
13th December Lynton Home Learning Assembly
14th December Parracombe Home Learning Assembly
19th December Parracombe and Kentisbury Nativity and Carol Service, St Thomas 10.30am, Christ Church 5.30pm
19th December Christmas Lunch
20th December Lynton Nativity and Carol Service, St Mary's Church 10.30am and 5.30pm
21st December Peter Pan Pantomime Visit, Queens Theatre, Barnstaple – All children need packed lunch
21st December End of Term

Community

FROM THE RECTORY

There was a time, hundreds of years ago, when St Martin's day (11th November) marked the turning of a church season, and there was a longer time of preparation for Christmas than the four weeks we will keep as Advent in December. Some Anglican churches now draw wisdom from that tradition and call the month of November "Kingdom season", marking the time with red altar frontals and vestments. It is a time when we think about what we mean by the line familiar to anyone who knows the Lord's Prayer: "Thy Kingdom Come". We remember that we are living in an "in between time".

Christians believe that in his life, death and resurrection, Jesus overcame the ultimate power of all that opposes and obstructs the love in which and for which God made the world. He came to invite and bring everyone into the life of loving God and neighbour for which we are made. His resurrection was the pledge of the triumph of love over even death and points us towards the promise of the fulfilment of love's victory over all things: the Kingdom of God. But that fulfilment is still to come and this invitation is that we become part of its fulfilment by following Jesus in choosing love over hate, self-giving over selfishness.

St Martin started his life as a soldier, but inspired by his faith, he grew in generosity to the poor, and care of the vulnerable and the best known story told of him is when he used his military sword to cut his cloak in half to clothe a beggar dressed only in rags. His was a journey from a world of force and violence to one of care and love.

Our Remembrance celebrations this month help us see that we too can be on that journey. As we recall the costly sacrifices of war, and the thanksgiving that will have been felt here amongst people like us, one hundred years ago, we know only too well that we live "in between" the Armistice and a world in which force and violence has given way to care, love and peace.

In our remembering there remains the invitation to become part of the fulfilment of the journey ourselves – following Jesus, like St Martin, in choosing love over hate, self-giving over selfishness – looking for the coming of God's Kingdom of love.

God bless,

Samantha

PS. Look out for the Great Christmas Treasure Huntcoming to a street near you!

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

LIGHT UP LYTON & LATE NIGHT SHOPPING IN LYNTON

Light up Lynton is when Santa arrives to switch on the lights at Lynton Town Hall, (a signal to the rest of us to do the same throughout the area) this year he is coming **on Friday 30th November at 6pm**. This is the night where he turns on

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the lights and then greets the children and takes their letters and Christmas wishes from them. It is a short evening but very moving to see the children talking to Santa.

Late Night Shopping will be on Saturday 1st December from 5.30pm. Santa will be arriving at 6pm outside Exmoor Flowers. More information will follow in a letter to the children.

Giving Something back

This year we would like to support Encompass Southwest, the group that helps the homeless in this area and we would like each child to bring a single tin with a ring pull opening; something that can be eaten cold, sweet or savoury as sadly this is what the homeless need. We would like the tins to be given to Santa when they go to see him in his grotto and receive their free gift. We will arrange to get them to Encompass Southwest after the event.

We look forward to seeing you all there,
Stephanie
Exmoor Flowers
On behalf of Light up Lynton

Lynton LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
#LYNTONXMASNIGHT

SUPPORT INDEPENDENT

SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER
* 5:30PM TIL LATE *

VISIT SANTA IN HIS GROTTTO, REINDEER TREASURE HUNT, ENTERTAINMENT, FESTIVE NIBBLES & DRINKS, EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS IN VARIOUS SHOPS, CHOIRS & BUSKERS, MARKET STALLS, SHOPS, CAFES & PUBS OPEN, PLUS LOTS OF SURPRISES..

COME & JOIN THE FESTIVITIES!

for more info

WILLOW EXMOOR FLOWERS Churchill House

Santa Stroll or run!

Woolacombe Beach
SUN 9 DEC
STROLL OR RUN ALONG THE BEACH FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY INCLUDING YOUR DOG!

SIGN UP ONLINE NOW

northdevonhospice.org.uk

Early Bird Offer until 18/11 - Adults £10/Children £5
Adults £12/Children £7/Dogs £5

Entry includes Santa Suit (or Christmas bandana for your dog)

being there for all the family
registered charity no.286554

RED BARN WOOLACOMBE BAY HOLIDAY PARK holiday home hunter Heale marsdens Devon Cottages

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