



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

Spring Term 2019 – Newsletter 7 – 18th January 2019



Quick Reminders

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAYRE – 23rd to 30th JANUARY

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD HAS THEIR PE KIT IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY

PLEASE REMEMBER TO READ WITH YOUR CHILD DAILY – JUST A FEW MINUTES A DAY REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the start of a new school term. I hope that you had a lovely Christmas break and that the New Year has got off to a peaceful and positive start. This is always my favourite term of the school year; the children are settled into the routines of their current class and year group and the school week generally follows a regular routine with minimal interruption from the many wonderful trips and events that take place within the summer term. It always feels as though this is the term that the children make the most academic progress too and I have no doubt, given their wonderful learning attitudes, that this year will be no different to any other.

MRS RECYCLE



It has been a great pleasure to welcome Mrs Recycle to each school within the federation this week. Our children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about recycling and making their own craft items using recycled materials. Mrs Recycle talked to our children about the importance of minimising waste by following the 3R's – Reduce! Reuse! Recycle! Mrs Recycle asked our children to think the amount of rubbish that they make and how it might be possible to throw out less than one black plastic bag of rubbish per week per household. She also encouraged our children to think about how items can be used again rather than simply thrown away (or even recycled) and how, once an item can no longer be used, it can be recycled. Our children were also asked to think about how they can

close the loop on recycling by refusing to buy over packaged and disposable products and how items can be repaired or recreated to minimise the need for recycling or landfill. If you would like further information on the many ideas that Mrs Recycle discussed with this children, please visit www.mrsrecycle.co.uk

YEAR 2 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



Earlier this week, it was a great privilege to accompany some of our Year 2 children to a football tournament at Ilfracombe Academy. Despite being a dismal afternoon our children remained in high-spirits and played exceptionally well. They convincingly won three of the six games that they played and were only narrowly beaten in the other matches, despite playing against much larger schools. I was incredibly proud of the excellent sportsmanship that our children demonstrated throughout the tournament and have to say that they looked extremely smart in our new KS1 competitive kit. Well done to all of the children involved – you should be very proud of your achievements.

ATTENDANCE

Thank you so much to all of those parents/carers who work with us to ensure that their child's attendance is as good as it can possibly be. Last term 40 children achieved a Bronze Attendance Award which reflects attendance of 98.5% or above (no more than one day of absence throughout the term). Attendance continues to be an area that we are looking to improve across the federation and, although we don't wish any child to come to school when they are genuinely unwell, we are striving to ensure that children do not unnecessarily miss days at school. Just missing the odd day here and there can have a dramatic impact upon a child's learning, especially within English and Maths when sequences of lessons are planned to systematically build upon learning from the previous day. As the table below shows, poor attendance can have

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a detrimental effect upon a child's achievement at secondary school and establishing good school attendance very much starts at primary school.

Attendance above 97%: Less than 6 days absence a year

Excellent attendance!

These children will have the best chance of getting the highest grades they can, leading to more choices and better prospects for the future.

95% attendance: 10 days absence a year

These children are likely to achieve good grades in most subjects. Nationally, 73% of children who have over 95% attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A*- C

90% attendance: 19 days absence a year

Children in this group are missing a month of school a year; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best. The Government identifies children with less than 90% attendance as "Persistent Absentees".

85% attendance: 29 days absence a year

It will be almost impossible for children with this amount of absence to keep up with their learning at school. This will affect a child's chances of achieving good GCSE exam results limiting their choices and future prospects.

In the event of your child being unwell, please do remember to inform the school office by 9.00am on a daily basis. Any unreported absence will be recorded as unauthorised and, in line with guidance from the Local Authority, we are duty bound to carry out a welfare check if a child is absent and we are unable to make contact with their main carer.

SPONSORSHIP OF SIHLANGU



I am delighted to tell you that we are continuing to sponsor Sihlangu, who is now 16 years old. Sihlangu arrived at Hawane Children's Home on the 1 January 2006 aged just 4 years old following the death of his parents. He has three brothers and two half-sisters. 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 programme. It is their vision to raise up the next generation of Swazi leaders. So with the help we give Challenge Ministries from the money raised on our non-uniform days and through our enterprise challenge they are providing a bright future full of hope for orphaned and vulnerable children.

361 ENERGY

I have been made aware of an organisation today, 361 Energy, who are tasked with helping families save money on fuel and water bills. The organisation is able to carry out free home visits to any household in receipt of a variety of benefits (including Child Benefit) to advise on energy saving solutions and how to secure discounts and/or change supplier to reduce energy costs. On average, families who receive a free visit from 361 Energy save over £300 per year! Further information can be found by visiting their website www.361energy.org If you would like to arrange a home visit, please call 01271 599361.

With Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

In collective worship we have been thinking about Epiphany and how the Three Wise Men were courageous advocates of what they believed in. We have been considering how we can be courageous advocates for what we also believe in, especially with regards to protecting our planet for generations to come.

Reception, Year 1 & 2 – Streams & Young Buds

Welcome back to everyone after the Christmas break. The children have returned refreshed and ready to go which is fantastic!

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In English, the children are learning about how rubbish ends up in the ocean and what damage this does to the environment and the creatures in the sea. We have all had a visit from Mrs Recycle who did some great workshops with the children about reusing and recycling rather than throwing everything in our bins.



The children are currently working on writing an explanation text about the effects that rubbish, with a main focus on plastics, has on the environment, animals and humans. Saplings, Young Buds and Streams are all feeling very passionate about this current topic.; you can help with this by encouraging your child to get involved in recycling rubbish at home and by doing some research about the effects our litter is having on our planet.

In Maths, the Year 2 children have started the year learning about money. This includes coin recognition, adding coins together and will build up to working out change. You can help with this at home by taking your child to the shops and challenging them to work which coins they will need to pay for items and then how much change they will get.



Saplings are currently learning about 2D and 3D shapes. You can help at home by challenging your child to go on a shape hunt when you are out and about. Shapes are everywhere, which ones can they spot? Take some pictures of the shapes you have found and bring them into school.

Year 3 & 4 - Rivers & Oaks

Happy New Year and welcome back. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break.

This term the children in KS2 will focus on plastic pollution in their theme learning. This is something that the children across KS2 have become very passionate about. We will be looking at the effects of plastic pollution on our environment, as well covering suitable and sustainable solutions and applying them to our own lifestyles. We hope you will too.

Currently in English, we are writing a persuasive letter to encourage people to reduce the amount of one-use plastics. During the week, we were very fortunate to welcome Mrs Recycle into our federation. On the days spent with us, she spoke about a range of different materials and how they are made and disposed of, looking specifically about the dangers posed as a result. It was a very enjoyable day, with the children making some lovely arts and crafts out of recycled materials and being inspired to tackle pollution.



In other areas, such as Maths, we are currently working on multiplication and division. It would be greatly appreciated and beneficial if the children would practice times tables daily at home, in order to build fluency. Over the next couple of weeks, the children will be introduced to a range of strategies to use to solve multiplication and division problems. As normal, a Mathletics task will be set each week based on what we have covered in class. If you are experiencing any issues regarded Mathletics logins, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sports News

Intra house Rugby Competitions

Wow! The whole Federation had an amazing day last Thursday when we welcomed back John Hudson, from Rugby Tots, to conclude his coaching sequence by running year group Inter house festivals.

In the morning, starting the new year as we mean to go on, KS2 at Lynton and Parracombe came together to show off their rugby skills. Having spent the Autumn term being taught how to play tag rugby, our children had the opportunity to compete in an excellent competition, made all the more enjoyable by it being a beautiful, frosty morning. The children were separated into their 4 houses and played several matches. Every child participated brilliantly. Red Admiral won in Year 3/4 and Green Hairstreak won for Year 5/6. Well done to all involved.



In the afternoon, Reception and Year 1 took part in a multi skills type festival at Kentisbury Village Hall. The Year 2's then enjoyed a similar festival, but with skills better suited to their age group. Green Hairstreak were the overall winners of the afternoon events.

John has worked hard with all of the children over the last two years and this was apparent when watching the standard of these events. It was a pleasure to watch the children applying all of their learning, as well as watching the team work and support that they had for one another.

The winning houses, per age group, are on display in your children's schools, alongside their achievement trophies. We would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to John for all of his work this year within the Federation.

Playmaker Award

A number of our Year 5 & 6 children from Parracombe and Kentisbury have taken part in Playmaker Award Training provided by James O'Sullivan, Ilfracombe Academy's School Sport Co-ordinator. The training is to prepare them for taking on the role of playground leaders within their respective schools. James covered several areas of training, including considering your participants, space, and activities that they could then organise and lead on the playground. The scheme is designed to promote active lunchtimes for all and young leaders. If the children persevere with their training and successfully complete the programme, the children will then have the opportunity to continue with Young Leader Training when attending Ilfracombe Academy.

Football

All children within the Federation have enjoyed a training session in the last two weeks, from Clem Bennelick, a Football coach who represents Exeter Football Club in North Devon. Clem has worked with the children and staff, playing simple attack and defence games that incorporate fundamental skills such as negotiating space, ball skills and team work.

Admin

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. If no reason is given for your child's absence we are required to mark this as an unauthorised absence, many thanks for your support in this matter.

School Dinner Payments

Please remember that school dinners for children in Key Stage 2 (year 3 to year 6) are £2.30 per meal. Payment should be brought in to school on the day the meal is taken in a named envelope. Alternatively, you could pay an amount in advance for the term or half term for example. Cheques should be made payable to Devon County Council.

Many thanks,
Mel, Wendy, Jacqui and Vikki

PTFA News

Kentisbury & Parracombe PTFA

Thank you to parents for your help with our Christmas activities this year. We raised £183 from our Hamper Draw, thanks so much to everyone who donated items and bought a ticket.

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We are hoping to have a mural painted in the playgrounds at both Schools, which will be created by the artist responsible for the fantastic mural at Lynton School. She will be working with the children to create something unique and special for each school.

We will be meeting at some point this term to talk about future events and also to discuss ideas on how best to spend the money we have raised so far, so watch this space for a date. Your PTFA committee for this year are Tamsin (Chair), Georgie (Secretary) and Sarah B. (Treasurer), so please speak to any of us, or Mel in the School office if you would like to be involved in any way.

Thanks for your support.

Governors News

Would you like to have a positive effect on the education of your child and future? If so, have you considered becoming a school governor? At West Exmoor we have a vacancy for a governor to join our talented and proactive Governing Body, who oversees all aspects of the educational provision within our three schools. This position is open to any parent, grandparent or carer of any pupil in any of our schools.

“I have a job, so haven’t got the time!!!!” We can discuss how to use your skills effectively in a variety of ways, and we always schedule governor activities to suit the availability of our governors, so we have no strict meeting time or days, or visit times, but we fit these in as and when people are available. Did you know that the Government actively supports the public in becoming a governor, and fully supports businesses in allowing people time to do this important work? Speak to your HR department, if you have one, or go to the National Governing Body website at nga.org.uk for more information.

“I won’t be able to make a difference!” Yes, you will. The Governing Body oversees the work of the Federation in all manner of ways, and you will be able to offer your opinion on school matters all year round.

“I don’t have any experience!” You don’t need any experience. The essential essence of being a Governor is to bring the voice of the lay person into school decisions. All relevant training is provided for new Governors, free of charge.

“How can I contribute?” In a variety of ways; being a member of the full Governing Body; joining one of the 4 sub-committees; taking a lead on some educational aspect where you have knowledge, experience or interest; joining a learning walk, or sitting in on a class for a while, each term.

“I have a small child, or children so cannot make evenings!” Assistance for childcare is available in these instances. Do you want to find out a bit more about how you can influence your child’s future by becoming a governor? If you are interested, please, in the first instance contact me via any school office, or by e-mail at

jan.stokes@westexmoorfederation.org.uk

Jan Stokes; Chair. West Exmoor Federation Governing Body.

Diary Dates

23 rd January	Scholastic Book Fair Begins in Lynton until 29 th January.
25 th January	Fire Service Talks
29 th January	Y3/4 Tag Rugby Qualifier
31 st January	YR/Y1 Dental Survey at Kentisbury
5 th February	Internet Safety Day
15 th February	End of Half Term

Community

From the Rectory

In our church calendar, February begins with the feast of Candlemas – or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. We tell the story of a tiny baby Jesus being taken to the great Temple in Jerusalem by his young mother and her husband to be dedicated to God with the giving of a sacrifice. While they are there two elderly holy people meet them, Simeon and Anna. Both recognise that Jesus is the one God’s people have been waiting for – the one to set them free. Simeon takes Jesus in his arms and cries out in joy to God, that he has seen God keep his promise, so will be able to die in peace. Anna, spreads the news of Jesus amongst all those she meets.

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Simeon calls Jesus “a light to lighten the nations” and so the feast was traditionally kept by filling the church with light – hence the name “Candlemas” – and the candles that would light the church for the coming year were blessed. He also foretells the cost of Jesus’ role in setting us free – he tells Mary that Jesus will meet opposition, and her own heart will be broken. This is a feast that is full of light, but that does not underestimate the dark and difficult times.

A light-filled feast that is realistic about challenge is well-timed in February, a month which, some people can find quite difficult – it can be dismal, and chilly and a bit of an “in between time”.

I wonder how Candlemas might help us to live this February well? Perhaps by reflecting on where we find light in our lives, and how we can hold that light for others

I think it is very interesting that Luke, who tells the story of the visit to the Temple in his gospel, says very little about the sacrifice they went to make, but focuses on the picture of the gathered group of people afterwards- this is where the light and the holiness of the story is for him.

There is the tiny baby revealing what God is like in a human being, there is a teenage mother pouring all her love into caring for her child, a man who is providing support and strength, and an older man and woman in their senior years, giving meaning to the whole scene with their wisdom. Each, in their own way carries a light for the others, so they can find at their centre Jesus, the light for the nations.

Might this picture, inspire us, in our families, churches, schools and communities to value the light that all those around us bring into our lives, and to have the courage to let our own light shine for them?

God bless
Samantha

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

Free Trial of Water Polo for Children aged 8 and above



BARNSTAPLE WATER POLO



Want to try a new sport?
Fun, friendly and challenging.
Come and try Barnstaple Water Polo

Both minipolo and junior sessions are great for girls & boys.
Held every **THURSDAY** night @ the North Devon Leisure Centre in Barnstaple.
Each session is an hour and the first few tries are **FREE**.
We have shallow sessions for the younger participants
and deep water for more confident swimmers.

Sessions:

MINIPOLO	8-13 YEARS	7PM
JUNIOR	14-17 YEARS	8PM
SENIOR	18+ YEARS	9PM

We always look forward to seeing new faces.
Come on down to say hi and have a go.



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Dan - danutabb@hotmail.com / 07966940164
WWW.BARNSTAPLESWIMMINGCLUB.CO.UK

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