



West Exmoor Federation

'Rooted and Growing – Together we Love Learning'

Spring Term 2019 – Newsletter 8 – 1st February 2019



Quick Reminders

Please don't forget to sign up for a slot at one of our parent consultation evenings. If you would like to meet with me, I will be available at Kentisbury on Monday 25th, Lynton on Tuesday 26th & Parracombe on Wednesday 27th.

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that your children enjoyed an unexpected long weekend and that they managed to get out and have some fun in the snow. Thank you so much for your understanding regarding the closure on Friday; it's always such a difficult decision to take, especially when the conditions vary so much within just a few miles, but ultimately the safety of our children and staff must come first.

BOOK FAIR

Thank you so much for supporting our Book Fair so enthusiastically this year. Our children certainly enjoyed pursuing an excellent selection of fiction and non-fiction books and it was lovely to hear so many animated discussions about favourite books, authors and genres. In total we took just over £750 which has, in turn, enabled us to add the same value of stock to our school libraries. This would not have been possible without support and of which we are all very appreciative.

BOOK BAGS

As a federation we are extremely proud of the importance that we place upon reading and we expect all of our children to read at home on a daily basis. This only needs to be for a few minutes each day and even our older and more advanced readers should be encouraged to read aloud on a daily basis and given the opportunity to talk about the books that they are reading. In order to keep books safe, could you please ensure that your child has an appropriate bag within which to carry their book and reading diary to and from school. Our federation book bags are ideal for this, but any other suitable bag is equally acceptable.

SAFER INTERNET DAY – 5TH FEBRUARY

On Tuesday we will be marking Safer Internet Day with a range of activities across the federation. The aim of Safer Internet Day is to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, in partnership with Childnet International, Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL), the celebration sees hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. This year in the UK, Safer Internet Day will focus on how consent works in an online context and our children will be exploring how they ask, give, and receive consent online, including how they take and share images and videos and how they manage their privacy and data. Our children will also explore how the internet works, who owns the information that is shared on it, and how they can actively take ownership of digital spaces. You can find out more by visiting:

www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/education-packs/activities-parents-and-carers

We are also sending home a copy of Digital Parenting which provides some excellent information on ensuring a positive digital-life balance, keeping children safe on social media, setting digital boundaries, how to use technology as a family, how digital technology can impact upon sleep and, finally, what to do in the event of your child accessing unsuitable online content or using technology inappropriately.

ATTENDANCE

Improving attendance levels across the federation continues to be an on-going challenge for us. The Local Authority are paying close attention to absence levels and, in particular, those children who are identified as being persistently absent (attendance of less than 90%). With this in mind, I thought it prudent to remind you that a request for absence in order to go only holiday can only be agreed in exceptional circumstances and that only one period of exceptional absence can be approved per academic year. Furthermore, an exceptional absence will only usually be approved if general attendance is at 95% or above. Individual attendance rates are monitored on a half-termly basis and if your child's attendance falls below 95% you will be notified and encouraged to work with us to improve their attendance rate. For further information, please read our Attendance Policy which can be found on our federation website.

Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ Support

TIME KEEPING

A growing number of children are either arriving at school early or being collected late at the end of the school day. Children should not arrive at school until 8.30am in the morning and should be collected at the end of the day at 3.15pm as general supervision is not provided outside of these times. We provide breakfast clubs at each school within the federation so if you need to drop your child off before 8.35am please use this facility. Equally, if you require child care at the end of the day, clubs are available. Children not collected at the end of the day will be put into clubs (where space allows) and you may be charged for this. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter.

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

In recent weeks, a number of children have been asking to phone home mid-afternoon as they do not wish to attend their chosen afterschool club. This is not only time-consuming for my admin team but also makes it difficult for those who are running clubs to plan appropriately. Also, with some of our clubs being over-subscribed, it means that some children are not able to attend their preferred club even though it is not actually full to capacity. Therefore, unless your child is poorly, we will be dissuading them from changing their agreed arrangements and would be grateful if you could reinforce this with your children. Thank you.

HEADLICE AND THREAD WORM

Once again we have a number of reported cases of both headlice and thread worm within the federation. Could you please check your child and treat accordingly? Further information about both of these common parasites can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/> and <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/threadworms/>

With Best Wishes,



Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

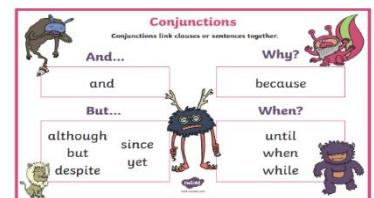
In collective worship we have been thinking about creation. We have been celebrating the many wonders of our world and thinking about what kind of world we are helping to create.

Reception, Year 1 & 2 – Streams & Young Buds

Streams and Young Buds have been learning about the effects of plastic in the ocean. It has been brilliant to see the children (and adults) take a real interest in how they can make a difference in the fight against pollution.

You could help your children at home by encouraging them to consider the types of materials, the properties of the materials, extending vocabulary to describe the material and by considering different ways in which it can be sorted eg. Shape, size, description, colour.

In English, the children have been continuing to write their explanation of how plastic is getting in the ocean and what effect it is having. In the next few weeks, we will be learning about conjunctions such as because, but, so and 'and'.



In maths, we will be continuing to learn about money. The children will be moving onto from recognising and adding coins to identifying the correct change. Please practice this at home and when out and about at the shops. Saplings have finished their block on shape and are now looking at place value to 20.

The home learning tasks have now been sent out. Please bring any completed tasks to school to present to the class. Please speak to your class teacher about when it would be a good time to do this.



We are really pleased to see the children using Mathletics more. We are able to see how the children are performing in the tasks and it has made an impact in their learning at school. Please check Mathletics for homework related to their current topics which will support their learning.

Could we please remind you that all children need PE kits in school. The children are taking parts in 2 sessions of PE each week and if they are not in the correct kit, it means there is a chance that they won't be able to take part.

Year 3 & 4 - Rivers & Oaks

The last few weeks have been very busy for the children. In English, we have been focusing on persuasive writing, looking at how we can persuade people to reduce, reuse and recycle. Please can I encourage parents and children to research how plastic affects our environment as this will inform their English as well as Topic. In maths, the children are perfecting their multiplication and division skills using different methods. Can I ask that all children are practising their times tables as this will support their learning. Home learning tasks have been sent out which look very interesting! Have a look and see what you'd like to have a go at!

Year 5 & 6 – Oceans and Forests

Parracombe House Captains



Over the last 2 weeks, the year 5/6 children have been asked to apply for the positions of house captain and deputy house captain. They have had to apply through application form, give a speech to the school and then contend with a vote. I would like to congratulate all the candidates that applied, as they worked extremely hard and were very professional and persuasive. Our vote was conducted today alongside the speeches and I am proud to announce that, Aine Nicholls (house captain) and Jasmine Bourn (deputy house captain) have been awarded the positions for Holly Blue. Abigail Payne (house captain) and Ellis Tyson (deputy house captain) have been awarded the positions for Red Admiral. Abigail Loveless (house captain) and Kaiden Pinnells (deputy house captain) have been awarded the positions for Green Hairstreak. Tiarna Falco (house captain) and Elliot Osmond (deputy house captain) have been awarded the positions for Clouded Yellow.



The whole school voted at our polling station, using voting slips and placing these in a ballot box. We cannot wait to see what activities these candidates organise for our school.

Sports News



Federation Showjumping Team

A parent is organising a federation showjumping team to take part in the North Devon Schools Showjumping Competition held at Coxleigh Barton, Shirwell. We are looking for a 4th member to join the team to enter the 40cm and 50cm classes. The dates of the competition are the 24th March, 28th April, 12th May, 2nd June, 7th July and 20th July. If your child is in year 3 or above and would be interested in joining the team, please contact Emma Payne on 07973 228259.

Admin

Planting

It is that time of the year again and I am going to be growing flowers and vegetables with all the children across our three schools, as well as within Forest School. If you have any seeds, seedlings, plants, etc spare, that you would be willing to donate, the children and I would be extremely grateful. We are also looking for garden soil sieves.

Thank you for your continued support - gardening is an amazing learning forum for the children.

Gini Hynes.

Many thanks,
Mel, Wendy, Jacqui and Vikki



Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ 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

31 st January	YR/Y1 Dental Survey at Kentisbury
5 th February	Internet Safety Day
15 th February	End of Half Term

Community

Local Half Term Activities

TENNIS CAMPS – FEBRUARY HALF TERM

*Learn the fundamentals of Tennis whilst having fun, making new friends & playing games.
Our dedicated, passionate & engaging coaches welcome all ages & abilities in the great location of Rock Park.*

Dates:
Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February 2019

Tiny Tots Camp
3 - 4 yr olds | 10 - 11am | £6 per day
Junior Camp
5 - 14 yr olds | 10am – 1pm | £20 per day

Location:
Park Lane Tennis Club,
Rock Park, Barnstaple EX32 9AH

To book: call 01271 600855 or email bookings@devonshiretennisacademy.com

www.devonshiretennisacademy.com

**For every full day purchased on our Junior Camp, bring a friend or sibling for free to either the Tiny Tots or the Junior Camp!*



Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ Support



Workshop 2019

Join us for a pair of exciting subsidised workshop classes on Sunday 3rd March.

Clare Palethorpe – Musical Theatre

Clare is Director, Producer & Choreographer at Rubix Dance & Productions based in the West Mids. She is also a Freelance Dance Artist for the RAD & BBOdance, delivering workshops and classes to students in jazz, musical theatre, contemporary and lyrical.

Shaun Paul Smith - Commercial

Shaun is a widely renowned and sought after Choreographer who is well known for his versatility. His credits include: Choreographer for Kidz Bop UK, assistant choreographer on 'The Voice UK' and Resident Director for the acclaimed ZooNation Dance company.

Students will be split into 2 age groups:
8-12 yrs & 13-18 yrs - both workshops are open to dancers of all abilities.

Class times will be 10.30am – 12.30pm & 2.00pm – 4.00pm, finishing with a demonstration to parents at 4.15pm.

The cost to attend both classes and receive a complementary t-shirt is £10.00 per student.

To be held at Kingsley School, Northdown Road, Bideford, EX39 3LY (North Devon Dance Festival venue).

For more information please email northdevondancefestival@live.co.uk or call 01271 326291

Exeter City FC

FEBRUARY HOLIDAY COURSES

Football & Multi Sports



Barnstaple - Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th Feb
Park School, EX32 9AX (10am - 3pm)

Braunton - Wednesday 20th Feb
Braunton College, EX33 2BP (10am - 3pm)

Ilfracombe - Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd Feb
Ilfracombe College, EX34 9JB (10am - 3pm)

Marwood - Tuesday 19th Feb **New Course**
****Multi Sports**** Marwood Primary, EX31 4HF (10am - 3pm)

CITY COMMUNITY TRUST
Making Greater Exeter Greater

- > All Courses £15 one day / £27 for two
- > Boys & Girls aged between 5-14 years
- > Further information? Email Clem.bennellick@ecfc.co.uk

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.

contact Bob - robert.bunney@virgin.net
Dan - danutabb@hotmail.com / 07966940164
WWW.BARNSTAPLESWIMMINGCLUB.CO.UK

Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ Support