



West Exmoor Federation

'Educating with love, for life in all its fullness'

Spring Term 2019 – Newsletter 10 – 8th March 2019



Quick Reminders

SCIENCE WEEK FAMILY CHALLENGE – FRIDAY 15TH MARCH

9.15am at Lynton School & 9.30am at Kentisbury School for Kentisbury & Parracombe Children

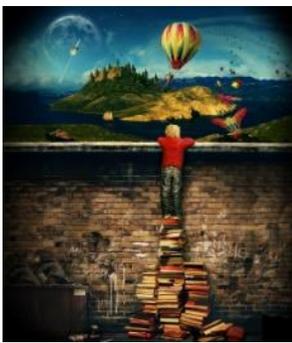
RED NOSE DAY – FRIDAY 15TH MARCH

Non-uniform day/Wear Something Red - £1 donation towards Comic Relief 2019

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

BOOK WEEK



Thank you so much to all of the parents/carers and children who have participated so wholeheartedly in our Book Week. There have been some wonderful activities taking place throughout the week including 'speed-dating' for books; the reading of 'lucky-dip' books that the children have brought in from home; the retelling of favourite stories through PE and drama; dressing up as our favourite book characters; redesigning the front covers of our favourite books; and so much more. The week has really enabled us to immerse the children fully in the importance of reading for pleasure. Reading is pivotal to our children's success and I urge each and every one of you to continue investing a few minutes daily to support your child with their reading. Research from the National Literacy Trust shows that children who read for pleasure daily are four times more likely to achieve above expected attainment levels than those who do not. Further research shows that children who read for 20 minutes

per day will read, on average, 1,800,000 words per year. This compares to 282,000 words for a child who reads for 5 minutes a day and just 8,000 words for a child who reads for only 1 minute a day. The vocabulary gap, not to mention reading fluency, that develops between those children at each end of the spectrum is immense by the time a child leaves school and it is during the early and primary years that, as parents/carers, we can have the most impact upon our children's reading habits. Sadly, recent research shows that only 25.7% of children aged 8-18 now read every day, compared to 43% in 2015. The percentage of children who say they read for pleasure has also declined, falling to 52.5% compared to 58.8% in 2015. As a federation, we place great importance upon learning to read and reading for pleasure and I very much hope that we buck this trend and that, with your support, we will continue to do so for many years to come.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss

SCIENCE WEEK

We are all very much looking forward to Science Week next week. We are extremely lucky to have Sciencedipty visiting all three schools during the course of the week – the children are certainly in for a treat with some explosive and wacky science experiments! In addition to this, each class will be completing a daily science activity before our BIG finale on Friday with the Family Challenge. For further information about Science Week, please visit www.britishscienceweek.org

RED NOSE DAY – FRIDAY 15TH MARCH

I can't believe how quickly Comic Relief has crept up on us this year. In order to support this very worthwhile fundraising event, we are inviting the children the chance to come to school in non-uniform this Friday for a minimum donation of £1. If your child is able to wear something red than that would even better, but we certainly don't expect anyone to buy anything specific for this event.

INTERNET SAFETY

As you are probably aware, there has been quite a lot of media coverage regarding apps and on-line safety in recent weeks. As advised by the UK Safer Internet Centre and the Local Authority, we do not discuss with the children information about specific apps that have raised safety concerns unless our children talk about these apps. This is because there is a risk of drawing their attention to apps that they are unaware of. Evidence shows that naming specific online content or games can increase the risk of creating media coverage and social media sharing, which can inadvertently promote the

Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ Support

content to young audiences. However, on a regular basis we talk to the children about the importance of keeping safe on-line and the need to tell an adult if something makes them feel uncomfortable or scared, or if they are asked to keep something secret. If our children name specific apps which are in the media spot-light we do discuss them, taking advice from recognised national organisations which specialise in online safety. For further information and guidance regarding internet safety I would recommend any of the following sites:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

<https://parentinfo.org/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/ShareAware>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

SIHLANGU UPDATE



We have recently received an update about Sihlangu from Bulembu School and Challenge Ministries. Sihlangu has just participated in the Swaziland Primary Certificate Examination, which is a public examination set by the National Examination Council of Swaziland. He completed examinations in English, Mathematics, siSwati, Science, Social Studies, Agriculture and Religious Education. Sihlangu continues to try hard with his learning, although he does find it quite challenging. We were also pleased to hear that Eswatini (as Swaziland is now called) has been blessed with fantastic rain over the last few months and that the rivers are flowing well – here's hoping that the drought of last year will not be repeated.

MODELLING COUETOUS BEHAVIOUR

I would like to remind all parents/carers of the importance of modelling polite and courteous behaviour when on school premises. It is not appropriate to raise your voice to another parent/carer, child or member of staff or to use derogatory or abusive language. We do not allow our children to behave like this whilst in school and we expect all adults to model appropriate behaviour and self-control when on school premises. In line with Devon County Council policy, parents/carers who are not able to abide by this expectation will be asked to leave the premises and, in extreme or persistent cases, may be banned from the premises. If you have a grievance, please speak respectfully to either one of my Lead Teachers (Mr MacKenzie, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Kelly) or with myself. Thank for your co-operation regarding this matter.

COATS & JUMPERS

A number of children are currently coming to school without coats or jumpers. Although we have been blessed with some beautiful weather recently, it can still be quite cold. As you know, we expect our children to play outside in all but the wettest of weather, so can you please ensure that your child comes to school with adequate clothing for the currently changeable weather.

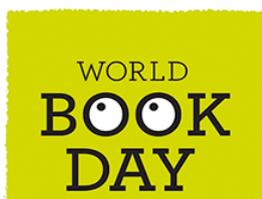
With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock

Executive Headteacher

In collective worship we have been thinking about the new hope that Spring brings and considering how important reading is and how it enables us to be successful in all areas of our learning. We have praying for those who are less fortunate than ourselves, especially those who are not lucky enough to experience education and to have the opportunity to learn to read.

Reception, Year 1 & 2 – Streams & Young Buds



From book week to Science week

Thank you for all your support in making book week a success. The children have had a lovely week enjoying stories, creating characters, writing diaries and sharing their love of reading. They particularly loved sharing stories and activities with the parents who have joined us throughout the week. World book day has become a huge day in the school calendar and the staff love taking part too. Thank you for taking the time to organise and make costumes from your children's favourite books.

Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ Support

This week is Science week! We will be having a week of fun filled science exploration. We will be visited by Sciencedipity who will be providing all 3 schools with some exciting workshops based on Roald Dahl books.

Don't forget the family science day on Friday 15th March. A letter has gone out with some useful website and pictures to help inspire you with your balloon powered vehicles, so get creative and get making! We are very much looking forward to seeing you all and your creations next Friday.



Water bottles

Please ensure your children come to school with a water bottle each day. The number of children who come to school without bottles has increased which causes considerable disruption to the school day. If your child has lost their school drink bottle, then new ones can be purchased from the admin staff on each site. Could we please also remind you that we request that the children are sent in with water only. Milk is provided as an alternative at lunchtime.



Home learning

Thank you for all the superb home learning that the children have been bringing to school. We have been so pleased with the effort that the children have put into their projects so far. Keep them coming.

Admin

Terracycle at Lynton

Lynton School and Lee Abbey are now working in partnership to improve recycling facilities in Lynton. You can now recycle your empty foil crisp packets at Lynton School. They can be dropped off at the school office during school hours. Please make sure packets are not folded or crumpled up as these won't be recycled. This is an initiative through Terracycle. You can find more information about Terracycle on their website <https://www.terracycle.co.uk/en-GB/>.

Best Wishes,

Wendy, Mel, Jacqui and Vikki

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

Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ Support

Jan Stokes; Chair. West Exmoor Federation Governing Body.

Diary Dates

11 th March	Science Week Begins
15 th March	Family Science Challenge, Swimming Gala & Red Nose Day
2 nd April	Lynton Easter Service @ St Mary's – 10.30am
4 th April	Parracombe & Kentisbury Easter Service @ Christ Church – 10.30am
5 th April	End of Term

Community

From the Rectory

I like it when old traditional wisdom and modern media driven enthusiasms draw people to the same conclusion! Recently a Netflix series by Marie Kondo the home organiser and author of “The Life Changing Magic of Tidying” has been causing a stir. She advocates going through all your belongings and only keeping those that “spark joy” in you when you touch them. The theory is that if you get rid of all the belongings that don't bring you joy you can live with less “stuff” and more happiness. The internet is buzzing with those who have found delight in giving up many of the possessions they have accumulated and discovering what really matters to them. Charity shops have reported an increase in quality donations from people who have realised they just don't need all that they thought they did.

At a time when we know that the human desire for more and more is having a disastrous impact on our planet, this is a timely message. We know that we are using natural resources at a greater rate than ever before, and the impact of our activity on the fine balance of our climate, the life of our rivers and seas and the quality of our air and land is damaging. Although we know it, we need guidance and help to be able to change our habits, to remember what really makes us happy and to resist “greed”. “Greed” is rather an old fashioned word, but it describes that feeling of wanting more than we need and more than that which genuinely brings us happiness.

The old traditional Christian wisdom on offer to help with greed is a practice like keeping Lent, which begins this year on March 6th – the tradition of “fasting”, giving things up. Over recent years “giving things up” for Lent has been questioned as something we just do for the sake of it, or as a kill-joy rejection of the good things God gives us. After all, miserable Christianity should be a contradiction in terms. Jesus tells us he came so that we may have life in all its fullness. Perhaps though, the Marie Kondo effect is, firstly, reminder that having too much blinds us to the goodness of life as badly as having too little. It is that kind of greedy blindness that has been such a disaster for our planet. Secondly it highlights that the heart and purpose of any “giving up” practice is joy not deprivation.

What happens if we look at the fasting of Lent, the “giving things up” of Lent as a time of de-cluttering ourselves from all that gets in the way of the joyful lives God made us for? What if we use these weeks as a time to weed through the particular things we are greedy for and rid ourselves of them for a time, to create the space to discover what truly brings us joy: God's life giving gifts to us. Might it offer us, and our planet, the “life changing” grace of a good Lent?

God bless, Samantha

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

West Buckland School – Senior Music Scholarship Assessment

West Buckland School will be holding Music Scholarship assessments on Thursday 30th April, for entry into Year 7. West Buckland is always keen to hear from budding musicians. If you are interested in finding out more, you can do so by visiting www.westbuckland.com/admissions/scholarships/year-7-scholarships

Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ Support



ACADEMY OF BEACH SPORTS

The Academy of Beach Sports based in North Devon runs indoor and outdoor volleyball sessions throughout the whole year. They have been established since 2004 and have been growing the volleyball game in the local area with many local, regional, national and international players, coaches, referees and volunteers at every level.

We would like to invite your child to attend sessions at the North Devon Leisure Centre if they have never been or tried to play volleyball with us before. The sessions are aimed at 8-16 years old.

Please choose from one of the sessions that will be held at The North Devon Leisure Centre, Saturday 2nd March, 9th March, 16th March or 23rd March. We have our North Devon Junior Grand Prix event at Petroc on Sunday 31st March from 10-2PM. If your child would like to attend the sessions are PAYG at £4 a session.

We hope you like the relatively cheap price for a club session, the flexibility to come and go as you need rather than large up front termly costs and the ability to try a new sport alongside your child because all adults GO FREE to these sessions alongside them (If you wish...)

If you have any questions then please don't hesitate to contact Denise Austin on 07773382305 or visit our website www.academyofbeachsports.org.uk

Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ Support