



# West Exmoor Federation

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

*Spring Term B 2023 - Phase Newsletter*



## Quick Reminders

Parracombe Associate Governors are hosting a bake sale on March 10th! Any donations of cakes would be greatly appreciated. Please can all donations be brought in by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Many thanks in advance!



Lynton PTFA are also asking for donations of cakes and bakes for a cake stall during their table top sale (see poster below). All proceeds will be going towards the development of the school garden. If you are able to donate any cakes, please can they be dropped off at the Town Hall for 9am on Sunday 12th March, or message Vikki Brown on class Dojo to arrange a possible collection. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

## Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of another half-term - it's hard to believe that we are now half way through the academic year! I hope that you and your children enjoyed some quality time together over the holiday and that your children are feeling suitably rested and prepared for the coming weeks.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

I would like to offer my heart-felt congratulations to Harmony Constant for being appointed as our permanent Head of Teaching and Learning at Parracombe. Harmony shone throughout a morning of extremely rigorous interviewing, excelling in all areas. Harmony has already been doing an incredible job as our Acting Head of Teaching and Learning and I have no doubt that she will continue to build upon this over the coming months. I feel extremely blessed to have such a strong and dedicated senior leadership team. Each and every one of us, with the support of the rest of the federation team, take pride in providing all of our children with the very best of educational opportunities and, as a consequence, it is wonderful to see our children flourish.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This half term we will be exploring our CARIS value of respect. We will be thinking about how Jesus showed respect by washing his disciples feet at the last supper and how we can all show respect for one another in our daily lives. We will be continuing to find out about Mala Yousafzai and also learning about the musician, Reem Kalani. Kalani's music has been inspired by many others including Egyptian composers, Syrian princesses, Sacred Arabic chants, Palestinian poets and Sudanese singers. The children are already enjoying listening to her music which is very different to that which we normally hear.

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## ATTENDANCE

Thank you to those parents/carers who have continued to encourage their children to maintain good levels of school attendance. Attendance across the federation was as follows at the end of last half-term: Lynton 94.93%; Parracombe 95.33%; Kentisbury 94.48%. The year to date national attendance rate for primary schools stood at 93.8% so it is encouraging that we are exceeding this at all three schools but disappointing that we are someway off the DfE Attendance Target of 97%. It is crucial that all of our children maintain a high standard of attendance throughout the year. Good attendance is the essential foundation to positive outcomes for our children; missing just a few days of school can have a negative impact upon their learning. If your child is genuinely unwell they should not come to school, but all other absences should be kept to an absolute minimum. Requests for exceptional absence will only be authorised in accordance with our Attendance Policy and requests

for absence in order to take advantage of cheaper term time holidays, celebrating birthdays, meeting up with relatives, going shopping, etc, will not be authorised. We will be continuing to monitor attendance on a regular basis, including punctuality, and will be arranging to discuss with you your child's attendance should we have specific concerns. For further information, please do see our revised [Attendance Policy](#).

## SUMMER PRODUCTION

Thank you so much for all of the very positive feedback about our exciting summer production plans. Watch this space for an announcement soon as to what our production will be. Year 5/6 auditions are just around the corner and then the whole federation can set too and start learning some fabulous, block-buster tunes!

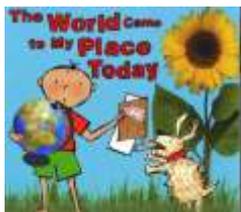
As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, or the Head of Teaching and Learning at your child's school.

With Best Wishes,



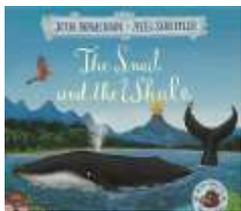
Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

## What are we Learning in Raindrops and Saplings?



Welcome back to all of you after the half term break. Raindrops and Saplings have come back in raring to go!

In English, the children have started sharing the story 'The World Came to My Place Today' to learn about how plants provide us with fruit and vegetables all around the world. Raindrops and Saplings will learn about how many everyday objects, such as paper, are made and have opportunities to make some within the classroom provision. They will also explore food and drink that is made from fruit and vegetables such as orange juice and cereal.



Later on in the term, the classes will learn the story 'The Snail and the Whale' by adding actions, sequencing and story mapping. The children will continue to learn about the changes in seasons and will consider places that are hot and cold, using the story to support this.

In Maths, the classes have begun with measuring and will move on to number bonds to 10 and then subtraction.

Raindrops and Saplings are going to spend some time exploring plants this term. They will compare local plants, by going on a trip, to plants that only grow in rainforests and consider why different plants grow where they do. Raindrops have

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already planted some herb seeds in their outdoor area and will soon plant some other spring flowers and seeds so that they can observe them growing throughout the term and beyond.

Please don't forget to listen to your child read their book from school daily. I can't stress enough how much this supports their progress as they learn more and more phonics. The school books are chosen to match the phonemes or words the children are currently learning and are at their level of reading so they should be able to segment and blend and start to recognise words that appear often in each book. Please then note the reading in their reading record so that they can earn their certificates for every 25 nights of reading at home.

### What are we Learning in Streams & Young Buds?

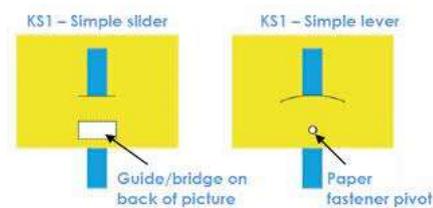
Welcome back! We hope that you had an enjoyable half term break - it has been lovely to welcome the children back. We have a busy half term ahead, children!



In English, we will be returning to narrative as a genre of writing. The children will use Jack and the Beanstalk, alongside their Science topic of Plants, to explore key features of fairy tales and traditional tales. They will use the text to promote fluency in their storytelling and then use their knowledge of other key texts to innovate a variation of the story before writing their own version of a fairy tale.

In Maths, the children will focus their learning on multiplication and division. In Year 1, this will centre around their understanding of equal and unequal groups, skip counting in 2's, 5's and 10's and the understanding of multiplication being the same as repeated addition of equal groups. Year 2 will explore all of the Year 1 content, as well as extending this to their times tables. The children will use their understanding of groups and multiplication to build on their understanding of sharing into equal groups as division. Year 2 will extend this to division as an inverse operation of multiplication. If you would like to support your child at home, Hit the Button is a great website for allowing the children to practise their times tables with fluency. These skills will be ongoing as they move up through the school, so a secure foundation is vital to enable them to move on with fluency.

In Science, the children will be exploring Plants. They will be identifying and naming a variety of common plants and trees, and we hope to make a trip out of school so that the children can complete this in their local area. Within school, the children will be working on the skills to work scientifically, by planning and conducting an experiment to see what variables a plant needs to be able to grow.



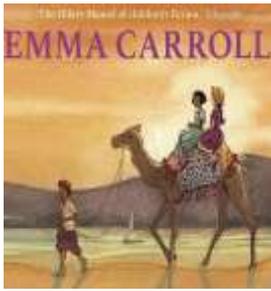
As the half term progresses, the children will complete a unit of learning in Design and Technology (DT) and Computing. In DT, they will explore mechanisms, sliders and levers. They will then revisit their learning on Jack and the Beanstalk to design and create their own version of a section of the story board, incorporating a slider mechanism (Year 1) and a lever mechanism (Year 2). Finally, in Computing, the children will revisit their learning on logging-on independently, as well as our ongoing teaching of computer safety, before completing a unit on

using computing to interpret, organise and record data eg. pictograms and tallies.

Many thanks to those of you who support your children to consistently complete their home learning and daily reading. We cannot emphasise the importance that this plays in supporting your child's learning. It gives them the opportunity to revisit prior learning, embedding this for greater fluency, as well as extending their learning to ensure that they tackle future learning opportunities with confidence.

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## What are we Learning in Rivers and Oaks?



For this half term Theme, English and guided reading are underpinned with suspense, adventure and antiquity. In English, we are writing about a plethora of ancient artefacts which the children could find in a mysterious pyramid. We have been working on how to use adjectives and adverbs to recreate desert scenes and high octane action for our character heroes. Our two guided reading texts of 'Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx' and 'The Secrets of the Sun King' have increased the level of our vocabulary in conjunction with embedding knowledge of ancient Egypt. The children are thoroughly enjoying learning about

ancient Egypt in our theme lessons; making canopic jars, fact files about their Gods and mummifying plums with our natron formula (salt and sodium bicarbonate). In maths, we are learning about coordinates, angles and polygons, which dove-tails neatly with our art work on Escher. Here we are exploring different mark-marking and tessellation.

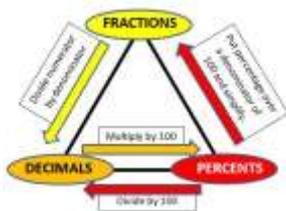
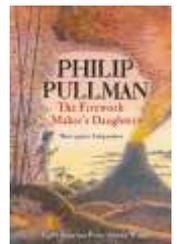
A super thankyou to all the children and parents who are reading every day; the benefits are evident in the childrens' increased imagination and spoken and written vocabulary.

The girls also have an opportunity to participate in a 'Girls Football Tournament' as part of the celebrations of International Women's day on the 8th of March.

## What are we Learning in Oceans and Forests?

Year 5/6 have come back ready to learn after their half term!

In English, the children have started their new book - 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'. This book is based in Asia and follows a confident, brave young girl on a journey of discovery and adventure. We started our new unit by looking at writing an emotive letter to her father (who feels that girls should be clean, tidy and marry a husband!). We have now moved onto character descriptions using figurative devices. Our final piece of learning will be a narrative based on this book.



Maths has progressed from fractions to now include decimals and percentages. This unit can often be tricky to grasp but once the children are more secure with it, it should benefit them both inside and beyond the classroom. We see fractions, decimals and percentages all around us so to keep practising them at home would be really beneficial. Using a visual representation of  $1/10$ ,  $1/100$  and  $1/1000$  has really helped the children consider the place value of decimals. Next, we will be moving onto perimeter and area, considering where we use this in real life and using our understanding to help solve multi-step problems.

Our theme learning is quite an interesting one...Ancient China and the Shang Dynasty. The children started their unit looking at where and when the Shang Dynasty occurred. Hierarchy and how your importance impacted your social status has been explored. We are now moving onto Gods and Kings, Oracle Bones, Dragon Bones, Artefacts and the Battle of Muye. Throughout this, the children will be using their historical enquiry skills, comparing and contrasting as well as questioning. As the half term progresses, we will be combining our art of printing with our Ancient China unit and later, we will be moving onto our computing unit of 'Big Data'.



Year 6 SATs booster days have now started. These are really useful days to not only get some practice in to prepare for the tests, but also to reassure the children and consolidate the fabulous learning that has already occurred. Please keep practising at home, especially arithmetic.

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## Admin News

### School Dinners

Please can we remind you that school dinners for children in year 3 - 6 should be paid for on School Money when they are taken at the latest. Please can we ask that payments are settled as soon as possible and if you have any difficulty in making a payment please speak to your school administrator, lead teacher or Mrs Peacock in strictest confidence.

### Diary Dates

|          |   |          |  |
|----------|---|----------|--|
| 07.03.23 | Ethos Day                               | 29.03.23 | Parracombe & Kentisbury Easter Service @ Christ Church, 1.30pm |
| 08.03.23 | Year 3/4 Girls Football Tournament      | 31.03.23 | Parracombe Yomp  |
| 17.03.23 | Red Nose Day                            | 31.03.23 | End of Spring Term   |
| 29.03.23 | Lynton Easter Service @ St Mary's, 11am | 17.04.23 | Children return to school                                      |

### Lynton PTFA News



**Lynton CofE School PTFA fundraiser...**

# Table Top Sale

**Need a Spring clearout?**

**Lynton Town Hall**  
**Sunday 12th March 2023**  
**10am until 2pm**  
**(seller set up from 8.30)**

**Tables £7 each or 2 for £10.**  
**Booking and payment in advance.**

To book, email [lyntontabletopsale@gmail.com](mailto:lyntontabletopsale@gmail.com) or call/text Katherine on 07914 362 250.

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