



West Exmoor Federation

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

Autumn Term 1 2023 - Phase Newsletter

Quick Reminders

Please return reply slips for the Y5/6 Okehampton Residential and Year 1/2 Combe Martin Visit.

Diary Dates

04.09.23	Children return to school	02.11.23	Raindrops & Saplings Forest School begins
07.09.23	Y5/6 Cricket Taster Afternoon	03.11.23	Streams Y1 Forest School begins
08.09.23	Oaks Y4 Forest School begins	08.11.23	Lynton Life Education visit
15.09.23	Rivers Y4 Forest School begins	09.11.23	Kentisbury & Parracombe Life Education
18.09.23	Streams to visit Combe Martin Museum	22.11.23	Flu Immunisation
19.09.23	Young Buds to visit CM Museum	12.12.23	Lynton Nativity & Carol Service
26.09.23	Appledore Book Festival - Leisa Stewart-Sharpe visiting EYFS/KS11 & Dave Cousins visiting KS2	13.12.23	Kentisbury & Parracombe Nativity & Carol Service
10.10.23	Y5/6 Trip to Farmwise	14.12.23	Pantomime @ The Queen's Theatre
15.10.23	End of Half Term	15.12.23	End of Term
30.10.23	Children return to school	02.01.24	Children return to school

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer break and that your children are feeling refreshed and ready for the new school year. It has been lovely to welcome our children back this week - they all look so smart in their uniforms and there is a definite buzz of excitement and anticipation in the air. I always relish the start of a new school year - it's so full of possibilities and I have no doubt that each and every one of our children will strive to do their very best and realise their hopes and dreams for the year.

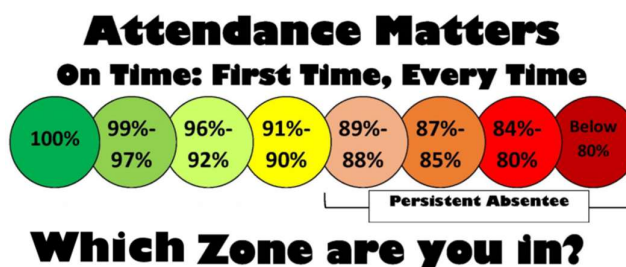
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In Collective Worship this half term we will be revisiting our federation vision of 'Educating with love, for life in all its fullness.' We will be thinking about how our CARIS values embody love and what our lives, in all their fullness, actually look like as we grow physically and intellectually and how our spiritual, moral, social and cultural development enables us to flourish. We will be drawing upon a number of texts, including John 10:10 and Corinthians 13:7 from the Bible, Every Little Thing by Cedella Marley, The Happy Owls by Celestino Piatti and The Three Questions by Jon Muth. This half term we will also be learning about the music of Bob Marley and, in particular, learning to sing 'Three Little Birds'.

***Nurturing Curiosity, Achievement, Respect, Inspiration and Support
(CARIS)***

ATTENDANCE

As the new school year begins, I would like to remind parents/carers of the importance of ensuring that all 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 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. Unauthorised absences will be reported to the Local Authority and could result in a fine being issued. In this event, each parent is issued a fine of £60, which rises to £120 each if it is not paid within 21 days. If the fine is not paid after 28 days, prosecution may follow. 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 it fall below 96%.



COURTEOUS COMMUNICATION

With the start of the new school year, I would like to remind all parents/carers of the Devon County Council Acceptable Behaviour Charter: 'Our staff will treat you with respect and courtesy ... and we expect you to treat our staff in the same way'. I respectfully ask that you bear this in mind when communicating with staff, be it face-to-face or via email or Dojo. Could I also request that, if sending emails outside of normal working hours (Monday - Friday, 7.30am to 6pm), you please send them via scheduled send. With grateful thanks in anticipation of your cooperation.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or concerns that you feel cannot be addressed by your child's class teacher or Head of Teaching & Learning (Jill Kelly at Kentisbury, Harmony Constant at Parracombe or Joe Mackenzie at Lynton).

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

What are we Learning in Raindrops and Saplings?

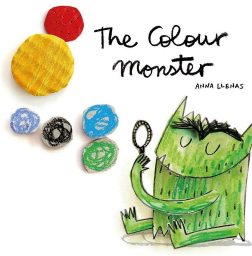
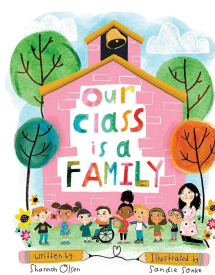
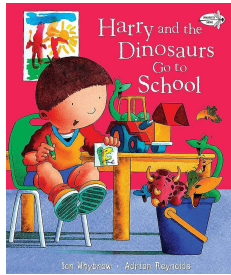
We would like to send a warm welcome to the children who have started their school journey with Saplings and Raindrops this term. We are so happy with how they have settled into their new classrooms and they are already showing eagerness to engage with all the learning opportunities on offer to them.

This half term we will be focusing on the children building secure relationships between their teachers, school staff and each other. This will help to ensure secure attachments and develop a feeling of safety and security which will help them to settle into school life. The children will be encouraged to build a clear sense of who they are, where they belong within their families, in school and the local community.

The children will have many play based learning opportunities both within the classroom and outside. These will be carefully planned to help meet their developing needs. Adults will play alongside the children to help gain an understanding of their likes, dislikes and to encourage independence, resilience to challenge and to encourage the use of spoken language to express ideas, wants, thoughts and emotions.

Each day the children will be taught both phonics and early mathematics within short, focused lessons. Your child will soon be bringing their first reading books home with them. This is a very exciting time for both them and you and we

would encourage you to spend a little time each day sharing your child's reading book with them. We can't express enough the difference this will make to your child's reading journey and in turn the impact on their progress. The key texts we will be exploring and reading this half term are as follows:



What are we Learning in Streams & Young Buds?

Welcome back! We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break, and we are excited to be back, ready for our upcoming learning.

Young Buds and Streams will start their first week off by focusing on the idea that sits behind the 'learning pit' and link this to their own growth mind-set, focusing on resilience, perseverance and how they might feel and what they can do to overcome adversity within their learning and wider life.



Over the course of this half term, Young Buds and Streams will have a focus on the humanities subject. Starting the term off with Geography, the children will be exploring human features in their local area. They will consider what a human feature is, identifying examples in their area, completing fieldwork both at school and in Combe Martin, and combining this with some maths geometry learning, when considering directional language.

Their learning within Geography will feed into their art focus, which will be based on the artist Ted Harrison. They will study examples of his work, consider their own local landscape and then recreate their own version of his piece, considering their previous learning on human features.



Finally, within their foundation subjects, they will study history. They will consider all previous learning within Geography and Art to study how food and shopping has changed over time within their local area. This will include a visit to a local museum to study real artefacts; photos, diary excerpts and other historical sources, after undertaking their geography fieldwork where they will have considered how the shops and homes have changed in the village.



In Maths, the children will return to their unit learning on place value. This will focus on numbers within 100; counting forwards and backwards from any given number, counting in 10's, 2's and 5 from any given number and beginning to apply this, with fluency, to times tables - please do remember to complete the weekly Mathematics assignments that your class teacher sets. These often directly coincide with either a recap of what they have been learning or a pre-teach to something upcoming, so it's vital that these assignments are completed. Any awards received from this will be celebrated in celebration assembly.

In English, we will be starting our learning by recapping and focusing on simple sentences. This will build alongside our historical learning and build to include the different sentence types; questions and exclamations. Finally, we will then build on our learning to focus on traditional fairy tales. The children will explore, compare and contrast a variety of fairy tales, considering character similarities and differences and then build up to create and write their own.

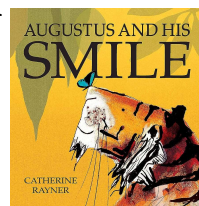


What are we Learning in Rivers and Oaks?

Where did that summer go!? Here we are, back for another packed and exciting Autumn Term. The children have come back with a spring in their step, raring to go and go we shall!

To start with in English we are using the picture book Augustus and his Smile to teach the basics of KS2 story structure to the year 3s whilst giving the year 4s room to reinterpret the story and take it in a new direction. It's particularly useful for teaching paragraphing effectively which helps to organise all the brilliant ideas buzzing around in the children's heads.

After this, we are turning our hands to writing a guide to catching a dragon! All very exciting stuff and we're excited to see what the children can deliver.



In maths we're starting out easy in the first week with bridging ten in year 3 and recapping column addition and subtraction in year 4. This will pave the way nicely for us to transition into Place Value later in the term which forms the basis of everything we will cover in maths this year.

Geography is our current topic in theme and we're covering land use and settlements. What makes an area of land good for residential housing? or agriculture? or retail? We will also cover maps and their uses. So far the children have really enjoyed it and we're forward to covering the rest of the unit.



For our foreign language this year we have switched from Italian to Spanish! Los niños aprenderán a saludar y a presentarse. We will also look at the country of Spain, its culture and geography.



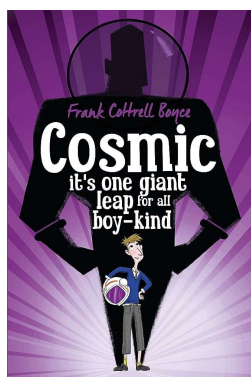
Lastly we will be looking at Henri Rousseau in art, in particular painting and drawing. His art has the right combination of "I think I can draw that!" and hidden depth and techniques to push even the paint masters.

All in all, it's an exciting term ahead! If you have any questions please don't hesitate to Dojo us.

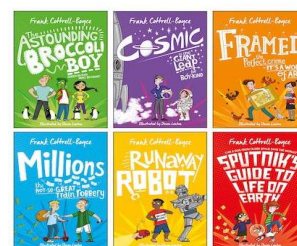
Mr Huggins & Mrs Fitzgerald

What are we Learning in Oceans and Forests?

We've jumped straight into our Autumn term learning, with so much to fit in there isn't a moment to spare. As usual, we will be blocking our theme subjects. This means that each week (or sometimes 2) the majority of the afternoon lessons will focus on a single foundation subject. For example, for the first two weeks of this term in Oceans, we shall be focussing on the Geography unit 'Mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes'. This allows the children to get fully immersed in the unit of study. However, we also plan opportunities to revisit and revise throughout the year. The first week in Forests is RE and looking at what kind of king was Jesus.



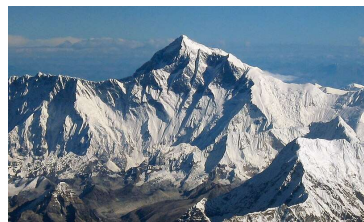
Our class book and guided reading text is 'Cosmic - one giant leap for all boy-kind'. It's an extremely accessible text to start the term and the children are already loving it. Frank Cottrell Boyce is a wonderfully funny author who has a number of great books if your child is enjoying this one.



In maths we will be studying place value, numbers and the number system. In year 6 the children will look at numbers up to 10,000,000 and in year 5 up to 1,000,000. This unit will cover the reading, writing and ordering of numbers in addition using place value knowledge to help calculate. The children will be using bar models to explore the composition of numbers, for example looking at the composition of 10,000 as 10×1000 , 5×2000 , 4×2500 and so on. We will also be

learning about power of 10 and how it helps us comprehend number. The children will be learning how and why 10,000 is equal to 10×1000 or 100×100 , or 1×1000 .

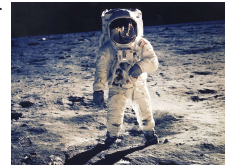
1,000			
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In Geography we will be exploring the unit 'Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes'. We will focus on Mount Everest before moving onto the mapping of other mountains. After this we move below ground and begin to understand how the layers of the earth behave including the crust and tectonic plates. Beyond this we tackle the hugely exciting topic of volcanoes - what are they, how are they formed, what is an eruption and how do volcanoes affect life for all. Finally, we delve into Earthquakes.

In Science we will be taking on the role of television presenters to show our understanding. We will be using this brief to challenge the children. 'Prof Brian Cox is in the process of commissioning a new series of Stargazing programmes aimed at young children and he's hoping you are willing to help him out. He needs three episodes that cover the planets and solar system; night and day; and the lunar month. You will need to come

up with a title for each episode and include practical and clear explanations and demonstrations of the science behind each phenomenon. Are you up for the challenge and do you have what it takes to be a Space Presenter?



Our art unit on painting and drawing shall also be focusing on space. We shall be looking at the likes of Chesley Bonestell and exploring how art was used to represent and promote the excitement of the 'Space race' from the mid 20th century onwards.

From now on, we shall be learning Spanish. The children will be bringing home new vocabulary sheets to practice at home and show you what they have been learning.



In our RE unit we shall be exploring the concept of 'What kind of king was Jesus?' This unit looks at leaders and important figures in the modern world and delves into the qualities and actions that enable them to make a positive contribution to the world. We then make links to the life of Jesus and other figures in world faiths.

Admin News

Key Stage Two Meals

Just a reminder that school dinners are £2.50 for all children from Year 3 upwards. Please ensure meals are paid for on the day they are taken at the latest. A credit can be added for the week, for example, if this is easier.

Absence

Please can we ask that all absence is reported each morning before 9.30am either by leaving a message on the absence line or emailing admin@westexmoorfederation.org.uk.

PTFA News

Lynton PTFA

Thank you to everyone for your support during the last academic year. We are hoping to move forward with the remainder of the garden plans so this is a functional and usable space for the children. We will be holding a meeting in the next few weeks to finalise purchases and would love it if you would join us. We will add the date to Dojo as soon as this has been scheduled.

Community News