



West Exmoor Federation

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

Autumn Term 2, 2023 - Phase Newsletter

Quick Reminders

Diary Dates

30.10.23	Children return to school	09.11.23	Kentisbury & Parracombe Life Education
30.10.23	Kentisbury & Lynton Parent Consultations	10.11.23	KS2 Remembrance Service @ Woody Bay
31.10.23	Parracombe Parent Consultations	22.11.23	Flu Immunisation
01.11.23	Lynton Individual School Photographs	23.11.23	Raindrops & Saplings visiting Dunster
	Afternoon Tea for Raindrops' Parents/Carers	06.12.23	Parracombe & Kentisbury Christingle Service @ Christ Church, 1.30pm
	Parracombe & Lynton Parent Consultations	08.12.23	Parracombe 100 Mile Colour Run
02.11.23	Raindrops & Saplings Forest School begins	12.12.23	Lynton Nativity & Carol Service, 10.30am & 5.30pm
	Parracombe & Kentisbury Individual School Photographs		
	Lynton Parent Consultations	13.12.23	Kentisbury & Parracombe Nativity & Carol Service (10.30am @ St Thomas', 5.30pm @ Christ Church)
03.11.23	Streams Y1 Forest School begins	14.12.23	Pantomime @ The Queen's Theatre
	Lynton Parent Consultations	15.12.23	End of Term
08.11.23	Lynton Life Education visit	02.01.23	Children return to school

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of a new half-term. I hope that you and your children had an enjoyable extended half-term break and managed to enjoy the mild, autumnal weather. As always, this half term will be a busy one, especially as we lead up to Christmas, so please do keep a close eye on Class DoJo for regular updates.

STORM CIARAN

Thank you so much for your understanding regarding our school closure yesterday. As you know, I was reluctant to make the decision to close. However, with the Director of Children and Young People's Futures at Devon County Council issuing the strongest steer to close that I can ever remember, and the vast majority of schools within Devon announcing a closure, I felt growing unease at staying open. This view was shared by Jan Stokes, our Chair of Governors and, on this basis, the decision was made to close. The safety of our children, families and staff will always be our number one priority. It certainly turned out to be an exceptionally wet and windy day with falling trees and structural damage making travelling conditions challenging - fingers crossed that weather now begins to calm down a little.

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

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Key Stage 2 children will be attending our annual Remembrance Service at Woody Bay Train Station on Friday 10th November. The service will start at 10.45am and you are warmly invited to join us. Our younger children will also take part in an age-appropriate act of remembrance within school.

CHRISTMAS CARD ORDER

Your child should now have brought home their 2023 Christmas Card artwork. If you would like to place an order for Christmas cards, gift tags, wrapping paper, etc, please do so by Monday 13th November. Orders placed after this date may not be processed and will incur an additional charge. To place an order, please visit <https://www.apfsorders.co.uk/> - you will require the unique artwork code found on the back of your child's original artwork.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This half term, we will be continuing to think about our vision 'Educating with love, for life in all its fullness' within the context of our first CARIS value, Curiosity. We will be thinking about what curiosity means to us and considering how being curious enables us to lead our very best lives and to make a difference. We will be relating this to the journey of the Wise Men as they followed the star to Bethlehem to seek the new newborn King and sharing the story, 'The Wise Men Who Found Christmas', by R Arroyo. We will be finding out about how Florence Nightingale's faith and innate curiosity enabled her to become a courageous advocate, becoming a social reformer and founder of modern day nursing. During Inter-Faith Week we will also be thinking about how being curious, asking questions, listening to others and being open-minded can enable us to be empathetic to all, regardless of their world views and how they may differ to our own. Finally, we will also be learning about the music of George Frideric Handel and how his curiosity and determination as a young boy resulted in him becoming one of the most well-known Baroque composers.

LIFE EDUCATION

The Coram Life Education & SCARF team will be visiting our schools on the 8th & 9th November. The children's charity Coram Life Education provides Health and Wellbeing Education support to schools. Workshops are delivered by skilled educators and the SCARF resource is the framework of our PSHER curriculum. The fun, interactive and age-appropriate workshops will help our children to understand the importance of physical and emotional health; they will explore vital life-skills that are also known to help their overall achievement. Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children will learn about keeping their bodies healthy, managing feelings, being a good friend and the safe use of medicines. Key Stage 2 children will explore emotional needs, choices that can affect health and wellbeing, qualities of friendship, how to cope with bullying and the influence of friends. They will also consider the effects and risks of drug use, including medicines, alcohol and tobacco as well as learning about how few people in their age group actually use non-medical drugs, enabling them to understand social norms.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or concerns that you feel can not 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?

Welcome back to another term, Raindrops and Saplings!

In maths this term we will be learning about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We will also be learning our number bonds to 5. Finally, we will be learning about space and position, and using positional language.

Our key text this term will be The Little Red Hen. We will be adding actions to the story, using stick puppets to act the story out, developing a story map and finally innovating our own version of The Little Red Hen. We can't wait to see the creative ideas that we know the children will come up with!

We will also be focusing on people who can help us, learning about the emergency services, superheroes and people who help at home.



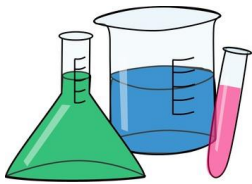
In RE we will be learning all about different celebrations and how people celebrate in different ways. Some of the celebrations that we will be learning about include Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. We are excited to extend this learning through our artwork by creating traditional pieces linked to the celebrations.

Learning through play will continue to be an important part of our everyday schedule, with carefully planned opportunities to extend our children's learning and development. As well as continuing to build upon taught sessions, these activities help to extend our children's independence, vocabulary and social and emotional skills.

Finally, we are very excited to be getting ready for the festive period. We will be doing lots to prepare for Christmas, most notably our nativity, which we can't wait to perform for you all!

What are we Learning in Streams & Young Buds?

Welcome back Streams and Young Buds! We are excited to be beginning another half term with you, and looking forward to all of our upcoming learning.



We will start our learning off with a block on Science. We will be learning about everyday materials, and the properties of these materials. Children will be exposed to a range of different materials, which they will classify in different ways and hunt for around the room. We will also be linking to our English, by seeing what adjectives we can use to describe the properties of these materials. Finally, the children will be carrying out an experiment to test how waterproof paper vs wax paper is. They will be considering what a fair test is and how to best record their results.

We will then be moving on to look at Computing, which is linked to our English learning of instructions. The children will practise logging into computers independently and accessing online learning. They will be learning what the key features of instructions are, and develop their understanding of algorithms. We will use this information to give instructions to BeeBots. The children will then write their own set of instructions in their books, using the features that have been learnt throughout the block.



Next, we will move on to Design Technology, where the children will be learning about freestanding structures. The children will be tasked with designing their own freestanding play equipment, which they will then have to make and evaluate against the design criteria.



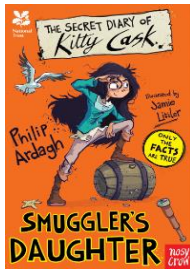
In Maths, we will be beginning our learning on addition and subtraction. We will be focussing on addition and subtraction within 10 to begin with, and then move onto addition and subtraction within 20, using our number bonds to support us. Please do continue to access online learning on Mathematics as it very often links to what is being taught in class, or acts as a recap of concepts. Well done to those children who have been gaining their Mathematics certificates already.

In English, as well as writing their own set of instructions, linked with our learning in Computing, we will be learning how to write winter inspired Kennings poems. We can't wait to see what the children come up with. Please continue to access online learning posted on Literacy Planet and read with your child at home on a regular basis, as this greatly helps their reading to progress.



What are we Learning in Rivers and Oaks?

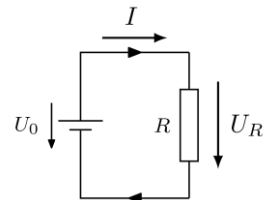
The Secret Diary of Kitty Cask is the English book that Oaks and Rivers are looking at this half term. Fact meets fiction in this thrilling story of 18th century smuggling and intrigue! Based on this exciting story, which is filled with amazing facts and historical trivia, we will create our own diary entry.



Linking to our English, is our history theme topic 'Local Maritime History.' We will be thinking like historians and discovering facts and information about local smuggling, Elizabeth Berry and Wrecking, the story of Louisa (1899) and the importance of the RNLI today and more! We are hoping to have a trip to Ilfracombe to investigate the importance of the ocean to North Devon.

We will also be learning about information texts in English and researching the history of electricity. Electricity is our science topic, so we have plenty of exciting experiments and projects that we will be working on towards the end of the term.

In RE we are finding out why festivals and family life matter to Jews and will use the VR headsets to look inside a synagogue. In music we will be discovering the style, structure and features of a ballad.



In maths, we will be learning that the perimeter is the distance around the edge of a shape and the area is the amount of space inside a shape. We will be practically using different types of measuring equipment and using these skills to identify and calculate the perimeter and area of different shapes.

We will continue to embed our school vision of 'Educating with love for life in all its fullness' while nurturing our CARIS values.

What are we Learning in Oceans and Forests?

We have a very interesting half term coming up in the Forest and Oceans classes. In maths, we are completing our addition and subtraction units, looking at single and multi step word problems and attaching maths to real life scenarios. We are focusing on our column addition and subtraction methods, making sure that they are as accurate as possible. This will stand us in good stead for our multiplication and division unit which is coming up in the following weeks. Keep practising times tables and quick fire addition and subtraction as it will help you throughout the coming units of work.



We have started our English unit on Malfeasance; a Scottish poem that uses a beast as a metaphor for fear, and explores how, by using kindness, we can overcome terror. The children will have an opportunity to learn and recite this poem in groups focusing on their performance and dialogue skills. We will also be moving onto an assortment of narratives and non-fiction work that will be linked to our history unit - World War II in our local environment. Throughout this history unit, we will be looking at the impact of the D-Day landings on the north Devon coastline and how World War II affected our local area.



In art we have been looking at retro-futurism which focuses on the 1950s/60s/70s view of the future and how space travel may look. The children will work on their hue, tone and shade skills to create accurate swatches, work on the use of foreground, middleground and background and create stylistic, abstract final pieces that are bright and engaging.

Throughout guided reading, we are finishing off our book 'Cosmic' which is about a young lad who is abnormally tall and gets mistaken for an adult and ends up in an assortment of adventures because of this mixup. Please keep reading at home as transcription and comprehension skills are massively important, especially in year six.

Throughout our RE unit of work, we will be considering why Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah. We will be linking this with our PSHRE unit which will be focusing on valuing difference and individuality.

Admin News

Absence

Please can we ask that all absence is reported each morning before 9.30am either by leaving a message on the absence line, emailing admin@westexmoorfederation.org.uk or completing the online absence form on our website: <https://www.westexmoorfederation.org.uk/parents/report-absence>

Community News



Save on childcare costs

The Government offers a range of schemes to help support families with childcare costs.

The Tax-Free Childcare scheme means you can get up to £500 every three months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the cost of childcare. Put simply, for every £8 paid into your childcare account, the Government tops it up by an additional £2. It can be used to pay towards the cost of nursery, childminders, pre-schools, breakfast clubs after school clubs, holiday schemes, and wraparound care. [Visit the Government's website for more details.](#)

(<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>)

All families with three and four-year-old children can get 15 hours of free childcare a week. (Families on certain benefits can get this from when their child is two-years-old.) Eligible working families with three and four-year-olds can receive 30 hours of free childcare a week. [Visit the Childcare Choices website for more information](#) (<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>)