



West Exmoor Federation

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

Autumn Term 2021 – Newsletter 3 – 17th December 2021



Quick Reminders

Please bring packed lunches 05.01.2022

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

How lovely it was to see our children enjoying the Christmas festivities during the last week of term; a little taste of near normality in an otherwise uncertain climate. Thank you for your cooperation with regards to evidencing negative lateral flow tests and for wearing face coverings - a small price to pay for the pleasure of seeing our children shine.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support throughout this term; together we have enabled our children to enjoy the very best of what our federation offers. It has been lovely to see our children take part in so many enrichment activities to support their learning, from the visits by MAD Education during the first week of term, to rib trips and local walks exploring the history and geography of Exmoor, opera performances, visiting authors, Harvest festivals, Nativities and the pantomime trip, to name but a few. It has also been a genuine pleasure to see how hard all of our children have been working within the classroom throughout the term; their thirst for learning and perseverance, even when learning is tricky, has been truly admirable and I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them and the progress that they have made.

I very much hope that you have enjoyed the first week of the Christmas break and wish you all an enjoyable Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year. I look forward to welcoming our children back to school on Wednesday 5th January.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher

LYNTON CINEMA

There are some fabulous films being shown at Lynton cinema over the festive season. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful facility on our doorstep - did you know that Timeout has rated it one of the best cinemas in the country? If you've not been before, why not check it out - you are in for a real treat with small audience numbers, comfy seats and a really personal service. If you're planning on paying the cinema a visit this holiday, you can see what is playing by visiting <http://lyntoncinema.co.uk/lynton/now/>

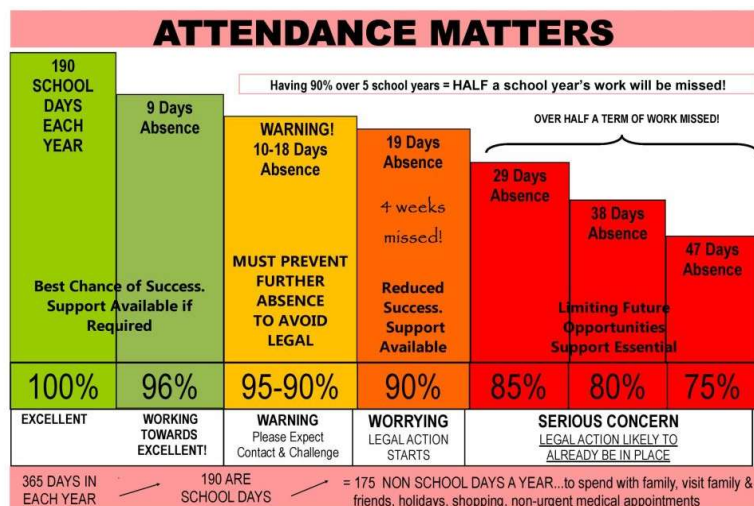
ABSENCE REQUESTS

In recent weeks, I have been receiving an increasing number of requests for exceptional absence that I have been unable to authorise. Our Attendance Policy, which is in accordance with DfE guidance, clearly states that holiday absence is authorised only under exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances may include:

- when a family needs to spend time together because of an immediate family member's bereavement, crisis or serious illness;
- funeral of immediate family member;
- wedding of an immediate family member;
- religious observance;
- children of service personnel about to go on deployment;
- children of service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays;
- one off sporting events/performing arts competitions, if the child is participating and is at county standard or above and a letter has been provided from the performing arts/sports regional governing body as evidence;
- graduation ceremony/passing out parade for an immediate family member;

Curiosity ~ Achievement ~ Respect ~ Inspiration ~ Support

- medical appointments (parents/carers should be encouraged to arrange non-urgent medical appointments outside of school hours when possible. If the medical appointment is during the school day, evidence must be provided. Schools should not authorise a whole day of absence for a medical appointment that occurs in the morning (the child would be expected to return to school in the afternoon, and vice versa);
- proven parental employment restrictions that do not enable the family to take holiday during the normal school holiday periods.



An exceptional absence is discretionary and only one period of absence will be authorised within an academic year (up to a maximum of 10 days). An absence cannot be authorised retrospectively and must be requested by the completion of an S2 Absence Request Form (available from the school office) at least 10 working days before the planned leave. Exceptional absence will not be authorised during the first two weeks of a new school year or during the week prior to, or of, SATs for children in Year 2 or 6. Unfortunately, a request for an exceptional absence can not be agreed if a child's absence is already below 96% (in the case of a request prior to November half-term, attendance data will be taken from the previous academic year).

Raindrops, Streams & Saplings

Can you believe that we are at the end of the autumn term? What a wonderful term it has been filled with lots of learning and fun in both schools.

Raindrops and Saplings had a great story performed to them by Catherine Wye called 'Take a Walk Little Bear' which they thoroughly enjoyed and all the children have thrived during their weekly forest school sessions which they all seem to adore doing.

In English, the children have been learning about Sayeeda the Pirate Princess and have had a go at creating their own exciting adventures. In maths, the children have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes as well as learning how to make up 'one more' stories using the language first, then and now. In art, Raindrops and Streams have been learning about the Japanese artist Yayou Kusama and made their own pieces of art based on some of Yayou's creations.

The last couple of weeks have been extremely busy. Reception children have been getting very creative with junk modelling too and have been making some sleighs for Santa.



Thank you all for your fantastic support with our nativities at both schools this year. All of the children put in so much effort and I think you'll agree that it showed in their performances. Well done to all of you!

What a wonderful, festive treat the pantomime was too. All of the children behaved brilliantly and seemed to really love the show, as did the adults.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and we look forward to seeing you all back to school in January.

Young Buds, Rivers and Oaks

LKS2 have been focusing on their Design Technology projects - Investigating, analysing and evaluating shell structures has been our objective, and very thorough we have been! The children started by looking at existing packaging and thought about what it's purpose was. They then took it apart to see how it had been constructed. We then created our own cardboard nets and also learned how to use CAD systems. We are now finishing our own designs based on what we have learned and are very confident that they will hit the brief!

We all very much enjoyed supporting the KS1 Nativity services and hope you enjoyed their performances. Have a lovely Christmas break, we have a lot of exciting things to come in the New Year :)

Oceans and Forests

Wow....what a term it has been. There has been so much positive learning going on in year 5/6 and the children have worked exceptionally hard. In maths, we have finally come to the end of multiplication and division and now we are starting to move onto fractions. There will be mathematics based homework that supports pre-teaching of this topic so take a look if you'd like to get ahead! In English, the classes have been working on sci-fi/space-themed newspaper writing, creating their own written and independently typed versions. The children have shown great creativity and enthusiasm for this, enabling their final work to be fantastic to read.

Well done to Parracombe year 5/6 for their sponsored sleepover, raising over £400 towards our space balloon project. We had such a fun evening (although not a lot of sleeping occurred!). Lynton's sleepover will happen in the new year and a date will be confirmed ASAP. Well done to the children of the year 5/6 Parracombe choir who sang beautifully at the Nativity...you made everyone proud!



The panto was a great success and it was lovely to see the children up on their feet taking part, enjoying every second of it!

Have a fabulous Christmas break and see you in the new year!



Forest School News

Saplings had a lot of fun and hard work making woodland Christmas decorations. They made reindeers and Christmas trees. The trees were in line with free standing structures, which was their class topic.

Rivers spent some time map reading. They drew their own maps of the grounds on grid paper. They then hid their treasure and gave a map reference to their peers to help them to find it. They also made a Christmas tree but in line with their topic, they made an electric circuit to light the bulb at the top of the tree.





Diary Dates

5th January Children return to school

Community

Early Help Household Support Fund

Families on low incomes can get help with food and utility costs this winter via the new Household Support Fund, which Early Help are administering locally. The scheme runs until Thursday 31 March 2022.

Through this fund, [Early Help](#) are able to provide a grant per family to support with:

- Providing vouchers for food
- Supporting with energy and water bills for household purposes
- Emergency boiler and heating repairs
- Essential white goods such as a fridge, freezer or cooker
- Also can provide petrol for jobs and broadband

The family needs to meet the following criteria:

- You are a family (at least 2 people where at least 1 person is either pre-birth or up to 18 yrs. old)
- You are experiencing financial hardship
- You need financial help to pay utility bills or buy food and essential items linked to food, warmth, and utilities for your family
- Not have received financial assistance from another source for the same reason

Please note:

Methods of payment will be either via vouchers sent directly to families, payment direct to families or through company reimbursement.

How to apply:

The professional should apply on behalf of the families they are representing and verify the circumstances of the request when doing so.

Please complete referral form below and send to Early Help in your area by contacting one of the following mailboxes:

Northern Devon: Earlyhelpnorthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Southern Devon: Earlyhelpsouthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Mid and East Devon: Earlyhelpmideastsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Exeter: Earlyhelpexetersecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk