



# West Exmoor Federation

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

*Autumn Term 1 2023 - Celebration Newsletter*

## Quick Reminders

Please ensure all payments are up to date on School Money.

## Diary Dates

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

## Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

This half term has simply flown by. I've been super impressed with how quickly all of our children have settled into the new school year, especially our reception children. It's been lovely to spend time in all of the classes, seeing how focused our children are and how determined they are to try and achieve their very best. As we approach half-term, it provides a good opportunity to stop and reflect on some of the highlights from the last six weeks.

### OCEANS ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF CRICKET COACHING



Just a few days into the new term, Oceans enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of cricket coaching at the Lynton and Lynmouth Cricket Club. Without a doubt, the club must have one of the most picturesque cricket pitches in the country! The children were blessed with wonderful weather as they were put through their paces, learning and refining skills in batting, bowling and fielding. Many thanks to LLCC for facilitating this event.

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

## RIVERS & OAKS VISIT COMBE MARTIN TO EXPLORE LAND USE



This half term, in geography, children in Year 3/4 have been learning about settlements and landscapes, whilst also developing their fieldwork skills. As part of their learning, they visited Combe Martin and, using observations and map reading skills, considered

the different rural and urban land uses within the locality. The children also considered how farming within the area has changed since the 1950's. Being able to take the children out to learn 'in the field' and apply their skills, is always such a pleasure and the perfect way to ensure that they can relate to learning in a purposeful, relevant and enjoyable way.

## STREAMS & YOUNG BUDS VISIT COMBE MARTIN TO EXPLORE HOW SHOPPING HAS CHANGED IN LIVING MEMORY



Year 1/2 have also visited Combe Martin this half term. In history, they have been exploring how shopping has changed in living memory. A visit to the Combe Martin Museum enabled the children to view and handle artefacts and to use a variety of historical sources to consider how and why shopping has changed. As always, our children were impeccably well behaved, exemplifying our CARIS values and gaining praise from the museum staff.

## FOREST SCHOOL FUN FOR YEAR 4



Year 4 from both Parracombe and Lynton have been blessed with almost perfect weather for Forest School this half term. Through their six week programme of learning, they have used the outdoor environment to develop their maths, english, geography and art skills. Alongside these

curriculum specific skills, the children have also been developing their ability to work as team and many other skills necessary for effective learning such as problem solving, perseverance and confidence. They have also been considering the wonders of nature as they have immersed themselves fully into our natural world.

## APPLEDORE BOOK FESTIVAL - DAVE COUSINS & LEISA STEWART-SHARPE INSPIRE US ALL



We were very blessed to have Dave Cousins and Leisa Stewart-Sharpe visit the federation as part of the Appledore Book Festival. They both enthralled the children with readings from some of their books, as well as talking to them about why and how they became authors. It is lovely to see so many of our children relish the opportunity

to meet with real authors and to share their passion of reading for pleasure. To find out more, please click on these links for [Dave Cousins](#), [Leisa Stewart-Sharpe](#) and the [Appledore Book Festival](#).

## FORESTS & OCEANS VISIT FARMWISE



This week saw year 5 & 6 enjoy a thought provoking day at Farmwise. Throughout the day the children explored British livestock and arable farming, as well as commercial horticulture. Amongst other things, they had the opportunity to make sausages, decorate biscuits, milk custard from an artificial cow, sample fruit, plant seeds and get close to a range of livestock. For many the highlight

old - making such an emotional connection to the food that we eat was an eye-opener for some and provoked some lively debate, resulting in the conclusion that we all have a choice about what we eat and that we should respect one another's choices.

## HARVEST FESTIVALS

We have concluded our first half term with Harvest Church Services at both St Mary's, Lynton and Christ Church, Parracombe. Both services were very thought provoking as we joined together in song and prayer, with the children also sharing with us poems, drama, readings and song. Thank you so much to everyone who came along and joined us as we celebrated this important time in the school, church and local





community calendar. Thank you also for the plentiful donations of non-perishable goods, which will be shared between the North Devon Foodbank and Encompass Southwest - a perfect example of Agape Love in action!

## WINNING SHOW JUMPING TEAM

Many congratulations to our federation show-jumping team who had a wonderful season and, overall came 3rd - a fabulous achievement. Their results for the season were as follows:

19th March: Team placed 2nd (Taylor, Mia and Clover) & Clover 50cm 2nd individual  
 9th April: Team placed 2nd (Taylor, Mia and Clover)  
 14th May: Team placed 2nd (Jack, Clover and Blake) & Jack 5th in 40cm and 50cm individual  
 18th June: Team placed 4th (Taylor, Blake, Mia and Clover)  
 16th July: Team placed 3rd (Mia, Blake and Clover)






Thank you to each and every member of the team - we are very proud of you. Thank you too to their families who provided so much encouragement and support and without whom entering a team would have not have been possible.



## ATTENDANCE

With the school year now well underway I would like to thank those parents/carers who have ensured that their children have achieved good attendance. At present the attendance figures for each school are as follows: Lynton 97.8%; Parracombe 96.7%; Kentisbury 96.3%. The national target for attendance is 97% with the national average for primary schools sitting at 96%, so it is good to see that we are close to the target and, at the moment, exceeding the national average. 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%.

## What is **your** attendance?

	<b>100%</b>	<b>Perfect - well done!</b>	<small>You're giving yourself the best opportunity for success.</small>
	<b>97%</b>	<b>Impressive!</b> Up to 6 days absent from school	<b>30 missed lessons!</b> <small>High attendance leads to improved and high achievement.</small>
	<b>96.9% - 93%</b>	<b>Worrying!</b> Up to 14 days absent from school	<b>70 missed lessons!</b> <small>Too many missed school days. Less chance of success.</small>
	<b>92%</b>	<b>Concern!</b> Up to 16 days absent from school	<b>80 missed lessons!</b> <small>Reduced chance of success. Possible court action.</small>
	<b>90%</b>	<b>Serious!</b> Considerable absence from school	<b>Over 100 missed lessons!</b> <small>Lowest chance of success. Possible court action.</small>

## ROBLOX

Does your child play Roblox? If so, the updated Roblox Checklist for 2023 can help you and your child navigate some of the finer elements of staying safe online. To access this useful tool, please follow this link: [Roblox Checklist 2023](#)

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support this half term. I hope that you and your children enjoy our extended half-term break and very much look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 30th October.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock, Executive Headteacher

## Admin News

### Lunchtime Assistant Vacancy

We will have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Assistant to serve the meals at Parracombe School on a daily basis between 12.00-1.15pm (6,25 hours per week) from the 8th November. Grade A - £10.60 per hour. A Job Share would be considered. If you are interested in joining our team at Parracombe School please email:

[wendy.heywood@westexmoorfederation.org.uk](mailto:wendy.heywood@westexmoorfederation.org.uk) for more information.

Applications should be made in the form of a letter, with current CV and two references, either by email or please send to Parracombe School, Parracombe, Barnstaple EX31 4QJ

The West Exmoor Federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures can be found on our website. This post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Services check.

### 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](mailto:admin@westexmoorfederation.org.uk).

## Community News

# NORTH DEVON CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

SPONSORED BY  
BREMCO HYDRAULIC SERVICES LIMITED, YELLAND

Six Races throughout the Winter  
2023- 2024

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October: West Buckland School

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November: Northam Burrows

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November: Coxleigh Barton, Shirwell

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January: Westward Ho!

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February: Northam Burrows

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March: West Buckland School

FULL DETAILS AND TO ENTER ON LINE GO TO:  
[www.northdevonxcleague.weebly.com](http://www.northdevonxcleague.weebly.com)



2023-24 LEAGUE PROGRAMME

**ENTRIES INVITED FROM**  
**SCHOOLS, RUNNING CLUBS, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS**

THE LEAGUE IS OPEN TO NORTH DEVON COMMUNITY IRRESPECTIVE OF ABILITY OR EXPERIENCE

**RACES FOR UNDER 9's THROUGH TO SENIORS**



[www.northdevonxcleague.weebly.com](http://www.northdevonxcleague.weebly.com)

the plough  
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26 Oct



£16/£14  
Fri  
10 Nov



£10/£8  
Sat  
2nd Dec



£11/£10/£9  
Thu 18 -  
Sat 20 Jan



£6  
Thu 14 &  
Fri 15 Dec

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