



West Exmoor Federation

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

Summer Term 1, 2026

Quick Reminders

We are aware that sometimes there are a lot of forms/consents coming home, we do try to space these out as much as we can, we would be so grateful if they can be returned in a timely manner as this makes finalising details much easier. Thank you!

Diary Dates

20.04.26	Children return to school	05.06.26	Kentisbury YR Forest School begins
21.04.26	Swimming begins for YR	10.06.26	Y6 + Catch Up Forest School begins
22.04.26	Y5 Forest School continues	11.06.26	Lynton KS1 Trip to CM Wildlife Park
24.04.26	Lynton YR/1/2 Forest School begins	15.06.26	P&K KS1 Trip to CM Wildlife Park
	Lynton Class & Whole School Photographs	17.06.26	Great Athletes Visit to WEF
27.04.26	RNLI Assemblies	18.06.26	Sports Day @ Holman Park
08.05.26	P&K Class & Whole School Photographs	23.06.26	Bishop of Crediton visiting WEF
	Sir David Attenborough Day		Y5&6 Reading Competition @ Pathfields
11.05.26	Y6 SATs Week	25.06.26	Reserve Sports Day
14.05.26	Y6 Camp - Weather Dependent	29.06.26	Y5&6 @ Landmark - Rehearsals for Annie
15.05.26	Y6 @ Wake Park	30.06.26	KS2 @ Landmark - Rehearsals Annie
19.05.26	Y5/6 Cricket @ Valley of the Rocks	01.07.26	WEF @ Landmark - Performance Day!
22.05.26	End of Half Term	09.07.26	Y6 to Lundy
01.06.26	Children return to school	10.07.26	Y1 - Y6 Swimming @ West Buckland begins
03.06.26	Y5&6 Trip to Matilda, Bristol	22.07.26	Leavers' Services - tbc
04.06.26	Y3&4 Trip on the Waverly	23.07.26	End of Term

Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of the summer term. It has been lovely to see our children so refreshed and raring to get started on the term ahead. The buzz within all of the classes is wonderful and it has been a genuine joy to see how much fabulous learning has already taken place this week. There is plenty to look forward to over the next few weeks (the summer term is always incredibly busy) so please do keep a close eye on DoJo for up-to-date information and messages.

The calendar above gives you dates for key events in the diary. In particular I'd like to draw your attention to Sports Day. This is due to be hosted by Lynton at Holman Park on 18th June (25th June reserve date). If you are able, please come along and join us - further details to follow. Also, auditions have taken place this week for our Summer Production, Annie Jr! We have been blown away by the enthusiasm, confidence and talent of our children and I already know that you're going to be in for a real treat. Annie Jr! will take place at The Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe on 1st July. I am incredibly proud of our annual production and the continued commitment that the federation has to staging such an ambitious event. Providing our children with the opportunity to perform on a proper stage, with professional sound and lighting, ignites a spark in many and it has been wonderful to see this give so many of our children the confidence to go on and perform in secondary school and local drama group productions. Please make sure that you keep Wednesday 1st July free - information about how to buy tickets will be shared in due course.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This half term we will be focusing upon our CARIS value of Inspiration. We will be thinking about how we can 'let our light shine' for the benefit of others. We will be revisiting previous learning about Sir David Attenborough and, as he

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

approaches his 100th Birthday, considering how he has inspired generations of people to care for creation. On his birthday we will be joining a live Picture News assembly to celebrate his life and legacy. Together with schools from across the globe we will explore his work, the wonders of the natural world, and consider why protecting our planet matters more than ever. Through images and discussion, our children will reflect on how one person's voice can inspire global change and what we can each do to care for the world around us. We will also be exploring the music of The Beatles, who are still regarded as one of the most influential bands of all time and were integral to the development of 1960s counterculture and popular music's recognition as an art form.

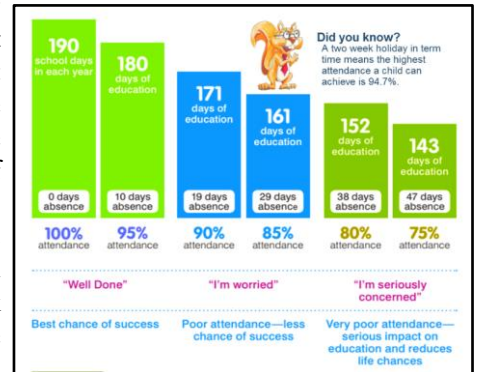
ATTENDANCE

Thank you to everyone who contributes to ensuring that the vast majority of our children benefit from good attendance (97% and above). At the end of last half term attendance at Lynton was 94.3%, 95.9% at Parracombe and 96% at Kentisbury. With the summer months ahead of us, and hopefully many of the seasonal bugs behind us, here's hoping that our attendance can improve as the term progresses. As always, we do not advocate sending children into school if they are genuinely unwell. However, a little gentle persuasion on those days when they are feeling a little tired or under the weather can make all the difference. Learning progresses at pace and a day of missed learning within a teaching sequence is hard to recapture. Research clearly demonstrates a link between school attendance, even at primary school, with exam success and life chances as an adult. If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's attendance with myself, your schools' Head of Teaching & Learning or our SENDCo, Mark Bishop, please do not hesitate to do so.

With Best Wishes,



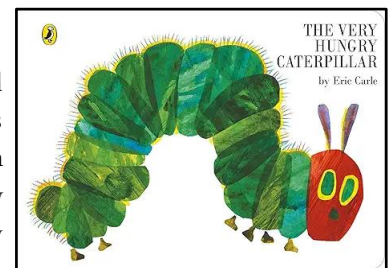
Jayne Peacock
Executive Headteacher



What are we Learning in Saplings and Streams? (Reception Year)

This half term, Saplings are having an adventure around the world, with a focus on animals across the different continents. We will be using some wonderful books such as 'Poles Apart' by Jeanne Willis and 'Flip Flap Safari' by Axel Scheffler to inspire our writing, with a particular focus on writing sentences independently, using our phonic knowledge and punctuating them correctly with a capital letter and a full stop. We continue the animals theme with our vets role play area and we are also growing our own butterflies ... who at the moment are 'Very Hungry Caterpillars', this will support our learning around life cycles in particular. In maths we are investigating numbers to 20, with a focus on teen numbers and understanding place value. In PE we are looking forward to our weekly swimming lessons and will also be working on our 'ball skills'.

In Streams reception are having weekly swimming lessons. They are incredibly excited about this. During our forest school sessions we are investigating mass and capacity as well as being creative and exploring models and sculpture. In maths we are focusing on numbers within 20. During our english sessions we are using the text 'The very hungry caterpillar'. We will be sequencing the story, retelling it using puppets and writing key sentences. We are going to learn about different animals around the world.



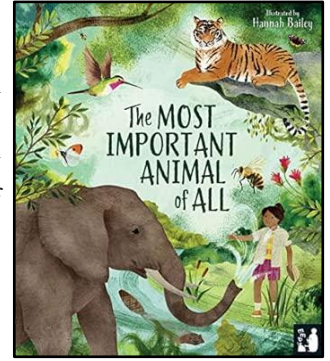
What are we Learning in Streams & Young Buds? (Year 1 & 2)

This half term Streams are learning about living things and their habitats. We are looking closely at what a habitat is and how different animals need different habitats. Our english is linked to our animal theme and we are looking at the book, 'The most important animal of all.'

We are also going to learn about the life of Mary Anning and why she is a significant historical person.

This term we will also have Forest school. During our sessions we will explore mass, capacity and volume as part of our maths as well as create our own sculptures inspired by the works of Barbara Hepworth for art.

In Maths, Year 1 are thinking about place value (within 50) and will begin to investigate multiplication and division. Year 2 are looking at fractions and time.



What are we Learning in Rivers and Oaks?

This term in our classes we are kicking off with a classic book: Fantastic Mr Fox! It's not just a great story but it's very accessible too. The children are then going to write their own stories based on the text. We have a few copies of the book in school if the children would like to read ahead or be used as a shared reading book at bedtime.

In maths we're finally taking a break from fractions to look at mass and capacity. The children will be tasked with converting between litres and millilitres and grams and kilograms whilst also spending some time finding links between them. Then it's back to fractions for one last time.

Our geography unit for this term is all about mapping including some field work. The children will learn about the features of maps and navigation before planning a nature walk in their local area in order to support our Science unit on Living things and their habitats! This unit is always one that hooks the children as they all find the natural world fascinating. To support this unit I'd like to signpost families towards the excellent series on BBC at the moment called Secret Garden with David Attenborough. In this unit we'll cover food webs, habitats and different animal classifications.

Lastly in History we're looking at Stone age to Iron age and reading the brilliant novel Wild Way Home to support this. We'll look at where they live, what they ate, how they dressed and more. The children are always shocked by how simple yet advanced life was back then. We're hoping to get out to one of the many Iron Age hill forts in our area this term which will bring this unit to life as well as looking at the fascinating Scara Brae village which is well worth a look at before if there is anytime at home in between times tables and daily reading!

What are we Learning in Oceans and Forests?

Welcome back to a very busy and exciting Summer Term! The buzz in the classroom is already wonderful as we dive into a packed five-week half-term.

We are very quickly coming to the Year 6 SATS, and the children have been preparing well. Please find the timetable below:

2026 SATs Schedule

- Monday, May 11: English Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling (Paper 1: Questions — 45 mins; Paper 2: Spelling — 15 mins)
- Tuesday, May 12: English Reading Paper — 60 minutes
- Wednesday, May 13: Mathematics (Paper 1: Arithmetic — 30 minutes; Paper 2: Reasoning — 40 minutes)
- Thursday, May 14: Mathematics Paper 3 (Reasoning) — 40 minutes

We will be sending out information soon regarding the Year 6 Camp and the Wake Park trip planned to celebrate the completion of their assessments!

In English, we are continuing to develop characterisation through speech. The children will be writing their own 'new chapter' for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, inventing a new child to enter the factory and meet their untimely demise! In Maths, we are revising past learning to ensure everyone is confident. Year 5 will be focusing on the four operations, ensuring they are secure with formal written calculation methods.

In Science, we are studying living things and their habitats. This provides a perfect link for our DT unit on Mechanisms, where we will be learning about CAMS to create moving animals within their habitats. This is an opportune moment for this unit as we celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday on May 8th. We will be joining a live assembly to celebrate his legacy and his inspiration to care for the natural world.



History and Forest School. Our History focus this term is the Romans and their lasting impact on Britain. Year 5 will be specifically focusing their Forest School sessions on this unit, bringing Roman history to life in the outdoors.

Annie Jr! Finally, a huge well done to everyone who took part in the auditions for our summer production of Annie Jr! last week. The talent and confidence displayed were marvellous, and we were truly blown away. We can't wait to start rehearsals ahead of our performance at The Landmark Theatre on July 1st.

Governor News

New governors: we have 2 members of the governing body, Lorna Morris and Jayne Marsh-Jones to fill the vacancies for an LEA and a Foundation governor respectively. Welcome to the federation.

Governing body: We have been self evaluating the functioning of the governing body and are looking to work on some improvement areas in the summer term and beyond. This isn't necessarily at an individual level but is more focused on how we work as a group in terms of delivering the best results for children, staff and parents. There is now a governor section to the federation improvement plan to ensure it gets the right attention.

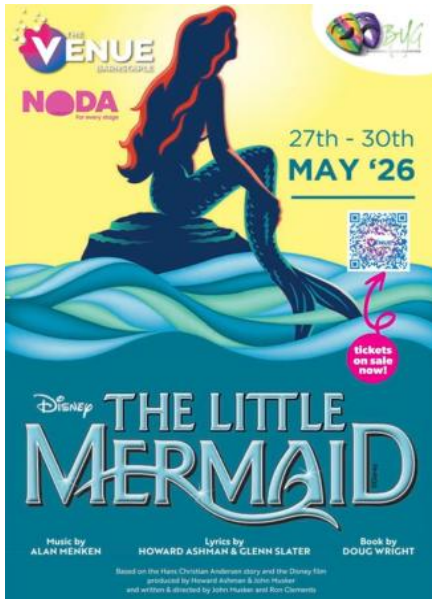
Admin News

ABSENCE

All absences must be reported before 9.15am each day of absence by leaving a message on the absence line or emailing admin@westexmoorfederation.org.uk. Please can we ask that you try not to Dojo individual staff members as if they are not in the office on that particular day this can cause issues with recording attendance. If we do not receive a satisfactory reason for an absence, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please don't forget to update your contact details when you change phone numbers or move house.



If you're looking for something to do during the half-term holiday, why not go along and watch Barnstaple Young Generation (BYG) perform 'The Little Mermaid' at The Venue, Barnstaple? Starring local youngsters, it is the perfect way to escape into the wonderful world of Disney for a couple of hours!

National Award-Winning All Starz are back with Musical in a Week!

Do you love to sing, dance or act? Within 5 days, the highly qualified team of West End creatives will teach the young actors to perform a much-loved classic musical, which is then performed publicly.

Juniors (ages 4 to 9 years) will perform THE JUNGLE BOOK

- Monday 3rd to Friday 7th August 2026
- 9am to 1pm each day with the performance at 1pm on the Friday



Juniors (ages 4 to 9 years) will perform THE ARISTOCATS

- Tuesday 4th to Saturday 8th August 2026
- 9am to 1pm each day with the performance at 1pm on the Saturday



Seniors (ages 10 to 18 years) will perform FAME

- Tuesday 4th to Saturday 8th August 2026
- 9am to 5pm each day with the performances at 5pm and 7:30pm on the Saturday



This exciting opportunity is open to everyone. All abilities are welcome, and there are no auditions to participate. It is first come first served, so make sure you register your place quickly at tolley.angell@yahoo.co.uk