



# West Exmoor Federation

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

*Spring Term 2, 2026*

## Quick Reminders

## Diary Dates

23.02.26	Children return to school	30.03.26	Lynton Easter Service @ St Mary's - 2.00pm
25.02.26	Parracombe & Lynton Y5 Forest School begins	31.03.26	Parracombe Easter Service @ Christ Church - 2.15pm
05.03.26	World Book Day	02.04.26	Kentisbury Trip to Rosemoor End of Term
06.03.26	Y3/4 Girls International Women's Day Festival	20.04.26	Children return to school
09.03.26	Parracombe & Kentisbury Parent Consultations	21.04.26	Swimming begins for YR
12.03.26	Lynton Easter Day @ Lee Abbey	22.04.26	Lynton YR/1/2 (Group 1) Forest School begins
16.03.26	Lynton Y3/4 Residential to Pinkery	24.04.26	Lynton YR/1/2 (Group 2) Forest School begins
18.03.26	Age Concern Lunch @ Lynton	27.04.26	RNLI Assemblies
18.03.26	Parracombe Y3/4 Residential to Pinkery	11.05.26	Y6 SATs Week
23.03.26	Exmoor Game School @ Parracombe & Lynton	14.05.26	Y6 Camp - Weather Dependent
25.03.26	Parracombe Coffee Morning for School in Village Hall	15.05.26	Y6 @ Wake Park
30.03.26	Lynton Easter Service @ St Mary's - 2.00pm	19.05.26	Y5/6 Cricket @ Valley of the Rocks
		22.05.26	End of Half Term

## Mrs Peacock

Dear Parents/Carers

### NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

World Book Day will enable all of our children to enjoy a fabulous day immersed in the fantastical world of books. Each child will receive a World Book Day Token but we have also purchased a selection of the World Book Day Books to ensure that every child is able to take a book home on the day. It will also be a perfect opportunity for our newly appointed Reading Ambassadors to share their love of reading and inspire others. If you would like some ideas as to how you can encourage and inspire your child to read at home, please visit: <https://goallin.org.uk/families-5-11/> The importance of sharing books with your children can not be stressed enough. Just a few minutes a day spent either reading to your child, or listening to them read, really will make a huge difference to all aspects of their learning. Research shows that children who read for pleasure when they are young enjoy better mental well-being and cognitive performance during adolescence. As parents and carers we can play a huge part in enabling our children to enjoy reading and become lifelong readers.



*"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." — Emilie Buchwald*

### PSHRE COVERAGE

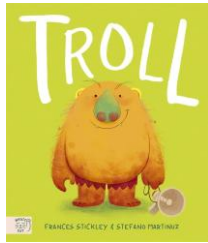
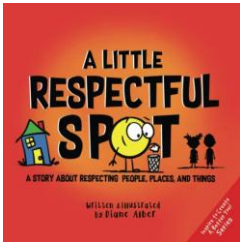
This half term our children will continue to follow the Coram Life Education SCARF programme for Personal, Social, Health & Relationships Education (PSHRE). All of the lessons are carefully planned and delivered in an age-appropriate way and are designed to enable our children to develop essential life skills and knowledge. This half term, our children

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

will be covering the topic of Rights and Respects. Our reception children will be thinking about how they look after people who are special to them; how they can be helpful at home and in school; the importance of caring for our world; and how to look after their money. Year One and Two will be considering how to get along with others; how to manage anger; who makes them feel safe; how to look after the environment; and how to save money. In Year Three and Four, our children will be talking about who helps them to stay healthy and safe; how they can make a difference; human rights; why we pay taxes; and the role that bystanders play in bullying or anti-social behaviour. Year Five and Six will be exploring stories in the media; distinguishing between fact or opinion; considering how they can make a difference within their community; discussing human rights, respect and duties; and learning about budgeting and spending wisely.

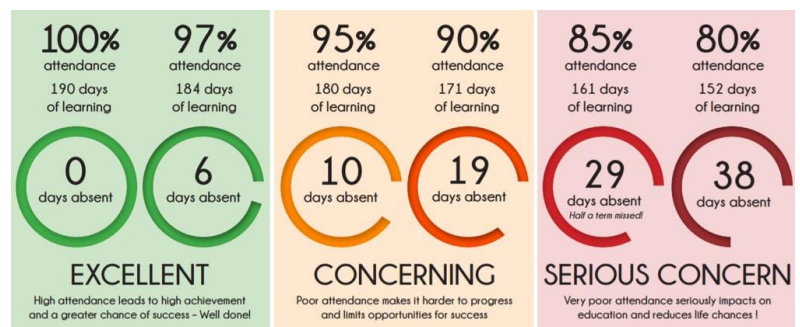
## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Over the course of this half term we will be considering our CARIS value of respect. We will be thinking about how we need to respect ourselves and how we can respect others and the world within which we live. We will explore this through Bible stories such as Elijah and the Widow and Jesus washing his Disciples feet. We will also share the wonderful books 'Troll' and 'A Little Respectful Spot'. We will be finding out about the music of the highly respected classical composer, Beethoven and further exploring the work of our courageous advocate, Isatou Ceesay. Additionally, we will be preparing for our Easter Services and very much hope that you will be able to join us.



## 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, overall attendance at Lynton was 94.3%, 96% at Parracombe and 96.3% at Kentisbury. This represents a slight improvement at Lynton and a small decline at Parracombe and Kentisbury, albeit that they are close to the Government target of 97%.

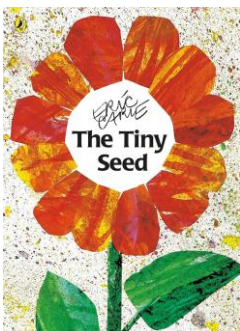


Although targets are important, the most important thing is the progress of our children. Every school day is a learning day. Carefully planned teaching sequences move at pace and lost learning is difficult to recapture. Regular absences inevitably impact on progress and, ultimately, life chances. Additionally, children who do not attend school regularly can feel socially disconnected from their peers and struggle to establish a sense of belonging within their class. As always, we do not wish children to come to school if they are genuinely unwell, but missed days due to birthday treats, feeling tired because of a late night, etc, can not be authorised as legitimate absences. The parents of children who have missed five or more days of school (10 sessions) due to unauthorised absences may be at risk of a fine from the Local Authority - this includes requests for exceptional absence that have not been authorised because they do not meet the criteria or where a child has attendance already below 96%.

With Best Wishes,

Jayne Peacock  
Executive Headteacher

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



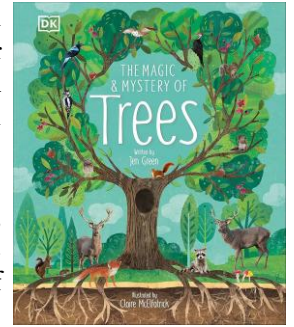
In Streams we are learning about plants and enjoying the book 'The Tiny Seed'. We have read the story, discussed the life cycles of plants and trees and created our own artwork in the style of Eric Carle. We are learning about our local area and thinking about maps. To tie in with our learning, we are planning a trip to Arlington to look at the trees.

In maths we have continued to think about the composition of numbers to 10. We are going to explore length, height and time.

In phonics we are consolidating our knowledge on all the phase 2 and 3 sounds and applying them to our reading and writing.

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

In Streams we are learning about trees. We have looked at a wonderful book called 'The Magic and Mystery of Trees.' We have looked at the features of a non-fiction text and used this to create our own book on trees. Next we will be looking at the book 'It starts with a seed' and creating our own piece of poetry based on trees. We are going to go to Arlington to look at and identify common trees.



We are also looking at our local area; understanding the human and physical features of the area, understanding maps and aerial photographs and planning a route to the local park. Our art this term was to look at the work of Gustav Klimt and the children have created their own 'Tree of life' using a range of lines and patterns.

In maths year 1 have been looking at numbers up to 20, They have explored number bonds, doubles and are working on near doubles. Year 2 are working on multiplication and division. They will look at arrays, understand the concept of multiplication as repeated addition and know that division is the inverse. We will focus on the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

## What are we Learning in Rivers and Oaks?

This term is always an exciting one as we are off to Pinkery for our residential in week 4. Pinkery is a brilliant location as geographically it's close, which makes transport easier, but it couldn't be further away in terms of the landscape and climate. Being up on Exmoor is as wild as it gets and the children will get to experience this firsthand. We'll be having a go at archery, grass sledging and many more brilliant activities as well as walking and orienteering up on the moor. Of course the children will be most excited about sharing rooms and all the other bits of residential fun!

Pinkery also gives us a great thread to pull into the other areas of our learning. Persuasive brochures will be our writing goal this term. Having been to Pinkery the children will create a brochure to persuade others to go there. We'll then present them to year 2 ready for their adventure in the future.

Maths is still all about fractions, made easier by all the practice we have had at times tables. The children are getting into the swing of it now and connections are starting to be made. This is always a topic that seems scarier than it is! We've also got some work on measurement coming up too. Lots of conversion between millimetres, centimetres, metres and kilometres to keep them busy!

During our DT unit we will be building shell structures to hold and support an easter egg, decorated in easter theme of course! The children need to learn how to create 3d structures and how to fix these together. We'll also be using some computer aided design to create the nets.

Lastly we'll be looking at Rock 'n' Roll in music and the class will learn a rock classic to sing at the Easter Service. Last term we went with Lego House by Ed Sheeran and the children really engaged with it and did a fantastic job, so we're hoping for the same again this term. All good practice for the Summer production!

## What are we Learning in Oceans and Forests?

As we move into the second half of the Spring Term, we are beginning to build momentum towards a busy and exciting time leading into the Summer Term.

In Maths, we are coming to the end of our work on fractions, decimals and percentages. The children have been developing their understanding of how these concepts connect and how they can be applied to solve problems. Next, we will move on to some shorter but equally important units, including area, measurement and shape, where the children will continue to build their mathematical confidence and reasoning skills.

In English, we have been exploring Malfeasance, a thought-provoking poem that highlights how kindness can be used to overcome fear. The children have been analysing the poem's themes and language before developing their own written version. After this, we will begin our writing unit on Danny, the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl. This much-loved story follows Danny and his father, who share a warm and adventurous life together until they discover a daring secret. Through this book, the children will be focusing on writing character descriptions and developing their "show, not tell" skills to bring characters and emotions to life in their writing.

Our Theme learning continues to be full of creativity and practical experiences. In Design and Technology, the children will be cooking up a storm as they design and make their own Mexican burritos, learning about food preparation, flavour

combinations and nutrition. In Music, we will be exploring movie music, listening to famous film scores and considering how composers use music to create atmosphere, tension and excitement.

Forest School has also begun brilliantly for Year 5, who have embraced the outdoor learning opportunities with great energy and curiosity with Mrs Joselin. Meanwhile, our Year 6 pupils have started their SAT's booster sessions, approaching them with determination, maturity and a very positive attitude.

## Sporting News

Huge congratulations to our cross country runners. They braved the elements on Sunday mornings competing in the Bremco North Devon Cross Country league across various locations in North Devon. They finished on Sunday 1st March and were able to collect their well deserved medals. We would like to say a big thank you to each of them for representing the Federation with their sporting spirit and a very big thank you to the parents who also got up on those dreary mornings to get them there and ready to race!

The cross country league starts in October so if any children would like to join the next league, open to all ages, please let us know and we can give you details of how to sign up.



## Governor News

### Admin News

#### THANK YOU

We would like to give a shout out to two local businesses, who generously support our schools.

**Barbrook Garage** kindly donate wood and kindling for the woodburner in our yurt each winter, so we can keep the fire going and give the children somewhere to warm up on cold and wet forest school days.

Our thanks also goes to **Matt Carey** from **Croyde Chimney Sweepers**, for sweeping and maintaining the woodburner in the Yurt. He very generously does this free of charge for us each year.

Any money we can save as a school means we have a little more to spend where it is most needed most - providing extra resources to support our children's learning.  
Thank you for your support!

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

## Community News

**BBC**

### Is your child finding it hard to make friends?

The award-winning makers of *The Dog House* are casting for a brand-new BBC series about friendship.

We are looking for children aged 5 to 8 from all over the UK who need a little help navigating the world of friendship. Over three days, a team of child psychologists will help them build the social skills and confidence to make real, lasting connections with other kids.

If you'd like to help your child make a new friend (with no pressure to take part), please apply at:

**bemyfriend.tv**



*Does your child shine at home, but struggle socially around other kids? The team behind *The Dog House* is making a brand new **BBC series about childhood friendship** and are looking for **kids aged 5 to 8** who are finding it hard to make friends. If this sounds like your child – or someone you know – filming is in July/August 2026, and we would love to hear from you.*

🔗 Apply at: <https://bemyfriend.tv/>

The West Exmoor Federation is sharing the details of this event with you as it is within our local community and may be of interest to some families. We are not endorsing the event, nor do we have knowledge of any risk assessments or procedures, including safeguarding, which may be in place. If you have any questions pertaining to the event, please direct them to the event organizer. Thank you.