



## Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**Federation News** The teachers from both the Infant and the Junior schools got together after school this week for another inspiring training session from the Cambridge Education Trust on 'Effective Learning'. We discussed the importance of resilience in learning – as Vincent Van Gogh said "I'm always doing what I can't do yet in order to learn how to do it".

**Year 5 visitor** - Ian Ridely a local mountaineer is going to come in and talk to Year 5 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October. He is one of only a handful of British climbers to make it to the top of Mount Everest and he will be bringing in his equipment and showing a presentation to the children all about it. We are really lucky that he can visit as he is soon off for another climbing expedition! Any questions please ask the Year 5s to let Miss Helliar know so we can find out the answers on the day.



**Ladysmith Junior School 01392 255554**

[www.ladysmithjunior.devon.sch.uk](http://www.ladysmithjunior.devon.sch.uk)

**Federation Assembly** - We had a lovely time together at our Federation Assembly today. The children sang beautifully – the Infants sang to us, we sang to the Infants, and we sang a song all together. We looked at a 'Rainbow of Fruit', giving us a chance to celebrate the colours, shapes and tastes of harvest fruits. It was an opportunity for us to celebrate the Federation, and to be thankful for the beauty of the seasons and nature's patterns of seedtime and harvest.

**Punctuality** - We have noticed that a few of the children are not getting to school on time in the morning. You may not realise it but:

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year!

**If children are late for school it:**

- Gets the day off to a bad start and can put everyone in a bad mood
- Can be embarrassing
- May lead to your child missing vital information about their learning for the day
- Can create bad habits that are hard to fix in the future

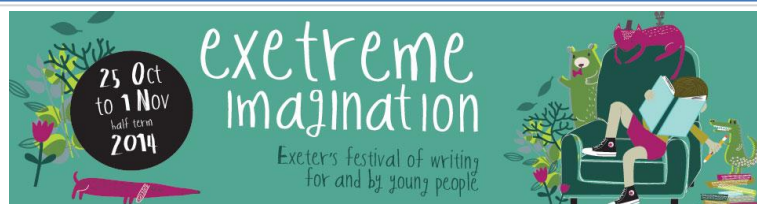
Please do all you can to get your child here on time – **the gates open at 8.45am and if children arrive after 8.55am they are late for school.**

**Teachers out of class** – you may have seen in the press that the current school year is unprecedented in terms of the number of major changes that are happening in schools. Amongst other things, we have a new National Curriculum, new ways of assessing it, a new approach to Special Needs education.

To make these changes work as well as they can for Ladysmith, a few of the teachers have been spending some time out of class to allow them to be involved in planning and implementing new ways of working. For example, in the last week before half term the teachers will be spending a day in year groups looking at how to assess the first six week's learning so that they can report it to you. They will then be planning the learning for the second half of the Autumn term to make sure it is as exciting, relevant and interesting as possible.

We have tried to minimise disruption to your child's learning, e.g. by planning these times in advance and making sure that English and maths lessons aren't affected.

This situation is not a long-term thing – we have a School Development Plan that we are following, and many of the changes are taking shape on a gradual basis. It has been an exceptional half term!



**Exetreme imagination** is an exciting biennial festival of literature for children and young people intended to inspire and enthuse the children and foster good quality writing. There are lots of events happening over half term including workshops, storytelling and author visits, including Mal Peet. You can find out more at [www.exetreme.org](http://www.exetreme.org)

**Children survey** – Mr Wilkinson and I have spent time this week talking to groups of children from across the school to find out their views about what goes on here. They were very open and had some really interesting points to make. They all said they felt safe at school, and that there are people to talk to if they are worried about anything.

The general consensus was that they love maths (the word awesome was used repeatedly!) and that the other children, with a few exceptions, behave very well. None of them thought that bullying is a problem in the school, and they all knew what they would do if they were bullied. Very positive – does your child agree?

**New books for Year 3** – we were really excited earlier this week when £3500 worth of new books arrived for our Year 3 children. They will be available for the children to take home really soon – Mr Hawkins the caretaker is making some new shelves for them at the moment, and as soon as he is finished they will be on display.

It will be lovely to be able to much more easily check the children are reading a book at an appropriate level, and we are setting it up so that you will find it much easier to help them choose a new book when they have finished the old one.

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