



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

27th January 2017

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

The Exe Valley Federation is privileged to have a dedicated team of governors who work very hard to ensure that the three schools continue to develop in line with our strategic aims. There are nine governors who come from a wide range of backgrounds, including business, legal and education and collectively they have responsibility for everything that happens in the schools, from outcomes at the end of Year 6 to blocked drains! We are joined for most meetings by the three Heads of School, who take a full part in the discussions and decisions that are made. Governors visit each school regularly, talking to children and spending time in classrooms as well as talking to teachers and support staff about different aspects of teaching and learning. We are aware that the work of governors is sometimes quite well hidden from view so this year we are going to produce a summary report of each meeting for the newsletters, starting this week with a report from the Resources Committee, which met recently.

From Mrs Parkes

I spent a lovely morning at Lords Meadow Sports Centre with Class 1 today. It was great to see all of the



children involved, focused and really enjoying the activities run by Tammi and her excellent Exeter College students. You can already see an improvement in the confidence and ability of the children when



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swimming. I think a favourite for many of the children is the gymnastics. They are using the vaults, trampets (mini trampolines), springboards and balance beams. What a great morning – well done, everyone!

Top Table

On Monday Isla, Ben, Henry S and Harry W had their lunch at Top Table with Miss Holmes.

Governors' News

This week the Resources Committee met at Thorverton, to discuss finances, personnel, premises and health and safety.

It was reported that the building/refurbishment work in School House, Thorverton, has nearly finished. This has included altering the staff room and office space to make better use of space. The on-going rook problem was also discussed, which is currently preventing Class 1 and Pre-school from using a substantial amount of outdoor space. We are looking into pruning the trees where the rooks like to nest before February, by which time it might be too late.

Security at Newton St Cyres has been a concern, particularly with regards to the car park and close proximity to a very busy road. We have decided to investigate picket fencing, which will be placed between the Class 4 locker room and the end of the playground, with the hope that this will stop children being in danger when there are cars moving around in the car park. It is really important to remember that children and parents should be entering the school by the smaller pedestrian gate, and then walking around the rear of the school building to classrooms – not through the car park.

During discussions about our current financial position, concerns were raised about late and unpaid dinner monies. Please remember that dinner money should be paid in advance, either by cash or cheque, or using School Gateway; any money not paid comes at a cost to the school. If you have any queries about amounts outstanding please visit the school office.

We have also been looking at our ICT provision, and what we can do to ensure this is as effective as possible. It has been proposed that we will employ 'in house' ICT support, to work across the Federation, as well as buying into ICT support from outside, which will support with troubleshooting, hardware and software.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Sainsbury's are now handing out their vouchers, one for every £10 you spend in their shops. We will be collecting the vouchers and exchanging them for sports equipment in the summer term. In previous years we have been able to acquire some great items, so please help us again this year. Ask friends and family to collect vouchers for us, too.

Safeguarding Training for Volunteers

We take our responsibilities for keeping children safe very seriously and, as part of this work, it is important that everyone who has regular contact with children in our schools, in whatever capacity, understands the principles of safeguarding and what to do if you have concerns about a child's welfare. If you come into school frequently (three times a month or more) or intensively (for a whole day at a time) then you need to attend the training courses that are being held over the next few months at one of the school venues. The courses will be on: Wednesday, 1st February at 9.30am at Newton and Thursday, 9th February at 7.30pm at Thorverton. The course will last for two hours and will include discussion and activities as well as a training element and will be led by Mr Jolliffe, who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the Federation. If you would like to attend, please let Mrs Steele know at Cheriton Fitzpaine (admin@cheriton-fitzpaine-primary.devon.sch.uk) or via any of the school offices. There are a few spaces left at next Wednesday's

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session if you would like to come but please let Mrs Steele know on Monday morning before 11.00am.
Thank you.

Pre-school Cake and Book Stall, Saturday, 4th March

The Pre-school will be holding a fundraising cake and book sale at the Memorial Hall on Saturday, 4th March from 10am to 12 midday. They are very grateful for donations of any second-hand books (for adults as well as children).

Pre-school are also asking for any spare jam jars for another fundraising project.

Collective Worship Dates

Friday, 24 th March, 3pm	Class 1 assembly
Thursday, 30 th March, 9.30am	Easter service in church

Diary Dates

Monday, 13 th February – Monday, 20 th February	Half term (Monday, 20 th is a non-pupil day)
Monday, 27 th Feb – Friday, 3 rd March	Bikeability training for Year 6
Tuesday, 14 th March, 3pm	Class 3 open afternoon
Wed, 15 th & Thurs, 16 th March	Parents' evenings
Tuesday, 21 st March, 3pm	Class 2 open afternoon
Friday, 31 st March	End of spring term
Wednesday 26 th – Friday 28 th April	Year 4 residential to Beam House, Torrington
Monday 22 nd – Tuesday 23 rd May	Year 3 residential to Camp Wild, Escot
Wednesday 7 th – Friday 9 th June	Year 5 residential to New Barn, Dorchester
Friday 9 th – Monday 12 th June	Year 6 residential to Grenville House, Brixham

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of Teaching and Learning

*e-mail: admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk
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