



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

11th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

From Mr Jolliffe

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a really good holiday and were able to enjoy some time together. It has been great to see the children all coming back to school well rested and ready to learn for the new term, as well as being full of excitement about their Christmas presents! I hope that everyone will really enjoy the new term and make the most of all the exciting things that are planned by teachers to make learning so exciting.

One of the highlights of the year is always the residential visits and the leaflet and letters about these will be coming home next week. After last year's visits, we talked to the children about what they enjoyed and what did not work so well. As a result of this feedback, we have changed the Year 3 visit for 2019 to include visiting Plymouth Aquarium and spending the night sleeping with sharks! More information about this will be included in the leaflet. The other venues have worked well and so we are keeping these the same as last year.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mr Woolacott and Mrs Wright, who both work at Cheriton Fitzpaine, on their marriage at the end of December. Their wedding was a wonderful occasion and attended by lots of staff from the federation schools. Congratulations too, to Mr and Mrs Tempest on the safe arrival of Daniel on 29th December, weighing 8lbs and 1oz. Mrs Tempest and Daniel are both doing well and Miles is enjoying being a big brother. We look forward to meeting Daniel in the future. Finally, many congratulations to Mr Hookway, who has announced his engagement. We are delighted for him and his fiancée and look forward to their wedding next year.

From Mrs Parkes

Welcome back to school! I hope you have all had a good break and enjoyed the company of family and friends over the festive period. We have some exciting things planned for this term. Class 3 will be participating in another drama event led by the Paddleboat Theatre Company who will be working with the class every Monday afternoon. Class 2 will be having their 'big play' experience next Monday afternoon when some music teachers will visit us and give the children a chance to try out a number of different instruments. We hope that some will then take the opportunity to learn one of them. It is Class 2's turn this term to go to Lords Meadow Leisure Centre for sports sessions every Friday, starting next week. The children in Class 2 will be bringing home a letter with more information and a SOE3 permission form to complete and return to the office. The fire service are also going to visit the school this half term to talk about fire safety with the children.

*e-mail: thorvertonadmin@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
website: www.thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk*

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New Topics and Homework

The children should bring home today a topic web of what their class is covering this term. Classes 2 and 3 will also have received homework sheets.

Please also remember to support your child in their learning by keeping their reading going and completing the reading records. Reading is such a vital part of a child's development and it opens doors to all areas of the curriculum and life chances. Thank you for your support.

Lunch Menus and Payments

The Federation has updated the School Gateway payment system, which many of you already use. Now you can see your balance of payments at a glance. We have transferred all balances across to the Gateway system, so everybody should be able to see this, whether you usually pay online or with cash or by cheque to the office. If you think there might be a mistake in your balance please come and see either Vanessa or Katharine in the office. Another improvement in the School Gateway system means that you can now go online and book your child's meals in advance! Your account will immediately be debited. This starts next week, so please do go online and browse the new options and choose lunch options with your children in advance.

Change of Menu, Thursday, 17th January 2019

On Thursday, Abby will be cooking a special Mary Poppins menu. See the posters in school for the yummy options.

Peanut Allergy

We have a child in school with a peanut allergy, so we would ask you please not to provide your children with any snacks or packed lunch items containing nuts of any sort. Thank you for your understanding.

Governors' Report by Dave Alcock – Staff Development Day

On Monday, 7th January 2019, EVF staff and governors took part in a training day at Thorverton School. The event was organised by Ed Nichols (Head of School at Brampford Speke) and consisted of workshops and presentations on a range of innovative teaching strategies being developed in the EVF schools. Consideration was given to bar modelling in Maths, ways of developing vocabulary in English, the enhancement of pupil voice, the value of peer assessment, and much more. Mr Nichols also gave an informative and thought-provoking presentation on the physiological and cognitive differences between boys and girls, offering staff insights that will allow them to continue to adjust the pupil-centred teaching that they provide. From a governor's point of view, the event demonstrated a strong commitment to achievement and continuing improvement within the EVF. It illustrated a powerful capacity for employing and sharing best practice, and a genuine desire amongst staff to learn from and make use of the newest educational insights.

Vacancy for a Finance Governor

Do you have finance or accountancy experience and would like to find out more about what is involved in joining the Exe Valley Federation board of governors?

The Governing Board works together with the senior leadership team to monitor our schools' performance, set the strategic direction of the Federation and ensure that its budget is well spent. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Clerk to the Board, Heidi Last hlast@exevalleyfederation.org.uk or 01363 866456.

As Governors we aim to make a difference to every child within the Exe Valley Federation.

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PEN PORTRAITS FOR THORVERTON GOVERNORS

Our governors work in school-based teams during the year to enable them to focus on one of the four federation schools in more depth. Here are the pen portraits for the governors who are in the Thorverton school team:

Jackie Enright

I have a business background, with many years' experience working as a Director of Finance and Administration, in both smaller and larger companies. During my working life I have also lived and worked in New Zealand. I am now retired. I have been an Exe Valley Federation governor since the start of the Federation in 2012. In that time, I have been a lead governor for Health & Safety and Finance. In September 2018 I was voted back in by the governing board as the Chair of Governors. I am enjoying the challenges that this strategic role brings and working together as a team with like-minded people to ensure staff and teachers are supported and challenged and the children in the federation come first.



Elly Babbedge

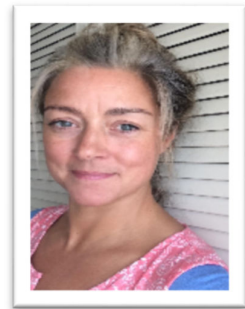
I taught for many years in Exeter and Tiverton as a primary school teacher and lead teacher and then worked for Devon as a National Strategies Literacy Consultant, delivering training for teachers around the county.



Much of my time was taken working intensively with head teachers and their teams to improve school performance. This helps in my current role as Chair of the School Improvement Committee. In Southampton I ran a Nursery School, offering a highly creative curriculum and this attracted both gifted and talented children and children with special needs. I have a keen interest in autism, setting up a Young Explorers unit for Foundation Stage children. I worked for 10 years as a Foster carer for hard-to-place short and long-term placements. I am lead governor for safeguarding. I believe passionately that all children deserve to learn, grow and have fun in a safe, caring and supportive environment. I am also a Foundation Governor.

Louise Walsh

I joined the Board of Governors in September 2017 as a Parent Governor. My children attend primary school in Thorverton. I studied law at the University of Cambridge and the College of Law in Chester before working for a number of years as a solicitor in London and Bristol specialising in employee benefits. My mother and one of my sisters are teachers so I have an appreciation of both the challenges and the joys of teaching. I am committed to bringing both my professional skills and my perspective as a parent to the role of governor in the EVF. I am Deputy Lead Governor for personnel and a member of the Resources Committee and the Thorverton School Focus Group.



PTFA Meeting, Monday, 21st January, 8pm, Exeter Inn

Please come along to the next PTFA meeting to plan some fund-raising activities, bring some ideas for new events and enjoy a social evening. New parents especially welcome!

Family Service, Thorverton Parish Church, Sunday, 20th January 2019

Everybody is very welcome to come along to the next family service in Thorverton Parish Church. The church will be open for refreshments and an activity for children from 9.30am and the service will start at 10am.

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Are You Interested in an Exchange with a French Family?

Many of you know Lorraine and Peter Colebrook who have strong links with the school. They come in to lead assemblies once a term. Their children all attended Thorverton School some years ago. Their daughter is now living and working in Paris and she knows a family there with two sons, Daniel aged 11 and Ruben aged 9, who is looking to organise an exchange trip with an English family. Originally from Italy, the boys are bilingual and speak some English learnt from their studies at school. They currently live in Neuilly sur Seine on the west side of Paris. Their mother Gabriella would be happy to hear from any parents who were interested in the exchange, which could take various formats and would hopefully be an enriching and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. If you are interested please ask me or Katharine or Vanessa for contact details.

Term Dates

Spring term 2019

Monday 7th January to Friday 15th February (Staff Development Day 7th January)

Monday 25th February to Friday 5th April (Staff Development Day 25th February)

Summer term 2019

Tuesday 23rd April to Friday 24th May (SATS 13th to 16th May)

Monday 3rd June to Thursday 25th July

Autumn term 2019

Tuesday 3rd September to Friday 18th October (Staff Development Days 3rd and 4th September)

Monday 28th October to Thursday 19th December (Staff Development Day 29th November)

Spring term 2020

Monday 6th January to Friday 14th February (Staff Development Day 6th January)

Monday 24th February to Friday 27th March

Summer term 2020

Tuesday 14th April to Friday 22nd May (Staff Development Day 14th April)

Monday 1st June to Thursday 23rd July

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkees

Head of School

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