



# Thorverton C of E Primary School

## Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

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2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

### From Mr Jolliffe

Welcome back to school! I hope you have had a good half-term break and that everyone is ready for all the challenges and opportunities of the second half of the autumn term. On Monday this week, the Staff Development Day was led by two trainers from Team Teach, who specialise in supporting schools to develop their behaviour management strategies. We looked at managing conflict, the stages of a crisis and the psychology of challenging behaviour. The course focused on the importance of recognising potential difficulties and gave us strategies to de-escalate situations. Part of this toolbox is giving staff strategies for positive behaviour support and how to keep children safe when they are very distressed or angry. On the rare occasions that physical restraint is needed, the Team Teach strategies give staff safe and respectful ways of doing this. Afterwards, staff and children will be given the opportunity to reflect on what has taken place and why. Any incidents will be written in a bound and numbered book that ensures that they are recorded for future reference if needed. I have used Team Teach training in previous schools and have always been impressed and re-assured about how effective it is, but, as always, if you have any concerns about Team Teach, do let me know via your child's school office.

### From Mrs Parkes

Welcome back to our Christmas half term. I hope you had time to do the things you enjoy with the people you care about over the half-term break. This half term is once again packed with a myriad of interesting and exciting learning opportunities. The topics this half term for each class are: 'Celebrations' in Class 1, 'Potions' in Class 2 and 'Off With her Head!' in Class 3. You will receive a topic web and homework sheet today. We also have a theatre trip for the whole school booked for the end of term as a treat. We will be holding a Christingle service and Class 1's Christmas play with a carol service in the church. Please look at the diary dates at the end of this newsletter.

### Remembrance Day in School



Our first whole school event will be Remembrance Day, which the school will be commemorating on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> November at the war memorial. We will be selling poppies next week in the playground.

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## Children in Need, Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018

On Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> November we will be raising money for Children in Need. We will have a non-uniform day when the children can come into school dressed in spotty clothes – in exchange for a donation of £1. The classes will be having fun doing some Pudsey challenges.



## Class 2's Open Afternoon

On the Friday before half term Class 2 had their open afternoon. The afternoon started with a visit from members of the charity Shelter Box who explained all about what they do and how they help people when their country has suffered a natural disaster such as an earthquake or flood. The parents were then invited to join the children who had made some Indonesian soup and sold this and home-made cakes that had been donated to raise money for Shelter Box. Everyone really enjoyed the afternoon, the children had a chance to share their learning with their parents and they raised £134.30 in the process. Well done, Class 2! I am sure Shelter Box will be very appreciative of the money. This week the children have been writing letters to thank all those people who also helped to make the afternoon a success by donating raffle prizes. Thank you all for supporting this event.

## Gardening Club

The last session of gardening club for the year took place just before half term. The children worked very hard to clear all the garden area for the winter and planted bulbs to provide some spring colour. We look forward to starting-up again in the spring. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alex and Tom for all their expertise, time and kind donations of bulbs, plants, compost and biscuits.



## Snacks



We have recently had some quite unsuitable snacks coming in for break time. Please could I remind you that we do not allow chocolate at school for a snack. The children should have fruit, a fruit snack bar or other healthy option. We provide children in Key Stage 1 with a piece of fruit each break time, so they do not need to bring one in. Even so, we are getting an increasing number of crisps, chocolate and sweet-based snacks. Please could you help us by not providing these for your child's snack or in their lunch box.

## 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' Learning Walks

Twice a year teams of governors spend a morning in school working with children and teachers and talking to Heads of School. This term's visits will take place in the week beginning Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November and this year, the federation governors will be joined by a governor from Silverton School, who will be sharing in the learning

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walks in our schools before going back to do a similar learning walk at Silverton. Part of the learning walk includes some child conferences, which will be led by Heads of School. If you would prefer your child not to be involved in the child conferences, please let your school office know by the end of school on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you.

### **Use of Social Media by Parents**

We would like to remind parents of their responsibilities regarding their use of social networking. Recently, a couple of incidents of parents posting inappropriate comments about school activities on social media have come to the attention of the federation leadership team. Please be aware that we do have access to social media and have read the comments made by parents over the last half term.

We try very hard to inform parents about school events through a range of communication methods, including websites, newsletters, letters and verbal discussions. School policies and documents provide further information regarding appropriate channels of communication and means of resolving differences of opinion. Effective communication following the principles of mutual respect is the best means of ensuring the best learning experiences for the child.

To make sure this is maintained in future, the following guidelines must be followed:

- Queries or comments should be made to Heads of School, most of whom are available in the playground before school each day to talk to parents
- Complaints should be made through official school channels rather than posting them on social networking sites
- Malicious or fictitious comments should not be posted on social networking sites about any member of the school community
- Pictures of pupils, other than their own children, must not be posted on social networking sites by parents where these photographs have been taken at a school event.

**We value our relationship with parents very highly and hope that these guidelines will help everyone understand how best to communicate with school. We will however, take further action if necessary to ensure that social media is used appropriately.**

### **Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease**

We have a couple of cases of hand, foot and mouth disease in school. The first signs of the illness can be a sore throat, a high temperature and not wanting to eat. After a few days mouth ulcers and a rash will appear. The rash usually turns into blisters on the hands and feet. Keep your child off school while they are feeling unwell. They can return to school as soon as they feel well enough even if the blisters haven't completely healed. For more information see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hand-foot-mouth-disease/>.

### **Nasal Flu Vaccination, Community Clinics**

The NHS will be holding a number of flu vaccination clinics across Devon throughout November and December. Attached to this newsletter are details of how to book an appointment at one of these clinics. Please note that you will need to ring the Direct Booking Line to book an appointment and your child will not be vaccinated if you do not have an appointment or if you have not completed the consent form.

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## Governor News

### PEN PORTRAITS FOR BRAMPFORD SPEKE GOVERNORS

Each month we are sharing the governor pen portraits for the members of a school team. This month the governors who are members of the Brampford Speke school team have shared their pen portraits:

#### KATIE CROSS



I have experience working in administration for a charity and more recently as a trained and qualified youth and community worker, prior to being ordained as a member of clergy in the Church of England. I hold a Masters in Theology. I am one of the foundation Governors on the Governing body with connections in the local community through the churches in three of the four schools and living locally in Thorverton. I bring an expertise in supporting the Christian foundation of the Church of England schools, support for the SIAMs inspection and able to offer assistance with the R.E. curriculum and Collective worship programme. I aim to come in each term to take collective worship and assist with Christian festivals and services.

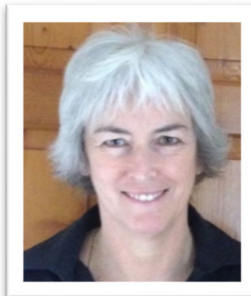
#### CLAIRE THEEDOM

My name is Claire Theedom, and I am the staff governor for the Exe Valley Federation and hold the role of parent/community link governor. I have been teaching at Newton St Cyres, predominately in Y5/6, since 2006. I am also the maths subject leader across the federation.

I grew up in Crediton, attending a local primary school and secondary school, before completing my degree in primary education with Qualified Teacher Status at the University of Gloucestershire. I have two young children too, who keep me busy on my days off! Becoming a governor has given me a greater insight into the wider federation and I am committed to taking our schools forward and achieving the best possible outcomes for all children.



#### SHERYL MARGESSON



I became a Foundation Governor in December 2017. My background is in primary education and I have been teaching for over 30 years. I have also been an assistant Headteacher, SENDCo, designated Safeguarding Lead and a staff governor. After achieving my teaching degree, specialising in Early Years, I gained a BA in Psychology. I currently work part-time in a Foundation Stage Unit. With my experience I aim to support staff across the Federation in providing an inspiring learning environment where all pupils develop into well-rounded citizens. I am lead governor for SEND and Inclusion and deputy lead governor for Early Years.

#### PTFA Christmas Fair, Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 3.30 to 5pm

This year the PTFA will once again be holding a Christmas Fair in the school hall. There will be all the usual stalls, Christmas tea and mince pies and a raffle. Put the date in your diaries!

#### Family Hallowe'en Party at the Memorial Hall, Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

Remember the Memorial Hall's Hallowe'en Party this evening. There will be fun and games from 6pm for the children including a disco. Fancy dress is optional – there will be prizes! The cost of £3 for adults and £2 for children includes Frankenstein Dogs and Fried Fingers (hot dogs and fries). The main bar and a children's bar will be open.

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## *Collective Worship Dates*

Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 9.30am Christingle service in church, parents and carers welcome  
Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm Nativity and carol service in church, all welcome

## *Diary Dates*

Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 11am Remembrance at war memorial  
Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> November Children in Need day, wear something spotty  
Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> November Non-pupil teacher training day  
Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 3.30 – 5pm PTFA Christmas fair  
Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> December Whole school trip to Phoenix Theatre, Exeter

## *Term Dates*

### **Autumn term 2018**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October (Staff Development Day 3<sup>rd</sup> September)  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October to Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December (**Staff Development Days 29<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November**)

### **Spring term 2019**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February (Staff Development Day 7<sup>th</sup> January)  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April (Staff Development Day 25<sup>th</sup> February)

### **Summer term 2019**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May (SATS 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May)  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July

### **Autumn term 2019**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October (Staff Development Days 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September)  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December (Staff Development Day 29<sup>th</sup> November)

### **Spring term 2020**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February (Staff Development Day 6<sup>th</sup> January)  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

### **Summer term 2020**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May (Staff Development Day 14<sup>th</sup> April)  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

With best wishes,

*Sarah Parkees*

Head of School

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