



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

7th September 2018

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope you and your family had a lovely summer holiday and were able to relax and spend some time together. As the new year has got under way this week, it has been super to see all the children settling back into their classes and embarking on new learning projects. There have been quite a few new children joining us this year across the federation schools and I look forward to getting to know them and their families in the coming year.

This year I will be continuing to spend a day a week in each school and maintaining close contact with the staff and children. I will also be spending half a day each week at Silverton Primary School as part of our school development partnership with them. As well as this, I will be teaching Class 2 one afternoon a week at Thorverton this year, and on my first afternoon this week I spent time with the children exploring our wonderful world. I hope that I will be able to speak to many of you at the school gate in the morning; however, if you do need to contact me, the best way to do this is by email via your child's school office. I look forward to another exciting year for the federation and to working with children, staff and parents in all four of our schools.

From Mrs Parkes



Welcome back to school! I hope that you have enjoyed the summer. It has been lovely to welcome you all back and I have enjoyed getting to know our new children and catching up with many more about their adventures during the holiday.

We have an exciting half term planned. Classes have already begun work on their new topics of 'Alchemy Island' in Class 3 and 'Tremors' in Class 2. Class 1 is looking at 'All About Us', starting with discussions on what they would like to do. So far, areas include our world, our bodies, families, food and unicorns. Next Friday Sciencedipity is coming to work on some exciting science experiments with Classes 2 and 3.

After-school Clubs

You will already have received a letter with details of the after-school clubs that we will be offering this half term. Please fill that in and return it to the office as soon as possible, as most clubs start next week, including Netball Club. We will be offering Breakfast Club before school on a Thursday as soon as Miss Finch is fit and well after breaking her arm



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during the holidays. After half term, Miss Holmes will be doing a Christmas Craft Club again. We are also looking into getting Key Stage 1 Multi-skills back next term.

Thankfulness

This term our value is 'thankfulness'. In our collective worship (assemblies), we are thinking about the people who help us and make a difference every day. We are using some words from the Bible, contemporary drama (led by the children) and some proverbs, including reflecting on a Vietnamese proverb, "when eating a fruit, think of the person who planted the tree." We are linking our thinking on thankfulness to Harvest Festival and giving thanks for the food that we have to eat every day.

Sporting Activities for 2018/19

This year we are continuing to use Lords Meadow Leisure Centre in Crediton on a Friday morning for swimming, gymnastics and ball games. We have been able to use the PE and Sports Premium Grant from the government to fund coaches for swimming and gymnastics and are very pleased to be able to continue to work with students from Exeter College to support the ball skills and outdoor games sessions. The oldest children in each school (Class 3 at Thorverton) will be starting their 10-week block of sports activities next Friday, 14th September. More information about this has been sent home to parents this week.

In addition to this we are working with QE secondary school in Crediton to give every child an opportunity to be involved in competitive or inclusive sports sessions with other local schools. This includes tag rugby, orienteering and netball during the year. More information will be sent home as each class has the opportunity to take part.

Allergies and Asthma

At the start of the new school year please can all parents make sure that their child's school is aware of children's allergies and any asthma or other medication that might be needed. It is particularly important that we are aware of any changes to medical conditions and know what to do if your child needs treatment at school. We encourage older children to share responsibility for this with school staff and to be able to access medication with increasing independence. Please also remember that there are children in every school who are allergic to nuts and that we have a policy of 'no nuts' across the federation. This includes peanut butter in sandwiches, sweets and cakes for bake sales. Thank you very much for your help with this to keep all children safe and healthy at school



Healthy Snacks

We like to promote healthy eating at school. We ask you to help us with this by providing healthy snacks and packed lunches for your children. Please give them fresh or dried fruit or a cereal bar (but no nuts please) rather than crisps, chocolates, sweet biscuits and cakes. Thank you!

Internet at School

Unfortunately, we have had great problems with our internet connection at school, so for much of the week we have been unable to access our emails. If you have sent us an email and are waiting for a reply, we do apologise and, if Openreach can successfully reconnect us, we should be back up and running early next week. The lack of internet has also meant that we have been unable to set up the online payment system for new children. Please don't worry if you have been unable to pay for school meals through Gateway. This should also be working by the end of next week.

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Use of Social Media

Social Media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp are very useful ways to help keep in touch with friends and family. However, please remember that these are effectively public communication tools and that any comments made should be appropriate. There have been some instances of comments being made on social media recently that have undermined the reputation of federation schools and their staff. We do monitor social media and are aware of what is being said and will take action to address inappropriate comments if necessary. Many thanks to all the people who do use social media to help communication and do so in a positive way.

Term Dates

An error has crept into the dates of our Staff Development Days this autumn. There will be staff development days on **Monday, 29th October** (the Monday after half term) and **Friday, 30th November 2018**. We do apologise for any confusion this may cause.

Price of School Meals from September 2018

The price of a school lunch is now £2.50 per meal. The weekly price is £12.50.

Music Lessons

Recorder, piano/keyboard, guitar and drum lessons all start next week.



Music Tuition

Mrs Heather Kershaw has vacancies for lessons in descant recorder for Year 2-aged children and above and piano/keyboard for Year 3-aged children and above. If you are interested please contact the school office or her direct as soon as possible on heather@kershaw25.eclipse.co.uk or 01392 860419.

Safeguarding Training for Volunteers

We take our responsibility to keep children safe in school very seriously and this includes making sure that anyone who volunteers to help in school is trained appropriately to recognise the risks posed to children and what to do if they have concerns. A new version of the document, Keeping Children Safe in Education, is due to be published in September 2018, and contains some important updates. If you volunteer regularly (ie three times in any 30-day period) then you will need to attend the federation's training course in order to be able to continue helping in school, if you have not already done so in the last three years. Two new sessions have been arranged for the new school year, which are;

Monday, 17th September from 1.30 to 3.25pm at Cheriton Fitzpaine

Thursday, 20th September from 7.30 to 9.30pm at Newton St Cyres

Please book a place via the school office at Newton St Cyres (email newtonadmin@exevalleyfederation.org.uk or ring 01392 851267).

Cheriton Fitzpaine and District Ploughing Match, Sunday 16th September 2018

Remember the ploughing match next Sunday, 16th September at Huxham Barton. You should have received a flyer with all the information about this earlier this week.



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Diary Dates

Friday, 14th September

Class 3 Sports Mornings begin

Term Dates

Autumn term 2018

Monday 3rd September to Friday 19th October (Staff Development Day 3rd September)

Monday 29th October to Wednesday 19th December (Staff Development Days 29th October and 30th November)

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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