



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

16th March 2018

Dear Parents

From Mr Jolliffe

At the end of last week children from the Exe Valley Federation worked with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at the Great Hall to practise and perform with children from other schools. Alison Golby, who organised the event for us, has written a report about the day, which you can read later on in this newsletter. I am very grateful indeed to her for all the work that she puts into promoting musical development across the federation and her inspiring and exciting ideas. This week, Brampford Speke C of E school welcomed Mrs Daphne Spitzer and Ms Jo Munn to the school on Thursday for the SIAMS inspection. This takes place every 5 years in church schools and focuses on the values and ethos of the school and its Christian character. The inspectors commented on the strength of the relationships at all levels in the school and the confidence with which the children talked about their learning. The report will be with us in a week or so and hopefully will be published before the end of term. A huge thank you to Mr Nichols and his team for all their hard work in preparing for the visit and to all the parents and children who took part.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

We take our responsibilities for keeping children safe at school and beyond very seriously and offer regular training sessions for parents and volunteers to attend. If you volunteer to work with children on a regular basis or could be on your own with school children at any time, then you need to have completed this training. The next courses will be held on the Tuesday 20th March 2018 at 7.30pm at Thorverton School. Please let your child's school office know TODAY if you are intending to come to this session and if you have said you are coming please make every effort to come on the night.

GOVERNOR NEWS

The Resources Committee met this week to discuss a range of matters connected with the Exe Valley Federation schools with a emphasis on the financial performance and budget management of the schools. Governors also discussed matters relating more generally to the school premises/buildings (including maintenance/improvements and health and safety aspects). The governors regularly discuss health and safety reports for each school and on this occasion looked at Brampford Speke's Health and Safety and termly audit. Part of the Resources Committee remit is to monitor how the Federation schools maintain and enhance community links. With this in mind, the governors discussed a range of ideas for parent and community governor links and also discussed the contents of this year's Parent Questionnaire - which will be out shortly after the Easter Holidays so please look out for it! As usual, a range of other policies and procedures were discussed by governors including compliance with the new Data Protection Regulations and a new "Safe Inside" procedure for keeping children safe inside school premises in the event of an emergency in or around school grounds. More information for parents on both of these subjects will follow shortly. Finally, Mr Jolliffe was able to update governors on the progress of the new school building at Newton St Cyres which is now nearly complete and will be open to pupils after the May half term holiday. Exciting news for everyone who has worked so hard to secure a new school for Newton!

*e-mail: thorvertonadmin@exevalleyfederation.org.uk
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From Mrs Parkes

Once again it has been a busy week at school. We have had a number of visitors in as part of our focus on looking at different people's lives and cultures. On Monday we enjoyed a visit from a member of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association who explained what it is like to have a guide dog to help them in their life.

On Wednesday members of the Buddhist community in Exeter visited and explained to us about their beliefs and way of life. We spent time meditating and reflecting. All the children were calm and focussed at the end of the assembly. Each class then had a range of activities to carry out that gave them a more in-depth understanding of the Buddhist faith and way of life.



Yesterday members of the Baha'i community visited us. They explained the basis of their faith, linking nature to unity of community. Here are children in Class 1 making flowers with one of the visitors.

It has been an enlightening week.

Class 3 Trip to Morwhellam Quay

In last week's newsletter we gave you a report on Class 3's trip to Morwhellam Quay. Here are some photos to show you the children on the copper mine train, in the Victorian school and making rope.



FROM DR FIN WILLIAMS, OPERATIONAL LEAD, CYP-ACCEPT CLINIC

You may be aware that your child's primary school is one of our partner sites where we are able to support children with their emotional wellbeing. The CYP-Accept clinic is based at the University of Exeter Campus, and provides support to children and young people aged 5-18. Our wellbeing practitioners for children and young people support children, young people, and their families, who are experiencing any of the following:

- **Anxiety or worries** that are impacting on your child or young person's daily life, and preventing them from being able to engage fully in family, school, or friendships
- **Sadness and low mood** that has lasted more than a few months and is impacting on your child's daily life and preventing them from being able to engage fully in family, school, or friendships
- **Difficulties with expressing feelings, which are shown in behaviour.** If your child has difficulties expressing their feelings or needs, they may show when your child behaves in ways that are challenging for you to support. We can support you and your child to understand their behaviour, and the needs behind it, and find more positive ways forward in your relationship.

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If you feel that you and your child are experiencing any of the above and would like to access some support, please talk to your child's Head of School. You can collect a referral form from your school's reception, or alternatively download a referral form from our website www.cypaccept.co.uk and we will contact you to talk through your experiences, and arrange a time to meet with you and your child.

6 Nations Tag Rugby Tournament

As I write our tag rugby team are playing Landscore in the first of their Crediton Learning Community 6 Nations matches. Next Friday, 23rd March, they will be playing the rest of their games and the final. We wish them luck! We will report on the results next week.

Class 2 Open Afternoon

This afternoon the children in Class 2 have enjoyed showing parents some of the work they have been doing this term in an unusual way! We hope you had fun and didn't get too muddy!

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Extravaganza

Alison Golby who organised this event for some of our musicians has written this report:

Congratulations to all the Exe Valley Federation musicians who took part in this wonderful day at The Great Hall last Friday! Pupils from Brampford Speke, Cheriton Fitzpaine and Thorverton rehearsed and performed three of the BBC Ten Pieces together with about 350 other young musicians from all over Devon, including the Devon Youth Concert Orchestra. In the afternoon they worked with professional musicians from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and had a great time meeting children from other schools and playing alongside others of all ages. It was fantastic to see so many of each instrument and also some of the rarer instruments, such as bassoons, double basses and harps. After a demanding rehearsal (they really were treated like professionals!) all the musicians performed to parents and friends. The sound was very powerful and, impressively, all 350 musicians managed to start and finish each piece together. They had the opportunity to hear performances by four different orchestras. It was fantastic to see how music making can progress from being a beginner right up to a professional level and our musicians showed dedication, perseverance and imagination in their playing throughout the whole project. They should be incredibly proud of their achievement.



Child-Parent-Teacher Interviews, Monday, 19th and Thursday, 22nd March 2018, 3.40 to 6pm

The teachers are available on the above days between 3.40 and 6pm to talk to parents about children's progress and targets for the rest of this year. Lists are on the classroom doors for you to sign up. If you are unable to make either of these dates, please see your child's teacher to arrange another time.

Gardening Club

There will be no gardening club next week as it is parents' evening.

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School Council Easter Baking Competition, Thursday, 22nd March 2018



The School Council are organising this fun competition which they will judge at the end of the day on Thursday, 22nd March. There will be three categories to choose from: cakes, cupcakes, biscuits and cookies. The children will be judging the entries on style taste and texture. The School Council would like lots of cakes, cupcakes and biscuits and will be selling them after school.



PTFA Disco, Friday, 23rd March

The PTFA will be holding a children's disco on Friday, 23rd March in the school hall. The Class 1 disco will be from 5 to 6pm, followed at 6.15 to 7.15pm for Classes 2 and 3. Tickets will cost £3 and please sign up in the office beforehand. We will ask you to leave contact details at the door. Parents are welcome to stay, especially parents of children in Class 1.



Residential Visits, Years 3 to 6

A few of you have not yet returned your slips to let us know whether your child will be going on the residential trips or not. We now need to confirm numbers with the venues, so if you have not returned your reply slip please do so as soon as possible. If you don't have one, please ask for another copy in the office.



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.

Music Tuition

Mrs Heather Kershaw has vacancies for lessons after Easter on descant recorder for children in Year 2 and above and piano/keyboard for children in Year 3 and above. Please contact the school office or Mrs Kershaw direct on heather@kershaw25.eclipse.co.uk or 01392 860419.

Safeguarding Training

We take our responsibilities for keeping children safe at school and beyond very seriously and offer regular training sessions for parents and volunteers to attend. If you volunteer to work with children on a regular basis or could be on your own with school children at any time, then you need to have completed this training. The next courses will be held on Tuesday, 20th March 2018 at 7.30pm at Thorverton School. Please let your child's school office know if you are intending to come to this session and if you have said you are coming please make every effort to come on the night.

Request for an Artist

Do you, or do you know anyone, who would be able to produce a line drawing of the new school at Newton St Cyres from a photograph? We would like to have a line drawing to use in publicity information and invitations to the official opening. The building has scaffolding around it still at the moment so the drawing would need to be done from a photograph with a bit of artistic licence! If you can help please contact Mr Jolliffe via the school offices.

Parking

The Thorverton Arms have asked if on **Friday afternoon, 23rd March**, parents would please leave the parking areas outside the church and the pub free of cars as there will be a funeral



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followed by a wake at the pub and many mourners are expected. Please use the car park at the top of Bullen Street and at the Memorial Hall.

Collective Worship Dates

Wednesday, 21st March, 9.30am Easter service in the church

Diary Dates

Monday, 19 th & Thursday, 22 nd March	Parent-teacher-child interviews
Thursday, 22 nd March	Class 2 trip to Exeter
Thursday, 22 nd March	School Council baking competition
Friday, 23 rd March	6 Nations tag rugby tournament
Tuesday, 27 th March, 3pm	Drumming assembly
Wednesday, 28 th March, 3pm	Guitar assembly
Thursday, 29 th March	Federation assembly at Cheriton Fitzpaine School
Thursday, 29 th March	Last day of spring term
Wednesday, 18 th – Friday, 20 th April	Year 5 residential to Barton Hall
Monday, 30 th April – Tuesday, 1 st May	Year 3 residential to Escot
Saturday, 5 th May	Exmoor Challenge (for Year 6)
Wednesday, 6 th – Friday, 8 th June	Year 4 residential to New Barn, Dorchester
Tuesday, 11 th – Friday, 15 th June	Year 6 residential to Grenville House, Brixham

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of School

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