



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

16th November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

From Mr Jolliffe

On Wednesday this week we held our Early Years Conference, bringing together all the staff working with pre-school and reception children to learn about the latest developments in early years provision, share our own ideas of what works well and to plan for the coming year. As part of our partnership with Silverton Primary School, we were joined by their early years team, and Mrs Gill Adnams, their Headteacher, led part of the day's training. It was a real pleasure for me to work with all the early years staff during the day and to see the enthusiasm and energy that each member of this team brings to their work. A huge thank you to Mrs Adnams, Mr Nichols and Mrs Wright for their preparation and input into the day.

Don't forget our next Staff Development Day is on Friday, 30th November, just two weeks away! The date for this did go out incorrectly in some date sheets for a brief time, so please do check your diaries to make sure you have got the 30th as a non-pupil day. The staff will be meeting at Newton St Cyres on the 30th and working with a nationally recognised speaker on how to ensure that we make the most efficient use of teaching time and developing the way we lead the curriculum in our schools.

From Mrs Parkes

Remembrance



On Monday we commemorated Remembrance Day at the war memorial. We observed two minutes' silence (sadly, to the accompaniment of the refuse lorry!), James Meredith kindly played the Last Post for us and Alex Fice of the Royal British Legion and Zach V. were the standard bearers. A child from each class laid a



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wreath and children in Class 3 placed a cross at the memorial in memory of each of the men and women named on the war memorial who died in the First and Second World Wars.



Children in Need, Friday, 16th November 2018



Today we have been raising money for Children in Need. The children and staff wore a lovely selection of spotty and yellow clothes. Thank you for your donations – we'll let you know next week how much we have raised for the charity.

Forest School

We would like to develop our forest school area over the coming months. We would like to ask you for help with this. We need some planks of wood for seating, some tree stumps as posts for these planks and large branches that can be or have been cut into discs for stepping stones. We would also like branches and material or tarpaulin for shelter building and other forest school activities. If you can help us with any of these items, please let us know. We'd be really grateful!

Class 2 Special Books

Mr Jolliffe is teaching Class 2 this year and the class are thinking about special books this week as part of their RE project on why religious books and teachings matter. If children in Class 2 could bring a book that is special to them into school on Thursday (not before, please!) that would enable them to share their own reasons for books being special. Thank you.

Morning Routines

I would just like to remind everybody of our morning routine at school. School starts at 8.55am and children should not come into the classroom before 8.45am at the very earliest. The teachers need the time before school to prepare the classroom for the day!

Please do not play ball games in the playground and please do not ride bicycles or scooters across the playground – push them to the bike shed!

School Uniform

Remember! Our school uniform is a navy blue jumper. Shoes should be black or dark blue flat school shoes. Children should not wear any jewellery in school: only small stud or sleeper earrings are permitted if your child has pierced ears.

Top Table

Imogen, Amelia, Neve, Charlie and Ethan enjoyed their lunch at Top Table this week in the company of Mr Biggins.



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.

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Governors' Learning Walk

On Thursday this week, Mrs Parkes was joined on a learning walk by governors Jackie Enright and Elly Babbedge, and by Gill Adnams, Head of Silverton School and Silverton governor Liz Milward. The team set out to look at Greater Depth in Maths teaching and learning across the school; they spent a fascinating morning talking with children and getting involved in lessons. The message that came across loud and clear was that 'MATHS IS FUN at Thorverton' and everyone is in partnership to reach higher and think harder. Lessons were observed in Classes 1 and 3, and children from Classes 2 and 3 were conferenced about their learning later in the morning. The team would like to thank all the staff and children for their warm welcome. They were particularly impressed with the way children took a pride in their learning, explained their methods and strategies, knew exactly what was expected of them and were keen to then push past barriers and achieve even more.

Class 1 were measuring for a purpose – how tall did the column at one end of a ramp have to be to make a level platform for a cup of water or a toy car to balance on? Class 3 children had to work out whether their teacher's electric scooter had sufficient charge to get him to his destination and back again. It was evident that children feel that they 'own' their mathematical learning and are given opportunities to use and apply what they learn in a range of contexts – ideal conditions for nurturing Greater Depth. The team came away as enthusiastic as the children and staff had been.

Thank you to all parents/carers, staff and children.

PTFA Non-uniform Day, Friday, 23rd November

If you would like to wear non-uniform to school next Friday, please bring in some chocolate for the PTFA's chocolate tombola at the Christmas Fair.

Guitar Performance, Wednesday, 28th November, 3pm

Mrs Cutler's guitar pupils will be giving a short concert on the afternoon of 28th November. Parents and families of the performers are very welcome to come along and enjoy the music.

Drum Performance, Tuesday, 4th December, 3pm

Tony Price's drum pupils will be giving a performance of their musical talents on Tuesday, 4th December at 3pm. Parents and families of the drummers are invited to come along and listen to the rhythms.

PTFA Christmas Fair, Thursday, 6th 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!

Scratch Band Ceilidh, Sandford Village Hall, 7pm, Friday, 23rd November 2018

This evening of music and dance promises to be great with some well-known musicians making up a band just for this event. £6 on the door, children free; bar and cake proceeds to Crediton Youth Orchestra.

Collective Worship Dates

Thursday, 6 th December, 9.30am	Christingle service in church, all welcome
Thursday, 13 th December, 2pm	Nativity and carol service in church, all welcome

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Diary Dates

Wednesday, 28 th November, 3pm	Guitar performance
Friday, 30 th November	Non-pupil teacher training day
Tuesday, 4 th December, 3pm	Drum performance
Thursday, 6 th December, 3.30 – 5pm	PTFA Christmas fair
Wednesday, 12 th December	Christmas lunch
Monday, 17 th December	Whole school trip to Phoenix Theatre, Exeter

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 Parkes

Head of School

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