



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

7th December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

From Mr Jolliffe



This week has seen Christmas truly arrive in the federation schools, with lots of Christingle and Nativity plays taking place, not to mention fairs and other festive events. I have really enjoyed being involved in all of these and seeing the children taking part with such enthusiasm. Many thanks too, to Rev Katie Cross, the vicar of the Netherexe Parishes Mission Community, for speaking at three of the services this week.

This week, too, the Ofsted report for Thorverton has arrived and has been shared with Thorverton parents. It will be on the Ofsted website and the federation website next week so do have a look at it. Also, this week we are saying a temporary farewell to Mrs Tempest at Newton St Cyres, who is going on maternity leave; we look forward to meeting her baby in the new year. In the meantime, Miss Scott-Hake is going to be working a full week in Class 1 at Newton.

Federation Carol Service

On Friday 14th December we are holding our federation Carol Service at Crediton Parish Church and all the schools will be involved in this event. The service starts at 11am and parents are welcome to join us there from 10.45am. Although the church is quite big, there are a lot of children to fit in too, so if you would like to come, please could you let your child's school office know by today, as places will be limited.

Children will be travelling by coach to Crediton and will be having a shared lunch in the church halls afterwards. Please remember to complete the form and return it to the office as soon as possible to let Abby know what lunch options your child will be having.

Devon County Council Ofsted Inspection

Ofsted are inspecting Devon County Council local area's effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of, and improving outcomes for, children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. This is taking place from Monday, 10th December to Friday, 14th December 2018 and a letter explaining how to tell the inspection team about your views is attached to this newsletter.

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

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From Mrs Parkes

Christmas Tree

Thank you so much to the Ayre family for giving us such a beautiful Christmas tree, which has pride of place in the hall. You can see it adorning the front page of this newsletter.

Christingle Service



Yesterday we held a wonderful Christingle service in the church. We reflected on the work of the Children's Society and thought about those who have troubled lives throughout the year and what we can do to help at this time of giving. The church looked so Christmassy with all the Christingles lit up. Thank you to Katie and Heather for being part of our service and to all of you who gave change in your

candle for us to donate to the Children's Society. We raised just over £100.



PTFA Christmas Fair

The Christmas fair was once again a huge success. At times you couldn't get into the hall it was so full. Thank you so much to the PTFA for organising it. Class 3's stalls were a real success. The variety of ideas were great this year. So thank you to the children for all their hard work.

Tag Rugby Friendly, Silverton

On Tuesday after school a team of seven children went over to Silverton for a friendly tag rugby match at the school there. This was a great opportunity for the older children to put their training into practice. Thorverton won 17-11. It was an exciting match and we hope to invite Silverton over to us for a return match next term. Thank you to the parents who helped with transport and to Dickie for making time to lead the team.

Next Week

On **Wednesday, 12th** the children and staff will be enjoying Abby's traditional **Christmas lunch**. This year we have invited a number of our volunteers and music teachers to join us. It is being held at the Memorial Hall as we no longer fit in the school hall!

Thursday, 13th December is Class 1's performance of "The Nutcracker" and the school carol service in the parish church at 2pm. Everybody is very welcome to come along.

On **Friday, 14th** we have our federation Christmas celebration at **Crediton Church**. Please remember to give us your child's lunch choices as soon as possible.

On the same day, **14th December**, it is **Christmas Jumper Day**. So we would like all children to wear their Christmas jumpers in exchange for a donation of £1 to give to Save the Children. Thank you again for your generosity.

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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.

Federation Value for Spring Term

Our value for the first half of the spring term will be 'Perseverance'. In our collective worship we will be thinking about what perseverance means and linking this to keeping going in a race or a journey. We will also be thinking about Jesus and his family fleeing to Egypt after they left Bethlehem and what it is like for refugees to have to leave their home countries today. We will also be using other bible stories and contemporary stories to extend our thinking. We will conclude this half term's collective worship by thinking about setting our own goals and remembering that people around us have their own challenges and how we can help them meet their goals.

Woodworking Tools Wanted!

Mr Biggins would be very grateful if anybody has any spare woodworking tools that they could donate to the school for him to use. Thank you!

Pen Portraits for Cheriton Fitzpaine Governors

Each month we are featuring the governors who are linked to one of the four federation schools. Each of the governors, apart from Mr Jolliffe, are linked to one school for the year so that they can get to know the children, staff and parents there really well. The pen portraits may also be found on the federation website but are reprinted here to help you get to know them better. There is currently a vacancy for a governor to join the Cheriton Fitzpaine team so if you would be interested in finding out more about this role, please contact Mr Jolliffe via your child's school office.

Debbie Pearce

My background is in administration and human resources and I've worked in both private and public-sector organisations, large and small. I studied Psychology at the University of Exeter and I'm a chartered member of the CIPD and hold a Post Graduate Diploma in Executive, Business and Life Coaching. I became a governor at Brampford Speke C of E Primary School in 2014 and when the school joined the Exe Valley Federation in 2017 I took on the role of Lead Governor for Personnel. I enjoy the strategic challenges of governorship and working with others to secure an environment in which staff and teachers can give their best and children are inspired to learn and grow.



Dave Alcock



As a governor, I'm motivated by a desire to see all children achieving their full potential. I was a teacher for ten years, I've been a GCSE examiner since 2014, and a governor since 2016. Because of my experience, I know what young people are capable of, and I know that the best schools are the ones which are both highly performing and strongly committed to improvement. As a governor, I read and question reports, consider and query school decisions, carry out inspections, gather evidence and write reports of my own. By doing this, I help the EVF to recognise its strengths and goals, so that the schools can continue to get better, and so that the pupils can continue to thrive.

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PTFA Quiz Night, Wednesday, 12th December, 7.30pm, Thorverton Arms

Come along to the quiz night at the Thorverton Arms on Wednesday evening and help raise some funds for the PTFA. Get together with friends and family and form a team of no more than six and test your wits against the other teams.

Exeter Inn Christmas Draw, Saturday, 22nd December, 7.30pm

Stella and Dickie are organising a Christmas Draw in aid of the South West Neonatal Network. Please call into the Exeter Inn to "buy a square" for 50p. There will be plenty of prizes, some of which will be auctioned after the draw.

Collective Worship Dates

Thursday, 13 th December, 2pm	Class 1's "The Nutcracker" and carol service in church, all welcome
Friday, 14 th December	Federation Carol Service at Crediton Church

Diary Dates

Wednesday, 12 th December	Christmas lunch
Friday, 14 th December	Wear a Christmas Jumper for Save the Children
Monday, 17 th December	Whole school trip to Phoenix Theatre, Exeter
Tuesday, 18 th December	School Christmas party
Wednesday, 19 th December	Last day of term

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)

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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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