



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

13th May 2016

Dear Parents,

Message from Mr Jolliffe

It was a real pleasure to be with the Year 5 children from across the Federation on their residential visit last weekend. They were all exceptionally well behaved and so supportive of each other and took on the zip wire, abseil tower and big swing with enthusiasm! Congratulations to all of them for making it such a great visit and thank you for being such a credit to the Federation.

Parent Questionnaire

Many thanks to everyone who responded to the Parent Questionnaire and for taking the time to give us your views on many important issues. The very large majority of parents said their children were happy at school, felt safe and well looked after, which is very positive. The highest response [96% agree or strongly agree] related to the schools encouraging children to work hard and do their best and overall, 91% of parents were happy with their child's school, which is also very encouraging.

The single biggest issue identified by parents as something to work on was communication, particularly in relation to school events. We are working on giving parents more notice of events, especially where costumes are involved, and will make sure this information is in the weekly school newsletters in plenty of time.

A lot of parents felt we could do more to help them support their children's learning, especially in English and maths and would support parent workshops in the future, which we will organise. A workshop for parents on e-safety and keeping children safe on line is in the process of being set up already.

Some parents felt that we could improve the way we report children's progress. In the autumn we will be reviewing the annual report format and would welcome your views on the information that you receive. The new assessment system is in its first year of use but when it has settled down this should help parents see the progress their children have made more easily.

Several parents asked about the collaboration between school staff to share good practice. We have a monthly Federation staff meeting when we get together to plan and to compare children's work as well as having training from colleagues or outside speakers. This is in addition to weekly school-based staff meetings. We also have five non-pupil days each year when we work as a Federation on the curriculum and on professional development. The three Heads of School meet weekly with Mr Jolliffe to build the leadership and strategic direction of the Federation and improve communication.

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A couple of parents commented that the questionnaire had some grammatical errors, for which we apologise. It missed the final proof reading stage and then got slightly scrambled moving to the on-line version.

Several parents raised the issue of security at Thorverton and the open access through the blue gates. We have been working on re-instating the intercom system for some time and have a contractor ready to do the work, which will make the site much more secure.

We are also planning to refurbish the upstairs of School House and create a music space out of the storage area next to the library in the main building. This means that drum lessons will take place in a sound-proofed area and not disturb Class 1. This will also make it safer for children who currently have to negotiate the steep stairs in School House to get to the music room. This work should be undertaken in the summer holidays.

If you haven't yet completed a questionnaire, we would still like to hear your views and comments. We can only take paper questionnaires at this stage; please collect one from the office and hand it in on Monday.

The Federation Leadership Team and governors will be analysing the responses from parents in more depth over the coming weeks as we look forward to the development of the Federation but in the meantime, thank you again for your help.

Year 6 SATs

I would like to congratulate all of the Year 6 children for their amazing efforts this week while taking their SATs. They really did do their best and have enjoyed playing games and having a lovely barbeque and copious amounts of cakes today to celebrate this achievement. Well done all of you!



Year 5 Residential

The children in Year 5 from across the Federation thoroughly enjoyed their residential trip to Barton Hall last weekend. They took on the challenge of a zip wire, mountain biking, quad cars, fencing, abseiling and Jacob's ladder, as well as the fun of a camp fire and making a survival shelter. The food was also excellent, especially the barbecue sausages! Thank you to Mrs Farnhill for going along to support the teachers from the Federation on the residential. Come along to our assembly next Friday afternoon, 20th May, at 3pm, to find out more.



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Top Table

This week Mr Biggins, Layton, Archie W, Henry P, William S, Miyuki and Lili enjoyed their lunch together at Top Table.

Cowboy Lunch, Thursday, 19th May

Abby will be cooking a special cowboy lunch on Thursday. Instead of the usual menu choices there will be Yankee Doodle Cowboy cheese burger or Veggie Ranger cheese burger with Mama's Old Western Pickle and southern sweetcorn plus GeeUp side salad with Rodeo fries, followed by a "rootin', tootin' good" American cookie 'n' shake.

Class 3 Trip to Quicke's Farm, Tuesday, 17th May

Please return the permission slips by Tuesday morning for the Kingfisher Award field trip next Tuesday.

Job Vacancy for a Mealtime Assistant

We are looking for a mealtime assistant as soon as possible to join our committed, hardworking team of schools across the Exe Valley Federation, at Thorverton in the first instance. The hours are 11.45am to 1.15pm Mondays to Fridays at £7.20 per hour, 38 weeks per year. Applications would be welcomed from well-motivated, enthusiastic and cheerful people to work as part of a team helping to supervise, care for and manage the children in the dining hall and playground including supporting them in their play. Previous experience is desirable but not essential. Exe Valley Federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who attend. Therefore, the successful applicants will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS disclosure and appropriate references will be taken up. For further details and an application form, please contact the school office.

PTFA News

Bag 2 School, Wednesday, 25th May

There will be a Bag 2 School collection on the Wednesday before half term. Start having a spring clean and save your good quality clothes for the collection. Please bring in your bags from 8.45am on the day.

Movie Night, Friday, 10th June, 6 to 8pm

The PTFA movie night will be open to all children at school from Reception to Year 6; we will confirm which film will be showing nearer the time. The entrance price is for a hot dog and refreshments. The PTFA would greatly appreciate any offers of help on that evening.

Non-uniform Day, Thursday, 9th June

Wear non-uniform in exchange for sweets, smellies and games for the tombola at the PTFA summer fete.

School Summer Fete, Saturday, 18th June 2016

The PTFA will be holding a summer fete on the school field on Saturday, 18th June from 2 to 5pm. They would like donations of second-hand books and toys for a toy and book stall and cakes for the cake stall. There will also be a craft stall, for which they need any old jam jars, tea lights and ribbon if you have any of these items to donate. They would be very grateful if anyone has any bunting to lend the PTFA for the day.

Please see Julie Davie or Pippa Eyles if you can help at the movie night or the summer fair. Donations can be given to them or left in the school office.

Auction of Promises, Friday, 30th September

Would anyone be able to donate a promise for this PTFA fund-raising event? Or do you know someone who may be able to donate, for example, a night in a holiday cottage, an evening meal in a restaurant, a

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spa/chiropracter/beauty session, tickets to a sporting or arts event etc? Or would you be able to donate an hour or two of your time, for example digging a garden over, babysitting, cooking a meal, taxi service? The PTFA are looking for promises and ideas, so please see Pippa or Julie if you have something to offer. The more promises they have to auction, the more fun on the evening for everybody and the more money the PTFA can raise for the school.

PTFA Meeting, Monday, 13th June

The next PTFA meeting will be on Monday, 13th June at 8pm at the Exeter Inn. All welcome!

Bikeability Training, Monday, 4th to Friday, 8th July 2016

We are offering this cycle training to the children in Year 6. They should bring a letter home this evening with details, including a permission slip to complete and return to school. If your child is not interested or did the Bikeability training last year, please let us know so that we can offer the place to a child in Year 5.

Outstanding Payments

There are a few outstanding payments still due for the Year 5 Residential trip. Please would you pay either online using the School Gateway system (see the link on our website) or by cash or cheque to the office. Some people also owe quite a lot of dinner money; please remember we really like you to pay in advance.

Family Service in Thorverton Church, Sunday, 15th May

Everybody is welcome to come to the family service in the parish church this Sunday. The church will be open from 9.45am and the service will start at 10am. Please stay afterwards for refreshments and a chat.

Collective Worship Dates

Friday, 20 th May, 3pm	Year 5 residential assembly
Friday, 27 th May, 3pm	Year 6 residential assembly
Friday, 24 th June, 2.30pm	Class 2 open afternoon and assembly
Friday, 1 st July, 2.30pm	Class 1 open afternoon and assembly
Friday, 15 th July, 3pm	Year 3 residential assembly
Friday, 22 nd July, 2pm	Leavers' assembly in the Church

Diary Dates

Tuesday, 17 th May	Class 3 trip to Quicke's Home Farm
Friday, 20 th to Monday, 23 rd May	Year 6 Residential to Grenville House
Wednesday, 25 th May	Bag 2 School collection
Monday, 30 th May to Monday, 6 th June	Half-term holiday (Monday, 6 th June is a non-pupil day)
Friday, 10 th June	Federation celebration of Queen's birthday at Cheriton Fitzpaine
Saturday, 18 th June	PTFA summer fete
Monday, 20 th June	Group and class photographs to be taken
Tuesday, 28 th June	Sports Day
(Wednesday, 29 th June	Reserve Sports Day)
Monday, 4 th to Friday, 8 th July	Bikeability training for Year 6

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Wednesday, 6th July, 3.30pm

Friday, 8th July, 2.30pm

Monday, 11th to Tuesday, 12th July

Class 3 Kingfisher Award presentation

Class 3 open afternoon

Year 3 Residential to Escot House

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of Teaching and Learning

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