



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

18th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

From Mr Jolliffe

As the new term gets underway, the new sessions of Lords Meadow Sports start today, with the children in the middle of the schools taking part in swimming, outdoor games and gymnastics. This year we have used the increased PE and Sport Premium Grant from the government to fund qualified coaches to lead the gymnastic sessions and increase the number of swimming coaches at the same time. This has meant that the students from Exeter College, led by Tammi Vukusic, can focus on developing children's ball skills outside. Using Lords Meadow has been a strength of the federation for several years now but the additional funding has enabled us to make it a really first class experience for our children and something to look forward to every year.



From Mrs Parkes

Music Sessions

This week class 2 had a visit from a number of musicians. They tried out instruments such as the cello, clarinet, violin and bass to name just a few. It was quite a noisy affair but thoroughly enjoyed by all. The effect of this has been lots of children wanting to take up an instrument.

We also now have 20 children in the school band, which is fantastic, if a little crowded in the library. Letters will



come from Alison Golby to the parents of those children who have expressed an interest in learning one of the instruments very soon. I would like to thank all the visiting musicians and Alison for setting up this afternoon.



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

LEA: Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QG

Paddleboat Theatre Company in Class 3

Class 3 had their first Paddleboat session this week. It was great to welcome the theatre company to school again and the children enjoyed the initial drama session. Next week they will start to work on their part of the production. It is linked to their topic of World War 2. It will bring some of what they are learning to life!



Fire Safety Visit, Monday, 28th January 2019

On Monday week Devon and Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service will be visiting Classes 2 and 3 to promote safe practices and highlight the consequences of unsafe behaviour at home, in school and in the community. The sessions pupils will learn about the role of the Fire Service, how to identify hot and cold items, the dangers of matches, lighters and candles, how to make an emergency 999 call and the consequences of hoax calls, how to plan a safe escape route from home in case of fire, the value and importance of smoke alarms and how to adopt the stop, drop and roll method if clothing catches alight. If you do not want your child to take part in these fire safety sessions, please see me, Vanessa or Katharine in the office for an opt-out request form.

Lunch Menus and Payments

The Federation has updated the School Gateway payment system, which many of you already use. Now you can see your balance of payments at a glance. We have transferred all balances across to the Gateway system, so everybody should be able to see this, whether you usually pay online or with cash or by cheque to the office. If you think there might be a mistake in your balance please come and see either Vanessa or Katharine in the office. Another improvement in the School Gateway system means that you can now go online and book your child's meals in advance! Your account will immediately be debited. This has already started and some of you have ordered your children's meals in advance. If you haven't yet had a look, please do go online and have a look at the options. The new updated system also allows parents to go into School Gateway and check their contact details and let us know of any changes.

Top Table

On Monday, Evelyn, Eliza G, Rowan, Finley, Evie and Milly enjoyed their lunch at Top Table in the company of Mrs Parkes.



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.

Residential Visit Information

A leaflet about the residential visit programme for this year should have come home this week, along with a letter about each visit for the relevant year groups. If you have not received this information, please ask the office staff at your child's school to give you a copy. We have done our best to keep the costs down this year by getting early booking discounts but we are aware that these visits represent a big cost to families, especially if more than one child is attending. If you would like help with the cost of residential visits, please do talk to your child's Head of School or contact Mr Jolliffe via the school offices. If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding there is no need to pay for the visits.

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Safeguarding

Primary Schools in Exeter have advised parents that there was a potential incident involving a Year 8 pupil at West Exe School and two men in a small white van this week. The police are aware of the situation and parents are asked to be especially vigilant at this time.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service have issued some very useful guidance about sleepovers and how to keep children safe away from home. This guidance is attached to this week's newsletters.

PTFA Meeting, Monday, 21st January, 8pm, Exeter Inn

Please come along to the next PTFA meeting to plan some fund-raising activities, bring some ideas for new events and enjoy a social evening. New parents especially welcome!

Family Service, Thorverton Parish Church, Sunday, 20th January 2019

Everybody is very welcome to come along to the next family service in Thorverton Parish Church. The church will be open for refreshments and an activity for children from 9.30am and the service will start at 10am.

Free Badminton Session, Saturday, 26th January, 8.30 to 10am, Lords Meadow Leisure Centre Sports Hall

All children are invited along to have a go at the fastest racket sport in the world! If you're interested in finding out more about badminton and Queens Badminton Club then this is your chance. Open to all primary-aged children - all equipment provided, just bring a drinks bottle and wear comfortable/sports clothing and trainers. Fully qualified coaches will be leading the fun-filled session where children will have a chance to learn new techniques, experience game-play and practise their newly acquired skills. For more info please get in touch: sarahhpreece@gmail.com or 07966 486895 or visit our website www.queensbc.co.uk.

Half-term Hockey Camp, Exeter School

There will be a hockey camp at Exeter School on Monday, 18th and Tuesday, 19th February 2019 from 10am to 3pm for all children in the area aged eight to ten years. The cost is £25 for one day and £40 for both days. For more information please contact Sue Hutchings on suejhutchings@yahoo.co.uk.

Diary Dates

Wednesday, 23 rd January	Class 2 Greek Day
Wednesday, 13 th February	Class 3 trip to the Fleet, Air, Arm Museum
Wednesday, 1 st May – Friday, 3 rd May	Year 5 residential to Barton Hall
Wednesday, 5 th June – Friday, 7 th June	Year 4 residential to New Barn, Dorchester
Tuesday, 11 th June – Friday, 14 th June	Year 6 residential to Grenville House, Brixham
Thursday, 4 th July – Friday, 5 th July	Year 3 residential to Plymouth Aquarium and Camp Wild Escot

Term Dates

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)

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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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