



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

8th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

From Mr Jolliffe

Thank you for your patience last Friday when some of the federation schools were closed due to the bad weather. It is always a really hard decision to make as the great British weather is so variable and whilst there was heavy snow at Cheriton Fitzpaine, there was hardly any at Thorverton. In principle we will always try to keep the schools open and expect children who can walk to school to do so. Children who take a day off when they could be in school will be recorded as having an 'unauthorised absence' and this could lead to further action by Devon County Council. I know many families made a huge effort to get to school in the bad weather and this was appreciated by everyone; thank you! If there is a spell of bad weather again, we will try to let parents know what is happening as soon as possible, once we are reasonably sure that what is forecast is actually happening. Thank you again for your patience!



Parent Questionnaire

You should have received an email earlier this week inviting you to complete this year's Parent Questionnaire. Many thanks to the parents who have already answered the questions that we have asked. If you have not already done so, please go to <https://goo.gl/forms/8OclgdxF2OWeVwWy2> by Friday, 15th February to let us know what you think about some important developments across the federation schools. Thank you.

School Reviews

This year we are holding School Reviews for each of the federation schools in March. This will give us an opportunity to explore some of the themes that emerge from the Parent Questionnaire with you and to talk about the different aspects of the questionnaire in a bit more depth. The School Reviews will take place on the following days: **Brampford Speke C of E School:** Monday, 11th March at 9.10am and repeated at 2.45pm; **Cheriton Fitzpaine School:** Monday, 11th March at 9.00am and Thursday, 14th March at 2.45pm; **Newton St Cyres School:** Monday, 11th March at 9.10am and repeated at 2.30pm; **Thorverton C of E School:** Thursday, 14th March at 9.10am and repeated at 2.45pm.

From Mrs Parkes

We are looking forward to a number of events and activities before half term.

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

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Class 3's Trip to the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Wednesday, 13th February 2019

Please ensure that your child is at school by 8.30am that morning, as we will be leaving at 8.45am so that we can make the most of the day at the museum. We may be back a little later than 3.30pm – we should be back by 4pm.



Class 2's Greek Day, Tuesday, 12th February 2019

On Tuesday, Class 2 will be sharing their topic learning with Class 2 from Brampford Speke School and they have lots of exciting activities planned.

Donation for our Forest School

I would like to thank the Fice family for their very generous donation which they collected with a fundraising event. We are going to spend the money on developing our forest area. We will be choosing some outdoor equipment and den building materials. Thank you!



Tidy Up



Thank you to Tom Walling who came and helped the staff make a start on clearing up the outdoor learning area and Class 1's outdoor area. It all looks so much better now. We will just need another session of working together to make it ready for use by the children.

No Tag Rugby Club, Wednesday, 13th February 2019

This Wednesday there will be no tag rugby club after school, as Class 3 will be back late from their trip to the Fleet Air Arm Museum. The next session will be after half term.

Children in Cars

It has been brought to our attention that children have been travelling in a car without a seatbelt or sitting on an adult's lap while driving on the road. This is obviously a very dangerous thing to do and puts everybody's safety at risk. It is also illegal. Please make sure you belt your child in safely when driving through the village.

School Gateway

Just a reminder to everybody that you can now book your children's meals and pay for them and school trips and residential online on the School Gateway system. We attach the letter giving you all the details. Please do have a look at the system – it is very easy to use!

Top Table

On Monday, Indiana, Thomas, Regan, Harry L, Arabella and Anna 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.

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Drumming Lessons

After half term Tony Price will have space for two children to learn to play the drums. Please see Vanessa or Katharine in the office for more details.



Consultation on Proposed Changes to Age Ranges

Parents at Brampford Speke, Cheriton Fitzpaine and Newton St Cyres should have received the consultation document about the governors' proposal to change the age range to include two year olds. If you would like to comment on these proposals, please do so either by email or by coming along to the consultation meetings which are taking place on Monday, 11th February or Thursday, 14th February. More details may be found in the consultation documents on the school websites.

Governors' News

The full governing board met at Newton St Cyres School on Tuesday, 5th February. Items on the agenda included reviewing the Head of Schools' reports for this term, an update on the Management Partnership with Silverton, a recap on discussions at recent Resources and School Improvement Committee meetings and looking ahead to upcoming governor events.

We hope you have all now received and read the consultation document about the proposal to change the age range at Brampford Speke, Cheriton Fitzpaine and Newton St Cyres to include two year olds. There is still time to respond by email if you wish to do so. Alternatively, please attend the consultation meetings which are taking place on Monday, 11th February or Thursday, 14th February.

You should also have now received this year's parent questionnaire. Please do respond (by Friday, 15th) as governors really do value your views, and your responses enable us to shape the future direction of the federation. This year there are additional questions on the breadth of the curriculum offered at our schools and the impact that this has on your child. This is an area that governors are particularly interested in at the moment, and they will be carrying out a Governor Learning Walk with this as a focus after half term. In addition to the questionnaire, we will be holding School Reviews in March to follow up any points raised.

Mr Jolliffe updated governors on the Management Partnership with Silverton. He explained that he had been working closely with Mrs Adnams, Headteacher at Silverton, who has also been involved in the weekly leadership meetings and recent leadership day. In addition, teachers from the Exe Valley Federation have had the opportunity to work alongside colleagues from Silverton sharing good practice and expertise. Mr Nichols shared the plan for the 'Great Outdoor Day' next half term, where our pupils will join Silverton for an exciting day of outdoor learning activities, including singing by the campfire, following treasure maps and art!

Online Safety Newsletter

We have attached the latest online safety newsletter from Scomis, who provide IT and other support services to schools. There is a lot of useful information in this publication, including guidance on Fortnite and Twitch. Please do read this and help keep your children safe online.

Collective Worship Dates

Tuesday, 26th March, 2.30pm Easter Service in the church

Friday, 5th April, 3pm Class 1 assembly

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Diary Dates

Tuesday, 12th February Class 2 Greek Day
Wednesday, 13th February Class 3 trip to the Fleet Air Arm Museum

Monday, 18th - Monday, 25th February Half-term holiday (25th is a non-pupil day, staff training)

Wednesday, 27th February School nurse in to weigh and measure Reception and Year 6 children
Thursday, 28th February Class 1 Forest School morning at Silverton
Thursday, 28th February, 4pm Tag Rugby 6 Nations festival, Crediton Rugby Club
Friday, 8th March Class 1 multi-sports session at QE
Thursday, 14th March, 9.10am, 2.45pm School Review sessions for parents
Thursday, 14th March, 4pm Tag Rugby 6 Nations festival, Crediton Rugby Club
Monday, 18th to Friday, 22nd March Bikeability training for Year 5
Tuesday, 19th & Thursday, 21st March Parent Teacher meetings
Wednesday, 20th March 3pm Class 2 open afternoon
Thursday, 28th March 3pm Class 3 open afternoon
Tuesday, 2nd April Class 3 Paddleboat performance at Exeter Phoenix
Wednesday, 3rd April, evening Class 3 music event at The Great Hall, Exeter University
Friday, 5th April Last day of spring term

Wednesday, 1st May – Friday, 3rd May Year 5 residential to Barton Hall
Wednesday, 5th June – Friday, 7th June Year 4 residential to New Barn, Dorchester
Tuesday, 11th June – Friday, 14th June Year 6 residential to Grenville House, Brixham
Thursday, 4th July – Friday, 5th 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)

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

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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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