



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

1st March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

From Mr Jolliffe

Welcome back to school! I hope you and your family were able to enjoy the lovely weather over half term and spend some time together. This week has got off to a great start with lots of different activities going on, especially the Outdoor Learning Event for the younger children in each class. The day was held at Silverton School, making use of their outdoor facilities. With over 100 children there, it was a busy but very exciting day. Many thanks to everyone who helped get the day ready, to Mr Nichols for organising the different activities and Mrs Adnams and her team for hosting the day.

Online Safety

You may have heard or seen social media posts about a frightening character who has infiltrated some children's websites recently. The BBC reported yesterday that this was actually 'false news' and had no factual basis. The UK Safer Internet Centre advises that naming specific online content or games can increase the risk of creating media coverage and social media sharing, which can inadvertently promote the content to young audiences.

The UK Safer Internet Centre encourages open and honest conversations with young people about the kind of content they could encounter online, and to ensure children know what to do and who to turn to if they do come across something that makes them feel worried or upset. It is also important that as professionals with a duty to safeguard the young people in our care that we are only sharing factual and useful information.

The Samaritans encourage parents and adults who work with young people to talk to them about their online activity. Let them share what they're playing or looking at, rather than asking them if they are playing a specific game, as this may draw their attention to it. There are some good sources of information and advice for parents:

<https://parentinfo.org/>

Parent Info is a free web service providing information to parents and carers.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/ShareAware>

Advice from NSPCC on social networks, apps and games.

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

A non-profit organisation working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children. If you think that your child may be at risk of exposure to inappropriate material, then please do contact Mr Jolliffe, the federation's Designated Safeguarding Lead or your child's Head of School for more information.

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Online Safety Workshops for Parents

O2 and the NSPCC have joined forces on a mission to help all children and their families in the UK stay safe online. Together, they're offering useful tools, support and guidance to help parents and carers have conversations with their children about their online lives. As part of this, they're running free online safety workshops for parents and carers and will be hosting one at **Newton St Cyres School from 2-3pm on Monday, 11th March**. We would like to invite all parents and carers to join. The hour-long workshop will help parents and carers understand their child's online world and build confidence to have those important conversations that can help keep children safe online.

From Mrs Parkes

Welcome back after half term. I hope that you had some time to have fun in the sun doing what you love! This half term is a very busy one with lots going on. So please try to keep an eye on the board and the dates at the end of the newsletter.

Class 1's Forest School Day



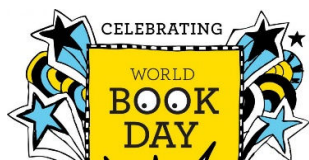
On Thursday Class 1 had a fantastic time at Silverton School doing some wonderful forest school activities. They had the opportunity to work with children from the other federation schools making clay faces on trees, doing Andrew Goldsworthy art, going on a bear hunt, and enjoying a camp fire with hot chocolate and marshmallows and singing campfire songs. It was a real shame that the weather was so miserable. However, despite the rain, cold and mud, they all had a great time.

Tag Rugby 6 Nations Tournament

Our tag rugby team played their first two games this week against Cheriton Fitzpaine and Newton St Cyres schools. They won both matches, 7 – 2 against Cheriton and a closely fought 5 – 4 against Newton. It was a great atmosphere at CREDITON Rugby Club, where the tournament was held. Well done to all the players. They played fantastically. There will be another two rounds of matches in the next few weeks and I am sure they will continue to do well. My thanks go to Rachel Milton and Elaine and Sean Green who transported the children for us.



World Book Day, Thursday, 7th March 2019



As part of our World Book Day activities next week, a story teller will be coming into school on Wednesday to share some stories from around the world and to work with each class to create a story of their own.

On World Book Day itself we are going to share stories that we all love. The children will be mixed up into three groups with children from Reception to Year 6

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in each group. They will have fun completing a number of activities linked to the book being shared. We would like the children to come dressed as a character in a book they know and if possible bring the book to share later in the day (please avoid dressing in football or other sport strip).

World Book Day Lunch, Thursday, 7th March 2019



Abby will be cooking a special World Book Day lunch on Thursday. There will be Gruffalo sausages or Hungry Caterpillar pasta (macaroni cheese) with The Witches sticks (potato wedges) and Mr Stink beans (baked beans) or Jack's magic green beans. The desert is The Snowman (vanilla ice cream) and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory shortbread finger.

Our Value: Justice

Our value this half term is 'Justice' and attached to this newsletter are some activities you could do with your child to develop their ideas and awareness of the importance of Justice.

Residential Visits

Just a reminder that it is time for the second instalment of residential payments, if you are following the payment scheme recommended in the residential letters. You can pay as much or as little as you like as often as you like, if this suits you better. A few people have not signed your children up for the residential. Please do so soon, as we have to confirm numbers with the venues. If you have any questions or worries, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me.

School Gateway

We would like to encourage you to sign up for School Gateway even if you don't want to pay online. Once you have signed in, you can view your balance of payments (including cash and cheque payments) and this will help you to keep in credit. It also helps Vanessa in the office and saves her sending reminder emails.

Online Lunch Menu

We realise that when you order your child's lunch online, there is no way for you to change this once a choice has been made. Don't worry! If your child changes his/her mind, just let the teacher know in the morning and we can easily change the system.

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.

If you are running late at the end of the school day ...

Please, please ring the office, if you possibly can, to let us know that you will be late. It saves your children from getting worried and lets us know where you are. Please also remember to let us know of any change of phone number or email address so that we can get hold of you if necessary.

Proposal to Change the Age Range at Brampford Speke

Following the consultation on changing the age range of Brampford Speke C of E School, the governors have agreed that this change should take place from 1st April 2019. As Brampford Speke is a Church School, the statutory process does not need to be followed and governors can make this decision. This will not make any

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practical difference to the organisation of classes within the school but allows us to run the pre-school provision as part of the main school budget. It also allows us to include 2 year olds in the pre-school when there is demand for this. Additional staff will need to join the school in order to accommodate 2 year olds and we will need to do some more work on the building to make it work for the youngest children.

Proposal to Change the Age Range at Cheriton Fitzpaine and Newton St Cyres

Devon County Council is formally consulting on lowering the age ranges of Newton St Cyres (Community) Primary School and Cheriton Fitzpaine (Community) Primary School from 4-11 to 2-11 years from 1st April 2019. As Cheriton and Newton are community schools, the statutory process for changing the age range has to be followed and the decision is made by Devon County Council. The Full Proposal is available to view on-line via: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/>. Please select the 'Education and Schools' category or via the school website. The web page also details how responses can be sent to Devon County Council, as the decision-maker. The deadline date for representations to be made is 29th March 2019. If you do not have access to the web, please call the School Organisation Team on 01392 382057. The Full Proposal is also on the federation website.

Staff Development Day Report from Governors

On the staff development day this week Annette Garrett Cox gave an animated presentation on the Science of Learning and Working Memory. Governors joined staff from all four schools and Kathy Little the Maths co-ordinator from Silverton to hear about brain development and the possibility of strengthening short and long term memory. Did you realise that the more 'deep sleep' a child has, the more opportunity they have to 'rewind the video' of their day and reactivate and consolidate what they have learned at school during their waking hours? They are then more likely to build up their long-term memories. This 'slow-wave sleep' is significantly reduced if the child has watched a screen just before bed-time because it takes them longer to reach the deep sleep state. Staff were reminded of the importance of reviewing what has been learnt the day before and building upon it. There was a fascinating maths session on using the visual bar model to break down complex problems into what is known already and what actually needs to be tackled, plus a fun session using Cuisenaire rods to represent fractions and ratios. How lucky we are in the Federation to have access to such great collaborative learning. Many thanks to Mr Jolliffe for inviting Annette down from Bristol to share her enthusiasm and expertise.

Safeguarding Training for Volunteers

We take our responsibility to keep children safe very seriously and expect everyone who works regularly with children in the federation schools to do the same. If you volunteer in school regularly and have not attended a training course in the last three years, then it is time to come to an update session. These will be led by Mr Jolliffe, the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the federation on the following days:

Wednesday, 13th March 2019 at 9.30am at Newton St Cyres

Monday, 18th March 2019 at 1.15pm at Cheriton Fitzpaine

Thursday, 21st March 2019 at 7.00pm at Thorverton

Please let your child's school office know which session you are coming to and if you sign up, please do come. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Drumming Lessons

Tony Price has space for two children to learn to play the drums. Please see Vanessa or Katharine in the office for more details.



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Thorverton Parish Church Family Service, Sunday, 17th March 2019

Everybody is very welcome to attend the family service and baptism in the church on Sunday, 17th March. The church will be open for refreshments and children's activities from 9.30am. The service will start at 10am.

Charity Dance at the Memorial Hall, Saturday, 2nd March 2019 from 7.30pm

The Memorial Hall is hosting a dance, at which 'Stay Lucky' will be playing, in aid of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust night landing site at Thorverton. Come along and support this very worthwhile cause – tickets cost £5 at the door or in advance from the Berry Dairy, the Exeter Inn and the Thorverton Arms.

Collective Worship Dates

Tuesday, 26 th March, 2.30pm	Easter Service in the church
Friday, 5 th April, 3pm	Class 1 assembly

Diary Dates

Friday, 8 th March	Class 1 multi-sports session at QE
Monday, 11 th March	Class 3 practice for Great Hall event at Newton St Cyres
Thursday, 14 th March, 9.10am, 2.45pm	School Review sessions for parents
Thursday, 14 th March, 4pm	Tag Rugby 6 Nations festival, Crediton Rugby Club
Monday, 18 th to Friday, 22 nd March	Bikeability training for Year 5
Tuesday, 19 th & Thursday, 21 st March	Parent Teacher meetings
Wednesday, 20 th March 3pm	Class 2 open afternoon
Monday, 25 th March 3pm-ish	Class 3 Paddleboat performance for parents
Thursday, 28 th March 3pm	Class 3 open afternoon
Monday, 1 st April	Class 3 practice for Great Hall event at Newton St Cyres
Tuesday, 2 nd April	Class 3 Paddleboat performance at Exeter Phoenix
Wednesday, 3 rd April, evening	Class 3 music event at The Great Hall, Exeter University
Friday, 5 th April	Last day of spring term
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)

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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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