



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

7th July 2017

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

This week all the Year 3 and 4 children took part in the FWAG project, which gives children the opportunity to learn more about farming and wildlife. The theme of this year's project was hedgerows and on Wednesday all three schools exhibited their work at the Rec in Newton St Cyres, where the awards were held. I was really impressed with the work the children had done over the last few weeks and their confidence in speaking to the judges. A total of nine schools had entered the event and I was delighted that Thorverton won third prize for their exhibition, which included a model cob oven. Many congratulations to all the children for their hard work in preparing the exhibition and many thanks to the staff and parents who supported them.

From Mrs Parkes

Exe Valley Challenge



Last Sunday three teams from Thorverton entered the Exe Valley Challenge. We had two junior teams and one senior team. The all did excellently, keeping to time and answering as many questions as possible on the way.

There were 148 teams entered in all. It was very tight for the top spaces. Our seniors came eighth in their category. Thorverton 2 came 12th and Thorverton 3 came 18th. Well done all of you. Thank you to the parents who supported

the teams on the way round. Photos are available from www.iscaexeter.co.uk if you would like some.

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Kingfisher Award

Class 2 have spent a lot of time working diligently on their Kingfisher project on 'Hedgerows'. All their hard work really showed on Wednesday evening when they explained so knowledgeably about all the work they had done, and their depth of knowledge was astounding. The judges of the competition recognised this and we were awarded third place out of nine teams. The judges mentioned the cob oven and the wonderful crochet work as well as the enthusiastic way the children gave their information as real strengths. Thanks also go to Miss Holmes, Miss Finch and Mrs Perryman who worked hard to co-ordinate and transport all the children's work. The project is displayed in the hall if you would like to come and look at the amazing work.

Sports Day, Tuesday, 11th July 2017, 1.30pm

Parents and families are welcome to come along to our Sports Day on Tuesday afternoon. The PTFA will be selling refreshments and there will also be a second-hand uniform stall. We would like the children to wear a T-shirt of the colour of their house or if they don't have one they can wear their school PE T-shirt and we will give them a coloured badge.



Class 3 Disco, Thursday, 13th July, 6.15 – 8pm



Class 3 will be organising a disco for the children in Classes 2 and 3. Tickets will be on sale in the office next week at £1.50 per ticket. On the door tickets will cost £2.50. This is a joint Class 3/PTFA fundraising event. There will also be snacks, drinks and transfer tattoos on sale, so bring a small amount of money on the night. Children will need to be signed in to the disco, a contact number left with us and the name of the person who will be collecting the children at the end. Mr Martin needs four adult volunteers to be at the disco, so if you are able and willing to help, he'd love to hear from you.

After-school Clubs

There will be just one more session of Cricket Club this term, on Monday, 10th July at the cricket ground as usual. There will be no more Gardening or Crochet Club this term. Street Surfing, Key Stage 1 Multi-sports, Singing and Tag Rugby Clubs will all continue for the next two weeks. There will be no after-school clubs in the short last week of term.

Parent Governor Vacancies

You should have received a letter from Jackie Enright and Gemma Poulton, the Chairs of Governors for the Exe Valley Federation and Brampford Speke School, letting you know that the governing bodies have decided to re-federate on the 1st September 2017 to include Brampford Speke in the Exe Valley Federation. This is a great opportunity for all four schools to work together and to share resources and expertise and I am looking forward to getting to know the children, staff and families at Brampford Speke this term and in the autumn. As a result of the re-federation process, the governing board has to be re-structured to include governors from Brampford Speke and the Exe Valley Federation. This means that there is a vacancy for two parent governors on the new board. Please think about becoming a governor, or encouraging others to volunteer. A letter with more information about the role of a governor and how to apply is attached to this newsletter.

Term Dates for September 2017

The term dates for next year have been published on the website and these are correct. Unfortunately the Devon County Council grid is incorrect and should be ignored. There is one Staff Development Day at the

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start of next term and children are due to return to school on TUESDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2017. Half term is Monday 22nd October to Friday 25th October and then we have 2 Staff Development Days on Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st October. Children return to school on Wednesday 1st November and term ends on Friday 15th December 2017.

Message from the Governors

The Exe Valley Federation Resources Committee met at Thorverton on Wednesday, 28th June 2017. Pauline Woodbridge (School Business Manager) gave a comprehensive report on the current financial position, including budget, income and expenditure. She explained the need to carry out benchmarking, where the EVF's budget would be examined against a similar federation to explore how costs compare. This has so far proved difficult, as there are no three-school federations of similar size in the local area. This will be explored further in the autumn term and has been added into the annual cycle for January. We also looked at the income of the Foundation Stage Unit at Cheriton Fitzpaine and Newton Nippers. Pauline stressed the importance of applying for the 30-hour funding and/or tax-free childcare before the end of term to enable it to be used in the autumn term. If you have a child who attends either establishment and turns three next term please make sure you have registered/checked eligibility. Staff at the FSU or Nippers will be happy to assist. Pauline explained that the target is to have removed all debt owed to any school (either through dinner money/child care/after-school clubs) so that we can start September without any money owing. Mr Jolliffe was able to give a positive update on the progress of technical support across the Federation. The plan is to coordinate all contracts across the schools within the next academic year. The company Soft Egg have carried out audits in all schools and have identified immediate action to be taken; this has been followed up in a meeting this week. A pressing issue is the server at Thorverton, which often leaves the entire school without internet. The intention is to replace all interactive whiteboards with a more modern touch screen and this will most likely be carried out at one school at a time. It will be necessary to keep some of the budget back for the new school in Newton as we will not be taking current ICT equipment with us. Mr Hannaford will continue to support ICT across the Federation and will receive additional training from Soft Egg next year.

Repairs and maintenance reports also showed progress had been made. New carpets at Thorverton are in hand, and, fortunately, the rooks have left, thanks to the efforts of the harrier hawk. The hawk is now making random fortnightly visits to ensure the rooks stay away. We have received a donation from a local resident, as well as from the Pre-school, to assist with the costs. A thorough fire audit was carried out at Newton. Mr Akhurst and Mr Hannaford attended fire warden training and this will be repeated with the other heads of schools and selected TAs during the next term.

This year Mr Jolliffe has led a middle leaders training programme offering support and CPD for aspiring leaders. Teachers who have participated in the course have been working on action research projects which will be shared with governors and staff in the autumn term. They have also been given the opportunity to have a mock job interview with Mr Jolliffe and governors. Job descriptions have been written up for six roles which will be filled in the autumn term. These include subject leaders, Pupil Premium Champion and ITT lead.

Thorverton Memorial Hall Fun Day, Saturday, 8th July, 11am

Everybody is invited to come along to the Memorial Hall's Fun Day tomorrow. There will be lots of stalls, activities for children and families, burgers, and other refreshments on sale.

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Thorverton Village Tidy-up Day, Saturday, 15th July, 9.30am – 1pm

Helpers wanted to help tidy up our village next Saturday. Meet at Leigh Gardens (opposite the village green) with tools and gloves. Tea, coffee and water will be provided.

Thorverton Parish Church Family Service, Sunday, 16th July, 10am

Everybody is warmly invited to come along to the family service in Thorverton Parish Church on Sunday, 16th July. The church will be open from 9.30am.

Collective Worship Dates

Wednesday, 26th July, 2.30pm Leavers' service in church

Diary Dates

Tuesday, 11 th July, 1.30pm	Sports Day
Thursday, 13 th July	Year 5 transition event at QE
Monday, 17 th July	Year 6 trip to Clip 'n' Climb and iBounce; barbecue
Tuesday, 18 th July	Whole school trip to Crealy
(Wednesday, 19 th July)	(Reserve Sports Day)
Friday, 21 st July	Federation Assembly at Newton St Cyres School
Wednesday, 26 th July	Last day of summer term
Tuesday, 5 th September	First day of autumn term (Monday, 4 th September is a non-pupil day)
Mon, 23 rd Oct – Weds, 1 st Nov	Half-term holiday (Mon & Tues, 30 th & 31 st Oct are non-pupil days)
Friday, 15 th December	Last day of autumn term

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of School

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