



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

22nd March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

From Mr Jolliffe

Most of the federation schools have had parent conferences this week and I hope you have had the opportunity to talk to your child's teacher about progress that your child has made this term. On Tuesday this week the federation leadership team reviewed the comments that parents made about the curriculum, as part of our wider review of provision for the future. From September we will be sending out more detailed curriculum information to enable parents to understand more about what is taught in class; alongside home learning projects, this should help you to know what is being taught in school and support learning more effectively. Home learning at primary schools is not compulsory so does not contain anything that isn't covered in class. The intention is to give you a way into helping your child enhance and supplement learning and to give you a starting point for conversations about what is going on at school. I well remember that my children always claimed to have done 'nothing' at school, which wasn't true! Hopefully using the information we send home on project outlines and home learning projects will enable you to ask more insightful questions than I did and to talk to your child about school. If you have any more ideas about how this could work, please do let me know.

Federation Review

Every spring we commission a Federation Review with an external adviser and this year it will be led by Neil Swait from the Dartmoor Teaching School Alliance. Neil will be visiting all the federation schools on Tuesday, 26th and Wednesday, 27th March and talking to leaders, governors, staff and children about the progress that we have made since last year's review. We will also be talking to Neil about the outcomes of the parent questionnaire and the analysis that has taken place since these were completed. This is not a mock Ofsted inspection but is much more closely focused on the aspects of school improvement that are most relevant to our federation. We will also be spending some time at Silverton C of E School as part of the partnership arrangement we have with them this year.

From Mrs Parkes

Exmoor Challenge Practice at Killerton

The children who are doing the Exmoor Challenge in May had their first chance to put their teamwork and map reading skills to the test on Wednesday when we went to Killerton to do some orienteering. The children did really well, navigating their way around the grounds finding the different check points. Team work was especially good in the girls' team. Both teams were successful in finding most of the 32 check points in the grounds. We will be



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organising two more walks before the actual event on 4th May. Thank you to Tammi and Louise for transporting the children for us on this occasion. You should receive a letter today about further practice walks if your child is taking part in the Exmoor Challenge.

Bikeability



The children in Year 5 have had great fun on their bikes this week taking part in cycle training. As well as having fun, they have also learnt how to be safe on the road on their bikes. This is such an important skill, as many children do ride these roads and narrow lanes. Well done to all of you who completed the week and gained both Level 1 and Level 2 certificates. Thanks also to Dave who ran the course.

Parents Evening and Class 2 Open Afternoon

It has been great to see so many of you attending the parents' evenings and Class 2's open afternoon this week. We really appreciate the interest you take in your child's learning in school. It also makes a huge difference to the children, as they always want to share the exciting things that they do in school. It means a great deal to all of them. If you have not been able to attend one of the arranged parents' evenings please talk to your class teacher to agree another date and time.

Class 3 has an open afternoon next Thursday, 28th March from 3pm, so please do come along if you can.

Guitar Concert, Wednesday, 27th March 3pm

Ginnie Cutler's guitar pupils will be giving a concert at 3pm on Wednesday afternoon. Parents of the guitarists are invited to come along and enjoy the music.



NSPCC Visit, Thursday, 28th March 2019



The NSPCC are visiting the school next week to talk to all of the children about keeping safe. Please have a read of the attached letter which explains in detail how the day will be organised and what the presenter will be talking about to the children.

Top Table

On Monday, Lochlan, Ted, Amelia C, Neve, Charlotte and Amelia H. enjoyed their lunch at Top Table in the company of Miss Holmes.



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.

PTFA

Recently, the PTFA have found their numbers have dwindled and this has meant that some activities arranged for the children have not gone ahead as there have not been enough people to organise and run them. This is a real shame, as the school depends on the good will of the PTFA to provide activities, resources and support for the school and your children that we would not otherwise be able to provide. They do an amazing job but really do need more help. Please read the attached flyer to see what they do and how you might be able to help.

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Governor Visit to Lords Meadow

On Friday, 8th March I observed the Year 2, 3 and 4 pupils from all four federation schools attend PE sessions at the Leisure Centre in Crediton. This was well organised, with each staff member having a copy of the morning's activities, times, staff member responsible and children's names and group.

Sessions observed: Outdoor Netball and Hockey on AstroTurf – delivered by Exeter College Level 3 PE BTEC students with accompanying College tutor.

Swimming: Children are grouped according to swimming ability with four groups with a coach each in the main pool and three groups of two or three pupils each in the learner pool.

Gymnastics: This is the first year of Premier Sport delivering gymnastics sessions. Staff report that the quality of provision is very good, coaches are highly qualified and pupils highly motivated.

Staff reported that they have benefited from observing and engaging with qualified coaches and the children thoroughly enjoy these sessions. It was encouraging to learn how staff and coaches promote physical exercise and share the variety of clubs and activities available in and out of school. Many thanks to the staff and pupils for their time and commitment.

Sheryl Margesson

Collective Worship Dates

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

Diary Dates

Monday, 25 th March	Space Dome visits school
Monday, 25 th March 3pm-ish	Class 3 Paddleboat performance for parents
Wednesday, 27 th March 3pm	Guitar concert
Thursday, 28 th March	NSPCC visit to school
Thursday, 28 th March 3pm	Class 3 open afternoon
Thursday, 28 th March	6 Nations Tag Rugby Tournament
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
Thursday, 4 th April	Exmoor Challenge practice walk
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

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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

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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