



# Thorverton C of E Primary School

## Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

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5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

### From Mr Jolliffe

Earlier this week I had the pleasure of attending two really excellent federation events. The first was the Paddleboat Theatre performances by the oldest children in each of the schools. This term the children have been working with Paddleboat to put together performances based on their learning about World War Two. Supported by members of the Paddleboat team, the children took family stories, local history and national events and created moving performances to re-tell the stories of their work. Then on Wednesday night the same children were performing again, this time at the Great Hall Crediton Learning Community annual musical event. Our children launched the show with a wonderful African song and set a really high standard for everything that followed. Many thanks to Stuart Cottrell and his team from Paddleboat and to Alison Golby for their hard work preparing the children and then supporting their performances this week.



### Changes to Age Range Consultation

The consultation process on changing the age range at Brampford Speke, Cheriton Fitzpaine and Newton St Cyres schools has now been completed and all three schools have been registered as 2- to 11-year-old provision. This will not make any significant change to the current class structure but enables us to work with one budget from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

### Term Dates

The spring term finishes today, Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April. The summer term begins for everyone on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April and ends on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> July. Half term is Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> May.

### From Mrs Parkes

Class 3 have had a very busy week.

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### **Class 3 Paddleboat Performance**

On Tuesday the children performed their very powerful drama piece called 'Do Your Duty'. It was a short piece based on stories the children found out from their relatives about World War II. There were some invited guests there to watch, one of which was Zac M's grandma whose story some of their play was based on. Thank you to all of the family members who gave their stories and especially to Paddleboat Theatre Company who put it all together. The children learnt a great deal from the experience and thoroughly enjoyed it.

### **The Great Hall 'Celebrate in Style'**

On Wednesday evening Class 3, along with the other federation schools, performed their song 'Maliswe' on stage to hundreds of parents and children. The performance was excellent. It all came together, singing, drumming and acrobatics! Well done all of you.

### **Exmoor Challenge Practice Walk**

On Thursday I took our Exmoor Challenge teams on a practice walk around the local area, starting in Brampford Speke, walking through Stoke Canon and Thorverton, and ending back at Brampford Speke for lunch. Mr Nichols from Brampford Speke led a number of activities along the walk. The children had to find markers set on the route, pace out distances and use the features of the map, contours and grid references to ensure they knew exactly where they were. Our boys' team found every marker! All the teams did a fantastic job and will be able to use the skills they have learnt on the practice walk on 24<sup>th</sup> April and on the actual Challenge itself.



### **Class 2 Pancake Sale**

On Tuesday Class 2 spent the afternoon cooking and filling pancakes to sell after school in aid of Comic Relief. The sale was really popular and the children raised £16.40 thanks to parents' generosity.



### **Class 1's Open Afternoon**

It was great to see so many parents at Class 1's open afternoon on Wednesday. The children were keen to show their books with the work they have been doing this term and parents also enjoyed looking at all the classroom displays.

### **Rules for Before and After School**

Just a reminder: Please could you ensure your child does not scooter or cycle on the playground. It is dangerous for the other children who are there. We have had a number of near misses recently as children speed across

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the playground. Also, balls or any equipment are not allowed on the playground in the morning or after school for the same reason. Recently, a child had a very close encounter with a ball that had been thrown very hard. It could have been a serious accident. Finally, the climbing equipment is also not to be used before or after school, as we do not want an accident when the children are not supervised.

### Scarlet Fever

We just thought we would let you know that there has been a case of scarlet fever in Pre-school. Scarlet fever is an infectious disease. The first signs of scarlet fever can be flu-like symptoms, including a high temperature of 38C or above and swollen neck glands (large lump on the side of your neck). A rash appears a few days later, starting on the chest and tummy. A white coating also appears on the tongue; this peels leaving it red and swollen. If your child has symptoms of this illness, the NHS advises you to take your child to the GP. There is more information on the NHS website, <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Scarlet-fever/>.

### New Menus

Next term we have a new school meal menu. Look out for paper copies in the children's book bags and an electronic copy attached to the newsletter.

### Top Table

On Monday, Indiana, Isaac, Bonnie E, Sophie, Charlie and Riley 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.

### Federation Value for the First Half of the Summer Term

The Federation value for the first half of the summer term is 'Service'. In our collective worship we will be thinking about how small acts of kindness can make a big difference. We will also be using stories from everyday life, the Old Testament part of the bible and the life and teachings of Jesus to illustrate this value. At the end of the series, we will think about how Jesus taught his followers to live a life of service for others, rather than living for him or herself. The final collective worship will focus on the birthday of the church, also called Pentecost.

### Residential Reminder

I would just like to remind parents and carers of children in Year 3 to 6 that final payments for the residential trips are due next week. If you have any questions about payments, or, indeed about the trips themselves, please see me.

### From the Governors

Exe Valley Governors were joined by members of the Silverton Governing Board at Newton St Cyres on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Jolliffe updated governors on his Executive Headteacher report, with the federation headlines covering federations in Devon, system leadership, changes in pupil numbers and the added pressures on staff, alongside the importance of workload management. Governors then had the opportunity to work in their focus school groups, identifying barriers and drivers for each school. Following this, governors explored

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the changes in the new Ofsted framework, which will provide a more holistic approach to inspections. Governors looked at their role in these changes, and how we will ensure that standards and data outcomes are maintained, while ensuring we continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum. It was reiterated that getting the curriculum right is not just for OFSTED but for the children in our schools, and that the opportunities for music, sports, the arts and outdoor education are a real strength across the Exe Valley Federation.

### **Mobile Library in Thorverton**

Did you know that the mobile library visits the Quarry Car Park in Thorverton (by the post office) once a month on Thursdays between 3.35 and 4.20pm? **The next visit is Thursday 18th April.** The library bus has a great selection of books and DVDs, including children's books. There is no charge to borrow them and there are no fines. Visiting this might make a nice little outing towards the end of the holiday when ideas for things to do may be running low!

### **Sciencedipity Holiday Club**

Sciencedipity are running a science and nature holiday club in Barnstaple from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April. Please see the poster in the noticeboard for more details.

### **Spring Crafts Family Learning Workshop, Crediton Library, 18<sup>th</sup> April**

Learn Devon is offering this session on craft ideas to use at home. Please see the poster in the noticeboard for more details.

### **Outdoors Forest School Club**

This company is organising forest school sessions during the holidays. Please see the poster in the noticeboard for more information.

## *Diary Dates*

Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Exmoor Challenge practice walk, Dulverton
Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Exmoor Challenge
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday
Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs
Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> May – Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 5 residential to Barton Hall
Wednesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday, 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 residential to New Barn, Dorchester
Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 residential to Grenville House, Brixham
Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> July – Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 3 residential to Plymouth Aquarium and Camp Wild Escot

## *Term Dates*

### **Summer term 2019**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May (SATs 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May)

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July

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**Autumn term 2019**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October (Staff Development Days 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September)

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December (Staff Development Day 29<sup>th</sup> November)

**Spring term 2020**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February (Staff Development Day 6<sup>th</sup> January)

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

**Summer term 2020**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May (Staff Development Day 14<sup>th</sup> April)

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break and I look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

With best wishes,

*Sarah Parkes*

Head of School

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