



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

14th October 2016

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

Earlier in the year there was a lot of information coming from the DfE about Multi-academy Trusts and the importance of schools working together to improve outcomes for children. Following the EU referendum and a change of leadership at the DfE, there was more emphasis on schools making measured decisions about their future and encouragement not to rush into MATs for the sake of it.

Over the last few weeks I have attended a number of meetings that have made it clear that the underlying direction of travel is very clearly towards schools working together in academy groups and that the Regional and National Schools Commissioners have increasingly important roles in driving school improvement. As a federation, the Exe Valley is already working collaboratively and benefiting from shared improvement plans. Over the coming 12 months we will need to think about what our next step in this journey will be, while ensuring that the unique character of each school is sustained.

Federation Business Manager

We are delighted to be able to announce that we have appointed a new Business Manager for the Federation. Mrs Pauline Woodbridge has worked across all the schools in a local authority and more recently at a school in Exeter. She will be joining our admin team after half term and will be working on Thursdays and Fridays each week to support the smooth running of the Federation. We are looking forward to welcoming her and to working with her in the coming months. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Maddy Tucker, our former Federation Business Manager, for continuing to work behind the scenes since she 'retired' in April. She has done an excellent job keeping everything going and we wish her well as she starts her retirement properly after she has handed over to Mrs Woodbridge.

From Mrs Parkes

Parents' Evening, Tuesday, 18th October 2016

It was great to see some of you at parents' evening last night. It was a very positive evening with a lot of you feeling happy with your child's progress and attitudes to learning. I hope that you will find the leaflet you were given helpful and keep your child's targets in mind when they are completing their homework.

Remember to keep the targets on the fridge!

If you haven't signed up, there is another parents evening on Tuesday, 18th October, please come in and put your name on the sheets on the class room door.

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Growth Mindset

As a Federation we are all working to develop a Growth Mindset when it comes to challenges in our lives, be they work related or personal. The children are all working on being positive about aspects of school they find difficult and are persevering when things get a bit tricky. I thought that you might want to know more about this approach to life and learning, so along with the newsletter you will receive a leaflet explaining more. Please have a read and help us to develop this approach with your child/children.

Harvest Festival, Thursday, 13th October 2016

It was really lovely to see so many of you at the church on Thursday for our Harvest Festival. The children and staff worked really hard to each produce their own individual piece, which, I am sure you will agree, were all varied and entertaining. I'd also like to thank you for all of your contributions. The display at the back of the church was packed and beautifully set off by Pre-school's lovely farming banner, with its tractors, trees and harvest pictures. All of your donations will be taken to CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team) after the Church's Harvest Service this Sunday. If you are around please go along. The family service starts at 10am and there will be refreshments from 9.30am onwards.



It is always great to have the organ played on these occasions. I'd like to thank Heather for playing for our Harvest Festival and also for



preparing the brave recorder payers. It's not an easy thing performing in front of so many people and they did it really well.

Class 2's Appeal for the Amatrice Earthquake Victims

The children in Class 2 have spent some time recently looking at the Amatrice earthquake and the people that it affected. For this reason, they would like to hold a fundraising day next Wednesday, 19th October. Children may come to school dressed in green, white and red (the colours of the Italian flag) for a donation of 50p. Class 2 will be selling pizza during morning break time for 30p a slice. They would also like to collect any of your coppers and spare Euro coins to use to create a map of Italy on the school playground. Class 2 will come around to the classrooms on Wednesday morning to collect the money. After school they will hold a tabletop sale with second-hand books and toys to raise money for the Amatrice appeal.

Top Table

On Monday Mrs Parkes enjoyed her lunch at Top Table with Noah, Ashton, Levi, Brent, Greg and Harry W.

Key Stage 2 Open Afternoon, Thursday, 20th October, 3pm to 3.30pm

Parents of children in Classes 2 and 3 are invited to come to our open afternoon on the Thursday before half term. This is to complement your discussions at parents' evening and to give the children the opportunity to

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show you the work in books and displays that they have been doing this half term. Mr Martin will have a slide show, and Miss Holmes will have an art exhibition, too.

Class 1 Assembly, Friday, 4th November, 3pm

The children in Class 1 will be hosting an assembly, to which all Class 1 parents are warmly invited, instead of an open afternoon. This will be on the Friday after half term, 4th November, in the school hall at 3pm.

Scholastic Book Fair, 12th to 19th October 2016

The Scholastic book fair will be in the school hall until Tuesday afternoon, so if you haven't had a chance to have a look, there is still time. There is large selection of children's books to browse and purchase until 4pm each day, longer on parents' evening on Tuesday. The school receives a donation of books from Scholastic based on the amount spent at the book fair.

PTFA Meeting, 8pm, Monday, 17th October

All are welcome to come to a PTFA meeting in the Exeter Inn on Monday at 8pm.

PTFA AGM, 8pm Monday 7th November

Come and support your PTFA at their AGM on Monday, 7th November at 8pm in the Exeter Inn. They will be voting in a new Chair. Come and join the committee and help raise funds for the school. This is a great way to help organise social events for parents and friends to support and meet new people at the same time.

Threadworms

We have had a case of threadworms reported in a child at school. Threadworms are a common type of worm infection, particularly in primary-school aged children. The worms are white and look like small pieces of thread. People don't always notice any symptoms but often the worms cause itchiness around the bottom and vagina. Please treat your child before sending him or her back to school and the rest of the household should be treated as well. Here is a link to the NHS website with more information on threadworms.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Threadworms/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Tesco Grant



Tesco has teamed up with Groundwork on its Bags of Help initiative in hundreds of regions across England and Wales.

The scheme will see three community groups and projects in each of these regions awarded grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – all raised from the 5p bag charge. Bags of Help offers community groups and projects in each of Tesco's 416 regions across the UK a share of revenue generated from the 5p charge levied on single-use carrier bags. The public will now vote in store from 31st October – 13th November on who should receive the £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 awards. In total, there is over £12.5 million up for grabs. If you would like to know more please go to the website www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp.

As you know, just before the summer holidays, we applied for one of these grants from Tesco's Bags of Help initiative to build some exciting new play equipment to replace the monkey bars. Tesco received nearly 3000 applications for grants, and we are pleased to say that we have been selected as one of the three winning projects in this region. These projects will now go to the public vote to determine which projects will receive which amount of money. The dates for voting in our local stores are now from 31st October to 13th November.

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Flu Vaccinations, Monday, 7th November 2016

The parents of children in Years 1, 2 and 3 should have received an information pack including a consent form regarding a flu vaccination. The date for the vaccinations is Monday, 7th November. A professional from the NHS will be in school to administer the vaccinations to children whose parents have agreed to this.

Job Vacancy at Pre-school

Thorverton Pre-school has a vacancy for a part-time pre-school assistant. The position is initially for approximately four hours per week during Pre-school term time (this may increase depending on funding after Christmas) and includes four weeks' holiday pay per year. The rate of pay will be at least national minimum wage, depending on qualifications and experience. The successful applicant will hold a full and relevant childcare qualification (level 2, preferably level 3) and will need to be flexible. A DBS disclosure will be required. Please contact Pre-school by email thorvertonpreschool@gmail.com for an application pack. The closing date for applications is 31st October 2016.

Harvest Festival Service in the Church, Sunday, 16th October 2016

Everybody is welcome to come along to the joint Parish Church and Baptist Church Harvest Festival on Sunday week. The service starts at 10am and there will be refreshments from 9.30am onwards.

Collective Worship Dates

Friday, 4 th November, 3pm	Class 1 assembly
Wednesday, 14 th December, 2pm	Key Stage 1 Nativity in the church

Diary Dates

Tuesday, 18 th October	Parents' evening
Wednesday, 19 th October	CLC swimming gala
Thursday, 20 th October, 3pm	Class 2 and 3 open afternoon
Monday, 24 th to Friday, 28 th October	Half-term holiday
Monday, 7 th November	Flu vaccination for children in Years 1, 2 and 3
Wednesday & Thursday, 7 th & 8 th December	Key Stage 2 performance
Thursday, 8 th December	Christmas lunch
Friday, 16 th December	End of term
Wednesday, 4 th January 2017	Spring term starts (Tuesday, 3 rd January is a non-pupil teacher training day)

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of School

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