



# Thorverton C of E Primary School

## Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

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21<sup>st</sup> October 2016

Dear Parents,

### From Mr Jolliffe

At the end of a very busy half term, there is plenty to look back on and celebrate. It has been great to see the children settling in so well to their schools and showing so much enthusiasm for their learning. There is a real sense of purpose and motivation amongst the children and a willingness to challenge themselves and make the most of their learning. This can only happen when parents and teachers work together, so thank you for your partnership in supporting your children's learning. I hope you are able to enjoy some time together over the next week and look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 31st October.

### Cornerstones Curriculum

A rich and varied curriculum is the hallmark of a good school and the three Exe Valley schools have built up a strong and effective curriculum over the last few years. As part of our on-going self-evaluation, a group of staff has been looking at ways to refresh and enhance the learning that takes place in the Exe Valley. The outcome of this review has been that we will be using a new curriculum planning resource, called Cornerstones, from the start of next half term. This is a very exciting and dynamic resource that gives teachers ideas and suggestions for learning but doesn't in any way restrict or restrain creativity or imaginative ways of working. All the class teachers have had the opportunity to work together on the new projects and will be able to share resources and ideas, with opportunities for children to work with other schools during the year as well.

We are all looking forward to using this new resource and seeing how the ideas for launching the projects, ways for parents to support learning at home and shared outcomes, evolve during the year. We will continue to use the existing frameworks for English and maths but look forward to seeing how Cornerstones enriches children's learning in the coming years. More information about learning projects will be coming home after half term and there will be an opportunity to review this later in the year.

### From Mrs Parkes

#### Swimming Gala

A group of children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in the annual Crediton Learning Community swimming gala and were a credit to the school. Rebecca came first in the 25m front crawl and Erin came first in the 50m freestyle event; Rebecca came second in the 50m breaststroke and Will H. came second in the 25m back stroke. The other children who took part were Olivia, Willow, Oliver Shaw, Zach V., Ben and Olly C. Well done all of you!

*e-mail: [admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk)  
website: [www.thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk)*

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### **Class 2's Appeal for the Amatrice Earthquake Victims**

Class 2 raised an amazing amount of money for the Amatrice earthquake appeal selling pizzas, books and toys. We haven't yet counted all the pennies laid on the playground to form a map of Italy, so we don't have a final sum, but it's around £100. Well done Class 2!



### **Key Stage 2 Open Afternoon**

Thank you to parents of children in Classes 2 and 3 who came to our open afternoon yesterday. I hope you enjoyed the children's work and presentations and had a chance to see what exciting experiences the children have in school.

### **After-school Tag Rugby Club**

We are really pleased to see how popular our after-school tag rugby club is. We had opened it up to include children in Year 3 this term. However, it is proving to be very difficult to run, as there are too many children to make training sustainable. The two trainers, Jonathan and Dickie, feel that they will only be able to continue to include children in Year 3 at the club if a parent would volunteer to help. So if you would like to help run tag rugby club, please see me. For the moment, the club will only be for children in Years 4, 5 and 6.

### **Class 1 Assembly, Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 4<sup>th</sup> November, in the school hall at 3pm.

### **New Lunch Menu**

From Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> October there will be a new lunch menu. The children should have brought home a copy during the week.

### **PTFA News**

We are looking for your ideas for what to spend some of our fundraising money on. What would benefit the school and your children? Ideas so far include i-pads, football goals and speakers. An ideas board will be in the playground today, Friday, or you can email the PTFA on [rachelandbarry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachelandbarry@hotmail.co.uk).

### **PTFA AGM, 8pm, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

Come and support your PTFA at their AGM on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm in the Exeter Inn. The PTFA organise events within the school to raise money to benefit our children. The money they raise is used to buy extras to help in their learning, subsidise trips, pay for coaches and we pay for their Father Christmas presents. Recently, we organised the auction of promises which raised an amazing £4,000. Not all the events need to be this big. We hold bingos, film nights, a summer fair, refreshments at the Christmas production, a hamper draw at the production, refreshments at Thorfest.

We are looking for further ideas for fund raising. If you have any ideas we would love to hear them. Come along to our AGM and share them. Come and meet other parents. We are looking for new officers this year but please don't be put off. You could just join the committee. The more people on the committee the

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better, so that the work and organisation is spread evenly. If you would like to join the committee and cannot make the meeting just see Julie Davie in the playground and let her know so she can put your name down. The PTFA is here to help all our children. We look forward to seeing you on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. There will be wine and nibbles.

### Tesco Grant



As you know, the PTFA have been successful in securing a grant from Tesco to purchase some outdoor play equipment. Now it is up to us to make the most of this award by voting in

our local stores for the Thorverton scheme. The minimum we can receive is £8,000; if we receive more votes than the other projects in the region then we could receive £10,000 or even £12,000. Spread the word to friends and family and go along to your local Tesco from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 13<sup>th</sup> November to vote for Thorverton's project!

### 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. The rate of pay will be at least national minimum wage. The successful applicant will hold a full and relevant childcare qualification (level 2, preferably level 3). A DBS disclosure will be required. Please email [thorvertonpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:thorvertonpreschool@gmail.com) for an application pack. The closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

### Remembrance Day Service in the Parish Church, Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> November

Parents and children are very warmly invited to attend the Remembrance Day service in Thorverton Parish Church on Remembrance Sunday.

### Collective Worship Dates

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

### Diary Dates

Monday, 24 <sup>th</sup> to Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Half-term holiday
Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Sciencedipity workshop in Class 2
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu vaccination for children in Years 1, 2 and 3
Wednesday & Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 2 performance
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch
Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term
Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Spring term starts (Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> January is a non-pupil day)

Have a great half term holiday and we will see you all again on Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> October.

With best wishes,

*Sarah Parkes*

Head of School

*e-mail: [admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk)  
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