



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

29th January 2016

Dear Parents,

Message from Mr Jolliffe

It has been great to spend more time over the last couple of weeks with the children and staff of the Exe Valley Federation schools and to meet so many parents at the beginning and end of the school day. Thank you all for your warm welcome.

Over the next few weeks the Heads of School and members of the teaching, support and office teams will be meeting to talk about the strategic direction of the Federation over the next five years. We are very keen to hear your views about this and how you think the schools need to develop and move on in order to keep pace with the constantly changing educational landscape. We will be sending out a parent questionnaire soon so please do look out for that and complete it and send it back, but in the meantime if there is anything you would like to contribute specifically, please let me know via any of the school offices. We will also be talking to children about what they think is important for the future of their schools and bringing all these ideas together by the start of the summer term.

Finally, at the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Tucker who has been the School Business Manager for the three schools. I am enormously grateful to her for all her hard work and diligence in supporting the work of the schools and wish her and her husband every happiness as they move to Cornwall.

Exmoor Challenge and Exe Valley Challenge

The Federation will be entering teams in the Exmoor Challenge (for children in Year 6) and the Exe Valley Challenge (for children in Years 4, 5 and 6) in May. We have organised our first practice walk for Sunday, 7th February. If you would like to be in either of the teams, you must have taken part in all the practice walks. Please let me, Veda or Katharine know if you would like to take part in the practice walk on Sunday week. You should have received a letter with all the details earlier this week. Please ask in the office if you didn't receive one or if you would like a paper copy of the permission slip.

After-school Singing Club, Mondays

Just a reminder that it's not too late to join the singing club after school on Mondays that Miss McClune and Mrs Parkes will be running. The group will be singing a variety of fun songs, modern and more traditional. If you would like to come to the club you are welcome to bring some ideas of songs you would like to sing. Please let Veda, Katharine or me know if your child would like to take part.

Rewards

Thank you all for your responses to our questionnaire about how we praise the children in school. We have already introduced our superstar award for a super person each week from each year group. We will

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continue with house points for good work and good behaviour and also with praise notes as many of your responses showed that they are valued by yourselves and the children.

This week we have also introduced a way of rewarding children who are polite and respectful at break and dinner times. The children, who have been chosen by the MTAs, sit at the "top table", which is specially laid with a table cloth and special plates and cutlery. One or two members of staff join the children. This week Harry, Anna, Will H, Sam A, Evie C and Zac M enjoyed their lunch with Mrs Parkes.

Class 1 Visit to a Farm

Class 1 are looking forward to their visit to Tracy Weekes' farm on Tuesday morning. If you haven't already done so, please return the permission slip on Monday. The children will need wellies, warm coats and booster seats.

PTFA Cake Stall

The PTFA have decided to give the Saturday market cake stall a rest and run cake stalls in school. They are asking each class to take charge of baking and selling cakes on a rota. The class that makes the most money at the end of the year will then choose what to spend the proceeds on. The first stall will be on Thursday, 11th February at 3.30pm and will be organised by Class 1. Of course, even if your child is not in Class 1, you are welcome to do some baking to help raise funds! Look out for the cake stall on 11th February and bring some money to purchase cakes or biscuits after school.

PTFA Diary Dates

Thursday, 21st April: **Spring Family Bingo**, Thorverton School Hall, eyes down 6.30pm. Refreshments, including pasties and sausage rolls, for sale. All welcome.

Saturday, 18th June: **Summer Fayre**, 2pm, school field, inviting any interested stall holders, £5 each. Please contact Julie Davie or Pippa Eyles.

Friday, 30th September: Thorverton PTFA **Pledge Auction**, inviting any pledges from local businesses and individuals who may like to support the school. Tickets on sale in due course, £5 to include chili jacket potatoes.

Easter Service in Church – Change of Dates

We have had to change the date of our Easter Service in the church. The service will now be on **Tuesday, 22nd March at 2pm.**

University of Exeter Great Hall Concert, Monday, 7th March 2016

Once again, this year the children in Classes 2 and 3 will be taking part in a Crediton Learning Community concert at the Great Hall. The theme of the concert is "Back by POPular Demand". The children are already busy practicing the songs. Tickets for the performance are available at the Northcott Theatre box office, online at www.exeternorthcott.co.uk/book-tickets or by phone on 01392 493493.

Athletics Event at Riverside Leisure Centre, Exeter, Saturday, 30th January

The Southwest Athletics Academy is hosting the last of their season's sportshall events at the Riverside Leisure Centre in Exeter on Saturday week. There will be running, jumping and throwing activities using specialised indoor equipment for children aged 4 to 14 years. See our noticeboard for more information.

Chinese New Year Celebrations at Exeter University, Saturday, 13th February 2016

This is a free event for local families and students to discover all about Chinese New Year. The celebrations will take place in Exeter city centre and in The Forum on the Streatham campus. Please see <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/internationalstudents/eventsoncampus/chinesenewyear/> for more information. The

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Royal Albert Memorial Museum is also organising a Chinese New Year trail in the museum to celebrate the start of the Year of the Monkey.

Thorverton Pre-school Ladies' Fashion Show, 1st March

Travelling Trends will be hosting a fashion show at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday, 1st March. Doors will open at 7pm and the show will start at 7.30pm. Travelling Trends sell brand name garments at bargain prices. Clothes can be tried on, purchased and taken home on the night and you can pay by cash and most major credit and debit cards. There will be a raffle and the bar will be open. Tickets must be bought in advance at £5 each from Sandra Keyte on 01392 860322, direct from Pre-school, or from the Saturday Market in February. All proceeds will go to the Pre-school.

Message from Thorverton Toddlers Group

The parents at the Toddler Group are looking for large bean bags or cushions to make a quiet reading corner, baby walkers and high chairs. If you have any of these items in good condition please see Amy Crebo.

Collective Worship Dates

Friday, 12 th February, 3pm	Class 3 assembly
Friday, 26 th February, 3pm	Class 2 assembly
Friday, 4 th March, 3pm	Class 1 assembly
Tuesday, 22 nd March, 2pm	Easter service in church

Diary Dates

Sunday, 7 th February	Exmoor Challenge practice walk
Monday, 15 th February to Monday, 22 nd February inclusive	Half-term holiday (Monday, 22 nd February is a non-pupil teacher-training day)
Monday, 7 th March, 6pm	Class 2 & 3 in CLC Great Hall concert, "Back by POPular Demand"
Thursday, 10 th and Tuesday, 15 th March, 3.45 – 6pm	Parent-child-teacher interviews
Thursday, 24 th March	Term ends
Monday, 11 th April	Summer term begins
Friday, 15 th to Monday, 18 th April	Year 4 Residential to Beam House
Friday, 6 th to Sunday, 8 th May	Year 5 Residential to Barton Hall
Friday, 20 th to Monday, 23 rd May	Year 6 Residential to Grenville House
Monday, 11 th to Tuesday, 12 th July	Year 3 Residential to Escot House

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of Teaching and Learning

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