



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

3rd February 2017

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

Over the last couple of weeks I have been able to talk to parents about the strengths and areas for development for the three schools in the Exe Valley Federation and I am grateful to them for giving me their time. I was very encouraged by all the conversations that I had with parents about how well things are going for their children and have passed on those positive comments to the Heads of School and teachers. The way we organise homework came up in several conversations and this is something that we are already looking at with a view to making sure it is consistently set and returned by all teachers. As soon as this has been finalised we will be sharing our plans with you.

From Mrs Parkes

What a wet and windy week it has been. The bad weather has meant that we have had to cancel all of the outdoor after-school clubs. Thank you for rearranging your days, sometimes at short notice, to come and pick up your children at 3.30pm instead of 4.30pm.

We do try to get the children outside at break and lunch times just for a short while if it is wet, so they do need to have a coat. Please would you make sure that your children bring their coats to school every day.

Road Safety

We have had a number of reports from parents about children riding their scooters or bikes quite dangerously on their way to and from school. Please would you ensure that your child is properly clothed with a cycle helmet when riding their bike and also that they look carefully for traffic before crossing or using the road.

On this note, we still need any

Year 6 Bikeability Forms

back. There are still quite a few permission slips to come back and we need to give details to the people running the course as soon as possible.

After-school Fencing Club

Parents of children in Key Stage 2 have received a letter about Go Active's after-school fencing club which will be starting on Mondays after half term. Go Active request a minimum of 15 children for them to run the club. This is a great opportunity for children to have a go at fencing and there is no cost to parents as we are

*e-mail: admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk
website: www.thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk*

LEA: Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QG

paying for the club from our sports funding. Please return the permission slips by Tuesday; if we don't have enough interest, we won't be able to offer this opportunity.

Tag Rugby Club

Jonathan Dovell has been running our tag rugby club for many, many years, long after his own children left Thorverton School. He has decided to "retire" from tag rugby club, and his last session will be next Friday, 10th February. We would like to give him a gift to show our appreciation of all the hours and energy he has put into training the children. If you would like to give a donation towards a gift please bring it into the office early next week.

Would anyone be able to take over from Jonathan to help Dickie run tag rugby club? We need another volunteer who can commit to an afternoon per week. Please see me if you would be able to help.

Top Table

On Monday Jaime, Sufia, Levi, Brent, Greg and Archie K had their lunch at Top Table with Mr Biggins.

School Nurse Drop-in Session, Wednesday, 8th February, 8.30 – 9.30am

The school nurse will be in school on Wednesday morning for a drop-in session for parents and children. If you have any questions about any child health issues, including emotional health, behaviour and sleep, do come along to see the school nurse.

Chicken Pox

Just to let you know that we have a reported case of chicken pox in school.

Pupil Premium Grant

The pupil premium is additional funding given to state-funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers.

During 2016/17 the majority of the Pupil Premium Grant for the Exe Valley Federation will continue to be used to support children in class. In addition to this, there have been changes to the financial support made available to families for music tuition, after school clubs, residential visits and other visits to ensure that the full costs are covered. Full information can be found on our website <http://www.thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk/about/pupil-premium-grant-information.ashx>.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. However, parents and guardians who fulfil the criteria below are encouraged to apply for free school meals, as this can help their child's school to attract additional pupil premium funding to support learning. Follow this link for more information: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/new-starter-pupil-premium>.

From Year 3 onwards, children whose parents are in receipt of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

e-mail: admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk

website: www.thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk

LEA: Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QG

- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit.

Safeguarding Training for Volunteers

We take our responsibilities for keeping children safe very seriously and, as part of this work, it is important that everyone who has regular contact with children in our schools, in whatever capacity, understands the principles of safeguarding and what to do if you have concerns about a child's welfare. If you come into school frequently (three times a month or more) or intensively (for a whole day at a time) then you need to attend the final training course that is being held at Thorverton on Thursday, 9th February at 7.30pm. The course will last for two hours and will include discussion and activities as well as a training element and will be led by Mr Jolliffe, who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the Federation. If you would like to attend, please let Mrs Steele know at Cheriton Fitzpaine (admin@cheriton-fitzpaine-primary.devon.sch.uk) or via any of the school offices before 11am on Wednesday.

Pre-school Cake and Book Stall, Saturday, 4th March

The Pre-school will be holding a fundraising cake and book sale at the Memorial Hall on Saturday, 4th March from 10am to 12 midday. They are very grateful for donations of any second-hand books (for adults as well as children).

Pre-school are also asking for any spare jam jars for another fundraising project.

Collective Worship Dates

Friday, 24 th March, 3pm	Class 1 assembly
Thursday, 30 th March, 9.30am	Easter service in church

Diary Dates

Wednesday, 8 th February, 8.30-9.30am	School Nurse Drop-in Session
Monday, 13 th February – Monday, 20 th	Half term (Monday, 20 th is a non-pupil day)
February	
Thursday, 23 rd February	Class 2 Paddleboat Forest and Beach trip to Dartmouth
Monday, 27 th Feb – Friday, 3 rd March	Bikeability training for Year 6
Tuesday, 14 th March, 3pm	Class 3 open afternoon
Wed, 15 th & Thurs, 16 th March	Parents' evenings
Tuesday, 21 st March, 3pm	Class 2 open afternoon
Friday, 31 st March	End of spring term
Wednesday 26 th – Friday 28 th April	Year 4 residential to Beam House, Torrington
Monday 22 nd – Tuesday 23 rd May	Year 3 residential to Camp Wild, Escot
Wednesday 7 th – Friday 9 th June	Year 5 residential to New Barn, Dorchester
Friday 9 th – Monday 12 th June	Year 6 residential to Grenville House, Brixham

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of Teaching and Learning

*e-mail: admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk
website: www.thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk*

LEA: Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QG