



# Thorverton C of E Primary School

## Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

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5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents,

### From Mr Jolliffe

I hope that the snow and freezing temperatures that we have experienced this week have not been too much of a challenge for you and your family. The decision to close the schools or not in the event of bad weather is always a really difficult one, especially based on a weather forecast as it was for yesterday. We did consider very carefully whether the schools could open safely but concluded that deliveries of food for lunches could be affected and that access to the schools by road would be very limited once the snow started to fall. Once the Met Office had issued a red weather warning this was the only safe course of action to take. With so many other schools closed, staff who are also parents would not have been able to come to school unless they could find alternative childcare. A while ago we set up systems to make sure everyone knew about potential school closures by text and email, as well as updates on the federation website and Devon County Council school closures list. If you did not receive notification [apologies if you got this several times over – better safe than sorry!] please could you let your school office team know so that we can update our records.

### Safeguarding Training

We take our responsibilities for keeping children safe at school and beyond very seriously and offer regular training sessions for parents and volunteers to attend. If you volunteer to work with children on a regular basis or could be on your own with school children at any time, then you need to have completed this training. The next courses will be held on the Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm at Thorverton School. Please let your child's school office know if you are intending to come to this session and if you have said you are coming please make every effort to come on the night.

### Mrs Pauline Woodbridge

For the last two years Mrs Woodbridge has been working across the Federation as our Business Manager. Sadly, she will be leaving us at the end of April to take up a full-time post in a school in Exeter and we will greatly miss her expertise and commitment to the smooth running of the federation's business functions. We will be recruiting a new Federation Business Manager from the 1<sup>st</sup> May and information about this post will be available shortly on the federation website.

### Federation Review

Every year we commission a review of the work of the federation with an external adviser. This gives governors and members of the leadership team the opportunity to reflect on the successes and development areas for the schools and to triangulate our self-evaluation. Next week, Gill Winston, who is a very experienced school adviser in Devon, will be visiting the four schools and spending time in each class talking to children and teachers. She will also be talking to governors and the leadership team on Thursday afternoon and will produce a written report for us to use as part of our self-evaluation.

### Governors' Learning Walk – Focus on greater depth

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On Tuesday, a group of governors joined Mr Akhurst to learn about the Federation's approach to securing Greater Depth in learning. This was the focus of a recent non-pupil day, following on from training attended by several teachers which had sparked useful discussions about how we challenge and enable children to achieve their potential.

Across the Federation, all children are encouraged to adopt a Growth Mindset in their learning, understanding that failure, practice and persistence are important parts of learning; they are also asked to choose their own level of challenge in class. When children are able to complete work easily, rather than being given work which would normally be covered higher up the school, they are encouraged to apply their learning in different situations – for example using maths to work things out in other areas of the curriculum – and to explain their understanding to other pupils. It is this application (or 'mastery') of learning which helps to demonstrate that a child is working at Greater Depth.

Governors were able to look at some examples of children's work which demonstrated aspects of Greater Depth in writing, helping us to understand some of the criteria which teachers – and statutory tests – use to assess children's writing. We saw some wonderful examples of creative writing, as well as excellent spelling, grammar and punctuation, which can be a difficult balance to achieve! Governors were then able to feed back their observations to Heads of School, and ask further questions. Many thanks to Mr Akhurst for an informative presentation, and to teachers and children for sharing examples of their work.

#### **From Mrs Parkes**

I hope that you all had a great time in the snow, but also ensured that you kept warm and safe. It was a very beautiful scene. One that many of the children in school may not have seen before.



Class 3 have been working hard on their performance for the Great Hall on The 7<sup>th</sup> March and they sound fantastic! Miss Finch is busily creating props and Jo, a singing coach from the CLC, came to practice the children's 'Big Sing' which they will also perform, with other schools, at the concert. I hope that everyone has their yellow T-shirt and black leggings or trousers ready. They need to bring them in on Wednesday if they are staying after the practice, but can come dressed in the evening, if returning at 6pm. Last week our brave year

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5's battled their way through arctic temperatures to complete their Bikability training. Well done all of you, for showing such grit!

Class 2 and the first practice walk for the Exmoor challenge teams were both postponed last week due to the weather. The class 2 trip to Exeter is now on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March and the Exmoor Challenge practice walk date is still to be confirmed.

We had a visit from Chris Holding a Head of School at Whitheridge Primary School last week. He spent some time in each school and talked to the staff children about their teaching and learning. He was very impressed with what he saw especially how the children could explain their learning and next steps to him.

### World Book Day

We managed to get World Book Day in on Wednesday, just before the snow came. This year it is all about sharing a book for ten minutes. The Children and many of the staff looked fantastic in their costumes. I started the day off with an assembly on the day and shared an extract of one of my favourite books, 'James and the giant peach' with the children and then they spent time with each member of staff, who shared one of their favourite books. They varied from Alice in Wonderland to Charlottes' web to The Crayon. We also had a story all about hope from Mr Biggin's and a couple of scary stories from Mr Martin, who wrote his own, and Mrs Williamson. The children then had time to share their own books with each other. It was a very enjoyable day.



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## Bikeability,

Hopefully, Mr Godwin will be coming in on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March to finish off the bikeability training that he had started last week with the year 5s.



## Class 2 Trip to Exeter, Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Class 2 will now be visiting Exeter on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, if you haven't already signed a permission slip then please pop in to the office & do so.

## 'Pop of Colour' at the Great Hall, Exeter University, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018

The children in Years 5 and 6 will be performing at the Great Hall on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March. This promises to be a fantastic concert; I hope you all have your tickets for the evening! These are available at <https://exeternorthcott.co.uk/calendar/pop-of-colour/> or direct from the Northcott Theatre box office. The children have been asked to wear a **yellow T-shirt, black trousers or leggings and black shoes** for this performance. Please let me know if you are having trouble organising this. A letter giving more information about arrangements for the day went out earlier this week. Please complete the reply slip and return to us in the office by next Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

## Visit by Paralympian David Hill and Sponsorship

Thank you all so much for the money raised for equipment for the school. You have all been very generous. So far we have raised an amazing £315. If you do still have some please can you let us have it by Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March.



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## **Federation Value: Friendship**



Our value for the second half of the spring term is friendship. We will be thinking about the characteristics of good friends and the sorts of actions that show true friendship. We will be focusing on ways that we can build each other up rather than being negative or critical. As well as learning about stories from the Bible, we will be looking at the Hindu practice of making friendship bracelets at Raksha Bandham and the artwork of He Qi. Towards the end of term, we will be preparing for Easter by looking at the role of Jesus' friends in the Easter story and telling the story of the Three Trees in our Federation assembly at the end of term.

Please find attached to this newsletter a sheet of ideas for you to use at home to explore 'friendship' with your children together.

## **Residential Visits, Years 3 to 6**

Some of you have not yet returned your slips to let us know whether your child will be going on the residential trips or not. We now need to confirm numbers with the venues, so if you have not returned your reply slip please do so as soon as possible. If you don't have one, please ask for another copy in the office.

## **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.

## **Increase in Cases of Scarlet Fever**

There has been a recent national increase in notifications of scarlet fever to Public Health England, above seasonal expected levels. Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A streptococcus (GAS). The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on the skin of some Black and Asian people, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'. As the child improves peeling of the skin can occur. Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should be excluded from school or work for 24 hours after the commencement of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling spread of infection. Please let your child's school know as soon as the infection is confirmed so that we can take further action if necessary.

## **Chicken Pox**

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## *Collective Worship Dates*

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 9.30am      Easter service in the church

## *Diary Dates*

Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Bikeability cycle training for Year 5
Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Class 2 trip to Exeter
Wednesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> March	'Pop of Colour', Class 3 in Concert at the Great Hall, Exeter
Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> March, 2.30pm	Class 2 open afternoon and celebration assembly
Tuesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> March, 3pm	Drumming assembly
Thursday, 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of spring term
Wednesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 5 residential to Barton Hall
Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> April – Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 3 residential to Escot
Saturday, 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Exmoor Challenge (for Year 6)
Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 residential to New Barn, Dorchester
Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 residential to Grenville House, Brixham

With best wishes,

*Sarah Parkes*

Head of School

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