



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

17th November 2017

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

Over the 15 years that I have been a Headteacher there have been a number of times (too many, sadly) when I have worked with children who have been living in families where domestic violence has been a part of their everyday lives. When the police are involved in domestic violence, they have not always been aware of the impact that this has on children's wellbeing and schools have often not been informed about incidents, even though children spend more of their time there than anywhere else apart from their home. Yesterday I went to a briefing for Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads about Operation Encompass, which is coming to Devon from the end of November. This strategy commits the police to letting schools know before 9 o'clock in the morning that a child has witnessed a reported domestic abuse incident. This will enable us to give children the necessary support that they will need as they arrive in school, possibly anxious, frightened or exhausted. I will be able to send more information about the details of Operation Compass in the next few weeks but in the meantime I am very pleased that the police and schools will be able to work more closely in future to share information about difficult situations at home.

From Mrs Parkes Remembrance Day

We had a very reflective day on Monday, thinking about remembrance. Each class started the day with a very informative talk by Alex Fice about Thorverton in the times of war. We then paid our respect at the war memorial. The short service was led by Rev Katie Cross. Children from each class laid a wreath, others were involved in reading out the names



of those who died and laying a cross for each. Rebecca deserves a special mention as she performed her role of standard bearer excellently. At lunchtime we welcomed some of the older residents of the village into school and they talked with the children about their childhoods and experiences. Alex also presented the school with a beautiful word collage of an Armistice Day poppy. It really was an excellent day. The children all have a very good understanding of what the day means. I would like to thank everyone who came and especially Alex Fice for organising much of the day and for the lovely picture.

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The next day, Class 2 visited the cathedral, where there was a display of crocheted poppies which some of the children had contributed towards in the spring.



Yesterday we had our **Children in Need** day. Many of the children were dressed up very imaginatively in all sorts of spots and bright colours. In assembly we talked about all the different sorts of ways that the charity helps children from long-term projects to short-term help for a particular need. Thank you to those of you who baked cakes for the children in the School Council to sell and thank you all for your donations: we raised a wonderful £92.68.

Class 3's Trip to Exeter

Class 3 had a great day out in Exeter today, amongst other things visiting the museum to consolidate some of their work on Charles Darwin and a walk round the newly opened Christmas market.

Alison Golby's Music Lessons

As Class 3 were in Exeter today, Alison Golby's music lessons will take place on Tuesday afternoon next week instead. That afternoon there will also be a School Band practice. So if you play an instrument and would like to be part of the school band, bring your instrument to school on Tuesday and join in.

School Council's Art Competition

The School Council are running an art competition for all the children in the school. See the posters in school for more details on how to enter. The theme is "Winter" and the closing date is Friday, 8th December. The entries will be displayed in school and then judged by the School Council.

Flu Vaccinations for Children in Reception to Year 4, Wednesday, 29th November 2017

The NHS team will be in school on 29th November to administer the nasal flu vaccination for children in Reception, Years 1, 2, 3 and 4. If you returned your consent form then your child will be on the list to receive this at school.

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.

Federation Christmas Carol Concert

For the first time we will be holding a Federation Christmas Carol Service with children from all four schools taking part in lots of different ways. The Carol Service will be held at Crediton Parish Church (the largest

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venue we could find nearby) on Friday, 15th December 2017 at 11.00am. All parents and friends of the schools are welcome to join us so please put this date in your diaries. More details nearer the time.

PTFA Events

Film Night, Friday, 24th November 2017

Back by popular demand! We will be holding another film night with hot dogs and popcorn on Friday, 24th November. Please sign up in the school office. Tickets are £5 per child. Children from Class 1 will need to have a parent with them to join in the fun!



Non-uniform Day, Friday, 1st December 2017

Wear non-uniform to school on Friday, 1st December in exchange for some chocolate for the tombola at the Christmas Fair.

Christmas Fair, Friday, 8th December 2017, 2.30pm - 4.30pm



A great start to the festive season! Come and join the fun, lots of stalls - crafts, chocolate tombola, toys and books, refreshments, sweets, cakes and several very imaginative games run by the children! If you are interested in having your own stall please get in touch with Georgia, Rachel or Elaine. We are also looking for donations of second-hand toys and books, cakes and raffle prizes. Please bring your donations into the office.

From the Governors

The EVF Resources Committee met at Brampford Speke on Tuesday, 14th November.

Pauline Woodbridge started the meeting with her budget monitor report and an update on income streams. She reported that the timing of the meeting had meant she was able to include the most up-to-date figures, as pupil numbers had been confirmed following census day. She explained that there had been an unexpected overspend at Thorverton as it had been necessary to replace two panic bars on doors at a cost of £800; however, it was agreed that the staff and children's safety was paramount. She also shared the positive news that the Foundation Stage at Cheriton Fitzpaine and Newton Nippers have been doing better than expected, with an increase in uptake of hours including government funded hours. Pauline was able to suggest that the new funding formula would be in our favour, with a small increase in funding across the four schools, although this has not yet been finalised and confirmed.

Mr Jolliffe gave a positive update to governors on the progress of the new school in Newton St Cyres. Driving past you are able to see the metal frame which will form the hall, and the contractors will assemble and fit the panels on this imminently. He was able to confirm that the build is on time, and that the site is reasonably dry, meaning progress has been good. Mr Jolliffe and Mr Akhurst have been involved in decisions about colour schemes and a coloured plan will be drawn up by Elliots. Mr Jolliffe explained that Soft Egg had been involved with technical issues with the new build, alongside the IT provision which will be included. He stressed the importance of looking at future proofing as much as possible, so that the infrastructure is in place for any further additions of technology. It is expected that in the next few weeks the modules for the rest of the build will commence. A very exciting update indeed!

There has also been progress with improvements at the other schools. Brampford Speke has seen their Hub cleared out, making it a much more usable space. The fridge in the staff room has been replaced and staff are currently looking at purchasing a dishwasher too. Unfortunately, at Thorverton the contractor was

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unable to erect the fence on the field at half term, as originally planned. As the children are not currently using the field, it will be easier to erect during term time and will hopefully happen soon.

Mr Jolliffe reported a positive turnout at the recent parent forum at Brampford Speke. It was agreed that this was a positive model which should be rolled out at all schools to give parents the opportunities to discuss their schools. It was felt that there should be a governor presence at these meetings, too.

The Resources Committee is due to meet again on Tuesday, 16th January 2018.

The Governors' Learning Walk by Mr Jolliffe

On 8th November three governors visited the school to talk to children about how they stay safe at school and to assess the effectiveness of safeguarding procedures and records. The governors (Louise Walsh, Katie Cross and Dawn Mayo) talked to staff about their experiences of safeguarding in the school.

The governors took part in a lesson on staying safe on the internet. This exercise was an extremely effective way of demonstrating to the children that the TA (and therefore anyone else!) could pretend to be a child online. The exercise prompted a lively group discussion with one Year 6 pupil volunteering that this was known as "catfishing" and explained that this happens where someone "pretends to be someone else online". Governors asked the members of the School Council (one child from each year group) a range of questions with a particular focus on whether they felt safe in school and who they would talk to if they had a problem. All the children said they felt safe at school and were able to name a particular place where they felt most "safe". One child's safe place was the library "because you have books" and another's was the "quiet area" of the playground (which is an area designated as ball-game free and which the children were all familiar with). The Governors were warmly welcomed to the school and were able to speak with a wide cross-section of the school community (from the youngest children in the EYFS, to the school cook, MTAs and many of the teaching staff and assistants in between). All of our conversations were valuable and informative and we would like to thank Mrs Parkes and her team for their time and care in guiding us professionally and attentively through the morning.

Mrs Lynn Clifton

After 12 years of dedicated service behind the scenes organising the Federation's finances, Mrs Lynn Clifton has decided to put away her calculator and spreadsheets for the last time and will be leaving us at the end of November. She has worked incredibly hard during this time and supported the creation of the original Federation and has also looked after the office at Cheriton Fitzpaine on a Wednesday. We are very grateful to Mrs Clifton for all her hard work and commitment and wish her every success and happiness in the future.

Thorverton Church Christmas Choir 🎵

This year's village carol service is on Sunday, 17th December at 5.00pm, a lovely occasion for all age groups from Thorverton and beyond. If you and/or your children/family/friends would like to sing in the choir on that occasion, then we'd welcome you at our four Thursday evening practices beginning on Thursday, 23rd November. All are welcome from aged 8 to 108! Practices are 7.45 to 9.00pm in Thorverton Church on: 23rd and 30th November, 7th, 14th and 17th December (3.45pm for the last one). Please contact Heather Kershaw for more information: 01392 860419 or heather@kershaw25.eclipse.co.uk.

Christmas Coach Trip to Bath, 25th November 2017

This trip is being organised by the Pre-school to raise funds. The coach will leave Thorverton at 8.30am and return by 7pm and will cost £15 for an adult and £10 for a child. Please contact Fiona to book tickets on 01392 861738 or milestogo@btinternet.com.

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Opening of Hulk Lane Bridleway, Saturday, 25th November 2017, 2.30pm

Everybody is invited to attend the official opening of the Hulk Lane Bridleway. Meet outside Berry Dairy at 2.30pm and join the community walk to Hulk Lane for the opening ceremony with Councillor Margaret Squires. The return walk will take in refreshments at the Exeter Inn skittle alley.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Thorverton Memorial Hall, Saturday, 2nd December, 5.30pm

Everyone is very welcome to come along to see Father Christmas light the Memorial Hall's Christmas tree. There will be a children's disco afterwards.

Christmas Pantomime at the Barnfield Theatre

Emily Meldon and Ollie Morrish, two aspiring thespians from Brampford Speke School, have successfully auditioned for Beauty and The Beast, this year's pantomime being performed by the Exeter Little Theatre Company at the Barnfield Theatre in Exeter. Emily and Ollie have both been working hard to learn their lines and some challenging choreography alongside the adult cast. If you are looking for a great family Panto to watch this Christmas, Emily and Ollie would love to have your support, they are performing on the following dates: 21st December, 7pm, 23rd December, 2pm, 27th December, 7pm, 29th December, 7pm, 30th December, 4pm, 1st January, 2pm, 4th January, 7pm, 6th January, 2pm (show sold out).

Collective Worship Dates

Friday, 24 th November, 3pm	Class 2 assembly
Tuesday, 12 th December, 2pm	Nativity and Carol service in church
Friday, 15 th December, 11am	Federation Christmas Carol Service, Crediton Parish Church

Diary Dates

Friday, 24 th November	PTFA film night
Wednesday, 29 th November	Flu vaccinations for Reception, Years 1, 2, 3 and 4
Wednesday, 29 th November	Crediton area swimming gala
Friday, 1 st December	PTFA Non-uniform day
Tuesday, 5 th December, 3pm	Drum concert (Tony Price's drum pupils)
Wednesday, 6 th December	Christmas lunch
Wednesday, 6 th December	Scholastic Book Fair
Friday, 8 th December	PTFA Christmas Fair
Wednesday, 13 th December, 3pm	Guitar concert (Mrs Cutler's guitar pupils)
Friday, 15 th December	Last day of autumn term
Thursday, 4 th January	First day of spring term (3 rd January is a non-pupil day)

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of School

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