



# Thorverton C of E Primary School

## Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents,

### From Mr Jolliffe

At the end of each term the whole Federation gathers together for a final assembly and today this took place at Cheriton Fitzpaine School. It was lovely to see all the children together in one hall and to see the way they all join together as a larger group. The children sang some of their favourite Easter songs and then we read the story of The Three Trees by Tim Jonke. If you haven't read this book or shared it with your children, it really is a lovely read. All the staff and governors join me in wishing you a very happy Easter and a good holiday. I look forward to seeing all the children back at school on Monday, 16th April.

### From Mrs Parkes

#### Musical Assemblies

We have been treated to two fantastic assemblies this week. All the musicians performed many varied pieces. The drummers were accompanied by Tony on his bass guitar. This was a loud and energetic affair, which everyone really enjoyed. In contrast we had a mellow and gentle guitar assembly from Ginnie's group of performers. All the children from both groups showed so much concentration, co-ordination and a sense of great timing when playing their pieces. We were all very impressed. Thank you to all who performed and also to Ginnie and Tony for their time and dedication.

#### 6 Nations Tag Rugby Tournament



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Last Friday our tag rugby team played their 6 Nations Tournament. They did really well, coming a very close second to Newton St Cyres who beat them by one point. It was the first tournament for some of the children and they thoroughly enjoyed it. Well done, all of you! My thanks, as always, go to Stella, Dickie and Jonathan who spend so much of their time training and supporting our team.



### **Year 5 Residential Pick-up Arrangements, Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

The children going on the Year 5 residential to Barton Hall from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April will be picked up from **Newton St Cyres Recreation Ground at 9am** on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April. Please take your children directly there for 9am and not to school first. You are welcome to drop siblings at school earlier than normal if necessary. After the residential, the children will be dropped back at Newton St Cyres Recreation Ground at 3pm on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> April.

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

Several parents have not yet made a second payment towards the residential trips. This second payment was due at the beginning of March. Please could you make sure you make these payments as soon as possible, as the Federation has to pay the venues in advance?

### **Courage**

Our value for collective worship and assemblies for the first half of the summer term is COURAGE. It can take great courage to do something new or challenging and we sometimes call this 'stepping out of our comfort zone'. Sometimes just small steps are needed but they can take us to new and exciting places! We will be learning about some characters from the bible who showed courage, as well as stories taken from contemporary life. We will be asking the children to set themselves 'small step' challenges and share them in class or assembly.

*"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says, "I'll try again tomorrow." Mary Anne Radmacher*



### **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.

### **Report on the Governing Board Meeting by the Chair, Jackie Enright**

The full governing board met at Newton St Cyres on Tuesday 27th March 2018. Elly Babbedge welcomed the governors with a thoughtful poem entitled 'Stillness', which encouraged us to take the time to reflect on

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ourselves, our duties, and just to appreciate a moment of silence - which was well received as we near the end of a busy term!

Mr Jolliffe spoke about the importance of the Federation review, which was led recently across all four schools by Gill Winston. Governors commented on the benefit of this triangulation, and the ability to prove what is being done well, and which areas we can focus on further. It was noted that the strategic review was important in driving school improvement across the whole spectrum of school life.

Governors discussed feedback from recent training, notably an 'Ofsted preparation' session led by the Dartmoor Teaching Schools Alliance, and 'Primary Data' which supported governors in gaining a greater understanding of the IDSR document, which analyses the schools data. These sessions were very well received and ensure that we are up to date with changes in primary education.

The views of parents about their experiences of the four schools and the Exe Valley Federation as a whole are extremely important to the governing body and, as a result, we looked at the questionnaire which was sent previously in order to ensure the questions we ask are relevant to this academic year. We take the questionnaire very seriously and use the results to gauge opinion among parents in general and feed your ideas and concerns into our development plan for next September. Your contributions to the future development of the schools are really important, and so we do hope that when the questionnaire is sent home in the summer term you are able to share your thoughts with us.

### **PTFA Facebook Page**

The PTFA have a NEW Facebook page to share our plans, events and activities with all parents, friends and supporters of the school. It's still work in progress but please 'like' and 'follow' our page and encourage your other Facebook friends to do the same so they can find out what's coming up! Search 'Thorverton School PTFA' on Facebook.

### **Music Tuition**

Mrs Heather Kershaw has vacancies for lessons after Easter on descant recorder for children in Year 2 and above and piano/keyboard for children in Year 3 and above. Please contact the school office or Mrs Kershaw direct on [heather@kershaw25.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:heather@kershaw25.eclipse.co.uk) or 01392 860419.

### **Bikeability Courses for Years 3 and 4, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

We have just been informed that there are still plenty of places on a Bikeability course during the holidays. This is for children in Years 3 and 4 and you can find more information and book on line at:

<http://www.cyclepssp.co.uk/Course/bikeability-level-1/>.

## *Diary Dates*

Thursday, 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of spring term
Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of summer 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

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## *Term Dates*

### **Summer term 2018**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May (SATS 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May)

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July

### **Autumn term 2018**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October (Staff Development Day 3<sup>rd</sup> September)

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October to Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December (Staff Development Days 29<sup>th</sup> October & 30<sup>th</sup> November)

### **Spring term 2019**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February (Staff Development Day 7<sup>th</sup> January)

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April (Staff Development Day 25<sup>th</sup> February)

### **Summer term 2019**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May (SATS 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May)

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July

I wish you all a very happy Easter and a lovely holiday.

With best wishes,

*Sarah Parkees*

Head of School

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