



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

22nd September 2017

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

This week our new governing board met for the first Exe Valley Federation Governors' Conference. During the day the governors worked with Jonathan Rees, an experienced governor and trainer, on the attributes of high performing teams. This was a really interesting and useful day which generated lots of great ideas for making the strategic role of governors more effective and focused on outcomes for children. I really enjoyed working with our new governing board members and the Heads of School, who are associate governors, on the way we will work in the future. During the day I counted up the number of governing boards I have worked with over the years and reckon it comes to seven! This is definitely the most cohesive group I have worked with and the one with the clearest sense of purpose so that looks very positive for the future.

From Mrs Parkes

Clubs

All clubs have now started and in spite of the weather, the children are enjoying the variety on offer this term. The multi-sports breakfast club will take place on Tuesdays from next week onwards. We do apologise for any confusion up to now. Science club looked very exciting. Fizzing bottles and balloons were very much involved. The children really enjoyed themselves.

SIAMS Inspection

On Thursday, 28th September we will be welcoming Reverend David Hatrey into our school. He is coming to carry out our church school inspection. He will be making judgements on four categories: the Christian character of the school, collective worship, RE teaching and the leadership and management of the school. As part of the inspection, Reverend Hatrey will talk to staff, governors and children and observe some lessons and collective worship. He will be having lunch with the children and chatting to a number of parents, too.

Class 2 Sports Mornings



Class 2 set off for their first session of sport at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre in Crediton today. It was lovely to see all the children joining in with the sports activities and mixing with their peers, especially the children from Brampford Speke.



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Everyone really enjoyed the different sessions, including swimming, gymnastics, netball and hockey. Let's hope that the weather holds so that they can stay outside for as long into the autumn as possible.

Top Table



This week Mr Martin enjoyed his lunch at Top Table in the company of Regan, Bella G, Evie, Marnie, Sully and Freddie.

PTFA Annual General Meeting, Thursday 19th October, 8pm, Exeter Inn, Thorverton

Do come along to the AGM and join the PTFA in planning some jolly fundraising for the year ahead. We would especially like to welcome any new parents to the school – we hope to see you there! There will be wine and nibbles on offer.

SOE3 and SOE3A Forms

If you haven't already done so, please return the completed SOE3 forms to the office as soon as possible.

Governors' News

The Exe Valley Federation full governing body met for the first time this academic year on Tuesday, 12th September at Newton St Cyres Primary School. It was wonderful to welcome governors from Brampford Speke, as well as welcoming Louise Walsh as a new parent governor. Louise has children at Thorverton and will be a super addition to the EVF governing body.

Reverend Katie Cross opened the meeting with some relevant words and thoughts about this time of year. Particular focus was given to being thankful, something all schools will be thinking about as we approach Harvest later in the term.

Governors were asked to vote for the new chair and vice-chair of the governing body. Jackie Enright and Gemma Poulton were unanimously voted in as chairperson and vice respectively. It was agreed that all meetings would remain open, meaning anyone is welcome to attend. Sub-committees were also finalised, with Ellie Babbedge chairing School Improvement, Jackie Enright chairing Resources, and Dave Alcock leading Pay and Performance and the Executive Headteacher's Appraisal.

Mr Jolliffe enthusiastically reported on the progress of the new school in Newton St Cyres. He was pleased to report that building work has started! The (rather large!) car park is currently being levelled and will be tarmacked shortly. The MUGA (multi-use games area) is also being prepared to be surfaced. Plans are in place for the structure of the actual school building, and the contractors are hopeful that this will start in October – weather permitting.

The process of finding a new head of school for Brampford Speke was discussed in detail. An action team (involving governors, teaching staff and heads) has been formed, and they are in the process of writing the job advert, which will be published shortly. Interviews will take place before half term, with a view for the successful candidate to start in the Spring term.

The EVF governing body's next meeting is with the Resources Committee next Tuesday evening.

Cheriton Fitzpaine and District Ploughing Match

Well done to all the children for their entries in the ploughing match competitions last Sunday. Our winning entries at the competition were Jessie (second prize) and Milly (highly commended) for their handwritten Lord's prayer, and Bella G. (third prize), Hinemoa and Regan (highly commended) for their drawings of a

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clown. Thorverton was pipped to the post by Cheriton Fitzpaine for the cup for the school with the most points.

Pre-school Job Vacancy

Pre-school has a vacancy for a part-time Pre-school Assistant to work as part of their team. The successful applicant will need to hold a full and relevant childcare qualification and have experience in an early years setting. Hours are to be arranged during term time. If you are interested in this position please contact Thorverton Pre-school by email, thorvertonpreschool@gmail.com for an application pack. Application closing date is today, 22nd September 2017.

Open day at the Exeter Snow Sports Centre, 1st October from 10am

The above event will be open to anyone who would like to “have a go” at skiing at a cost of £3 per person for a 30-minute session (Arms and legs must be covered and you should bring suitable gloves).

Collective Worship Dates

Tuesday, 10 th October, 2pm	Harvest Festival in church
Friday, 24 th November, 3pm	Class 2 assembly
Tuesday, 12 th December, 2pm	Nativity and Carol service in church

Diary Dates

Tuesday, 3 rd October	Tempest photographer in school
Wednesday, 11 th and Tuesday, 17 th October	Parent-child-teacher interviews
Thursday, 19 th October, 3pm	Class 3 open afternoon
Mon, 23 rd Oct – Weds, 1 st Nov	Half-term holiday (Mon & Tues, 30 th & 31 st Oct are non-pupil days)
Wednesday, 29 th November, 3pm	Guitar concert (Mrs Cutler’s guitar pupils)
Friday, 15 th December	Last day of autumn term

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of School

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