



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

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8th December 2017

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

This week there have been lots of Christmas events taking place across the Federation. I have thoroughly enjoyed the nativity plays at Bramford Speke and Newton St Cyres and have been really impressed with the children's confidence in singing and acting. Next week sees Cheriton Fitzpaine and Thorverton's carol services taking place on Tuesday afternoon, which I am also looking forward to seeing. Alongside all this, we have welcomed Mr Edward Nichols to Bramford Speke this week; Mr Nichols will be starting as Head of School there in January. We are looking forward to working with him next term as he gets to know the school and the Federation.

Federation Christmas Carol Service



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 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. Our lovely cooks are providing lunch for everyone who signs up for it on the day and we will be eating together in the St Boniface Centre. If your child normally brings a packed lunch that is fine too but it would help if it was in a disposable bag rather than a lunchbox on this occasion. Please return the slips to the office indicating your child's choice of lunch. The coaches will be leaving schools at 10.00am and returning to school by 2.00pm, in plenty of time for the end of the school day.

Residential Visits

Having the opportunity to be away from home and learn in different surroundings is an important part of children's education and we have put together a programme of residential visits for the federation for next year with a range of venues, activities and over an increasing number of days. More details, including the costs, will be made available in the New Year. This is what we are planning for Years 3 to 6 for next year:

- Year 3: a one night stay at Escot with a range of forest school activities including the swamp walk. The dates for this visit are 30th April and 1st May and Mrs Harris will be leading this visit.
- Year 4: two nights at New Barn field centre near Dorchester with a range of outdoor activities, including the living history workshop. We will be visiting Lyme Regis on the way home for shopping and the beach! This takes place from 6th to 8th June and will be led by Mrs Parkes.

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- Year 5: two nights at Barton Hall PGL activity centre near Torquay with lots of outdoor physical activities and pursuits. This takes place from 18th to 20th April and Mr Akhurst will be leading this visit.
- Year 6: three nights at Grenville House in Brixham when we will be making use of the harbour for raft building and canoeing amongst other things. We will be having one evening with Bigfoot Arts Education's transition workshops 'Big Steps' as well as lots of other outdoor and arts activities. This visit is from 12th to 15th June and Mr Nichols and Mr Jolliffe will be leading this visit.

We appreciate that the cost of residential visits is significant for families and will let you know what the costs will be early in the New Year. If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium then the cost of residential visits is covered by this but we want every child to be able to come to the visits, regardless of cost. Please speak to your child's Head of School or to Mr Jolliffe if you would like to know more about this.

Collective Worship Spring Term (First Half)

In our Collective Worship next term we will be focusing on the theme of Forgiveness and wiping the slate clean. Nelson Mandela said, "As I walked out of the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew that if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison." We will be exploring more about what he meant by this and what forgiveness means in practice, using stories from the bible, contemporary stories and reflections. The children will be involved in these assemblies by planning what will be said, taking part in drama, readings and prayers.

Term Dates

The autumn term ends on Friday, 15th December and the spring term starts for children on Thursday, 4th January. Half term is Monday, 12th to Friday, 16th February inclusive and the spring term ends on Thursday, 29th March 2018. There are staff development days on 3rd January and 19th February 2018.

From Mrs Parkes

Our Christmas production of "The Christmas Carol" by Class 1 is fast approaching. You are all very welcome to come and join us in the church on Tuesday afternoon at 2pm for the service. Please come along before this, as the PTFA will be selling mulled wine and mince pies from 1.30pm in the church. This will be accompanied by Heather Kershaw's music group from 1.45pm. As usual, Key Stage 2 children will be supporting the production with the carol singing. This year we would like them to dress up as carol singers. Please could you provide Victorian-look costumes or a hat, scarf, jumper or coat on 12th December so that the children look their parts.

Christmas Lunch and Father Christmas

On Wednesday we all enjoyed our delicious Christmas lunch prepared and cooked by Abby and Karen. Thank you so much! Luckily the power cut came as the dinner was all ready to serve, so it didn't cause any problems for Abby. Thank you to the special elves, Jacky and Stuart, who came and helped with the washing up.

After lunch we received a very special visitor in school. Father Christmas arrived with three sacks full of gifts for the children.



Drumming Concert

On Tuesday we were treated to some great rhythms by Tony's drum pupils. It is always lovely to hear and see how the children have progressed throughout the term.

Next Wednesday, Mrs Cutler's pupils will be giving us a guitar concert.

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Making Yule Logs in Class 2

Class 2 have decorated some Yule logs and have taken them to some special people in the village today. The children nominated villagers who they thought deserved a Yule log and they had fun this afternoon walking round the village and presenting them.

Federation Band

The Federation Band got together this morning for a practice for the Carol Service in Crediton Church next Friday. The children have been working really hard together with Alison Golby and the music is sounding great! Here are the performers:



Scholastic Book Fair

We opened the Scholastic book fair yesterday after school. There are some lovely books on sale, some great ideas for Christmas presents. The fair will be in the library this afternoon at the PTFA's Christmas Fair and next week on Monday and Tuesday in the hall after school. Please come along. If you would like to download a voucher, which you can pay for online and then present at our book fair, please go to the Scholastic website <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/> and follow the tab along the top, "parents". At the bottom of the parents page is a blue box entitled "Save money with book fair vouchers". You can spend these at our book fair and the school earns extra money towards new books for the school.

Posada



Mary and Joseph have made a few stops at children's houses on their Christmas journey. Please sign up in the office if you would like to host the little wooden figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey one evening and night next week. The Colebrookes have brought these to school from the church for us to borrow. The pack will need to be returned each morning or at the end of the weekend ready to pass on to the next 'host'. Mary and Joseph will continue their journey beyond then up to Christmas Day when they will arrive at the Parish Church where all are welcomed to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Top Table

Mr Biggins enjoyed his lunch at Top Table this week with Rowan, Barnaby, William F., Brent, Hannah and Da-Xia.



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.

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 25th January 2018 at 9.00am at Newton St Cyres and repeated on the same day at

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7.30pm at Brampford Speke. Please let your child's school office know if you are intending to come to either session.

Family Service, Thorverton Parish Church, Sunday, 10th December 2017

Everybody is very welcome to attend the family service in the church on Sunday week. The service starts at 10am and the church will be open from 9.30am.

Thorverton Bridge Closure

Devon Highways Department have let us know that the road closure at Thorverton Bridge is scheduled to start on Monday, 8th January 2018 and is anticipated to last for about two weeks. Pedestrians and cyclists will still be able to cross the bridge during the road closure.

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

Tuesday, 12 th December, 2pm	"A Christmas Carol" and carol service in church
From 1.30pm	Mulled wine and mince pies, recorder and piano performance
Friday, 15 th December, 11am	Federation Christmas Carol Service, Crediton Parish Church

Diary Dates

Wednesday, 6 th December	Scholastic Book Fair
To Tuesday, 12 th December	
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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