



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

15th December 2017

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

As a very busy and eventful term comes to an end, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has worked throughout the autumn across the four schools. I am very grateful to all the parents and other adults, including governors, who give their time to help in school in many different ways and to all the staff for their dedication, commitment and hard work. This term Mrs Parkes has been leading both Thorverton and Brampford Speke and she has done a great job across the two schools and this has been very much appreciated by everyone. Most of all I want to thank all the children in the Federation for their enthusiasm, eagerness to learn and willingness to take on new challenges; the singing at the carol service today and the performances by the bands were testament to this.

My wife and family join me in wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school in January, ready for more learning adventures!

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

A Christmas Carol

Our Key Stage 1 performance was wonderful on Tuesday. Everybody really appreciated the huge amount of work that both children and staff had put in to make it such a success. It is hard to remember that some of them are only four years



old! Well done to all of you. Classes 2 and 3 supported Class

1 by beautifully singing some very traditional carols. Thank you to all of you who came and supported the children in their performance. I would also like to thank our PTFA for providing the festive refreshments. The church smelt very Christmassy.



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Federation Christmas Carol Service

This morning we all gathered at Crediton church for our federation carol service. Each school sang a carol or song and Alison Golby's band played superbly. It was lovely to see so many parents attend, too. I hope that you enjoyed it.

Farewell

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Perryman. She is moving on to another school in Exeter, where she will be as much of an asset to them as she has been to us. We will miss her smiling, happy face and her knitting and crochet skills as well as her sense of humour. We wish her well and hope that she might come back and visit us when she has the time.

Guitar Concert

Mrs Cutler's guitar pupils gave us a lovely concert on Wednesday. The children played individually and then as a group and some of them sang beautifully, too. It was really nice to see how much the players have all improved over the last term.



Christmas Fair



A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported the PTFA Christmas Fair. It was a lovely afternoon and we raised a fantastic £385! Thank you also to everyone who helped with running the stalls, baking cakes, donating toys and books and making things to sell. Class 3's games were a great success and they made £56.30; Christmas Craft Club made £37.35 with the sale of craft items that they made this half term. Thank you to the PTFA for organising all the other stalls and activities.

Scholastic Book Fair

It was really nice to see some of you supporting the book fair. We sold £134 worth of books and a percent of the proceeds from the sale is given to the school so that we will be able to purchase some more books for the library.



Netball Kit

I would like to thank Denise Ellis very much for her really kind donation of some netballs and netball bibs to the school. Denise is the England netball coach and she also coaches the Exeter University team.

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Top Table

Mr Martin enjoyed his lunch at Top Table this week with Sufia, Harley, Jacob, Layton, Ben and Ollie H.



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.

Staff Development Day on 3rd January

Wednesday 3rd January is a Staff Development Day for Brampford Speke staff and we will be exploring the communication presentation and profiles of children and young people with autism and identifying key strategies and resources to support their engagement at school. This will be led by Paul Lamanna, who is the professional lead for the Communication and Interaction Team at Babcock LDP. In the second part of the day we will be learning about the principles and practise of mindfulness with Amanda Tyler, who is our Educational Psychologist.

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

Family and Communion Service for Christmas, Thorverton Parish Church, Christmas Day, 9.30am

Everybody is warmly invited to the Christmas service in the church on Christmas morning.

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).

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Diary Dates

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)
Monday, 12 th – Monday, 19 th February	Half-term holiday (19 th February is a non-pupil staff training day)
Thursday, 29 th March	Last day of spring term

I wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you all have a lovely, relaxing, fun break from school, and I look forward to seeing you all again on Thursday, 4th January 2018.

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of School



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