



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

9th February 2018

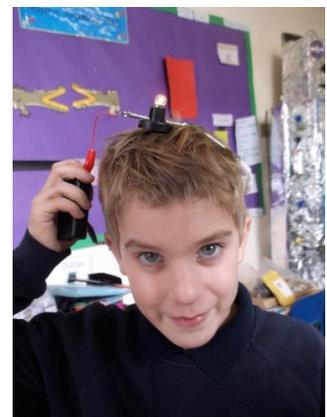
Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

At the end of a busy half term it is good to reflect on the hard work and determination that many children have shown in their learning since Christmas. The projects that children have undertaken on 'Frozen Kingdom' and 'Moon Zoom' have been particularly good and I have enjoyed sharing one of my favourite stories with some of the younger children across the Federation this week. 'The Sea of Tranquillity' by Mark Haddon is a lovely story about a boy's dream of becoming an astronaut and is well worth reading to younger children. I was particularly impressed with the way Ash Class at Cheriton Fitzpaine reflected on the story and used their knowledge of language to work out what the word 'tranquillity' meant. I hope that you and your family can enjoy some time together next week and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Tuesday, 20th February.

From Mrs Parkes

It seems this term has flown by so quickly. The children and staff have worked very hard and are due a well-deserved rest. This week we finished our topics, with some exciting activities. We will be treated to a fantastic assembly from Class 1 this afternoon. Classes 2 and 3 had a wonderful day yesterday exploring all sorts of scientific experiments with Ruth from 'Sciencedipity'. To complete their topics Class 2 explored the many different properties of some very uncommon metals and Class 3 looked at adaptations in animals and insulation. They explored why penguins huddle together and the different layers that would keep someone warm.



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Crediton Learning Community Concert, The Great Hall, Exeter University, 7th March 2018, 7pm

Just a reminder that tickets for 'Pop of Colour', the concert in the Great Hall in Exeter, are available at <https://exeternorthcott.co.uk/calendar/pop-of-colour/> or direct from the Northcott Theatre box office. Get your tickets early as they sell out very quickly!

Class 2 and 3 Trips After Half Term

After half term Classes 2 and 3 will be starting their new topics with a trip. Class 2 will be going to Exeter to find out more about the Romans on Thursday, 1st March, and Class 3 will be finding out about the Victorians at Morwhellam Quay on Monday, 5th March. We will be sending out letters with more details for you straight after the holiday.



Top Table

Bonnie, Sophie, Zac M, Freddie G, Henry S and Ben enjoyed their lunch at Top Table on Monday in the company of Mrs Parkes.

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.



Parking



I would just like to remind everybody not to park or turn round in School Lane when you are dropping off and collecting your children from school. We are worried about safety when the road gets congested. Please use the car park at the top of Bullen Street or the Memorial Hall car park in Silver Street, which the Memorial Hall committee kindly let parents use at the beginning and end of the school day.

PTFA Email Address

The PTFA now have their own email address, so please use this if you wish to contact any member of the PTFA: thorvertonptfa@exevalleyfederation.org.uk.

Multi-sports Club

There will be no multi-sports club after school on Monday, 26th February.

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Federation Value: Friendship

Our value for the second half of the spring term is friendship. We will be thinking about the characteristics of good friends and the sorts of actions that show true friendship. We will be focusing on ways that we can build each other up rather than being negative or critical. As well as learning about stories from the Bible, we will be looking at the Hindu practice of making friendship bracelets at Raksha Bandham and the artwork of He Qi. Towards the end of term, we will be preparing for Easter by looking at the role of Jesus' friends in the Easter story and telling the story of the Three Trees in our Federation assembly at the end of term.

Governors' Meeting, Tuesday, 6th February 2018

The full governing body met at Newton St Cyres Primary School on Tuesday, 6th February. In the absence of Katie Cross, Sheryl Margesson welcomed all governors to the meeting with a prayer and time for reflection. Mr Nichols was welcomed to his first governors' meeting. This led to discussion regarding the upcoming SIAMS inspection at Brampford Speke. Elly Babbedge explained that a small group of governors had carried out a learning walk at Brampford Speke and had been really impressed with the spirituality and Christian ethos that was so apparent when talking to the children there.

Following this, Mr Akhurst led governors through a project he had completed on coaching and feedback. He talked through numerous coaching strategies which he had had the opportunity to use and spoke of the clear links between the ways that teachers engage in critical thinking and reflect on their teaching approaches, and the way that children are also doing this with a more focused growth mindset approach to their learning. Mr Jolliffe updated governors with current issues associated with safeguarding. This included the need for all volunteers and staff (including peripatetic music teachers) to attend training, which has been arranged for this term. Staff are sent regular safeguarding updates and then are asked questions to check that all staff and governors are up to date with their safeguarding knowledge.

Each term the Heads of School submit a written report to governors about their schools and answer written and verbal questions. During this meeting, governors divided into groups and discussed the reports with Mrs Parkes, Mrs Harris, Mr Akhurst and Mr Nichols.

Governors have planned a learning walk after half term where we will be looking at samples of written work, and exploring the Interim Teacher Assessment Framework, with a focus on pupils with the potential to achieve greater depth in writing. Mr Akhurst will also lead some training on what is meant by 'Greater Depth' following a course he attended in the autumn term.

Governors and staff have now had the opportunity to visit the new school site in Newton St Cyres, and the School Council from NSC are due to visit on Friday and report back in their celebration assembly. Mr Jolliffe reported that radiators were on the walls, and rooms were beginning to be painted, although they are still awaiting windows in the office (to allow access for machinery!). Contractors are working extra hard, with additional hours and man power, to ensure that the build finishes on schedule.

Staff Development Day (Monday, 19th February)

The final Staff Development Day of this year will focus on reviewing the way we teach spelling across the Federation, introduce a new way of learning multiplication tables and give staff an opportunity to develop the way we monitor children's progress through School Pupil Tracker. We will also be working with Juliet Phillips, the School Nurse, to revise our Administration of Medicines policy, which will be shared with parents in due course.

Family Service, Thorverton Parish Church, Sunday, 18th February 2018

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Everybody is warmly invited to the family service in the church on Sunday, 18th February. The church will be open from 9.30am for refreshments and a children's activity and the service starts at 10am.

Bradinch Football Club New Members Wanted!

Bradinch Football Club Under-10 team (School Year 4 and 5) are looking for additional players. We are a Charter Standard Club and all our coaches are CRC checked and have FA Coaching Qualifications. We train on Thursday evenings at Cullompton Leisure Centre astro pitch 6.30-7.30pm during the winter and at Kensham Park, Bradinch from April, also on Thursdays 6-7pm. The club are currently building brand new toilet and changing facilities, and this is a fantastic, friendly team. If you're interested, please contact Chris on [07807 784604](tel:07807784604) or email snowy.plant@yahoo.co.uk.

Exeter City Football in Half Term

Exeter City Community Trust are running some February half term holiday courses in various locations across Devon which cater for children ages 5-14 years old. Please see the noticeboard and this link for more details. <https://www.exetercitycommunitytrust.co.uk/courses/february-half-term>

Saints Southwest Half-term Soccer Schools and Multi-sport Camps

Saints Southwest will be running their popular soccer schools and multi-sport camps during February half term in Paignton, Dawlish, Lapford, Ottery St Mary, Plymouth, Crediton, Langport, Exeter, Dartmouth, Chulmleigh, Taunton, Kingsbridge, Newton Abbot and Okehampton. Ages 7-12 can attend 10am-3pm. Ages 4-6 can attend 1.30pm-3pm. For more details and to book please visit www.saintssouthwest.co.uk or call 01803 206350.

Collective Worship Dates

Wednesday, 21st March, 9.30am Easter service in the church

Diary Dates

Monday, 12 th – Monday, 19 th February	Half-term holiday (19 th February is a non-pupil staff training day)
Monday, 26 th Feb – Thursday, 1 st Mar	Bikeability cycle training for Year 5
Thursday, 1 st March	Class 2 trip to Exeter
Monday, 5 th March	Class 3 trip to Morwhellam Quay
Wednesday, 7 th March	'Pop of Colour', Class 3 in Concert at the Great Hall, Exeter
Friday, 16 th March, 2.30pm	Class 2 open afternoon and celebration assembly
Thursday, 29 th March	Last day of spring term
Wednesday, 18 th – Friday, 20 th April	Year 5 residential to Barton Hall
Monday, 30 th April – Tuesday, 1 st May	Year 3 residential to Escot
Saturday, 5 th May	Exmoor Challenge (for Year 6)
Wednesday, 6 th – Friday, 8 th June	Year 4 residential to New Barn, Dorchester
Tuesday, 11 th – Friday, 15 th June	Year 6 residential to Grenville House, Brixham

I wish everybody a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break and I look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday, 20th February.

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of School

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