



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

6th January 2017

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family had a lovely Christmas and a really good rest over the holiday. It has been lovely to see all the children back in their schools this week and to see how quickly they have settled back into learning. This term we have a number of exciting projects planned, starting with Paddleboat Theatre Company who will be working with Year 3 and 4 classes on Wednesday afternoons. Later in the term, Years 5 and 6 will be getting together to prepare for the Great Hall Concert in March, led by Mr Curtis. All our Year 1 and 2 classes will also be working with a theatre group from Exeter University this term, so they will also have an opportunity to work together on a shared project. I am looking forward to seeing how each of these projects progress and seeing the performances towards the end of the term.

From Mrs Parkes

Welcome back and happy new year to you all. I hope that you have all had a restful and enjoyable break. This term, as always, is going to be another busy one, with some great opportunities and events planned for the children. Collaboration is the theme this term with all the children across the school working with others from the Federation. Class 2 had a wonderful afternoon with The Paddleboat Theatre group who performed their play, 'According to Arthur', to all of the Year3/4 children across the Federation at the Memorial Hall. Class 3 will again be performing at the Great Hall with other Year 5/6 children from Cheriton and Newton St Cyres later in the term and Class 1 will be having their sports morning each Friday, again mixing with their peers from the other two schools. You should have received a separate letter about this yesterday, including a SOE3 form to complete and return to the office. We would really like a couple of helpers for each session. You have to have a current DBS, so if you would like to help please let us know.

Class 2

Class 2 enjoyed a theatre performance of 'According to Arthur' from



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Paddleboat Theatre Company this week. The story followed a gentleman named Arthur on his travels across the globe to discover different people that he had met in the past. A clear highlight for the children was both the piano music and the clever use of props during the performance. Miss Holmes was extremely impressed with how many children from across the Federation took part in various ways including acting, holding props or shouting out prompts! This was a fantastic start to a series of workshops that the children will be involved in during the coming weeks. We cannot wait!

Class 3

In Class 3 we have started our new topic of Pharaohs. We had a huge River Nile made of jumpers running through our classroom and learnt about its importance to the Ancient Egyptians by discussing where the best place would be to place a successful settlement that will prosper. See the photo here:



Reminders

Healthy Snacks and Lunches

This term we would really like the children to make an extra effort to eat more healthily. This is a good time of year to reflect on what we eat after the excesses of Christmas. With this in mind, we would like your help. Please could you ensure that any snack you provide for your child is fruit or a healthy bar of some kind. Please do not give children chocolate for a snack or as part of their lunch. Please also try to provide sandwiches and other lunch items that are of a healthy option. Thank you.

Bikes and Scooters

It is great to see so many children cycling and scooting to school. In the interests of safety could you ensure that your child dismounts from the bike or scooter and walks it across the playground as it can be a busy place before and after school. On this note, just a quick reminder that the playground equipment should not be used before or after school as no staff are supervising your child. Thank you for your co-operation. We do not want an accident to occur.

Home School Diaries

Thank you to all of you for continuing to read with your child over the holiday. This really does help them in all areas of the curriculum. Daily reading is one of the best ways of improving children's attainment in all aspects of school and is vitally important. When you do read with your child please could you fill in and sign their reading diary/home school book, so that we can follow on from where you left off.

IPads

The PTFA have kindly bought us nine more IPads, which were delivered just before the Christmas break. We now have 20! These will be in use in the classrooms very soon and will enhance the curriculum across the school. Thank you to the PTFA for all their hard work in raising all the money.

Residential Visits

A letter will be coming home in the next week or so with information for parents of children in Years 3 to 6 about this year's residential visits. The dates for the visits are as follows:

Year 3: Escot from Monday, 22nd May to Tuesday, 23rd May led by Mr Kersey

Year 4: Beam House from Wednesday, 26th April to Friday, 28th April led by Mr Akhurst

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Year 5: New Barn, Dorchester, from Wednesday, 7th June to Friday, 9th June led by Mr Jolliffe and Mrs Parkes
Year 6: Grenville House from Friday, 9th June to Monday, 12th June led by Mrs Harris

We appreciate that residential visits represent a significant cost to families but we want as many children as possible to take part in these visits. Please talk to your child's Head of School or to Mr Jolliffe if you would like to know more about making the funding possible.

School Closure Due to Bad Weather

If there is a spell of bad weather this winter, we will do our best to keep the Exe Valley Schools open for children. We will send texts and emails to every parent on our system and update the school websites as well, so please look there for information from 7.30am onwards. If there is a power cut then we have to close affected schools but will still send texts and emails and update the website from an unaffected area. If all else fails, we will try to put a notice on the school gates to let you know that the school will be closed. If you have changed your email address or mobile phone number recently, please make sure the school office knows, so that our system is as accurate as possible. Thank you.

Safeguarding Training for Volunteers

We take our responsibilities for keeping children safe very seriously and, as part of this work, it is important that everyone who has regular contact with children in our schools, in whatever capacity, understands the principles of safeguarding and what to do if you have concerns about a child's welfare. If you come into school frequently (three times a month or more) or intensively (for a whole day at a time) then you need to attend the training courses that are being held over the next few months at one of the school venues. The courses will be on:

Monday, 23rd January at 1.30pm at Cheriton

Wednesday, 1st February at 9.30am at Newton

Thursday, 9th February at 7.30pm at Thorverton

The course will last for two hours and will include discussion and activities as well as a training element and will be led by Mr Jolliffe, who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the Federation. If you would like to attend, please let Mrs Steele know at Cheriton Fitzpaine (admin@cheriton-fitzpaine-primary.devon.sch.uk) or via any of the school offices.

Crediton Youth Orchestra

Are you aged between 7 and 14? Do you play a musical instrument? Can you read music? Do you enjoy playing all styles and genres of music? Then join this brand new orchestra for young people on Wednesdays 4.15 to 5.15pm during term time at QE music department, Western Road Campus, St Martins Lane, Crediton EX17 3LU. To fill in an enrolment form, go to: Creditonyouthorchestra.co.uk or ask at your school reception or Crediton Community Bookshop. The first rehearsal is on 11th January 2017.

DCC Admissions to Primary Schools, 2017/18

The application facility for places in primary and junior schools for the 2017/18 academic year will open on 15th November 2016 and close at midnight on 15th January 2017. Parents are invited to apply between those dates and express three preferences via the online application facility at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline. Admissions cannot be made online after the closing date, hard copy forms will have to be requested via the Helpline 0345 1551019.

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DCC Annual Consultation on Admission Arrangements

Devon will run the annual consultation on admission arrangements between 1st November 2016 and 6th January 2017. You can view this on Devon County Council's website until 6th January 2017 at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements and follow the link at the bottom of the page to "admissions policies".

Diary Dates

Monday, 13th February – Monday, 20th February Half term (Monday, 20th is a non-pupil day)

February

Friday, 31st March End of spring term

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of Teaching and Learning

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