



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

12th May 2017

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

SATs

Year 6 SATs are over for another year! I have been so impressed with the mature and sensible way all the Year 6 children have tackled the challenge of four days of assessments and have kept calm and been determined to do their best. We can't ask anything more of you! Year 2 children started their assessments last week and will be continuing to take tests for the next week or so as the rules for administering these tests are more flexible. Again, all the children who have taken the tests so far have been calm and sensible and shown just how well they can do so a big thank you to them as well. The outcomes of Year 2 and Year 6 assessments will be reported to parents at the end of the summer term.

Consultation with Stakeholders

You may have heard that Mr Nic George, the Headteacher of Brampford Speke School, is leaving there at the end of the summer. The governors of Brampford Speke have approached the Exe Valley Federation governors to ask them to consider incorporating their school into the Federation from September this year. I have attached a letter from both Chairs of Governors, explaining more about how the consultation for this works and how you can make your views known. The same letter has to be sent to parents and staff in both organisations so some of the contents will be familiar to you. Working with other schools in this way makes the Federation more sustainable for the future and makes us less vulnerable to being taken over by a larger organisation who may not understand how rural schools work. Please do read the letter carefully and do feel free to ask me any questions that you have about the possibility of Brampford Speke joining us for the new school year.

From Mrs Parkes

SATs



Well done to all of Year 6 for staying calm and confident throughout this week's SATs. They were tough at times but you all showed perseverance and kept your great sense of humour as well as your determination. You should be very proud of all the work you have put in to get to this point. Well done!

Remember your SATs party next Thursday and don't forget to bring in some food for it. You will receive more details from Mr Martin soon.

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The children in Year 2 will be sitting their SATs every morning next week.



Drumming Assembly



We were all treated to an amazing (if very loud) drumming performance on Tuesday. Zach, Archie, Olly C., Will, Henry and Ben played some fantastic rhythms. Their co-ordination and timing always amazes me. All the boys played with masses of energy which really entertained the audience. Thank you, Tony and the boys.

Exmoor Challenge

We have looked at the placings for all our Federation teams in the Exmoor Challenge two weekends ago. There were approximately 100 entries in three categories of boys, girls and mixed teams. Thorverton's mixed team came 37 out of 51, Cheriton's team of girls came 19 out of 23 and Newton's boys team came 20 out of 22. Well done to all of you, this was a real achievement.

Exe Valley Challenge

Years 5 and 6, please return your slips if you would like to take part in the Exe Valley Challenge on 2nd July. We will be doing a practice walk during school time on 16th June.

Class 3 Sports Mornings

This morning Class 3 set off for the first of their sports sessions at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre, CREDITON. I went out to see how they were getting on and it was clear that they were all enjoying the swimming, tennis and gymnastics. The children always enjoy mixing with their peers from the other two schools. Thank you, Tammi and the Exeter College students for all your help with these sessions.



Top Table

On Monday, Mrs Parkes enjoyed her lunch in the company of Bella T., Sophie, Aaron, Ethan, Lucy and Rebecca.

New Administrator

I would like to welcome Mrs Vanessa Wilson to the school. She will be sharing the administration work in the office, starting with some training sessions with Katharine next week. The following week the office will be back to normal, with Vanessa in on Mondays and Wednesdays and Katharine continuing on the other three days.

Year 3 Residential Meeting, Tuesday, 16th May, 3.30pm

On Tuesday after school Miss Holmes will be hosting a short session for parents of children in Year 3 to answer any questions you may have about the residential trip to Escot.



PTFA News

Remember next Friday, 19th May, Class 1 will be selling cakes and biscuits after school. Children and parents in Class 1 get baking! And everybody else come and buy some of the delicious delights!

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Headlice



We have had sightings of head lice reported to us again. Please make sure that long hair is tied back. If you find any lice in your children's hair, please treat over the weekend before sending them back to school on Monday.

NSPCC On-line Safety Workshop

Just a reminder that this Monday, 15th May at 9.30am there will be a workshop for parents on online safety at Newton St Cyres School. Please come along. This is a subject that we should all be informed about so that we have the knowledge to keep our children whilst online. The hour-long workshop will help parents and carers understand their child's online world and build confidence to have those important conversations that can help keep children safe online. Please let the school office know if you would like to go along.

Parent Questionnaire

Our annual parent questionnaire is now open. You can find the questionnaire at <https://exevalleyfederation.typeform.com/to/JYlxoh>. The questionnaire will be open until Friday, 26th May. Please do use it to let us know what you think about important issues that the leadership team will be considering in the next few weeks as they plan for the coming school year. Paper copies of the questionnaire are available from the school offices if you would prefer to complete it in this way or if you have any difficulties completing the online version. Thank you very much.

Term Dates From September 2017 to July 2020

The governors have agreed the terms dates for the next three school years and these are attached to this newsletter. Please do not book holidays during the school term as these cannot be authorised and may result in a referral to an Education Welfare Officer and could result in a fine.

Social Media Guidance

A very useful guide for parents on the different social media Apps that children may come into contact with is attached to this newsletter. Please do have a look at it as it may help your child to stay safe online.

Governors' Report

The full governing board met on 26th April. Mr Jolliffe gave a report on safeguarding across the three schools and reported on the success of recent safeguarding training which had been offered to volunteers who help in school. We have developed a rigorous system to ensure all volunteers complete an application form, sign the code of conduct and provide references. As of next year this training and system will be compulsory for all volunteers. The training will be run again in the autumn term for any volunteers who were unable to attend this time. Attendance figures were discussed, and the Heads of School were positive about the improvements. Please remember that children who arrive at school after the registers close will be marked as late. Mr Jolliffe spoke about the success of the middle leaders training, in which a small group of teachers had been completing some additional CPD. Each teacher has taken on an area of school improvement and is completing some action research, which will be shared with staff and feedback given to governors by the end of the academic year.

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Collective Worship Dates

Friday, 9 th June, 3pm	Year 3 residential assembly
Friday, 16 th June, 3pm	Year 5 residential assembly
Friday, 23 rd June, 3pm	Year 6 residential assembly
Friday, 30 th June, 3pm	Class 1 assembly
Wednesday, 26 th July	Leavers' service in church

Diary Dates

Monday, 15 th May, 9.30am	Online safety workshop for parents at Newton St Cyres School
Tuesday, 16 th May, 3.30pm	Year 3 residential meeting for parents
Friday, 19 th May, 3.30pm	Class 1 cake stall
Monday 22 nd – Tuesday 23 rd May	Year 3 residential to Camp Wild, Escot
Thursday, 25 th May, 3pm	Class 2 open afternoon
Monday, 29 th May – Monday, 5 th June	Half-term holiday (Monday, 5 th June is a non-pupil day)
Wednesday 7 th – Friday 9 th June	Year 5 residential to New Barn, Dorchester
Friday 9 th – Monday 12 th June	Year 6 residential to Grenville House, Brixham
Friday, 9 th June	Class 2 cake stall
Friday, 23 rd June	Bag 2 School collection
Wednesday, 28 th June, 3pm	Class 3 open afternoon
Friday, 30 th June	Class 3 cake stall
Wednesday, 26 th July	Last day of summer term
Tuesday, 5 th September	First day of autumn term (Monday, 4 th September is a non-pupil day)
Mon, 23 rd Oct – Weds, 1 st Nov	Half-term holiday (Mon & Tues, 30 th & 31 st Oct are non-pupil days)
Friday, 15 th December	Last day of autumn term

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of Teaching and Learning

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