



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

16th December 2016

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

Today is my 350th day working with the Exe Valley Federation and the time seems to have flown by! I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the children, staff, governors and parents of the children in the three schools and getting to know each family over the course of the last year. Yesterday's Federation Christmas Assembly was a particular highlight for me as the children got together at Cheriton Fitzpaine to share their production songs and sing carols and hear the Christmas story. It was great to see such well-behaved children singing together and taking part in the songs and readings.

My wife and family join in wishing you a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school at the start of January for another exciting year!

Staff Development Day

Tuesday 3rd January is a Staff Development Day and all the teachers and support staff will be meeting at Thorverton School for joint professional development. Over the last year we have been working on introducing Talk for Writing across the Federation and this will be the final day's training for us on this important initiative. School begins again for children on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

Term Dates

The spring term begins for children on Wednesday, 4th January 2017 and ends on Friday, 31st March. Half term is from Monday 13th to Friday 17th February and Monday, 20th February is a Staff Development Day so children return to school on Tuesday, 21st February 2017.

From Mrs Parkes

Nativity

We held our annual Nativity in the church on Wednesday. It was beautifully acted by the children in Class 1 whose confidence and ability to learn



*e-mail: admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk
website: www.thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk*

LEA: Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QG



lines, act and sing at such a young age always amazes me. A special well done must go to Sophie who sang a wonderful solo of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'. Well done to you all for such a great performance and thank you to Mr Biggins and Mrs Williamson for also working so hard to put on

the play. I would also like to thank Ginny for her lovely accompaniment and Katie for her words that made us all focus on what it must have been like for Mary.



Federation Assembly

Well done to the children in Key Stage 2 who sang 'piratical style' with gusto at the Federation assembly, and to Leon, Milo and William who confidently read 'The Wise Men Ask the Children the Way' in front of the whole Federation.

Christmas Fair

Thank you all so much for supporting our Christmas fair. It was great to see so many of you there. Class 3's stalls were a great success and Class 2's cakes were also very popular. I managed to purchase the last of the beautiful decorations that Class 1 had made before they all disappeared. The PTFA raised just shy of £300, which is brilliant. Thank you all for coming to support the event.

Class 2's Christmas Visits in the Village



Class 2 had a lovely walk round the village giving decorated Yule logs to people in the village that the children thought would appreciate a visit and a gift. They sang 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' at the doors and received many thank yous and lovely smiles.

*e-mail: admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk
website: www.thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk*

LEA: Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QG

Window Boxes

I hope you notice the lovely new window boxes outside school on School Lane. Some children from Gardening Club planted up the boxes this week with evergreen plants and bulbs that will flower in the spring. I would like to thank Bernaville Nurseries for kindly donating the plants and compost for this project.

Tesco Bags for Help Grant

We were really pleased to hear from Tesco Bags for Help that our PTFA have been awarded a grant of £10,000. Thank you to everyone who shopped at Tesco and voted for our project. The money will be spent on some great outdoor play equipment.

Top Table

This week Etienne, Solomon, Evie, Marnie, Sam and Freddie shared lunchtime with Mrs Parkes at Top Table.

Service of Lessons and Carols, Thorverton Parish Church, 5pm, Sunday, 18th December 2016

You are all welcome to come to the traditional-style service led by Rev Katie Cross, with candlelit procession, seasonal Bible readings, prayers and choral music sung by the Thorverton Church Christmas Choir and you. Warming seasonal refreshments and mince pies will be served afterwards.

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

*e-mail: admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk
website: www.thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk*

LEA: Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QG

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.

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

Friday, 16 th December	End of term
Wednesday, 4 th January 2017	Spring term starts (Tuesday, 3 rd January is a non-pupil day)
Monday, 13 th February – Monday, 20 th February	Half term (Monday, 20 th is a non-pupil day)
Friday, 31 st March	End of spring term

I would just like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I hope that you all have a wonderful time with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you all back in school on 4th January.

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of Teaching and Learning

*e-mail: admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk
website: www.thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk*

LEA: Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QG