



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

10th February 2017

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

In the next few weeks Mr and Mrs Akhurst are expecting the arrival of their first child, which means that Mr Akhurst will be on paternity leave for two weeks during the next half term. During this time I will be based at Newton St Cyres to cover his absence. I will continue to visit all the schools in the Exe Valley Federation during the week and to meet with the other Heads of School as usual and can always be contacted via your child's school office.

School Development Day

This half term ends today, Friday 10th February and next half term begins on Monday 20th February. This is a Staff Development Day and so the children will be returning to school on Tuesday 21st February. The Federation staff will be meeting at Newton St Cyres on the 20th when they will be updating their child protection training and being trained on the use of new curriculum resources for Religious Education. We look forward to seeing all the children back at school on Tuesday 21st February.

From Mrs Parkes

It has been a busy week with lots of exciting things happening. As you can see from the photos, we have watched our new play equipment

slowly evolving as it has been installed this week. If you haven't already done so, please take a look from the side lines. It is looking really good. The children are very excited and keen to have a go. The border and surfacing will be completed just after half term and then it's play time!



*e-mail: admin@thorverton-ce-primary.devon.sch.uk
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Paddleboat Theatre



I spent a very enjoyable afternoon with Years 3 and 4 at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday working with the Paddleboat Theatre. The children were using the skills they have learnt so far to perform a poem that they had written, using a variety of props. Each group had a mixture of children from all three Federation schools and they worked really well together to produce some very imaginative work.

Veda

You all know, love and appreciate our wonderful Veda who has worked so hard in the office and, as I am finding out, in many other areas of the school over the past 30 years. Yes, 30 years! Well, she has decided that it is now time to put her slippers on and put her feet up for a well-deserved rest and she will be leaving us at Easter. She is an absolute mine of information and I hope she will be well prepared to answer the phone (in her slippers) to the many queries we may have even though she will be officially retired. We will be having a tea party for her at the end of term to say good bye.

Tag Rugby Club

We are really pleased to tell you that Jonathan is not going to stop running tag rugby club just yet, so it's all back to normal with tag rugby on Friday afternoons while the children are practicing for their Six Nations Tournament. Thank you, Jonathan and Dickie, we all really appreciate the time you put in!

Football Club

Mr Martin would like to apologise to children and parents that so many sessions of football club had to be cancelled this half term because of training courses and the bad weather. He would like to reassure everybody that football club will be back on track after half term and he is hoping to arrange a return match with Stoke Canon in March.

Talent Show

We had a fantastic talent show this afternoon organised by the School Council. Acts ranged from trampolining to jokes and many others in between. Well done to everyone who took part. The audience enjoyed the variety of talent on show.

Top Table

On Monday Mrs Parkes enjoyed her lunch at Top Table in the company of Amelia, Olivia G, William S, Ethan, Milo and Leon.

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Lunch Menu, Tuesday, 21st February

On the first day back to school after half term the lunch menu is a special “Cowboy Lunch”.

Rooks

As you know, we have a problem with the rooks nesting above our Pre-school garden and outdoor learning shed. This has made it difficult for us to use part of these areas because of health and safety issues. We have taken advice from the Council and tried a number of different approaches to removing them from this area but none have been very successful. I have now decided that the best approach is to remove 3 to 5 metres off the top of the tree to reduce the likelihood of the rooks nesting as they prefer the tallest trees. However, the school field is now in the Thorverton Conservation Area, so an application has to be completed to do work to any trees on our site. It would be helpful if we had some letters from parents to support the application. If you feel you can do this, please drop in a short letter to the school office. If you would like more clarification please pop in and see me. Thank you for your support.

Governors' News

This week the full Governing Body met at Newton St Cyres for their meeting. Each Head of School reported on progress, positive happenings and areas they were focusing on within their school.

Mrs Harris at Cheriton spoke of the increase in ICT and computing happening across the school.

Improvements to both the server and the ‘moveable’ ICT suite/set of laptops have enabled teachers to incorporate ICT more successfully. She also described the positive impact that play leaders and organised activities by members of staff had had on lunchtimes.

Mrs Parkes was pleased to report an increase in the number of after-school clubs being offered at Thorverton, which vary from crochet to fencing to other arts and crafts and sporting activities. She also explained that they had managed to obtain a £10 000 grant from Tesco to improve their playground area – work has already begun to install some new equipment, chosen by the children themselves. They have also purchased a new set of ipads with funds raised by the PTFA.

Mr Akhurst noted an improvement in attendance, in particular children arriving at school on time. He also spoke positively of the attitude of Year 6 towards their SATS and revision books, with nearly 100% attendance at the lunchtime booster clubs. Numbers at Newton Nippers are also really promising. He explained that some slight changes had been made to planning, assessment and general provision which were already having an impact.

All three Heads spoke of the success of the recent ‘Paddleboat’ sessions at Thorverton, which have seen all of Years 3 and 4 from across the Federation work with three actors on drama and role play activities. The 10 weeks of sessions will culminate in a performance in the near future, as well a ‘Forest and Beach’ trip after half term. It was reported that these sessions had had a real impact with children’s behaviour and attitudes towards learning, as well as enabling children to apply the ideas to their English lessons back at school. In addition to this, the children have been mixing really well with their peers from the other schools. A real success!

World Book Day, Thursday, 2nd March

We will be celebrating World Book Day by asking the children to come to school dressed as a character from a book which they should bring in to share with their class.

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Class 3 Performance at the Great Hall, University of Exeter, Thursday, 23rd March

The children from Years 5 and 6 from across the Federation will be giving a performance of songs and dances from “Mama Mia” at Exeter University’s Great Hall on the evening of 23rd March. Put the date in your diaries and we will let you know after half term when tickets go on sale through the Northcott Theatre.

Pre-school Cake and Book Stall, Saturday, 4th March

The Pre-school will be holding a fundraising cake and book sale at the Memorial Hall on Saturday, 4th March from 10am to 12 midday. They are very grateful for donations of any second-hand books (for adults as well as children).

Pre-school are also asking for any spare jam jars for another fundraising project.

Family Service, Sunday, 19th February

Everybody is warmly invited to come along to the family service in Thorverton Parish Church next Sunday, 19th February. The church will be open from 9.30am and the service starts at 10am.

Pudding Night, Memorial Hall, Saturday, 25th February, from 6.30pm

Everybody is welcome to come to a Pudding Night in the Memorial Hall on 25th February. Eat all the puddings you can for a donation of £5 per person. All proceed will go to Marie Curie and Force.

Collective Worship Dates

Friday, 24 th March, 3pm	Class 1 assembly
Thursday, 30 th March, 9.30am	Easter service in church

Diary Dates

Monday, 13 th February – Monday, 20 th February	Half term (Monday, 20 th is a non-pupil day)
Thursday, 23 rd February	Class 2 Paddleboat Forest and Beach trip to Dartmouth
Monday, 27 th Feb – Friday, 3 rd March	Bikeability training for Year 6
Thursday, 2 nd March	World Book Day
Tuesday, 14 th March, 3pm	Class 3 open afternoon
Wed, 15 th & Thurs, 16 th March	Parents’ evenings
Tuesday, 21 st March, 3pm	Class 2 open afternoon
Thursday, 23 rd March, evening	Class 3’s performance at the Great Hall, Exeter University
Friday, 24 th March	Comic Relief
Friday, 31 st March	End of spring term
Wednesday 26 th – Friday 28 th April	Year 4 residential to Beam House, Torrington
Monday 22 nd – Tuesday 23 rd May	Year 3 residential to Camp Wild, Escot
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

With best wishes for a restful and fun half term,

Sarah Parkes

Head of Teaching and Learning

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