



Thorverton C of E Primary School

Newsletter

School Lane, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5NR

01392 860374

26th January 2018

Dear Parents,

From Mr Jolliffe

This term seems to be rushing past and it's hard to believe there are only two weeks to go before half term! This term is always one where children can focus on their work, with all the excitement of Christmas behind them, and I have been impressed by the work that I have seen going on in classrooms recently. On Wednesday afternoons, I work with Ash Class (Year 1 and 2) at Cheriton Fitzpaine; we have been focusing on learning skills this term in PSHE and I have been really impressed with their enthusiasm for learning and the way they are able to make links between different parts of the curriculum. In many ways, this is what deep learning is all about, being able to link learning and applying knowledge in one curriculum area to another. This is one of the skills that we encourage children to develop as they move through their time with us and one that parents can support by talking to their children.

From Mrs Parkes

Crediton Learning Community Concert

Class 3 have been rehearsing their songs for the Crediton Learning Community concert at the Great Hall on Wednesday, 7th March at 7pm. It all sounds very impressive. This year each school has chosen songs associated with a specific colour, so, unsurprisingly, the concert is entitled 'Pop of Colour'. Tickets the event are available at <https://exeternorthcott.co.uk/calendar/pop-of-colour/>. Get your tickets early as they sell out very quickly!

Class Topics

The classes are all well into their topics now. Class 1 have dazzled me with the information that they have found out about space so far! Class 2's topic on metals includes work related to the story of the Iron Man by Ted Hughes and they are really enjoying this. Their written and art work inspired by the story are really impressive. Here is a poem by Evie in Class 2:

The Rocky Robot

The rocky robot kept on moving,
The robot jumped high to the sky
The rocky robot went on grooving,
Then he said bye, bye, bye, bye.

The sun came pouring in at dawn,
While sneaky Steve spied on him.
Talkative Tim watched from the lawn
The robot flowed to talk to Tim.

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Class 3 have looked carefully at frozen habitats on the planet and the adaptations that animals need to have to survive in these areas. Some pieces of homework, like this marshmallow igloo, have been very creative.



New Homework

From the feedback we have had from parents and children so far, the new homework system seems to be a success. We will be reviewing it at the end of term and if you have any comments you would like to make before then please let me know.

Breakfast Club



Our Breakfast Club started last week. Here is the group of children enjoying cereal and toast. Afterwards they had fun with Miss Finch playing a board game. If you would like your child to attend this half term, we still have spaces so please come and let me, Katharine or Vanessa know. Each session will cost £4 and £8 for the two remaining sessions until half term. Please bring your payment to the office in cash or by cheque payable to Devon County Council.

Be Prepared!

Please would you ensure that your children have everything they need for school each day. We have a few children who do not have their PE kit, home-school book or reading book in class. It is vitally important that they are properly equipped for each day, as this helps the day run smoothly.

Top Table

Miss Holmes enjoyed her lunch at Top Table on Monday in the company of Eliza G, Sufia, Edwin, William F, Olly C and Aaron.



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.

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.



From the Governors

School Improvement Committee

The governors' School Improvement Committee held its first meeting of the year on Tuesday. It was great to welcome Edward Nichols, the new Head of School at Brampford Speke, to the meeting and to our leadership team.

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Governors visit the four schools several times a year for learning walks, which we use to help us monitor progress in different areas. We spent some time planning our next visit, which will take place at the end of February and focus on 'greater depth' – looking at how the schools challenge more able children to fulfil their potential. We look forward to sharing our findings with parents and carers following the learning walks. The focus of our learning walks last term was safeguarding; since then, the leadership team and safeguarding governors have done a lot of work in identifying strengths and areas for development across the Federation – and have been greatly helped by the introduction of a new computerised system for recording safeguarding concerns and incidents.

Finally, we discussed possible future inspections at the schools: Brampford Speke is expecting a SIAMS inspection soon – this evaluates its distinctiveness and effectiveness as a Church school – and Newton St Cyres and Thorverton are likely to have Ofsted inspections sometime this year. All four schools have put a lot of work into self-evaluation, which will be very helpful not only for inspections, but more importantly to help us continue to improve children's learning and wellbeing at school. As usual, if parents or carers want to raise any issues with governors, they can reach us via the school offices.

Bradninch Football Club New Members Wanted!

Bradninch 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, Bradninch 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.

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

Friday, 9 th February, 3pm	Class 1 assembly
Wednesday, 21 st March, 9.30am	Easter service in the church

Diary Dates

Tuesday, 6 th February, 3pm	Class 3 open afternoon
Monday, 12 th – Monday, 19 th February	Half-term holiday (19 th February is a non-pupil staff training day)
Monday, 26 th Feb – Friday, 2 nd March	Bikeability cycle training for Year 5
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

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Saturday, 5th May

Wednesday, 6th – Friday, 8th June

Tuesday, 11th – Friday, 15th June

Exmoor Challenge (for Year 6)

Year 4 residential to New Barn, Dorchester

Year 6 residential to Grenville House, Brixham

With best wishes,

Sarah Parkes

Head of School

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