

# THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



*'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'*



Thursday 29th March 2018

## Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 19th March. These awards were recognised in assembly on Monday 26th March

Positive, Persevering  
Poppy

Co-operative, Caring  
Craig  
Ellie (Elder)

Curious, Questioning  
Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing  
Ruby  
Lily (Oak)/Josie (Maple)

Head Teacher Award  
Ellie (Elder)

Governor Award  
Ellie (Elder)

Time to Shine!

Congratulations to these children for their outstanding achievements outside of school, well done to all of you!



## Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents & Carers,

What an eggciting time we've been having, especially this week! I would like to start by thanking my staff, without whom, the wonderful events your children have experienced this week, would not happen. Their expectations of themselves and the children, know no limit and even after what feels like a long term with illness, poor weather and building works, they still find the time and energy to put your children first, engage and inspire! It already is a huge role for teachers to plan for an 'ordinary' week but this week has simply been extraordinary!

We are so grateful for all the support of parents/carers for helping with Forest Schools opening behind the scenes. There are some who wish to remain unsung heroes (that's as close as I can get to not mentioning any names—their wish!) Mrs Hoare has worked tirelessly over the past 2 terms to make this dream a reality!

Support behind the scenes has been essential for preparation of the March Music Festival (thank you Mrs Hall!) I am sure you agree Mrs Hopkins did a fantastic job of co-ordinating our March Music Festival again this year. The quality of the children's performances go from strength to strength each year!

Our amazing FOTS team have worked so hard in planning the Easter Egg Hunt. This partnership is so important and makes our 'Thakeham Family' so strong. Mrs Flitney recently stepped down from the role of Chair and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for her hard work and commitment over the past few years which along with the rest of the team has enabled the children to enjoy so many wonderful events and subsequent resources as a result of their fundraising efforts. Mrs Pirkis worked alongside Mrs Flitney as Chair and continues in the role moving forwards.

It was lovely to talk to many of you during this week's Parents' Evenings. Thank you for your positive feedback to teachers and myself. As I have mentioned earlier the staff work tirelessly to ensure your children achieve their very best. Thank you for completing a Parent Survey. Once collated, we will publish the results for you to see.

### **Remembering Ellie**

I was very touched by the special messages that children wrote in remembrance of Ellie. Most of you will be aware that Ellie sadly passed away last year in a road traffic accident. A year on, the memory of Ellie, her bubbly personality, her lovely qualities and her talents were remembered in messages that were hung on her tree in the playground. To share these with children, parents, SGS students and staff and of course Ellie's family was an honour.

The heart messages will be compiled and shared with her families. I was grateful also that Allison Goodfellow, Church Warden from St. Mary's Church Thakeham led us in prayer.

Thank you to parents who were able to attend yesterday, for being there, supporting Ellie's family and our pupils at such a difficult time.

### **A Warm Spiritual Welcome From Our New Neighbours**

We were always keen to maintain our links with St. Mary's Church and make additional links in the community as part of our move. We were really pleased therefore to be welcomed so warmly by Rev'd Dawn Carn and her friendly team at Trinity Church, for our Easter Service. Despite our school numbers being depleted by illness, the children shared with us their wonderful readings, singing, prayers and artwork. The theme this Easter was linked to 'hope' and we certainly were filled with a strong sense of that by the time we left the church! Linked to work on our International School Award action plan we learnt about the customs and traditions at Easter in different countries.

Thank you to parents who were able to join us at this special event.



### **Thakeham Reporters & Thakeham Bulletin**

One of our Curriculum Drivers is 'Learning for Life'. We were very pleased to welcome Kerry Coughtrey (designer for Thakeham Bulletin) into school recently to work with our Thakeham Reporters to understand the processes that happen behind the scenes to produce this publication. The children were genuinely interested in this and it gave a real sense of perspective on their own role in the process. Who knows it may have inspired a role in one of these jobs in the future? The children are very excited that they have been promised front page coverage for their next article!

### **Changes in the Governing Body**

We say goodbye to 2 of our governors at the end of this term. Jane Blunden and Wendy Marrable have worked tirelessly for the school for almost 4 years, showing great commitment and dedication. Along with our other governors, they have seen great changes in the school and been part of creating our wonderful successful school. We thank them for all their hard work.

Unfortunately due to ongoing ill-health, Hazel one of our Co-Opted governors, has stepped down. We wish her all the very best for her ongoing recovery.

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed 2 new governors, Paul Skelding, who is also a local Parish Councillor, has expertise in Health & Safety and Buildings. Lucy Glenn is an experienced secondary school teacher, specialising in Computing. Lucy has previous governor experience. They complement the skills and experience on our governing body well, and bring with them energy and enthusiasm that we know will see us go from strength to strength!

With Best Wishes for a relaxing Easter break

Mrs S. Norton

Headteacher

### **Governor Transition Surveys**

It has certainly been a year like no other that the school has known! Re-locating and becoming a Primary School have been significant features in the school's history. As Governors we are keen to understand the thoughts of pupils, parents and staff on the transition.

After Easter we will be sending out surveys to parents, and pupils will complete a survey as part of their lessons. The feedback will be invaluable in helping us understand your views and any further improvements.

We aim to provide opportunities in the summer term to meet parents and talk informally about the school's progress.

Thakeham School Governing Body.

### Elder Class Fabulous Finish

On Tuesday Elder Class held their very own: 'Thakeham Fashion Show' based on their work on Paris Fashion Week. Our Belgium student, Miss Mathieu, sent the children a video message from Belgium to ensure their pronunciation was perfect and to encourage them to be confident. All the children took their turn to walk the Thakeham catwalk and to give commentary, written by themselves in French, for one of their peers. They performed to a packed classroom. I was particularly impressed with the level of confidence in which they approached this Fabulous Finish.



### Maple Class Fabulous Finish

Maple class finished off their topic on Victorians on Thursday 16th March by performing short pieces based upon their experiences with Rainbow Theatre group. The Yorkshire Boys, the miners, factory workers, chimney sweeps and Victorian children in school all confidently performed and I was immensely proud of how Maple class showcased their learning on life in Victorian Britain. Thank you to all of the parents who attended—the children were really excited to share this experience with you!

### Oak Class Fabulous Finish

As part of the fabulous finish, Oak class held a gallery of all the Frozen Planet work they created. They displayed their clay penguins, How to draw a penguin guides, Lost and Found stories and even got to show (and eat!) their healthy ice lollies.



### Acorn Class Fabulous Finish

To finish our topic on space we had our own picnic on the moon - all children joined in with creating our own moon and then travelling to the moon, not forgetting our space suits and boots. Whilst on the moon we shared our space food, looked out for different planets and made way for the shooting stars and craters. All children were completely hooked and enjoyed their time in space!



## Forest School

FOREST SCHOOLS OPEN AFTERNOON - I just wanted to say an enormous thank you to everyone (despite the weather) that has joined us to ensure our forest schools was open - To parents and volunteers who have been instrumental in their help of clearing the area and fencing it to Martin Field from Oakford homes along with Chichester University Students Maddie, Lauren, Cindy, Ami, Terri and Staurt Slade Forest School teacher who were all on hand to help and support the children with the ever popular marshmallows and tree decorating. We now very much look forward to our class base sessions in the area. As part of our Forest Schools work we will also be looking at completing the Woodland Trust Green Tree schools award - with our first task of tree decorating completed. Thanks again



## World Religious Week

RE week - as we approach Easter and the Christian holiday we also wanted to consider different religions and traditions from around the world. Therefore this week each class adopted a different religion for the week and look at different aspects, Elder studied Buddhism, including the Wheel of Life representing the Buddhist view of the universe. In small groups the children focused on a section of the wheel and produced a piece of art reflecting what they had learnt. The class then put their pieces together to make the complete wheel. Have a look in the hall to see what they made! Maple looked Sikh traditions, Oak - Judaism and Acorn - Muslim, creating our own mosques, sari's and hijabs with our own Arabic writing. We hope the children have enjoyed this time and been able to consider different traditions and beliefs.



## Oak's Trip to Drusillas

Oak class enjoyed an fantastic day at Drusillas on the 21st March. We have been looking at animals and their habitats in class, so this was a great chance to see them for real. We also took part in a penguin workshop where the children were quizzed on their knowledge of the bird and where the different varieties lived. Oliver even got the chance to dress up like a penguin. A wonderful day shared by all who came!



## March Music Festival

Our fourth fabulous March Music Festival took place this afternoon. Our theme was: Music Around the World. There were confident performances from the school choir, singing in English, Ghanian and Swahili; a range of instrumental soloists ranging from year 2 to year 6 and even an element of dance!

Each class had worked hard to learn some new songs for the event and sang beautifully with confidence.

This year we also had a wonderful range of class instrumental performances: Oak class learning to play the Boomwhackers; Maple class learning to play the recorder and Elder class continuing to read and write traditional notation and performing on the recorders, glockenspiel and piano. We were thoroughly entertained by Simon Cambers - a local drumming teacher - focusing on the rhythm of the samba.





# Dance Summer School Davies School of Dance



At Thakeham Primary School, Storrington  
10am -4pm

£190 for the five days  
(sibling discount available)

Monday 30th July-Friday 3rd August

High quality dance tuition for children and students Year 3-Year 12.  
Ballet, Theatre, Singing, Fitness, Craft and Dance theory.

Performance for friends and family on the Friday to give a focus and  
complete a wonderful week of dance training.

email:[info@daviesschoolofdance.co.uk](mailto:info@daviesschoolofdance.co.uk)