

# THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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



Friday 9th February 2018

## Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 29th January. These awards were recognised in assembly on Monday 5th February.

Positive, Persevering  
Poppy  
Ralph(Acorn)

Co-operative, Caring  
Craig  
Matthew (Oak)

Curious, Questioning  
Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing  
Ruby  
Harry(Maple)  
Charlotte(Elder)

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 5th February 2018. These awards will be recognised in assembly on Monday 19th February 2018.

Positive, Persevering  
Poppy  
Janneke (Acorn)

Co-operative, Caring  
Craig  
Josh/Charlotte (Elder)

Curious, Questioning  
Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing  
Ruby  
Zane (Maple) Archie(Oak)

### Head Teacher's Award

Josh/Charlotte (Elder)

### Governor's Award

Millie/Charlotte (Elder)

## Time to Shine

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



Adam F: Chicken contest Thomas: Rugby  
Emma Rose: Dance Reuben: Reptile handler



## Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Creative Curriculum**

We have had a fun-filled fortnight at Thakeham Primary with so many learning opportunities that really do reflect our broad, reach, inspiring curriculum offer. You will see later on in the newsletter that NSPCC Numbers Day was a great success and children were actively engaged in a range of 'real life' money activities. This day was partly inspired by a couple of parents talking to us about their concerns that children grow up in world where they are used to seeing plastic cards being used rather than actual physical money. It is always good to hear your ideas and that of the children's to help inspire and improve our curriculum. Thank you to parents and governors who also joined us to help and find out more about children's learning during the day. Mrs Hopkins once again did a marvellous job of organising this event.

Following this we have registered for Nat West's MoneySense project, so we look forward to finding out how that can further develop our children's 'learning for life' (one of our Curriculum Drivers).

We were impressed with children's responses to our Safer Internet theme this year "Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you." We cannot stress enough how important this aspect of keeping children safe is. Thank you to parents who joined the parent workshop after school, though unfortunately numbers were lower than hoped. See later in the newsletter for more details of this event, which was kindly organised by Mr Penty. Once again one of our governors was able to visit and talk to children about their learning, to see the impact of our school development work.

Another wonderful event was our Science Day. The inspiration, awe and wonder around the school was palpable yesterday. One of our governors visited and was greeted by a 9foot T-Ex and some very excited children! Our workshop visitors really inspired the children, alongside the hands-on practical activities, it was clear that inspired learning was the order of the day! Mrs Byatt did a wonderful job of organising the event.

### **Monitoring**

Myself and Mrs Hopkins have been monitoring Maths recently, particularly how effectively teachers plan for the range of needs and abilities within their class. We have been very impressed with the quality of teaching and learning, in some cases there are examples of outstanding practice as we continue our journey to ensure we are an inclusive school. Curriculum Leaders and governors continue to play an important role, visits to classes and groups have helped them assess the impact of a range of school development initiatives. We have also welcomed scrutiny from those outside of the school as was the case last Friday when Mrs Vaughan, Specialist Leader of Education for French, spoke to children in Maple and Elder class with me and looked at evidence in pupil books.

Mrs Baxter (Inclusion Leader) and I have been very impressed with the quality of support provided by our Teaching Assistants. The learning, nurture and care provided by these important individuals cannot be under estimated and our school and our children's learning and well-being benefit hugely from their support and intervention.

### **Sports and Physical Activity**

Our children continue to be actively involved in the STARS tasters and tournaments as you will see later on in the newsletter. These are ably led by Miss Killner Brown, our PE leader and supported by our TAs and parents. Work on the trim trail is now complete and following safety sessions with each class regarding safe, sensible use, this equipment will be open to our pupils on Tuesday 20th February, during school time only. Please do not allow your children to use this equipment before/after school. Once again thank you to the hard work of FOTS and parents for their contributions to the cost of this. Well done to the School Council for helping last year to source ideas for the trim trail.

### **Parking**

A reminder to consider our neighbours both in the local area and Steyning Grammar School when parking. Another reminder that the coach bay is a drop off zone only for Year 6 pupils. It is not to be used as parking spaces. Please allow yourself enough time to locate a car park space in or around the local area. Please understand that Mr Gilligan are trying to keep all of your children safe so we would appreciate your co-operation in this.

Finally may I wish you a relaxing half-term break with your family. There is plenty of roofing and snagging work happening during the break and we are hoping for fine weather to allow this to happen without disruption to our return. We will of course continue to keep you updated should any arrangements change.

Best Wishes, Mrs Norton

## School Council

*The School Council interviewed Cheryl Stockwell, one of our new Governors on the 29th January and here is the write up from the council about the interview.*

*I like the way Thakeham Primary is such a small school, so my children know almost everybody and have loads of caring friends.*

*I wouldn't change anything in this school, until I become more aware of my surroundings. Before I applied to be a governor for this school, my most enjoyed hobby was travelling the world and picking fruit and vegetables.*

*I would like to have the opportunity to be a part of this school. I could make a difference with my attention to detail.*

*If I could come into your classes for a day I would like to share my great interest about my biking skills and show the differences between my 2 bikes.*

*My favourite author when I was a child was: Enid Blyton, but now I'd have to say my favourite author as an adult would be John Connolly because you need to concentrate when you read it to understand.*

## Science Day

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February Thakeham Primary enjoyed our stunning science day. The children all had the opportunity to explore a range of real life dinosaur fossils, learning how these have helped scientist learn about life on our planet millions of years ago. They were particularly amused to find they had been handling real dinosaur poo! Our visitor in the afternoon was met with huge excitement and cheers from the children. Baby Jack and Milly allowed the children to see what dinosaurs may have looked like in the past and put their understanding from their morning session to good practise!

Acorn Class spent the day experimenting with a range of materials, looking for reactions over time and changes to substances when mixing and moving. Oak explored how animals in the Antarctic keep warm by submerging their hands into blubber and recording what they had found out. They also investigated how penguins keep their feathers water proof.

Maple investigated how the content of a tin would affect its movement as it moved on different surfaces and ramps. They used what they had found to predict the contents of the cans they had been using.

Elder Class looked at the filtering process and were set the challenge of separating the different substances in the solution they had been given, after quickly working out that the solution would not be safe to drink as it was!



## NSPCC Maths Day/Nick Herbert visit

Real Life Maths this year was in conjunction with the NSPCC National Numbers Day. The children spent the day working with money in a range of real life situations. with the objectives of:

- recognising the coins
- understanding how to exchange money for an item
- realising they may receive change and what that would be
- developing an understanding of value
- working to a budget

The children all had experience of handling money and solving a range of everyday problems. Congratulations to all those who came in a fantastic 'number themed' costume and well done for raising money for such an important charity. MP Nick Herbert was very impressed with our number and money skills—he particularly enjoyed playing Monopoly with Maple Class!



## Safer Internet Day

Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of February was Safer Internet Day! Children throughout the school, as well as some parents and governors, celebrated this year's theme: ***Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you.***

Our pupils showed a real maturity on the topic of online safety and developed their knowledge and understanding of what makes good behaviour when online. For more information, visit: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2018> and do ask your children what they got up to!

Keep an eye on the school website for an e-safety update in the half term!

Mr Penty



### Dance Taster

On Wednesday 7th February, a group of Elder class children went over to SGS for a dance taster. The children thoroughly enjoyed the session and came back excited to perform what they had learnt to the whole school.



### Photo of the Fortnight



### Multiskills Tournament

On Thursday 1st February, Maple class enjoyed a multi-skills tournament at Storrington. The children took part in a variety of different activities including, hockey dribbling and ball skills. They worked as a team showing true team spirit by constantly cheering each other on.



## WSCC's Children and Family Centres

### Volunteering Opportunities and "Back to Work Support" through your local Children and Family Centre

West Sussex Children and Family Centres are seeking **volunteers** to support the services they offer within their centres and in the communities. If you or someone you know is looking to give some time as a volunteer, they would be pleased to hear from you. Current vacancies are listed below and new opportunities also arise. Anyone interested in finding out more should contact [Julie.dutton@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.dutton@westsussex.gov.uk). WSCC's Children and Family Centres also offer **support** to any parent who is thinking of returning to work, or changing careers. If you feel that you would benefit from some advice, accessing free training, help with cv and applications, interview skills support or work experience to improve your cv, then please get in touch. Support is FREE. To arrange an informal chat, please email [Julie.dutton@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.dutton@westsussex.gov.uk).

Where?	When?	What?
Needles Children and Family Centre, Horsham	Tuesdays from 2pm to 3.30pm weekly	Meeting and greeting families using the Child Health Clinic, assisting parents/carers with self-weighing of babies and recording
Needles Children and Family Centre	Monday mornings weekly 9.15am to 11am, or through to 12.30pm	Assisting with setting up activities at the Play and Learn session, supporting the children and their carers to access these
Needles Children and Family Centre	Monday mornings weekly 9am to 12.30pm or Friday mornings	Signing in families to the building, giving out information, general office duties. Must have previous office experience
Horsham Children and Family Centre, Harwood Road, Horsham	Thursday 9.30am to 11am weekly	Assisting at the Explorers' group for the youngest children – setting up, clearing away, supporting children and carers to use the activities.
Billingshurst Children and Family Centre	Friday mornings weekly from 9.15am to 12 noon	Assisting with setting up activities for the Play and Learn session, supporting children with activities
Steyning Centre next to the library	Mondays weekly 9.30am to 11.15am	Setting up and putting away resources for the Stay and Sing group, helping to lead singing, welcoming parents/carers.
Henfield Free Church Hall	Thursday mornings weekly 10am to 12.30pm	Helping set up activities for the Play and Learn session, register, welcoming and engaging with families, putting all away at end of the session
Across the Horsham District	Negotiable – half day per week or fortnight	Driving our Sensory or Toy Library bus to groups around Horsham District. Must have C1 on full driving licence

## WSCC Recruitment Fair

Are you or is someone you know interested in training to be a teacher? Are you a teacher looking for a new post? Are you interested in the new Teaching Apprenticeships? Want to know more about being a school bursar, teaching assistant, learning mentor, working in SEN roles or clerk for a governing body? Are you interested in working for our Adult Education team? Have you considered being a school governor?

West Sussex CC is holding a Recruitment Fair on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February at Ifield Community College in Crawley, RH11 0DB. The event will run from 1000 – 2.00pm, you can drop in at any time. Come along and meet schools, universities and others organisations to find out about the many roles in West Sussex schools. For more information go to [www.westsussex.gov.uk/jobsinschools](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/jobsinschools) where you can also find details of who will be at the event.

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2018**  
**26 FEBRUARY – 11 MARCH**



## **DESIGN A POSTER TO PROMOTE FAIRTRADE**

Celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight with Chartwells

Order and eat our Chartwells meals everyday for  
Fairtrade Fortnight and collect a template within the  
2nd week from your kitchen team to design a  
Fairtrade poster at home..

The lucky winner will receive a family ticket to Tulleys Farm



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For more information on special diets please contact [westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk](mailto:westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk).  
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