

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

Friday 29th September 2017



Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 18th September 2017. These awards were recognised in assembly on Monday 25th September.

Positive, Persevering

Poppy
Tatiana (Oak)
Evelyn (Elder)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig
Austin (Acorns)

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby
Beth (Maple)

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 25th September 2017. These awards will be recognised in assembly on Monday 2nd October 2017.

Positive, Persevering

Poppy
Poppy (Acorn)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby
Emilia (Maple) Dylan/
Ellie/Juliette (Elder)
Oliver (Oak)

Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,



Take a look at the exciting things we've been up to in the past 2 weeks.....

Author Visit: Steve Clifford, author of THE Walking With series visited us on Monday and inspired us with his own books and top tips for writing. He spent time the day with us, visiting each class providing class and individual feedback on the children's writing which the children really valued. The visit has really helped to take the children's feedback to the next level. This supports our whole-school focus on improving children's writing and supports our Curriculum Driver 'Inspired Learners'. The book signing at the end of the day was well attended and no doubt Steve Clifford's writing will continue to inspire and enthuse the children.

Year 3/4 Football Taster: The children thoroughly enjoyed their session this week—wearing our new Primary School kit too! Great skills development and sporting behaviour from everyone! It was a fantastic afternoon and great to just be able to just pop out the back to our lovely new field! All of the STARS taster sessions are being held at Rock Road site (rather than Shooting Fields) which makes for life so much easier for everyone! Looking forward to the Cross Country Tournament at St Mary's Washington for Y3-6 next Thursday. Go Thakeham!



National Fitness Day: We took part in the national initiative of 10 minutes of activity for 10 minutes on 27th September. In fact some year groups did even more! There were a range of different activities going on across the school including Dance which left the children feeling invigorated!



Hurricane Irma Appeal—Visit by SGS Boarding Students: You will be aware of the devastating effects that Hurricane Irma had on many parts of the Caribbean and Florida recently. The effects of which have been felt closer to home than we realised. Year 12 and 13 boarding students from Steyning Grammar School visited us to tell us about the devastation in their own home islands of the Caribbean. Children watched a film the students had made and listened to a presentation. I was very impressed with the level of questioning from our children and they were very engaged. The children are keen to support the fundraising efforts and the School Council are meeting to decide an event for the school to take part in. In the meantime if you wish to donate to the relief efforts, please can we direct you to the Just Giving page linked to SGS: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/steyning-grammar-school>



Landscaping and Brooke's Rose: At last the swathes of mud around the front of the school and playground have been replaced with shrubs and planting! It has made a real difference to the appearance of the front of the school already. There is still more to be planted which we look forward to. You may remember Brooke won a rose plant for the school which she helped plant yesterday. This is called 'Gloriously Pink' and we look forward to it flowering next June!



Forest School Help: Thank you to parents for your offers of help with our exciting project to develop a Forest School area on our field. This is being funded by the kind donation from Oakford Homes and Chichster University students will be managing the project with us. We are looking at the following date for help with clearing this area on Wednesday 4th October after school. If you haven't already offered your time, please consider if you can spare a couple of hours. Many hand make light work! Sign up sheets on the playground from Monday.

Curriculum Information Meetings: We hope you found these useful if you were able to attend. Please see your child's teacher if you missed this or if you need any further information.

Celebration Assembly: Last week we were able to say a special thank you to Senior Librarian, Tracy Smith for her help alongside Susan Heyes, Head of Schools Library Service in setting up our wonderful new library. The area is a firm favourite amongst children and adults for reading as well as group work. This week some staff have received training on our new state of the art computerised system. We are almost ready for children to loan books. If you have an hour or so a week to spare and would like to support us in keeping the library tidy please let Miss Brown (Oak Class) know.

We also thanked Mr Dugan from W.S. Stirland who have been the building contractor for our school. They have done an amazing job on the transformation of the school. We look forward to our new Food Tech room very shortly and our hall in December.

And now for a few other less than helpful matters I am afraid:

Safety on Site: It has been reported to me that a number of parents mounted the pathway in their cars to move around parked coaches at the drop off point, directly in the pathway of children walking by. This is reckless and unsafe and must be avoided at all costs. We are very much aware of the less than ideal parking of coaches at the moment and both WSCC and I are working hard to resolve this with the coach company. We hope that a resolution to this situation will be quickly reached. If you witness any coach or vehicle concern please do report this to myself or Mr Gilligan (Premises Manager) and if this involves a coach, we encourage you to contact the coach company directly also. It is important parent voices are heard in this.

We are also waiting on a number of other measures to be implemented to increase pedestrian and vehicle safety.

Dog Fouling: Parents have made us aware that there is an issue with dog fouling on the pathway that runs alongside the school and on the entrance to the school. We have made the Parish Council aware of this and asked for their support.

Finally I want to thank parents for their positive feedback on the new school site and their kind words of support. Re-locating the school has been a huge undertaking and there is much to keep me busy behind the scenes and cause us frustration at times! Each day we are taking steps forward to completion of our wonderful new school.

Best Wishes

Mrs Sam Norton
Headteacher

ACORN CLASS

Stunning start.. Acorn Class have enjoyed and settled really well into school life. They have been very interested in the builders and different building work that has been going on. So we were very excited to have our very own builder Mr Gilligan come and visit us and teach us how to build our own house.. just like the builders around school and The Three Little Pigs which has been our class story.



Time to Shine



MR GILLIGAN—FOR PASSING HIS MINI BUS DRIVER TESTS- WELL DONE!! Mr Gilligan will chauffeur children to/from sports tournaments with the help of staff/parents.



Our School for achieving the Silver Sports Mark Award!



Photo of the Fortnight



Important Dates for 2017-2018

SEPTEMBER 2017

Friday 29th School Photo day

OCTOBER 2017

Wednesday 4th Acorn class Meeting 9-9.45am
Thursday 5th Harvest Festival
Thursday 5th Cross Country at Washington Y3/4/5/6
Thursday 5th FOTS 3.20pm in school
Monday 9th Open Event (new EYFS parents) 11am/2pm
Wednesday 11th Open Event (new EYFS parents) 6:15pm
Monday 16th Elder residential trip
Wednesday 18th SPLASH Assembly
Thursday 19th Football Tournament at West Chilton Y3/4
Monday 23rd- HALF TERM
Friday 27th
Monday 30th Early Parents Evening 3:30pm-6pm

NOVEMBER 2017

Wednesday 1st Late Parents Evening 5-7pm
Thursday 2nd Fireworks on Rock Road site—tickets available shortly from the office
Friday 3rd INSET Day—School Closed
Thursday 16th Netball at Thakeham Y5/6

DECEMBER 2017

Wednesday 6th School Choir to perform at South Downs Care Home
Wednesday 6th Y3/4 Dance Taster
Friday 8th Decorations Afternoon—parents welcome
Tuesday 12th Nativity 1:30pm
Wednesday 13th Nativity 1:30pm
Thursday 14th Years 3—6 Christmas Service at St. Mary's Church 6.15pm
Friday 15th School Christmas Lunch
Saturday 16th FOTS Christmas Fayre
Thursday 21st- CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Wednesday 3rd January

JANUARY 2018

Thursday 4th INSET DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday 5th First Day Back

FEBRUARY 2018

Monday 12th- HALF TERM
Friday 16th

MARCH 2018

Friday 30th- EASTER HOLIDAY
Friday 13th April

APRIL 2018

Monday 16th First day Back

MAY 2018

Monday 7th BANK HOLIDAY
Monday 28th- HALF TERM
Friday 1st June

JULY 2018

Wednesday 25th SUMMER HOLIDAY