

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'



Friday 2nd March 2018

Super Learning Hero Awards

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

Positive, Persevering
Poppy
Olivia (Maple)

Co-operative, Caring
Craig

Curious, Questioning
Quinn
TJ(Maple)

Reflective, Reviewing
Ruby
Chloe(Oak)
Jasper (Elder)

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 26th February 2018. These awards will be recognised in assembly on Monday 5th March 2018.

Positive, Persevering
Poppy
Dylan (Elder)/Adam (Maple)

Co-operative, Caring
Craig

Curious, Questioning
Quinn

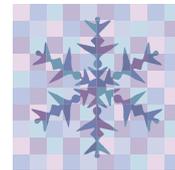
Reflective, Reviewing
Ruby
William (Elder)
Peter (Oak)

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 a very busy and exciting fortnight it has been! I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to my staff who have showed such resolve through this very cold spell to ensure, together as a team, we remain open to ensure the children's learning continues to flourish. From clearing and gritting paths to enduring road closures, traffic jams, snow, and the cold whilst out on duty, they have all been Positive, Persevering Poppies! Children have of course loved the snow, and if the truth be told so have some of the grown ups, who seemed determined to be the first on the playground making snow angels on Tuesday!

A reminder that should we need to take the very difficult decision to close, you will be informed by the following means:

- Text message
- Email
- Message via the school website www.thakehamps.co.uk
- Via local radio stations e.g. BBC Sussex and Spirit FM
- Via the WSCC emergency school closure website (www.westsussex.gov.uk) This site also enables you to sign up for email alerts

New Resources

Our lovely new trim trail has been installed and children have learnt how to use this sensibly and safely. I have been so impressed with how caring the older children have been to the younger ones, helping them using the trim trail. Growing to become a primary school has only served to embed our caring ethos as the Year 6 children love their 'buddy' responsibilities and show they are real 'Co-operative, Caring Craigs—without being asked or reminded!

Thank you to parents for respecting our rules of not allowing children on the trim trail before/after school. This is to ensure their health and safety as we do not have staff supervision in place at these times.



We have taken delivery of our lovely new hall chairs. Long gone are the days of enduring tiny chairs for grown ups at events in our hall! We will soon have a few new additions to our wonderful library, which I am sure the children will love.....

FOTS

Thank you to our FOTS members for organising and supervising a school disco before we broke up for the holiday. This raised £109 which will go towards funds for providing a sun shade/canopy for the children—I am sure we will see the sunshine eventually!

The next FOTS meeting will be held on **Monday 5th March at 7.30pm** at Debbie Pirkis's house. We look forward to seeing both existing and new members. With County funds as they are, it is

important that we look at creative ways of raising funds for our children at school. Look out for details of our **Easter Egg Hunt** after school on **Thursday 29th March**.

Parent Involvement

Acorn staff and children were pleased to welcome their parents into school recently for a Writing Workshop—see later in the newsletter. Working together with parents to share how we learn in school has a really positive impact on children's progress and achievement. We provide many opportunities for parents to be involved in school life ranging from Parent Governors to FOTS to joining us for school events.

A huge thank you to parents for your support with costumes for World Book Day. The children had a wonderful time as you can see later in the newsletter.

A couple of dates for your diary (always available on our school website calendar):

Monday 5th March @ 7.30pm FOTS meeting

Tuesday 6th March @6pm KS1 SATs meeting for Year 2 pupils only. Even if you have attended previously for a younger sibling, please do come along as there have been a few national changes for assessment.

Week beginning March 5th—Waste Week

Thursday 8th March (PM) Y5/6 Sandgate Singers workshop

Thursday 8th March @1pm Y1/2 Cross County Tournament

Friday 9th March (PM) Voices Around the World

Friday 16th March @2.45pm Maple Fabulous Finish

Week beginning Monday 26th March World Religions Week

Monday 26th March Oak Fabulous Finish

Monday 26th March @3.30-6pm Parents' Evenings

Tuesday 27th March (time TBC) Easter Service at Trinity Church

Tuesday 27th March 2:30-3pm Elder Fabulous Finish

Tuesday 27th March @ 5-7pm Parents's Evenings

Wednesday 28th March @

Thursday 29th March @ 1.30pm March Music Festival for Y1-6

Thursday 29th March @ 3.30pm Easter Egg Hunt and last day of term.



Our Place in the World—Community Links (Home and Away!)

We were delighted to welcome Reverend Dawn Carn to school recently. She led a school assembly linked to Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. The children were reminded of the background to these important events in the Christian calendar alongside exciting opportunities to flip pancakes and participate in pancake races! We look forward to being welcomed by our new neighbour for our forthcoming **Easter Service** which will take place at **Trinity Church, Storrington on Tuesday 27th March** (details to follow)



On Tuesday 20th February we welcomed Tania Mathieu to our school. Miss Mathieu is a student from Belgium, studying to be a secondary school teacher. Through our links with Chichester University we have been lucky enough to host Miss Mathieu who is based in Elder Class and has been an asset supporting our French teaching, cultural awareness and links with Belgium. We have all been learning the similarities and differences between her country and ours.



Miss Mathieu is also having opportunities to spend time in each class, getting to know the children and also leading French lessons in these too. Thank you to Juliette's parents for kindly hosting Miss Mathieu.

This project and a number of others form our action plan for re-accreditation for our International School Award. We are aiming for the highest level within this process and have persevered to have our action plan agreed by the British Council. During this academic year we have committed to undertaking seven curriculum-based international activities. Three of these activities will be with partners in other countries, and one must contain an element of foreign language learning. Links with Australia, Turkey and Belgium are just some of those planned.



These activities will form part of our curriculum work and our assemblies, further embedding work on our Curriculum Driver 'Our Place in the World' and our school vision to "encourage a strong sense of **respect** and **responsibility**, both within our local **community** and the wider world, we support our children to be **co-operative**, **caring** citizens for the future." Mrs Hoare and Mrs Stender have worked tirelessly on our International School Award application and are leading staff and co-ordinating the plan. This term we have Waste Week, World Religions Week, 2 cultural music events: Voices Around the World at Chichester Cathedral, led by Mrs Hopkins) and our March Music Festival alongside a range of cultural assemblies complimenting our usual curriculum offer, making for a very exciting term! We are always eager to know of any links you have with other countries, cultures and religions, please let Mrs Hoare or Mrs Stender know if you think these may support our learning at school.

Staff Update - Mrs Bowbrick

I am sure like me you have appreciated the friendly face of Mrs Bowbrick in the office over the past few years. Her warm, helpful approach have helped pupils, parents, staff, governors and visitors alike. I have been in awe at how one person can be Secretary, TA and HLTA (not forgetting Mummy too!) and still keep smiling.

Mrs Bowbrick has done a fantastic job in shaping our office in many different ways, to help ensure it runs smoothly, especially as part of the re-location and move to become a Primary School. She has given over and above to the role, met challenges head on, and sparkled when many others may have crumbled! I am sure you will join with me in thanking Mrs Bowbrick for all that she has done for staff, children, parents, governors and all of our wider contacts.

We are very pleased that Jodi will be continuing in her role as TA and HLTA and is keen to devote all her energies to ensuring our children do their very best. We are also pleased to announce that we have appointed an experienced School Secretary, Mrs Ayres who will start with us on 19th March. Tuesday 13th March will be Mrs Bowbrick's last day in the office.

Monitoring and Moderation

Staff continue to meet together to standardise and moderate work. We have recently moderated writing in Year 2 and Year 6 ahead of moderation within the STARS group this involved all staff members.

Governors also form a crucial part of our quality assurance processes through monitoring the impact of our School Development Plan work. This week Mrs Otto (Co-Opted Governor) is visiting Computing lessons across the school to see the impact of our improvement work.

Attendance

We have noticed a sharp increase in parents requesting holidays during term time. Please note, in line with our school Attendance Policy (available on our website and from the school office), I am unable to authorise absence for this reason. Such absences for 10 sessions (5 school days) will be referred to the Pupil Investigation Team for a Fixed Penalty Notice (payable to the County per adult with parental responsibility).

Please also be aware that pupils with 10 unauthorised absences within 10 weeks are also eligible for a referral for a FPN. Please ensure you complete a form for any planned absence for your child and return to the school office. It is also recommended that you discuss such absences with me in advance, as per our policy.

I am sure you agree that we can only help your child to achieve their full potential if their attendance is good (at least 96%). Governors, County and Ofsted monitor pupil attendance and are keen to know how we are tackling persistent absence and ensuring good pupil progress and outcomes.

Please also note children arriving after register closes and before 9:30am are recorded as late. Arrivals after this time are recorded as unauthorised absence. This does not include planned medical appointments that we are aware of in advance. These do not affect attendance.

Best Wishes, Mrs Norton

Acorn Class Parent Workshop: Writing

On Wednesday 21st February we welcomed the parents of our Acorn children into the classroom. We worked together on a variety of writing activities we would engage in over the term. The children worked hard to show off their writing skills, sharing their hard work at the end of the session.



World Book Day!

Acorn: We all dressed up as our favourite character and made a poster about our character- An author came and “luckily” the author came into our class to read us her book.

Oak: Oak class enjoyed a wonderful World Book Day, dressing up as a variety of characters including Willy Wonka, Rapunzel, Fantastic Mr Fox and The Cat in the Hat amongst many others. The children spent the day really developing their love of reading, through book scavenger hunts and creating our own bookmarks. The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit from author Jill Atkins, who acted out her story Yasmin’s parcels to the class. They then completed work based on the story and the characters they had encountered.

Maple: Maple Class took part in a range of activities based around the book '13 storey treehouse'. The children acted out ridiculous scenes from the story, playing close attention to cause and effect of their actions in order to develop plots. They wrote some very amusing 'To Do' and 'To Don't' lists and designed their own treehouses in which to set their own stories. I am thrilled to say, some children have since gone on to read the whole book and its sequels!

Elder: Our visiting author Jill Atkins, shared with us her experience of how to develop a good narrative plot. We then used a variety of story starters to see what creative plots would grow from them. We also continued to focus on our new text: The sleeper and the Spindle by Neil Gaiman, which is also our locality year 6 book. We became journalists and reported on the Queen abandoning her wedding day to save her Kingdom.



Rainbow Theatre Visitors: Maple Class

On Friday the 2nd of March, Rainbow theatre group visited Thakeham Primary school to complete a Victorian children workshop. The children were terrified by the strict and uncaring adults and were quickly set to work in a cruel Victorian world. Children experienced a typical school lesson, working in the Mills, working down the mines and scuttling up chimneys as they learned about how life was for children in the 1800s. A very big thank you to Rainbow Theatre Group and all of the children who participated so well to make it such an enjoyable experience!



Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year - Students from Steyning Grammer came to talk to us about their celebrations for Chinese new year.

We then looked at different traditions for Chinese new year and worked together to move the noodles, make our own dragons and found out which Chinese new year animal they were. We then tried to write the name of the animal in Mandarin .



Wombles

On Tuesday 20th February our Wombles had a visit from 'Adopt a Street'. We chatted about the reasons we became Wombles and why we carry out our duties. I was pleased to hear about how committed the children are to keeping the area where we live and come to school clean and tidy for the community. Once again we tidied the area around our school, clearing the rubbish and putting it in the bin where it belongs. Well done Wombles!



Photo of the Fortnight



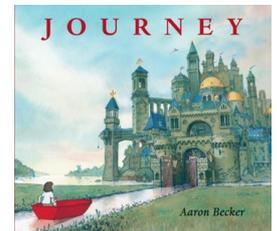
Stunning Start—Acorn Class



Acorn class... as part of our locality schools meeting and stunning start we all planned a unit of work around the book *Beegu* - Alexis Deacon for our stunning start *Beegu* and her spaceship landed in our class- we are now busy learning all about *Beegu*, which planet she has come from, what language she might speak - we have looked at both mandarin and makaton. We aim to write our own *Beegu* stories at the end of the topic, and then learn about different journeys.

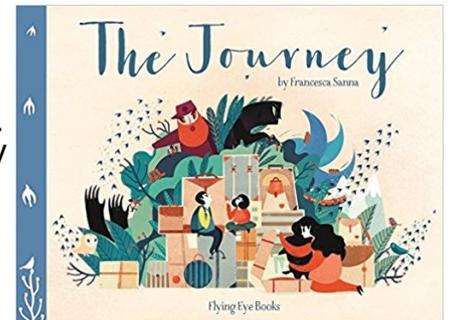
Class Book—Oak Class

The focus for our English locality work is based around a book called *Journey* by Aaron Becker. The children will be completing many forms of writing including: Non-Fiction-Instruction writing linked to DT and Science, Diary Entries - Wonder, Hurricane News Report and Post Cards. Alongside this book, we will be looking at a variety of linked texts. Our first text is called *Hurricane* by David Weisner. As a stunning start for this unit, the children arrived at school only to find that the back door had mysteriously been left open and overnight a horrendous hurricane had hit their classroom. There were objects everywhere and the children were extremely shocked. We discussed how we could keep safe if another hurricane was to hit and the children built shelters. Alongside this, they have been writing a news report to warn other children of the hurricane and have filmed these against news backgrounds. They are very excited to continue working on these books throughout the term.



Class Book—Maple Class

The Journey tells the tale of a family, who are forced to leave their comforts and world behind as it has been devastated by war. Although a fictional family, it could well be the true story of many families world-wide today. The class have been discussing journeys, well-being and rights and relating their current understanding of world events to support their learning. Our writing focus for the term will be on diary writing.



Class Book—Elder Class

Locality Book: *The Sleeper and the Spindle* by Neil Gaiman

From the aftermath of an enchanted spell, set upon a simple spindle to a fierce interpretation of a Snow White Queen, Neil Gaiman's gothic re-telling of two classic fairy tales intertwined has already gripped Elder Class' fascination. With touches of *The Hobbit*, three dwarfs lead us on an adventure to save a sleeping Kingdom:

"The dwarf can see the shadows of lost souls meandering in the darkness. The cold surface of his ruby permeates his fear-brimmed fingertips." By Thomas Wills.

Thakeham Preschool

Ladies Pamper Night

Friday 9th March 2018 from 6.30pm

£5.00 per person to include a glass of Prosecco and Nibbles

Tickets in advance

- * Hand and foot Treatments
- * Hot foot massage
- * Eyebrows and lashes
- * Forever Aloe
- * Tropic Skin care
- * Grand Raffle
- * Jodi's Jewellery
- * Chocolate Fountain
- * Licenced Bar

- * Head or shoulder Massage
- * Facials
- * Manicures and Pedicures (mini)

