

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'



14th December 2018

Super Learning Hero & Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their awards for the week commencing 10th December 2018. These awards will be recognised in Celebration assembly on 17th December:

Elder Class: Will, Clem, Grace **Maple Class:** Max, Charlie **Oak Class:** Flo & Bea **Acorn Class:** Aria

Congratulations to the following children for their awards for the week commencing 3rd December. These awards were recognised in Celebration assembly on 10th December:

Elder Class: Annabelle, Josie, Holly, Millie

Maple Class: Lexi, Max

Oak Class: Ralph, Sadie, Reuben, George

Acorn Class: Eryn, Evelyn

Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a festive couple of weeks it has been at Thakeham! We've been celebrating Christmas in so many different ways and getting very excited in preparation for the "Big Day."

Decorations Afternoon & FOTS Christmas Fair

Children, parents and staff came together last Friday to create beautiful decorations for the hall and transformed Oak classroom into the Elves Workshop. The school was awash with colour....and glitter.....lots of it!! There was a wonderful atmosphere around the school with children and grown ups alike really enjoying themselves. My little helpers did a wonderful job of decorating the Christmas tree too! We really appreciated the time parents gave up to come and help with the sticking and decorating. The mince pies and 'pretending' mulled wine seemed to go down a treat too—my thank you to everyone for their help!

All of this was in preparation for our FOTS Christmas Fair. Being able to host the event in our new hall really made such a difference. The FOTS team worked tirelessly to prepare for the event both months before, and not forgetting setting up and clearing away afterwards. Huge thanks to the parents, staff and one of our governors for all their help on the day too!

We were very impressed with enterprising Elder Class, organising and running 4 different stalls between them. Their hard work will be recognised as a step towards their Community Awards. One of the highlights of the Fair was our School Choir who performed a wide range of Christmas songs and carols, entertaining young and old alike. Thank you to Mrs Hopkins for the wonderful work she does to ensure the children sing like angels!

The Fair was a great success raising over £1400! We are waiting for our final quote for one of the canopies for the playground which should hopefully be installed early in the spring.



Acorn & Oak Class Nativity

This week on Tuesday and Wednesday Acorn and Oak class took centre stage to perform this year's Christmas show - The Nativity. We were all so proud of the confidence and enthusiasm the children showed in both their singing and acting skills. We would like to say a big thank you to all of the staff and parents who helped in any way and to take this opportunity to wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs Hoare, Mrs Byatt, Mrs Double, Mrs Strong, Mrs Turner, Mrs Younger & Mr Beeching.

I am sure you'll agree, very special memories were made across the 2 performances. I was very impressed with the singing, acting and dancing. I am sure I counted more than 1 actual star on the stage! The children looked fabulous—thanks to parents for all their help with supporting the children to learn lines and with their costumes.

Mrs Norton



St Mary's Christmas Church Service

This was probably the most powerful and moving Christmas Carol Service I have seen as Head at Thakeham over the past 5 years! It was simply stunning! It was a wonderful opportunity to join together with children, staff, governors, parents and members of the church as Rev'd Sara-Jane led us in reflection (literally) on how important we are as God's children and of this time of year in the Christian calendar. It was wonderful to be welcomed back to St Mary's Church!

Everyone agreed the children's singing was outstanding, it really did make me very proud. Monologues—Joyce Grenfell style, prayers and song were the fabulous offering from Elder, whilst Maple Class wowed us with their full recital of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' with Callum quite rightly reminding it was so good because of the power of practice! I think everyone leaving the church did so with hearts all a glow! Thank you to Mrs Hopkins and Miss Brown for their hard work with the children and raising our spirits, even though it was chilly outside!



Sussex Downs Care Home

The choir were delighted and honoured to visit Sussex Downs Care Home this week. The residents were so pleased to hear the choir singing a beautiful selection of songs and carols, really getting everyone in the Christmas Spirit. Once again thank you to the talented Mrs Hopkins who leads our amazing choir and to our children for spreading a little Christmas cheer in our local community.

Christmas Lunch & Parties

Dressed in their Christmas jumpers and seasonal outfits, the children tucked into a traditional Christmas lunch in school today, complete with all the trimmings! Barbara the Cook did a marvellous job in ensuring everything ran smoothly, serving hundreds of roast potatoes and gravy galore—all very tasty! Thank you to parents who came in to help with the festivities in the hall and to FOTS for their kind donations of crackers which the children enjoyed immensely.

A huge thank you to Mrs Stickings who not only on Christmas lunch day but every school day helps the children with their lunch and clears away so well with the help of many willing volunteers!

The Christmas fun continued in the afternoon with Christmas parties and games in every class.



Steyping Art Project

Recently all children at Thakeham helped create a joint masterpiece with Steyping Grammar Art Students and Art coordinator Mrs Modder. They spent the day exploring water paints and different techniques to create their own work. Our aim was to represent the different seasons, where each class is seen as individual and unique but all as important and playing a crucial part within our school. Thanks to parent, Mrs Banks who worked with 2 children from each class, using acrylic paints for the canvases backgrounds, fading colours from light to dark. Various families and children then helped after school to construct our finished work. Huge thanks to everyone who was able to get involved. The panels are now proudly displayed outside the hall—do sneak a peak—you are sure to be impressed! A huge thank you to Mrs Hoare for leading this project collaboratively with Steyping Grammar School!



Carol Singing in Aid of the Samaritans

I was very impressed with 2 of our pupils who started with only started with us in September this year. They have been true 'Co-operative, Caring Craigs' singing carols in the local community, raising over £120 for the Samaritans. They were inspired to support the charity by a family member. Well done Sophie & Joshua! We are very proud of your sense of responsibility to others!



Staff Update

Unfortunately following a period of illness, Mrs Constable has decided not to return to Thakeham. She is on the mend we are pleased to report, but still not 100% and knowing how busy it can be in the office, Mrs Constable has decided to focus on getting herself fully fit and well. Mrs Constable has worked with us for over 6 years and been our true 'Office Angel' - we are very sad to see her go. She has promised to keep in touch and perhaps even come in to volunteer when she is fully recovered. She will also be enjoying some travel in the future (during term time!)

Mrs Constable has seen the school go from strength to strength in the time she has worked with us and has always been at the heart of our happy, friendly school. She has helped hundreds and hundreds of children and parents and been a true rock to all the staff and governors. I am sure you will join with me in thanking her for everything she has done for the school.

Mrs Hall has been helping us out in the office over the past few weeks and following interview this week will be joining us as a permanent member of staff in January on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Hall is well placed to work alongside Mrs Ayres in the office with an impressive skill set and I am sure there will be a smooth transition.

Teaching Assistant appointments

You will be aware from February 1/2 term 2019 that Mrs Byatt will go on maternity leave and Mrs Turner will step in as a qualified teacher to work alongside Mrs Hoare. This created a Teaching Assistant vacancy which we combined with the hours linked to Mrs Strong's Teaching Assistant role who will be leaving us at February 1/2 term, to go follow her dreams and study Creative Writing. We are delighted to announce that we have appointed Mrs Jouanides who is currently working as a TA in a WSCC primary school. Her first day with us will be February 25th.

Mrs Petros will start work in Oak Class after the Christmas holiday to support individual pupil needs. Mrs Petros will provide us with an additional Teaching Assistant role at our school and is a very experienced Teaching Assistant, especially working with SEND pupils. We look forward to her joining the staff team.

Mr Picken—New Oak Class Teacher

Mr Picken will be visiting us on Monday and Tuesday ensuring a through and effective handover with Mrs Double leaving at the end of this term. He will be available on the playground at the end of each of these days to say hello and meet parents. Mr Picken will start with us at the beginning of January.

Rev'd Sara Jane Stevens Visits

You will be aware from previous newsletters that Rev'd Sara-Jane has now joined us as vicar at St Mary's Church, Thakeham. She has already visited us at school and introduced herself leading one of our assemblies recently, which the children enjoyed immensely. Ahead of the Christmas Church service this week Rev'd Sara-Jane, was interviewed by the School Council. They devised their own questions and listened with great interest to her responses. This is the beginning of a new chapter for Thakeham and we are looking forward to continuing to develop links with our local church.



Q. Why did you decide to be a vicar?

I felt that God wanted me to spread the message of kindness throughout the world.

Q. What work do vicars do?

Baptisms, weddings, funerals, talking to those who are unwell are some of the jobs that I do.

Q. What do you like most about being a vicar?

I enjoy baptising babies and leading wedding ceremonies.

Q. What hobbies do you have?

I have a guitar and like to play and I also love to sing.

Q. Do you have any pets?

Not yet, but I hope to have some chickens and dogs!

Q. What are your favourite hymns/songs?

My favourite has to be 'Lighthouse'

Q. If you were God what would you change?

I would change the kindness that is spread throughout the world and help to make it stronger.

Sustrans Visit

The Eco Team and JRSOs had their second session with Daisy the air quality control officer from Sustrans (Sustainable transport). We looked at the different types of Lichen that there are growing in the environment and the conditions in which they like to grow. We specifically focused on those that were nitrogen sensitive and those that were nitrogen lovers. It gave us lots to think about regarding being aware of the air we are breathing in ourselves and using the environment as indicators to tell us what is in the air. Following our discussions we then went outside and explored the trees in our own school environment and used the card spotters to find out what types of Lichen we had growing in the school ground. We were pleased that there were good amounts of nitrogen sensitive lichen growing at the side of school suggesting that air pollution was minimal here; however, there were also areas of school where we saw trees with smaller amounts of nitrogen loving lichen on.



Daisy took our air pollution test tubes away which she put in place last time she visited and is going to take them to the lab to be tested. After Christmas she will come back and share the results highlighting what air pollutions were found around our school grounds.

Mrs Stender

Final Message of the Year

It has been one of the busiest terms I have ever known at Thakeham. I have been very impressed by the strength of my staff team who have worked incredibly hard and supported each other well. They have led the children, enabling them to achieve way beyond their wildest dreams already—and we are only a 1/3 of the way through the year! I cannot wait to see where their learning journeys take them next! We have welcomed 13 new children this term who have settled in well and will no doubt go from strength to strength.

In times of need we have only had to ask for help from parents and they have been quick to offer skills, extra pairs of hands and support. This has been very touching indeed and I am very grateful for how eager you are all to be part of our lovely school. Thank you.

Governors too have been a source of strength and are a good strong team. They will be busy in the spring term visiting the school to see our School Development Plans in action. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining us in the role of Co Opted Governor, please do let me know. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Amanda Otto at the end of this term as she re-locates up North. We wish her and her family every success and happiness and will of course miss Brook in Oak class.

We are excited by the new year ahead and have many opportunities planned for the children. We will be focussing on the values linked to 'Co-operative Caring Craig' in the Spring term, especially during playtimes and lunchtimes, ensuring the children are kind, caring and look after each other and understand the impact of their actions and words on others following some recent 'football mania' on the playground.....! We look forward to welcoming new staff members and the skills and expertise they will bring to the team.

All that remains now, is for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful peaceful break with your families.

With very Best Wishes for 2019.
Mrs Sam Norton (Headteacher).

School Uniform

Dear Parents,

Some of you may be aware that ABC Embroidery is re-locating in the new year. We will still be providing the uniform for the school. As we are moving over the festive period there will be minimal disruption to production.

There will still be an option for free delivery on smaller orders, by continuing to use the code for those that choose to. There may be a slightly longer waiting time as orders will only be delivered to school once a month when there is a bulk load to ship using this system. Orders will work in the same way through the website.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.


Amanda

ABC embroidery

info@abcembroidery.co.uk

Charwells Menu for Census Day—Thursday 17th January

The school has a census day on Thursday 17th January. We would like as many children as possible in Year R, 1 & 2 to have a hot school meal that day as we receive funding for the year based on the number of meals we serve during the census days. The menu is below. Please encourage your child to try a meal on that day but you are also welcome to bring in a packed lunch as a back up. All other year groups can order the meal online as usual.



£2.35

CHILDRENS CHOICE MENU

Thursday 17th January 2019

Choose a main...

Beef Burger in a Bun & Chips
OR
Veggie Nuggets & Chips

On the side...


Baked Beans
or *Salad*
and *Ketchup*



For dessert...

Sticky Toffee & Apple
Sponge with Custard
or
Melon Slices

For a drink...

Blackcurrant Squash,
Milk or Water



*To enjoy our Children's Choice Menu,
please order at
www.mealselector.co.uk by Sunday
6th January 2019*

Sussex Academy of Music Open Day—Sunday December 16th

Music Open Day at SAM Shoreham on Sun 16 Dec (1.30-3.30pm) featuring Pupil Performances

Sussex Academy of Music (SAM), who provide music lessons to the school is opening its doors to the public and celebrating the festive season in style with a free open day / concert on Sunday 16th December 1.30-3.30pm.

SAM Studios is located at...

Unit 10 Riverside Business Centre
Shoreham-by-Sea
West Sussex
BN43 6RE

Come along to try out instruments and meet the tutors, alongside a full bill of live performances from students and tutors throughout the day!

For any students that wish to perform, or if you have any questions please contact SAM...

01273 465 122
schools@sussexmusic.com
www.sussexmusic.com

We look forward to seeing you there!



www.sussexmusic.com

- FREE FESTIVE MUSIC -

OPEN DAY

Sunday 16th December 1.30 - 3.30pm

Try out a variety of musical instruments and vocal taster lessons.
Plus festive live performances from students and tutors all day



0800 7569411

Unit 10, Riverside Business Centre,
Brighton Road, Shoreham-by-Sea,
West Sussex, BN43 6RE



Christmas

Christmas Stories at Bedtime

Come and share our Christmas stories. Wear your pyjamas and bring your torch and your teddy!

Tuesday 18th December
4.30pm – 5.00pm

Suitable for children under 7 years

Tickets are free but please reserve your place to avoid disappointment

Parents and carers are asked to remain with their child during this activity

Storrington Library
Ryecroft Lane, RH20 4PA
01903 839050

west sussex county council
www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries



CAROLS, CHRISTINGLE AND CAKE

MAKE A CHRISTINGLE

SING CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SATURDAY DEC 22ND 3.30PM

ENJOY HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS CAKE

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
THAKEHAM RD
STORRINGTON

f TRINITYSTORRINGTON

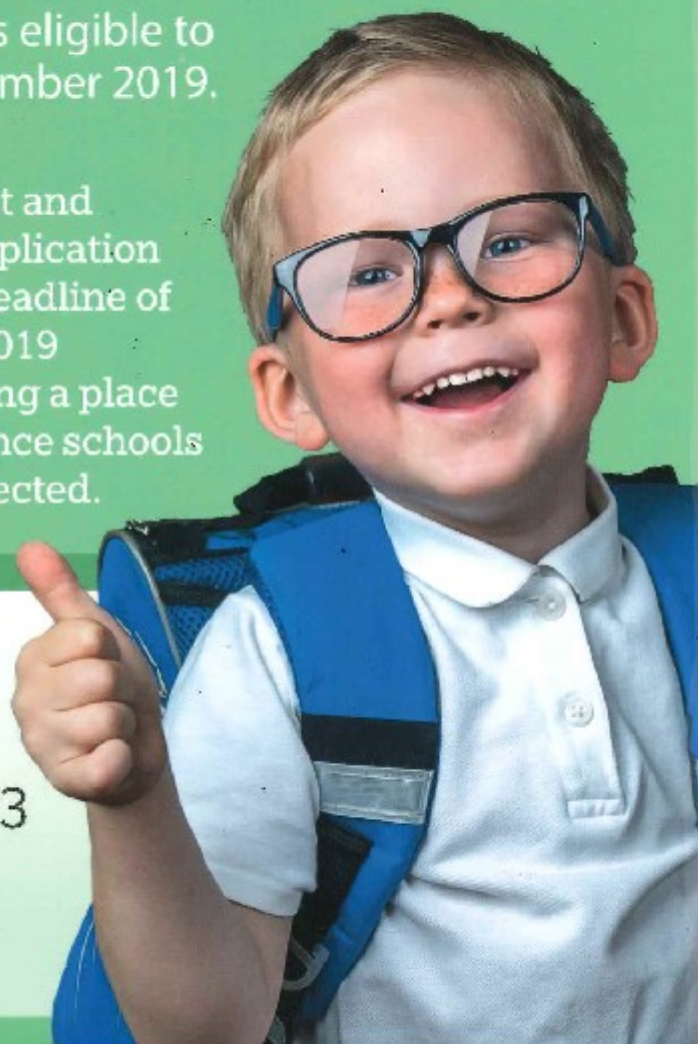


Was your child born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015?

If so then he or she is eligible to
start school in September 2019.

Apply online!

It's simple, convenient and
timesaving. If your application
is received after the deadline of
Tuesday 15 January 2019
your chance of securing a place
at one of your preference schools
could be seriously affected.



You can apply online from
Monday 1 October 2018.
If you would like further
advice or information contact:

☎ 03330 142 903

Free internet access to apply
online is available at all:

- West Sussex libraries
- Children and Family Centres



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Apply online at:

☐ www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions

Deadline: Tuesday 15 January 2019

