

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

Friday 24th November 2017



Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 13th November 2017. These awards were recognised in assembly on Monday 20th November.

Positive, Persevering

Poppy

Sophia Rose (Maple)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Isabelle (Elder)

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

Huxley (Oak)

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 20th November 2017. These awards will be recognised in assembly on Monday 27th November 2017.

Positive, Persevering

Poppy

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

James (Elder)

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

TJ (Maple) Lily (Oak)

Head Teacher's Award

Isabelle (Elder class)

Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our School Family

As you may be aware, last year interest in our school grew with around 22 new children joining us. Since September we have welcomed 10 new children to our school (not including usual Reception intake) and next week we welcome another child to Elder Class—William, who I am sure will settle in quickly to our caring community. We now have waiting lists for 4 of our 7 year groups across the school. There is a high level of interest in our 15 places for Reception next September, with families appreciating our small school ethos, focus on quality teaching and learning, our rich curriculum and of course now, our wonderful new school and the resources and facilities it affords.

We also welcome back Mrs Stender from maternity leave this week. She previously taught in our YR/Y1 class at the First School and is now teaching in classes across the school to release teachers for their statutory PPA (Planning, Preparation & Assessment time). Her usual days are Wednesday and Friday.

Parent Help in School

I wrote to parents at the beginning of the week to outline various ways in which you can be involved in our school and help/support various events this term or on an ongoing basis. Thank you to Mrs Jennings for coming to support our Forest School prep day this week. Along with help from the students from Chichester University and children across KS2, the area is really progressing and is quickly being transformed into a fabulous outdoor learning space—see later in the newsletter. We look forward to inviting you to the official launch of this area in the near future.

A big thank you also to our FOTS helpers Mrs Flitney, Mrs Pirkis, Ms Toner and Mrs Wastell for their work with the children yesterday, painting their Christmas Canvasses ready for sale at the **Christmas Fayre on Saturday 16th December 1-4pm.**

A reminder next week, we have our official opening of the Cookery Room from 3pm by 2013 'MasterChef: The Professionals' Winner, Steven Edwards and Auntie Val www.auntievals.com There are opportunities on Monday and Tuesday for you to help bake cakes with classes which children will sell following our opening event. All proceeds raised will support charities that each class is linked to:

Acorn: Waders

Oak: Save the Children

Maple: Worthing Foodbank

Elder: Chestnut Tree House

On Wednesday we are looking for parent help to unpack boxes and set up one of our stock cupboards—please let the office know if you can help.

Thank you to Mr Barrow, Mr & Mrs Wills & Mr Fryett for their support and encouragement of our Y5/6 children at the Netball Tournament last week. Miss Brown did a marvellous job of organising and hosting this event—the first ever for us as a school as we now have the facilities to do so! Both children and adults are really benefitting from the coaching skills of the SGS teachers Mrs Talbot and Mrs Hutchings

Responsibility for Helping Others

In line with our school vision we encourage our children to develop “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.” We are very grateful for the support families have shown to 2 fundraising events recently, Children in Need for which together we raised over £300 through our banana cake sale (also linked to our Wastebuster Challenge) and the Hurricane Irma appeal for which we raised £200 through running/cycling events. Steyning Grammar School Boarding School students from the hurricane affected areas, will join us at Monday's Celebration to receive the cheque and provide an update on the relief efforts. A huge thank you to everyone for your generous support.



Thakeham Parish Council Visit

I was delighted to welcome Thakeham Parish Council to view our lovely new school this week. They were very impressed with the improved classroom spaces and facilities. They will be supporting our new Community Award (to follow on from the Governors' Award) and we hope to continue to work closely with them on community events in the year ahead.

West Sussex County Councillor Pat Arculus also visited us recently and was pleased to see the school now had access to resources and facilities to further support teaching and learning.

Pupil Absence—holidays

It has become noticeable that requests for absence during school time has increased this term. In line with our Attendance Policy and government guidelines, I am unable to authorise holiday during term time. It is really important that children attend school (unless ill) to ensure they make the progress needed and fulfil their age-related expectations. It is difficult when children miss large chunks of school and it does affect their learning. Please can I urge to book holidays during the 13 weeks of school holidays available during the year.

In line with our Attendance Policy, absences for holiday will be unauthorised and referred to the Pupil Investigation Team for a Fixed Penalty Notice **The FPN is for £120 per parent, per child** and 28 days are given for you to settle the Penalty. If the FPN is paid within the first 21 days the amount payable is reduced to £60.

Building Update

I am delighted that at last the zebra crossing has been re-located to where it was most needed and the bollards are going in at the end of the parking bays. You will also have seen signage go up to support correct flow of traffic and parking. Over Christmas the pedestrian pathway will be re-surfaced to clearly demarcate it from the parking spaces. Lighting for the car park area and front/side of the school is also due shortly.

Our hall is really taking shape! I was delighted to get a sneak preview of it this week. It really is a great size—the photo doesn't do it justice. Acoustic ceiling panels look great and we can't wait for the new AV system and Gymnastics wall bars and new equipment! This is due for completion on December 19th, we will also have the rest of our playground handed back on this date. We are in the process of organising an official school opening ceremony and will write to you shortly about this.

We hope to finalise organisation of the trim trail that FOTS have fundraised for shortly and are awaiting a date for the playground markings the School Council chose in discussion with their classes last year.

Best Wishes

Mrs S. Norton

Headteacher



FOTS Dates

Friday 1st December—Non-uniform day please bring anything chocolate to donate for the Christmas fair.

Friday 1st December—Christmas Disco

Friday 8th December—Non-uniform day please bring a bottle to donate for the Christmas fair.

Saturday 16th December—Christmas Fayre

**** Raffle and Tombola donations can be brought into school from next week****



Chartwells Christmas lunch

Chartwells our hot lunch provider has a festive menu available on Friday 15th December. All ordering for this meal should be done on line at www.mealselector.co.uk. All orders should be placed by **Sunday 3rd December**. There is a choice of Roast Turkey or Quorn Fillet and the meal cost is £2.30



NHS Screening

On Tuesday 5th December, Children in Reception will be having mandatory weight, height, hearing and vision checks through our NHS nurses here at school. Year 6 will be having mandatory weight and height checks. Please look out for the consent forms coming home soon.



Photo of the Fortnight



Maple Class News

On Friday 10th November, Maple class were lucky enough to visit Thakeham's partner school, Front Lawn Primary Academy in Havant.

The purpose of the trip was to build upon previous educational links with Front Lawn and also to support children in their Geography case study on differing localities.

All 31 children endured an hour long coach journey before receiving a warm welcome from the year 3 class at Front Lawn. The children passionately exchanged thoughts about their schools and their local areas.

After that, Maple split up into 2 groups to compete their field research on housing and amenities around the school. The children identified and tallied a great number of flats, terraced, semi-detached and detached houses, along with the wide range of shops and amenities local residents had on their doorsteps.

In the afternoon, the children headed out on foot to Staunton Country Park. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful scenery out in the woods and the experience has since really helped the children to accurately describe settings in their story writing.

Thank you to all of the parents for being punctual and ensuring children were prepared for the day. A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Nicholls, Mrs Norton and Mrs Elvery for accompanying us on the trip.

Maple Class



Netball tournament

On Thursday 16th November, Thakeham hosted their very first Netball tournament to schools in the local area. Our team of 10 children, Thomas, Logan, Monty, Milo, Dylan, Olivia, Grace, Ellie, Josh and Ollie playing 7-a-side, eagerly awaited the arrival of their opposition and talked tactics and positions before the games had begun. The team played magnificently, passing the ball around with immaculate footwork and managed to secure themselves in the 1st place playoff final. Although the team didn't go on to win they put up a tremendous fight and should all be extremely proud of themselves. They worked superbly as a team, through co-operation and at times by raising each others spirits. Miss Brown is really proud of all that participated and is extremely happy with the 2nd place that they achieved.



Children In Need

A HUGE thank you to everyone that supported our children in need banana bake off, we managed to raise over £300.00 and children really enjoyed buying and selling the cakes to raise money for the charity. The cakes that were left over after the sale were all taken to and enjoyed by the residents in the care home Sussex Downs.

We are also top of the school wastebuster chart for saving the most amount of bananas so may even win the prize too. Thanks again, an enormous effort by all.



Forest School Update

Our Forest Schools area has now been cleared, many thanks to all that were involved in this. Work in the area continues. Chichester University Students came back to the school on the 22nd November to work further with your children on mosaics and the environment. It was a really positive and productive day. Harry in Elder class was the winner of the mosaic design, well done Harry. All key stage 2 children helped to make the table top and it looks amazing. There will be an opening of the Forest School area soon, where we hope you will join us.



Acorn Class News

Our story at the moment is Owl Babies and this week we were very lucky as we were visited by 5 different Owls. Kevin told us all about the owls and then we even took turns in holding the Owls. All the children listened and participated really well. ough!

