

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

2nd November 2020



Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 12th October 2020, awarded in Celebration assembly on 19th October 2020:

Positive, Persevering

Poppy

Stanley (Acorn)
Grace (Elder)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Olive (Oak)
Dexter (Oak)

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 19th October 2020, awarded in Celebration assembly on 2nd November 2020:

Positive, Persevering

Poppy

Lottie (Maple)
Ava (Elder)
Elliott (Oak)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Mabel (Elder)
Tamira (Quinn)

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

Jessica (Acorn)

Time to Shine!

Congratulations to for your outstanding achievements outside of school:

Dexter (Oak) for passing his karate grading.

Erin (Oak) on being awarded a Blue Peter Badge for acts of kindness (rainbow related!) during lockdown.

Poppy (Maple) for participating in an audition.

Rowan for 'Man of the Match' (Football)

Mabel for her solo part linked to her Drama club.

Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after a rather wild and wet half-term break! I hope you all managed some rest and enjoyed time with your family where possible. A reminder that all children should have a coat in school due to the colder, wetter weather.

Our Thakeham Family

Just before we broke up for the autumn break, we welcomed Lizzie and Lottie to our school who are settling in well to Elder and Maple classes respectively.

New Starters—Reception September 2021

Interest in places for our Reception class in September 2021 has been high, despite having to restrict visits. We have an informative powerpoint and video on our website (under Parents tab) which alongside external visits last half-term have been warmly welcomed by prospective parents.

New Covid-19 Restrictions

With a second lockdown announced on Saturday evening, we are keeping abreast of changes as they are presented. You will be aware that schools have been directed to remain open and we will continue to follow daily DfE guidance throughout the pandemic to minimise risk to everyone. As before if you, or anyone else in

your household is suffering with any of the following Covid-19 symptoms, the whole household must self-isolate and a test sought for those experiencing symptoms:

- a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

We will continue to use of system of controls set out in our risk assessment alongside any new DfE/PHE advice and will keep you updated as appropriate with any further changes. A few reminders of the support we require from you:

- **Please arrive at the correct drop off/ collection time and ensure you do not arrive too early/late. It is important we maintain the correct timings to avoid mixing of bubbles and using different entrances.**
- **Wear a face covering** (unless you have informed us you are exempt) a
- **Keep 2m distance from other families.** There is still room for improvement on this so we ask for your full support please.
- It is important you **keep your children with you at all times** and do not allow them to run off and play before/after school.
- **Please leave the school site promptly once you have dropped off/collected your child**, we are trying to limit contact between families as much as possible.

Once we are in receipt of any further guidance from DfE/PHE we will of course share this with you. Please bear with us and be patient with us. Your full support during this time is very much appreciated.

Food Vouchers for Vulnerable Children

We received a supply of TESCO vouchers from St Mary's Church, Thakeham which we distributed to pupils in receipt of Free School Meals, those who are Pupil Premium and some we thought would benefit from these at this time. It was a very generous offer from the Church and much appreciated by these families. If you would like to thank Rev'd Sara-Jane personally, please email her at revsj@btinternet.com

If you feel you may be eligible for Free School Meals or are finding yourselves struggling financially, please talk to me or Mrs Ritchie (School Business Manager) in confidence. The link for applying online for FSM is <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>

Mindfulness Garden

With the kind donation from The Storrington SSC Trust we are moving forwards with developing the first section of our Mindfulness Garden. This is the 'Kitchen Garden' and the 'Dry Riverbed' sections. As part of Chichester University's 'Creativity Project' we will have support from a group of four students as part of their teaching course. The work is external and those on site will follow our protocols and risk assessment. We will keep you up to date with progress over the next few weeks.

New windows/cladding

We are delighted with our new windows and cladding along the western (stream) side of the school and adjoining the corridor/playground. Not only do they look great but are making such a difference in terms of insulation, just in the nick of time with the change in weather!

We have a few other improvements to the school in the pipeline and will keep you updated as we're able to move forwards.

With very Best Wishes

Mrs Sam Norton

Headteacher

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