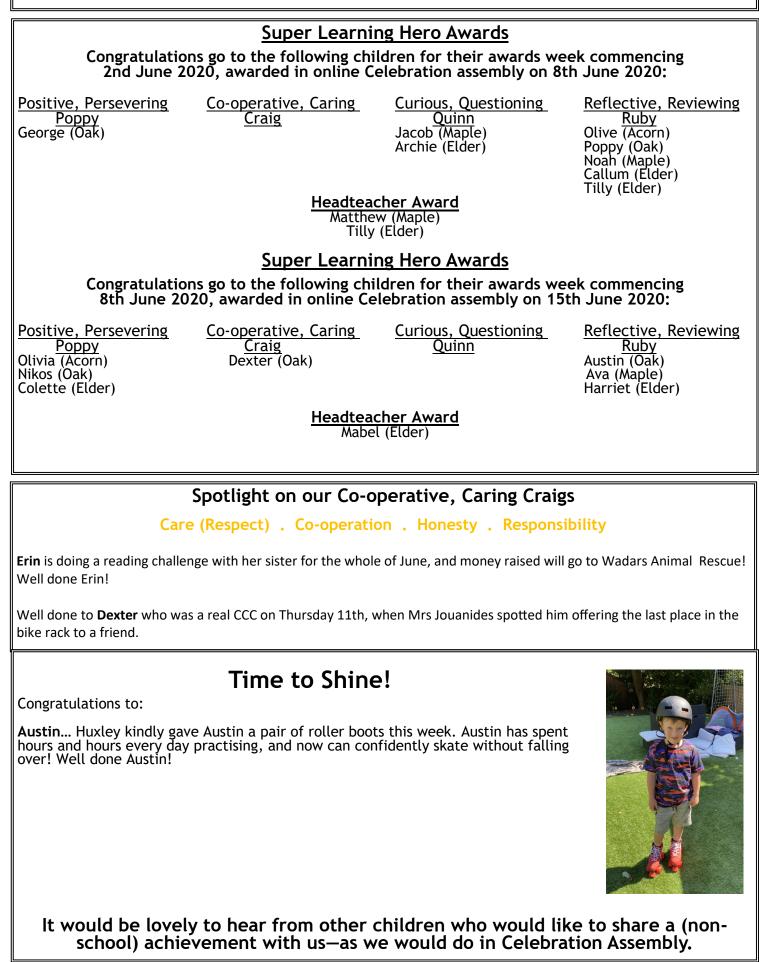
# THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

Monday 15th June 2020





## Message from Mrs Norton



Dear Parents/Carers,

At last the sunshine seems to have returned after a week of rain. This will certainly help in school and I am sure at home too!

#### **Pupils in School**

We look forward to welcoming additional pupils in Oak, Maple and Elder this week. Those in Acorn, Oak and Elder are attending in line with government advice i.e. key workers, vulnerable pupils and eligible year groups. Due to low numbers of these groups in Maple class and following consultation and permission with our Chair of Governors and WSCC, we were able to offer an additional 5 places in Maple class for the summer term. We were very pleased with the response for places, but as anticipated due to demand exceeding places available, we had to apply the following criteria to ensure we admitted only an additional 5, to support social distancing in the classroom in line with our risk assessment. These criteria were:

- Children of Key Workers (who meet government criteria and provided evidence of this)
- Pupil Premium pupils (those that are adopted/in care/in receipt of Free School Meals/Ever 6 funding). Please note WSCC have requested this group be prioritised, even though this is not a national directive
- Children with Special Educational Needs and or those who have been struggling for a **significant period of time** to access learning from home to their full potential, and or those who have other additional vulnerabilities identified before lockdown.

We realise that leaves many others disappointed, but we have to place health and safety first and ensure we are consistent with applying our risk assessment. We hope to hear news shortly from the government regarding plans are for September as this will no doubt take time to adjust our current risk assessment and processes in place.

#### Possible COVID-19 Cases

Where parents have concerns that their child may be unwell with one or more possible symptoms, or this is observed by a staff member in school, or a staff member is experiencing symptoms themselves, we will inform you as soon as we have such information, if your child is in the affected bubble. Our protocol on this is that the individual will be directed to seek a test <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested</a> and asked to self-isolate for 7 days and others in the bubble will need to self-isolate for 14 days. We would advise that in the case that a child is due to take a test, that their siblings should not attend school. However siblings of other children in the class should attend school (if in a different class bubble) unless they are experiencing symptoms, as self-isolation does not extend to rest of their household (unless they too experience symptoms).

We have set templates prepared for email communication and all relevant parents and staff will also receive a text. You will always be informed of the outcome of the test either way and relevant advice provided. Closing a class bubble before the outcome of a test is a precaution we have included in our risk assessment and whilst we understand this is disruptive, we feel this offers peace of mind whilst be await further news. So far we have put this into action 3 times, with negative test results then following this thankfully (we are awaiting information on a 3rd this week). Although this understandably is an anxious time, we are pleased to report that the processes in place to close a class bubble have gone smoothly. We encourage you to contact us if you would like further support if affected in any way.

Unless your child is unwell, we expect home learning to be undertaken in the event we need to close a class bubble. Full details of home learning will be provided as usual. We welcome your continued support on this.

#### Transition-New Starters to Reception Class and Year 6 to Year 7

All parents with children due to start with us in Acorn class in September have been informed of transition arrangements. These include video, powerpoint and telephone contact with the teachers Mrs Hoare and Mrs Stender. Children will have their settling in sessions in September rather than this term as we usually do. Arrangements for the 1st full day for the class are yet to be confirmed whilst we await news of government plans.

Steyning Grammar School will be holding a virtual visit for Year 6 pupils shortly. Details will be provided.

#### Internal Transition

Wednesday 1st July would normally be the day all classes spend some time during the afternoon with their new teacher/teaching assistant. This year it will need to be mostly a virtual experience unfortunately. Maple class have trialed Google Meet and we hope to use this platform for new groups of children and staff to meet together for an introduction and fun activity. We will be in touch by the end of the week with further details you will need in order for your child to join. We realise this is not ideal but we must place health and safety first above all else. Once we know the government's expectations regarding September we will also look into further steps to support a smooth transition.

#### Annual Reports to Parents

The statutory duty to report to parents at the end of this academic year remains in place. Following DfE and WSCC advice we have adapted the format accordingly. We will be including comments on personal, social and emotional development, key achievements throughout the year, progress in English, Maths, key achievements across the curriculum and of course reference to our Super Learning Heroes and your child's learning characteristics. I will continue to write a comment for each child. Reports for Acorn class children will include reference to the areas of the Early Year Foundation Stage curriculum. Following advice we will not be reporting outcomes using terms such as 'working towards' 'expected' and 'exceeding' as this would be very difficult given that many children have been working from home and evidence on which to base these judgements against national curriculum areas needs to be based on a wide range of independent evidence. It is difficult to expect this for home learning in all cases.

#### **INSET Days**

A reminder that we have 2 planned INSET days coming up:

#### Friday 26th June 2020 Monday 20th July 2020

So far 2 of the 5 INSET days for the next academic year (2020-21) have been planned. These are:

#### Thursday 3rd September 2020 Friday 4th September 2020

We will be in touch before the end of this academic year with the remaining 3 INSET dates.

#### Movie Afternoon

We recognise that the children have been working very hard over the past few months in extraordinary circumstances. We have therefore decided to organise a **Movie Afternoon on Thursday 25th June** as a treat! Classes will finish at their normal time. FOTS have kindly agreed to provide complimentary popcorn and drinks whether your child is at home or in school. All we ask is that you respond to an email that will follow shortly with your order by **Wednesday 17th June** in order that the FOTS team can purchase the goodies and prepare these for your child. If your child is at home, we will arrange time slots for you to collect the goodies on **Wednesday 24th June**. As the drink and popcorn will be provided free of charge it is our expectation that everyone will be able to participate. We would love you to send in a photo of your child enjoying their afternoon on this day so we can include it in our newsletter. Home learning will not be set during the Movie Afternoon.

#### **Sports Week**

Even though we are not together we are still planning our Sports Week! Please see information later on in our newsletter. Look out for details arriving soon by email if your child is at home.

#### **Emotional Support**

The Children's Society has a range of support materials for young people, parents in their mental and emotional health resource 'vault' including: anxiety, depression and mood, loneliness, obsessive compulsive disorder, phobias, self care, emotional resilience, mental resilience. The resources can be found here: <a href="https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/coronavirus-information-and-support">https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/coronavirus-information-and-support</a>

#### **Online Safety**

Think U Know have created videos to support parents during Covid-19 and the closure of schools to many children.<u>https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/presentations-for-parents/</u>

#### Relationships, Sex and Health Education

The DfE continue to plan for this to be implemented in schools from September 2020. This will build on our PSHE offer currently in place. The first step in this process was to write our school policy. As leader for this curriculum area I have written this in conjunction with 2 other headteachers of local small schools. This has been through consultation process with staff and governors and I would like parent input too. Today you will be sent a copy of the policy and asked for your feedback by Friday 19th June.

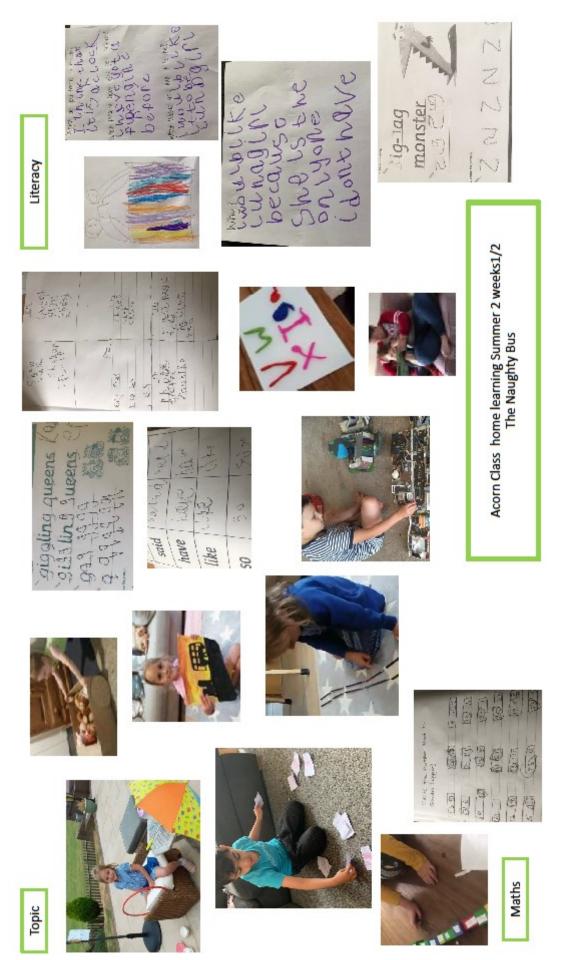
We are currently evaluating a range of resources and planning the curriculum based on pupil needs across the school. We will be sharing this with you in September.

This term we would traditionally teach units for both Year 5 and 6 on key aspects of our RSHE curriculum. This will continue as usual for Year 6 pupils, especially in light of transition. This will not be taught this term for Year 5 pupils however, given that most are at home during this time. This will be addressed swiftly upon the pupils' return in September. Mrs Hopkins will be sending out a letter shortly regarding the content to be taught to Year 6 this term and the resources to be used.

With very best wishes

Mrs Sam Norton Headteacher

## Acorn Class Learning- w/c 2nd June & w/c 8th June



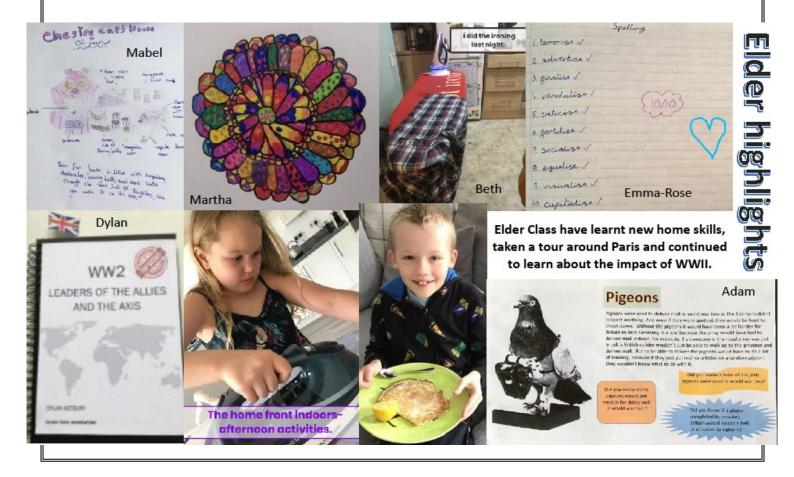
## Oak Class Learning— w/c 2nd June & w/c 8th June



## Maple Class Learning— w/c 2nd June & w/c 8th June



## Elder Class Learning- w/c 2nd June & w/c 8th June



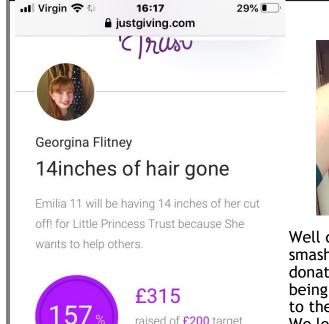
### Virtual Sports Day 2020

Sports Day is one of the great events in our school calendar and we don't plan to let pandemic stop us celebrating this. We do however need to be safe and responsible, so this year we are going online!

On **Monday 6**<sup>th</sup> **July** we will post a selection of activities for you to complete at home (or at school). For every activity that you complete and photograph or video yourself doing (send to seesaw/tapestry) you will be awarded 5 points for your house team. We will be using photos/ videos combined together in a film to celebrate this event.

There will be certificates for participation - the more activities you send in, the more points you will get for your house and the higher award you will receive. There will also be a beat the teacher section on our website so you can have a go at taking on the teachers! More information will be sent out closer to the date but we look forward to seeing all the challenges vou complete.





raised of £200 target by 22 supporters

Facebook

# Well Done Emilia!



Well done to Emilia who smashed her target of £200, donating what ended up being 16 inches of her hair to the Little Princess Trust. We love your new haircut,



Emilia! What an amazing thing to do.

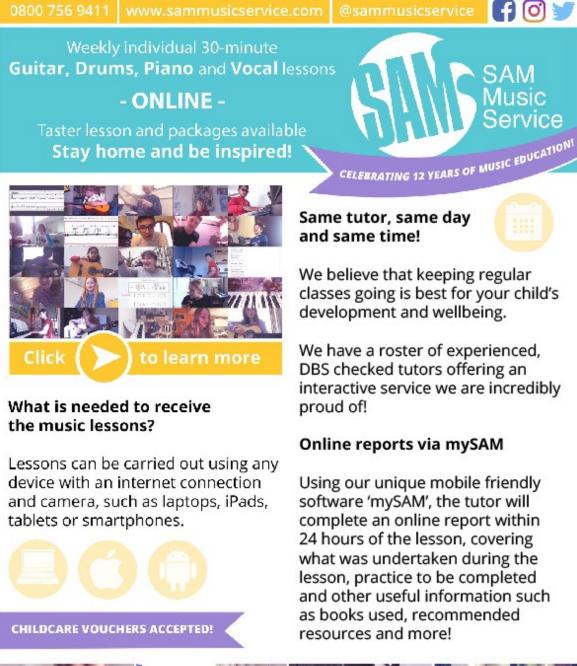
#### 23 Create a team

Donate

## SAM Music Service – Update

At this challenging time, SAM Music Service do not wish to burden Thakeham Primary with requests to teach as they understand the amount of pressure involved in pupils returning to school. Equally, as they are also responsible for the welfare of our students, so it's imperative to reduce the chance of contributing to any risks where possible. Therefore, they will be continuing lessons online to comply with the government's remote working recommendations until a full reopening of schools takes place.

In the meantime, please see the flyer below.







# **10 TOP T/PS** REMOTE LEARNING FOR CHILDREN

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For students, it's the perfect way to ensure they still get the education they need, despite not being at school. However it also requires a level of discipline and careful planning. That's why we've created this guide to help pupils understand different aspects of remote learning and to support them in ensuring their experience is as safe and secure as it can be.

