



# THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'*

11th January 2021



## Super Learning Hero Awards

**Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 4th January 2021, to be awarded in Celebration assembly on 12th January 2021:**

Positive, Persevering

Poppy  
Iga(Oak)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

Harley (Acorn)  
Aria (Oak)  
Harrison (Maple)  
Tilly (Elder)

## Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **New Additions to the Thakeham Family!**

A very warm welcome to Gabrielle who has joined Acorn Class and Louie and Zack who have joined Maple Class recently. It is a very strange time for us all, but when you are starting a new school, even more so! I am really pleased that Louie and Zack have been able to attend site and have settled in really well. We look forward to Gabrielle starting with us after lockdown and will be keeping in touch remotely in the meantime.

### **Children Attending School Onsite**

We are very pleased with how those children eligible to be at school currently, have adjusted to new routines and procedures onsite. Demand for places for vulnerable pupils/those of critical workers has been high, with over 3 times as many children on site as during the first lockdown in March. We have organised the children into 2 key stage 'class' bubbles and a rota of teachers and teaching assistants supporting them with their home learning.

We would appreciate parent/carer support in ensuring children arrive with everything they need for school and on time at 9am. We have limited office cover to answer the door during the school day and it is difficult for staff to leave the class to welcome in late comers or forgotten items. We thank you for your full support during this challenging time.

### **Home Learning**

We are delighted with pupil engagement with their learning whilst at home and would like to thank parents/carers and older siblings for their support with this. A reminder that home learning is available from 8:45am on Monday mornings at the latest. You will receive an email with the overview for the week and work is posted via Tapestry (Acorns) and SeeSaw (other classes) for your child to complete.

If you do have any questions regarding your child's home learning you can phone or email the office and an adult will come back to you as soon as possible. Please bear in mind your child's teacher may be in class so it may not always be them who responds to queries or via the online platforms. What we can guarantee though is that support will be available. Another option is for your child to ask any questions via SeeSaw. With teachers making greater use of videos to support explanations/instructions, we hope your child will be well supported in their learning, especially as these can be replayed as needed.

What we really need from children is that they try their best and produce work that they are proud of. Teachers/TAs will return work and ask them to further improve it if they feel they are not producing the standard they have come to expect from the children.

In addition to the English/Maths learning during the mornings, as part of the afternoon curriculum learning, we are making a commitment to continuing our work implementing our weekly PSHE (Jigsaw) learning and PE. These are key areas of our School Strategic Development Plan supporting pupils' personal, social and health education and physical fitness. This will apply to those in school also.

Monitoring undertaken by Mrs Allan and I during November/December showed how valuable the new Jigsaw lessons were to them and could identify clear links to 'real life' scenarios and learning for them. This supports our Curriculum Driver 'Learning for Life' with the children valuing the relevance of this learning to them now and as they grow older.

We realise the additional effort home learning takes for children and the demands this places on families and would like to continue to thank you for your support in this process. We are fully aware of the impact the spring lockdown had on children's progress and attainment, even with the provision of quality home learning and want to do everything we can to minimise this impact.

### **Pupils' mental wellbeing**

We also appreciate the impact long periods of isolation from friends and the teacher/TA can have on children at home and are trialling a number of strategies to support pupil wellbeing. Oak/Maple/Elder pupils will have an opportunity to use the chat facility in SeeSaw this week in a very safe and supportive way. We will also be trialling class Googlemeets led by your child's classteacher at school to bring children at home and school together virtually. These will provide an opportunity for the children to 'see' each other and their teacher, have a chat and also ask any questions about home learning if needed. These will be held at 1:10pm for 10-15 minutes on the following days:

Tues: Acorn

Weds: Oak

Weds: Maple

Thus: Elder

Links will be sent out this week. If you have any questions about these, please do let us know.

### **Celebration Assemblies**

These will continue throughout lockdown at school, being held in key stage bubbles. The assemblies will take place on Tuesday mornings with the links emailed out to parents to view the assembly presentations via Youtube.

### **Assessment/SATs**

As you may be aware KS1/2 SATs will not be going ahead this year. Whilst disappointing for some, we will continue to undertake ongoing teacher assessment through both the ongoing learning and through a range of other assessments.

### **Covid Symptoms**

A reminder for all that should you or anyone else in your household experience any of the 3 covid-19 symptoms, you must book a test and self-isolate for 10 days.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- 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.

If your child has a place at school currently, please inform us if your children is absent for this reason (or any other) via the usual email address ([office@thakehamps.co.uk](mailto:office@thakehamps.co.uk)). If your child tests positive, please report this to us using the following email address:

**[covid@thakehamps.co.uk](mailto:covid@thakehamps.co.uk)**

This email should only be used for this purpose. It is monitored throughout the week/evening and at the weekend to support swift implementation of tracing close contacts of the individual who has tested positive.

We hope everyone at school and home stays safe and well and enjoys their week of learning ahead.

Best Wishes Mrs Sam Norton (Headteacher).