

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'



Friday 16th March 2018

Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 5th March. These awards were recognised in assembly on Monday 12th March

Positive, Persevering
Poppy

Co-operative, Caring
Craig

Curious, Questioning
Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing
Ruby

Ollie B (Elder)
Sophia Rose (Maple)

Sarah (Acorn)

Ellie/Linocka/
Harry/Grace (Elder)
Ava/Emily (Oak)

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 12th March 2018. These awards will be recognised in assembly on Monday 19th March 2018.

Positive, Persevering
Poppy

Co-operative, Caring
Craig

Curious, Questioning
Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing
Ruby

Evie (Elder)/Leighton (Oak) Milo (Elder)
George (Maple)

Head Teacher Award

Juliette/Milo/Brooke/Ollie/Grace (Elder)

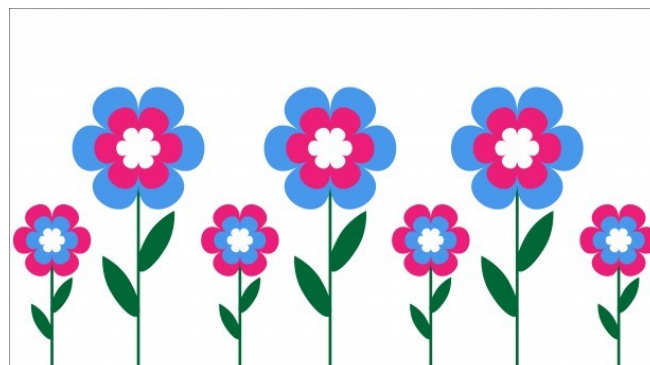
Governor Award

Brooke (Elder)

Remembering Ellie

Many of you will remember Ellie Thornton (former Thakeham pupil), who sadly passed away last March following a tragic road traffic accident. You may be aware that we have Ellie's memorial tree on our grounds that was planted last year. To remember Ellie we will be inviting those who would like to, (children and parents) to write a message on a heart and decorate her tree on Wednesday 28th March at 2:45pm. This will be followed by a short prayer. We have liaised with Ellie's family on this too who are also keen to attend. We won't be taking all classes out for this, only those that express a wish to do so.

This also coincides with our opening of our Forest School that afternoon at 3:15pm where parents and children are invited to a tree dressing activity in the Forest School area complete with hot chocolate and marshmallow toasting, which we hope you will be able to join us for.



Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Just as we thought Spring was on its way, more snow is forecast for the weekend. Hopefully this will be enough for the children to have fun but not hamper any plans you may have. We expect to be open as usual on Monday, but a reminder that any school closure will be communicated via text, email, our school website, WSCC website, BBC Radio Sussex and Spirit FM.

Sporting Success!

The weather has played havoc with STARS sports fixtures and the vast majority unfortunately have been cancelled by other hosting schools this term. We were pleased however, to make full use of our amazing new hall yesterday hosting a Year 1/2 STARS Multi-Skills Tournament. The children focused on their skills and timing and fought off tough competition to win 1st place! See later on in the newsletter for further details. A big thank you to Miss Brown for organising and leading the tournament with support from Mrs Talbot (one of our Steyning Grammar School Sports Coaches). The partnership and new resources are definitely paying off!

Building Update

Despite the inclement weather, works have continued to replace our roof and remove/replace the roof lights. This is now due for completion at the end of term along with works to build a wall and erect a close board fence between our site and Steyning's Rock Road campus on the eastern side of our school.

Heaters are being installed at last in the entrance corridor by WSCC today, which we are very grateful for.

We have had some lovely new additions to the library (log bean bags) to go with our reading tree which the children have been enjoying. Outside, the trim trail is a firm favourite. Further playground development plans include a wonderful story telling chair and benching to the quiet grassed area at the front of the school. With FOTS fundraising support we plan to purchase shade canopies for the front playground and a canopy to be used as an outdoor classroom for the rear of the building. This will enable all 3 classrooms to enjoy the area outside their classrooms for learning whatever the weather. This is a considerable investment in the region of £15,000 so we hope you will be able to actively support FOTS fundraising efforts.

Fundraising for the School

Easter Egg Hunt, a quiz night, Bags 2 School, Smarties Challenge, post Sports Day Celebrations, and **Village Day** with a new date of **Saturday 15th September** will all be important FOTS events/activities to raise much needed money for resources for the children. The first meeting for the Village Day took part last week with a good turn out from both our school, the Pre-School, Thakeham Parish Council and other interested and supportive members of the community. Details of this and other events to follow.

Community and Cultural Work

Last week our older children took part in 2 wonderful singing events, one linked to Peter Allwood (the musical director for Sandgate Singers) which took place at Storrington Primary School and the other at Chichester Cathedral (Voices Around the World). The were both excellent opportunities for singing and cultural enrichment for our pupils which they clearly enjoyed. A huge thank you to Mrs Hopkins for all her hard work and commitment to these projects and for ensuring our pupils continue to benefit from such opportunities. We are also very grateful to parents for their support with transport, practice at home and for coming to watch!

Each child in our school is unique, and to celebrate this and moving into our new school, each child participated in an art activity yesterday with Wendy (Have a go Pottery). This work will form part of an art installation in the entrance area, to be unveiled at some point after the Easter holidays. Mrs Hoare has been instrumental in this project and thanks go to her and Wendy for the organisation and hard work on this.

Four weeks with Miss Mathieu (trainee teacher from Belgium linked via Chichester University) has gone by far too quickly. She has been based in Elder class supporting French and other activities but also worked with other classes throughout the school. Her work with our school culminated in a Belgian celebration assembly yesterday where the children shared their learning with each other. We are looking forward to continuing to develop these links between Belgium and our school which will also support our International School Award work. Thanks to the O'Doherty family for hosting Miss Mathieu.

See later on in the newsletter for further details of all of these activities. I am so grateful to our hard-working dedicated staff team who work tirelessly to provide these opportunities for the children and the support of our community, home and away who are willing to give their time to enrich our curriculum.

Best Wishes, Mrs S. Norton (Headteacher)

FOREST SCHOOLS OPEN AFTERNOON - Wednesday 28th March at 3.15pm

With a huge thank you to our parent volunteers, Chichester University students and Oakford Homes/Abingworth, our forest schools area is near completion and ready for the children to use. So we welcome you all to the opening of our forest school on **Wednesday 28th March at 3.15pm** - please collect your children as usual and then head to their classroom to take part in the tree dressing challenge. The challenge is part of the Woodlands Trust award and involves making a simple decoration to tie to a tree in our Forest School area. Once you have made your decoration you can head to the Cookery Room for a hot chocolate and then outside to our Forest School area to hang your decoration and feast on a toasted marshmallow cooked on our camp fire. Stuart Slade, our Forest School Leader will start work with each of the classes using this precious area over the summer term.

DEAR Time

This week Oak class were once again visited by Year 8 children from SGS. The Year 8's had prepared wonderful stories that the whole class were excited to listen to. This time Oak class had prepared their own stories which they confidently read out to each person. The SGS children were extremely delighted that they had helped to encourage such fantastic story writing.



Y1/2 Multi-Sports Tournament

On Thursday 15th March, Thakeham hosted a Year ½ multi-sports tournament in the new hall. There were a variety of events including; football dribbling, shuttle runs, long jump and skipping to name just a few. We are delighted that the team from Oak class finished in first place! A fantastic achievement that was well deserved.



Voices Around the World

All term, our school choir has been rehearsing a range of intricate musical pieces for the Voices Around the World celebration at Chichester Cathedral on Friday 9th March. Along with a number of other West Sussex school choirs, the Cathedral choristers and West Sussex Music Services, we have learnt to sing part songs in English, French, Spanish, German, Swahili and Nepalese. It really has been our hardest challenge yet! Of course, the children rose to the challenge and did a superb job performing in the cathedral. I was very proud of everyone of them. They showed resilience in learning to sing in other languages and reflected remarkably well when fine tuning their parts to fit with everyone else. A big thank you to our Belgium student, Tania Mathieu for ensuring our pronunciation was correct at all times and supporting the choir through their rehearsals.



Singers Workshop

On Thursday 8th March each STARS school sent a small group of talented singers to a Harmony Singing Workshop at Storrington Primary School run by Peter Allwood. We had previously worked with Peter when we performed as part of the STARS school choir for the Sandgate Singers at Windlesham House last July.

The intention of the workshop this time, was to further train the children's musical awareness of each other, listening to the voices and parts around them and challenging them to sing more ambitious songs.

Once again, our Thakeham children excelled and had a superb afternoon's experience. To find out a little bit more about Peter Allwood please go to <https://peterallwood.com/about/>



Art in school

As you may have noticed our entrance hall has now been painted white in readiness for our whole school project. Wendy (Have a go Pottery Club) came into school on Thursday 15th March to work with all children and help them to make their own personal contribution to the project. All will be revealed very soon. It was lovely to see the children all trying their best and making their special individual piece of art.

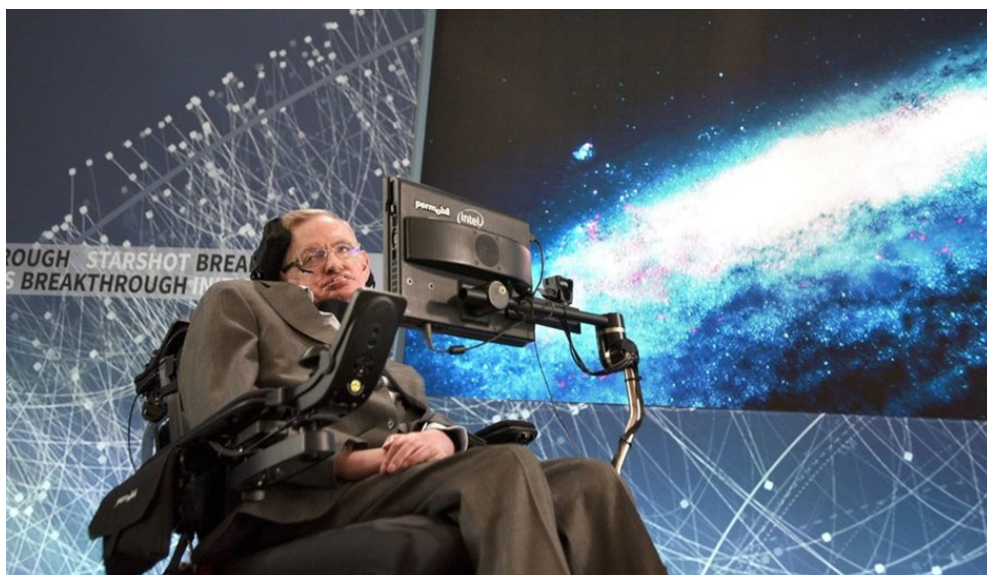


Goodbye

As we say good bye to Miss Tania Mathieu - the whole school celebrated with a Belgian Assembly, each class learnt so much from Miss Mathieu's time with us, looking at differences and similarities between England and Belgium. Elder worked really hard on mastering French and children presented their part of the assembly in French to the rest of the school. Acorn also celebrated in style - greeted each other in French, talking about where Belgium is located, what its flag looks like, and even sampled les gaufres (waffles!). The children then created masterpieces in the style of Belgian artist Luc Tuymans.



Photo of the Fortnight



Wastebusters and Waste Week

We ran a challenge last week to see which class was able to reduce the amount they threw away. We looked through and measured bin rubbish and it was Oak class that reduce their amount of rubbish by 1.6kg..

We are still looking for other ways to sort our rubbish and reduce the amount we are simply throwing away even further. With this in mind we are going to be working with Barrett Homes and Powerday to help us recycle all of our plastic. They will deliver a skip to us at some point in April and our job is to put all of our used plastic in the skip. Please help us by not throwing away any plastic but recycling it in our bin. Whatever we are able to recycle will then be made into a chair/bench or playhouse.. depending on quantities collected.

We will keep you up dated when we are due delivery of our plastic skip! Thank you from the Wastebusting team.

FOTs Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday 29th March at 3.30pm

£2.50 per child pre-booking essential

Includes a fun quiz for the children to complete on an egg hunt in and around the school grounds with an yummy easter egg upon completion!

Children must be accompanied by a adult during the event.

To book please complete the slip which was emailed this week from school along with £2.50 per child by Friday 23rd March. Envelopes to be posted in the post box located next to lost property.

We are raising funds for playground sunshades so please come along and support our event and have fun too!



Save Our Schools West Sussex

Save Our Schools West Sussex is a parent-led campaign group, aiming to raise awareness about the funding crisis and lobbying for fair and adequate funding for all our schools. Our core team is a committed group of parents with children in Worthing primary, secondary and special schools. We understand that funding is vital to turnaround the damage that is impacting our children's education and that of future generations; damage to the quality and breadth of the curriculum, to class sizes, to SEN provision, to children's wellbeing, as well as to teacher wellbeing, recruitment and retention.

We hope you are already aware of our campaign activities over the past year, which include public meetings and demonstrations, community events, letter writing and lobbying WSCC and local MPs. We are currently working in partnership with other campaign groups as well as certain schools locally and nationally. In order to take our campaign forward, we would now like to work more effectively with all schools in Worthing and across the county, to engage with more parents and communicate the reality of the funding crisis. We are ready to develop the work started by Headteachers and WorthLess?

Aims for 2018 Our key aims this year are to grow the campaign to get more parents on board to campaign for adequate funding for all schools focusing on: - publicising the real impact of cuts on schools - SEN provision - children's wellbeing

Activities for spring 2018 - March/ April: anonymous Headteacher survey to evidence impact of cuts - protest march on 21st April 2-4pm Worthing town centre and chalking messages on the prom - fresh social media approach to extend reach.

We believe every child deserves a good, well-rounded education and appreciate that every penny counts to achieve this. We look forward to working with you to fight for an education that helps children become the kind of adults we need for the future.

Yours truly,
Mel, Helen, Ruth, Marina, Dawn, Georgia, Sarah, Katie, Patricia, Penny, Nora SOS West Sussex
Facebook group: Twitter: @SOSWestSussex Instagram: SaveOurSchoolsWestSussex Email:
saveourschoolswestsussex@gmail.com

STORRINGTON ON SHOW

**INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING IN YOUR COMMUNITY? INTERESTED IN
LEARNING NEW SKILLS? WANT TO HAVE FUN AND FEEL USEFUL?**

IS KEEPING FIT AND FRESH AIR A PRIORITY?

COME ALONG TO HEAR MORE AT STORRINGTON ON SHOW!

SATURDAY 12th MAY 10.00am - 2.00pm

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

COME ALONG TO HEAR MORE AT STORRINGTON'S VOLUNTEERING FAIR
Chanctonbury Leisure Centre,
Spierbridge Road RH20 4BG

FREE ENTRY

**Bikeability
Level 2
Cycle Training Holiday Courses**

(Minimum age 10 years)

Easter Holiday Course

9th – 12th April 2018 (4 days)
9.00am until 11.00am

Course Venues

Oak Grove College, Worthing

Forest School, Horsham

Maidenbower Junior School, Crawley

The Arena Sports Centre, Bognor Regis

St Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill

Summer Holiday Course

30th July – 2nd August 2018 (4 days)
9.00am until 11.00am

Course Venues

Oak Grove College, Worthing

Forest School, Horsham

The Arena Sports Centre, Bognor Regis

St Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill

Maidenbower Junior School, Crawley

