



NEWSLETTER 10TH SEPTEMBER 2021

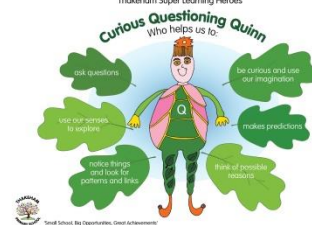
THAKEHAM PRIMARY SUPER HERO LEARNING AWARDS



Sevren (Acorns)



Gabrielle (Oak)



Mary (Elder)

HEAD TEACHER AWARD

Max (Maple)

Time to Shine!

Congratulations to for your outstanding achievements outside of school

Well done to Eryn & Evelyn for completing West Sussex Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge!



Message from Mrs Norton

Welcome Back!

It has been a hot and busy start to the new school year! We are delighted to welcome everyone back after the summer holiday and have been very impressed with how well the children have settled back into school, some moving up to a new classroom and a new teacher(s). A very special welcome to Acorn (Reception) class who have been fantastic settling in nicely to their new school!

Start/end of the day

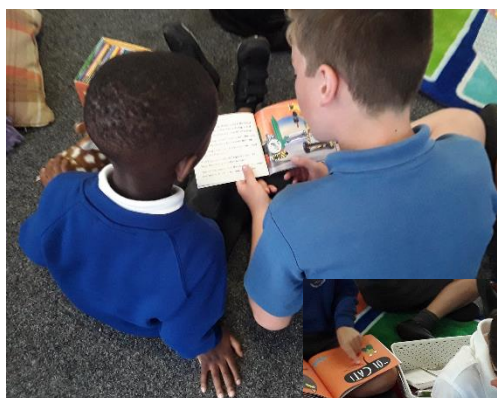
Our revised arrangements for the start/end of the day seem to be going smoothly. If you have any feedback, please pass on to the office or myself.



Buddies and Whole-school Celebration Assembly

We are delighted to re-introduce 'Year 6 Buddies' for Reception pupils this year. In the past this has been a fantastic way of building relationships in school and supporting the new starters at various points across the year, but especially in the first few weeks. Already we have seen close bonds being formed and our Year 6 pupils are proving to be excellent ambassadors for the school and of course 'Co-operative, Caring Craigs!'

Currently all of our assemblies are in key stages, however from Monday 13th September we re-introduce our whole-school 'Celebration Assembly.' The hall is very large and will be well ventilated and each class will be sat apart. We will monitor this carefully and, as with all our control measures make amendments if local/national circumstances change.



Covid-19 arrangements

Thank you for your full support and co-operation in ensuring a PCR test is booked for your child (and others in your household) if Covid-19 symptoms are experienced. These 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

We would like to strongly recommend a **drive/walk in appointment is booked (rather than postal/home tests) as this is a much quicker option and will limit the time your child is absent from school, especially if they test negative.**

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If someone in your household tests positive **everyone in the household should book a PCR test (and close contacts).**

A reminder please to not send in your child with their own hand sanitiser. This is highly flammable and can cause serious illness if swallowed. We have plenty of hand sanitiser in school that is given under adult supervision alongside hand washing.

End of an era – Moving on

Parents/carers will have received a letter from Judith James, our Chair of Governors regarding my new appointment as Primary Advisory Teacher for the Virtual School from January 2022. Every local authority has a Virtual School (which is not related to home learning/Covid-19), whose responsibility is to monitor and support the education of looked after children and young people wherever they attend school. I will be working with primary schools across West Sussex to support and improve the academic progress and attainment of looked after pupils. The role will involve working closely in an advisory capacity, with schools, families and a wide range of professionals including social workers to support these pupils to achieve their very best.

My work at Thakeham over the past seven years has enabled me to gain much experience in this area and is something I have felt very passionate about. This change of role offers me the opportunity to further develop my skills, specialise in this area and extend the impact of working collaboratively with others across a wider perspective.

In addition to my new role enabling me to follow my passion for supporting vulnerable pupils, it also will enable me to spend more time with my own family, as many a parent/carer knows, our children grow very quickly and seem to need you more as they do so. I know I could not have been successful in my role without the full support and understanding of both my immediate and wider family.

It will of course be a huge wrench to leave Thakeham, largely because of the strong relationships I have built with children, staff, families, governors and the wider community. It has been my honour to lead the school over the past seven years taking it from a First School where I started as a part-time Headteacher to a now thriving Primary School, which whole-heartedly continues to deserve its 'Good' Ofsted rating. We have a strong, dedicated staff team that I am incredibly proud of, each of whom go that extra mile to provide excellent teaching and learning opportunities and ensure the school runs smoothly. Their warm, caring approach ensures each child is recognised as an individual, and this is what makes Thakeham a very special place for your child to grow.

I am extremely grateful for all the wonderful opportunities Headship has afforded me in our small school and I am sure the next Headteacher in post will continue to take the school from strength to strength. Governors are working with WSCC to plan the next stage for the school and are responsible for the recruitment. When this has been finalised the Chair of Governors will write to parents/carers to update you later in the term.

In the meantime, I remain unequivocally committed to ensuring a highly successful start to the new academic year for Thakeham. We are very excited about the School Strategic Development Plan for the year ahead and have many exciting ventures planned, some of which I hope to see finalised before I leave at Christmas.

Therapeutic Thinking Approach to Behaviour

Following extensive training we are currently trialling our new Behaviour Policy which is based on a therapeutic approach, closely aligned to our school values and vision. This approach prioritises the prosocial (positive) feelings of everyone. **This is based on the principle that positive experiences create positive feelings. Positive feelings create positive behaviour.**

Therapeutic Thinking is a philosophy. It focuses on how all children and young people are to be supported, particularly in terms of their emotional wellbeing and mental health; it also helps to develop an understanding of how to respond to those who may be communicating through concerning behaviours. This approach is used across many local authorities in England, including West Sussex.

We will be holding a parent/carers workshop to enable you to find out more about this approach and policy on **Monday 11th October 6:00-6:45pm.**

Curriculum meetings

Letters have been re-sent today with details for our forthcoming Curriculum Information meetings. Attendance must be booked in advance to ensure we are well prepared to accommodate you. We are delighted to welcome you back to school to meet teachers. The letter refers to the measures that are in place to reduce risk of Covid-19 transmission which we are grateful for your full support with. These events are for parents/carers only.

Calendar dates

Please check our school website for important dates this term/year. We are still awaiting confirmation of dates of some community links such as Harvest/Christmas but will keep you updated. We hope to return to much loved (and missed!) events across the year but will need to follow government and PHE advice which as we know changes frequently.

Jewellery and nail varnish

For health and safety reasons, a polite reminder that children should only wear stud earrings (not hoops, droppers etc). Nail varnish is not permitted.

Best Wishes
Mrs Sam Norton
Headteacher

