

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'



Friday 15th September 2017

Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 12th September 2017. These awards will be recognised in assembly on Monday 19th September.

Positive, Persevering

Poppy
Harry (Elder)
George (Oak)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Curious, Questioning

Quinn
Olivia (Maple)

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby
Max (Oak)

Head Teacher's Award : Jonatan, Maple

Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back - New Year, New Site, New School Name!

Welcome back to Thakeham Primary School! I hope you enjoyed a relaxing break with your children and made the most of the slim pickings of sunshine over the holidays! Welcome to the new children who have joined us Tatiana, Tamara, Tilly, Harry and Evelyn and all of our lovely Acorn children. We have another child joining Maple Class next week - Jakub.

I am very impressed with how positively the Thakeham children have returned to school, very smartly dressed in their new uniforms, ready to learn and work together.

Our Revised Vision

High quality learning and teaching are at the heart of our school. We nurture and celebrate each child's **individual talents and skills** to enable them to be **happy, confident** and **resilient** individuals with a **passion for learning, inspired to achieve** their very best. Through encouraging a strong sense of **respect** and **responsibility**, both within our local **community** and the wider world, we support our children to be **co-operative, caring** citizens for the future.

Our School Values

- Care (Respect)
- Co-operation
- Honesty
- Responsibility
- Perseverance
- Curiosity
- Reflection

Our Revised School Rules

- We are kind, caring and co-operative.
- We try our very best.
- We listen.
- We are honest.
- We look after our school and community.

These apply at all times during the school day and for clubs. Children in a club will be asked to sign a Club Behaviour Agreement to ensure the same high standards of behaviour during the school day are observed in school clubs too.



Our First Day at Our New School!



Our New School Site

It was a busy holiday period for the school with an intense 6 week period of extensive building works to prepare the school for pupils and staff. We were not able to occupy the building until Monday 4th September and even then we had to wait for deliveries of our boxes from our First School site and work around tradespeople whilst they finished off! The staff and I were whole heartedly focussed on ensuring the school was ready for tours for parents and pupils last Wednesday afternoon and for opening our doors last Thursday. This was a huge undertaking but together we worked as a team and supported each other to achieve our common goal.

We are delighted with our new school site and the children seem thrilled too! We will be thanking key people involved in the project through our Celebration Assemblies. Thank you to parents for all your positive comments. Of course if you have ever had building work in your home, you will know there is always a snagging list! We are working with contractors to have these completed asap. The Food Tech room is progressing well but there is a delay on delivery of some fitted units which is holding up completion. Once it is complete we will invite you in to see! Cakes baked in our new ovens will of course be the order of the day!

Children seem very at home in our new Library as you can see! This seems to be one of their favourite areas and is being used already during reading time. We are waiting for our new state of the art operating system to be installed and staff to be trained, before books can be issued. In the meantime there are home readers available for each class.

Our new hall is due for completion in December, which is when the rest of the playground can be released, and the playground markings and the Trim Trail chosen by the School Council installed soon after. Landscaping will begin next week.

Signage, Road Safety and Parking

All parents have been informed before we moved and once in place on our new site of the one-way system in operation and times to arrive. Most parents are following these and helping us enormously - thank you. A



reminder to those parents not supporting the new systems, please drive in to the site at the entrance next to the SGS sign (same direction as the coaches) and when leaving the car park, please exit nearest the roundabout. This seems smoother in the mornings but some parents are driving in the wrong way at the end of the school day to avoid the coaches. Please arrive from 3.05pm when coaches should begin departing the site. Some parents have asked about arriving much earlier, this may be possible to avoid some coach traffic (though many are in place from much earlier in the afternoon). Again please observe the one-way system. I have been very disappointed that appropriate signage was not in place, which I know has not helped and have been proactive with various agencies to ensure this is addressed as soon as possible. I have followed up on other concerns regarding road/pedestrian safety (and am hoping to report back to you as soon as possible).

Communications

Until half term we have to operate with a very basic internet service at school and this is in the hands of BT Openreach. This means we have very limited access to receive/send emails. We cannot easily access our text service as this requires sufficient internet availability. Please ring us if you need anything within the same day to be actioned, our telephone number for now remains the same, 01798 812133 and we will shortly have access to another line 01798 813586. I am in talks with County at the moment to see what more can be done to support us. Please bear with us - this is very frustrating for us too, especially for admin staff. Teachers are out on the playground to greet the children every morning and at the end of the day, so if you need to pass a message on to them, please do feel free to approach them - they have clipboards and will write down any messages as to any changes in who is picking up your child etc. You can also ring the office with any messages for staff too or you can make an appointment to see a member of staff. Next week there are Curriculum Information Meetings for each class as per the separate communication (sent last night!). Dates are also on the last page of this newsletter.

We are in the process of completing our new website which will go live as soon as possible. This has proved a challenge to do during work hours due to internet access and ability to upload documents etc. to it. All of our school policies have been reviewed and were agreed by the Governing Body on 1st September. These will be available on our new school website, but in the meantime, copies are available from the office.

Parent Permissions

As part of our re-organisation and becoming a Primary School, we need to update all of our permissions and there are a few more to add to this. These forms are coming home today for completion. We have combined these together and will need these completing and returned to the office by next Tuesday 19th September. Without the relevant permissions in place your child will not be able to participate in certain activities etc. Once these are completed and returned we will not need to ask for permission for each STARS sports taster sessions/tournaments but will still inform you if your child has been selected. Trips further afield will still require parent permission.

Best Wishes
Mrs Sam Norton
Headteacher

Oak Class Stunning Start

Oak class received a very interesting letter containing an old key and clues to find the locked object. After lots of searching a chest was found containing a magical book. The key fitted the lock on the book and we opened to read its pages. Oak class was transported into a world of books where they used their imaginations to create rafts that transported them on adventures of make-believe.



Maple Class—Stunning Start

On Wednesday the 15th of September, Maple Class decorated and enjoyed their very own Bruce Bogtrotter's Chocolate Cakes. Unlike Bruce Bogtrotter, they all finished their cakes with complete ease and enjoyment! A big thank you to Mrs Elvery for manning the decorating station!



Elder Stunning Start

In Elder Class, we have started our Evolution topic by an experiment that Darwin himself carried out. We wanted to see how a finch survived and adapted in the Galapagos Islands during times of environmental changes. We used a range of utensils from chopsticks to spoons to consider how they had adapted their beak shapes to depending on the food available to them. The children had great fun in using their 'beaks' and could clearly explain how different species 'die out' when they don't or can't adapt to survive.



Meet the new School Councillors!

Congratulations to the newly elected School Council team for 2017/18. Ellie, Brooke, Harry, Terry, Leighton and Martha have an exciting and busy year ahead of them!



Time to Shine

Well done to Sadie in Oak Class for achieving her Level 2 Swimming Award!



Thakeham Primary School Cake!

A big thank you to Mrs Lawrence for baking us a special Thakeham Primary School Cake—complete with our new tree logo on it, so kind of you and very much appreciated—it was delicious!



Important Dates for 2017-2018

SEPTEMBER 2017

Tuesday 19th	Elder Curriculum Information Meeting 3:20pm
Tuesday 19th	Oak Curriculum Information Meeting 3:35pm
Wednesday 20th	Acorn Curriculum Information Meeting 8:30am
Wednesday 20th	Maple Curriculum Information Meeting 3:20pm
Monday 25th	Author visit—Steve Clifford
Friday 29th	School Photo day

OCTOBER 2017

Thursday 5th	Harvest Festival
Thursday 5th	Cross Country at Washington Y3/4/5/6
Monday 9th	Open Event (new EYFS parents) 11am/2pm
Wednesday 11th	Open Event (new EYFS parents) 6:15pm
Monday 16th	Elder residential trip
Wednesday 18th	SPLASH Assembly
Thursday 19th	Football at West Chiltington Y3/4
Monday 23rd-	HALF TERM
Friday 27th	
Monday 30th	Early Parents Evening 3:30pm-6pm

NOVEMBER 2017

Wednesday 1st	Late Parents Evening 5-7pm
Friday 3rd	INSET Day—School Closed
Thursday 16th	Netball at Thakeham Y5/6

DECEMBER 2017

Tuesday 12th	Nativity 1:30pm
Wednesday 13th	Nativity 1:30pm
Saturday 16th	FOTS Christmas Fayre
Thursday 21st-	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Wednesday 3rd January	

JANUARY 2018

Thursday 4th	First day Back
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FEBRUARY 2018

Monday 12th-	HALF TERM
Friday 16th	

MARCH 2018

Friday 30th-	EASTER HOLIDAY
Friday 13th April	

APRIL 2018

Monday 16th	First day Back
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MAY 2018

Monday 7th	BANK HOLIDAY
Monday 28th-	HALF TERM
Friday 1st June	

JULY 2018

Wednesday 25th	SUMMER HOLIDAY
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