

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'



Friday 7th September 2018

Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 3rd September 2018. these awards will be recognized in Celebration assembly on Monday 10th September

Positive, Persevering
Poppy

Co-operative, Caring
Craig

Curious, Questioning
Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing
Ruby

Jacob (Maple)

William (Elder)

Huxley (Oak)

Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome!

Welcome back to Thakeham! I hope you enjoyed a lovely summer with your family! The weather was mostly kind, so I hope you made the most of the sunshine!

It has been a fantastic start to the new school year and we are delighted to welcome a number of new children to classes across the school: Noah, Mabel, Joshua, Timothy, Sophie, Drew, Clem, Millie and Nathan! On Monday we also welcome Leila to Maple class. We are now 104 on roll!

After a couple of days of home visits this week, we were very excited to meet our new Reception children who settled in so well today and had so much fun! Just like last year's Reception class, they felt very much at home in their new school and we can't wait to see where their learning journey will take them this year. It was wonderful to chat with the children and I was very impressed with their tidying up skills at the end of the day! Children in Reception class were paired up today with their Year 6 Buddy, a great big thank you to these children for helping out and looking out for their buddy at lunchtime today, we were very proud to see the Year 6 children rising admirably to greater responsibilities.

Unfortunately Mrs Byatt (Acorn Teacher Monday/Tuesday/Weds AM) is unwell and will not be in next week. Mrs Hoare will teach in Acorn class for the whole week (rather than just Weds-Fri). I know Mrs Byatt is looking forward to meeting the new children on her return.

Celebrations—Ofsted—'Good'

Today you should have received both a paper copy of our Ofsted report and an email with the report attached. Please do let us know if you have not received these. We will also publish the report on our school website as soon as possible. The report will be available on the Ofsted website next Friday. We are delighted after a very rigorous inspection that we continue to be graded as a 'Good' school. There are a huge number of positives that are recognised, I have cherry picked a few here:

"The challenges of growth and change have not taken your focus off maintaining the quality of teaching and learning in the school. As a result, standards are rising in the early years and key stage 1, and in key stage 2, standards in reading and writing are above national averages."

"You have engaged staff, parents, carers, pupils and governors in developing a very clear vision and ethos for the school. You have built a strong staff team whose members are equally committed to and proud of the part they play in the school."

"You have developed close links with other schools locally to share expertise and training. Teachers are enthusiastic and highly committed, always seeking ways to improve and to bring out the best in every learner. "

“Governors bring a wide range of skills to their role. They are passionate about school improvement. They visit the school regularly to see for themselves how improvement plans are developing, and to check on pupils’ well-being and safety.”

“Your current improvement plans are wide-ranging and ambitious for the school. They include, quite rightly, a focus on raising standards further, especially for more able pupils.”

“The leadership team has ensured that all safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose.The school puts great emphasis on emotional resilience and developing pupils’ abilities to care for themselves and one another. Pupils say they feel safe and that there is always an adult they can talk to in school if they have concerns. All checks and procedures for recruiting staff safely are carried out, and staff training in keeping children safe from harm is updated regularly.

Systems of reporting concerns are well established, and work with external agencies to support vulnerable pupils is strong. The curriculum contributes to pupils’ understanding of how to keep themselves safe, for instance when using the internet.”

“Pupils were at a loss to think of ways in which the school could be better, and said that they enjoyed ‘pretty much everything.....Pupils love coming to school. As a result, attendance is above average overall and persistent absence is low.”

“Parents love the ‘welcoming, friendly feel and general air of happiness’ in the school.....Parents commented very positively about the good communication between home and school, as well as the joy of seeing their children become happy and successful learners.”

“The behaviour of pupils during the inspection, in lessons, before school, and at lunchtime, was good. Pupils who are disadvantaged, or who have SEN and/or disabilities, are well supported. The bespoke programmes delivered by skilled teaching assistants help to improve pupils’ basic skills, independence and self-esteem. Rates of progress of current pupils in reading, writing and mathematics are good.

“The vast majority of pupils who started the school in Reception make excellent progress and achieve in line with, or above, national expectations at the end of each year in key stage 2.”

“This was the first year pupils took tests at the end of key stage 2. They exceeded interim national averages in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation.”

“Pupils at the school know how to improve their work and how to develop resilience and perseverance when work is challenging. They have created ‘super learning heroes’ cartoon characters to remind them of the characteristics of successful learners, and they talk confidently about the learning behaviour they have demonstrated when sharing their work.”

“Pupils say they find lessons ‘fun and interesting’. Purposeful links are made between subjects, such as Year 6 combining history, design technology, literacy and geography in their Second World War topic. A particular strength of the school is the care the older pupils take of the youngest children, for example as reading buddies or playleaders. They also take seriously other responsibilities, such as looking after the library or being computer monitors.”

“Links with other schools and the community are strong. Expertise has been shared and developed as a result. Pupils contribute to the life of the community, for example by being ‘reporters’ for the parish news. Links with the adjoining grammar school are developing rapidly, particularly in sport.”

We were pleased that the 2 areas Ofsted identified as ‘next steps’ were ones that we were had already made plans to develop further. These are ensuring that the School Strategic Development Plan is succinct (there’s hope for my newsletters yet!!) and to continue to ensure challenge for the most able pupils ensuring they reach their full potential. Staff alongside Governors have already begun work to address these points and we will keep you informed of progress on these 2 aspects throughout the year.

I would like to thank all staff, volunteers, governors, parents and children for their hard work and unwavering support over the years leading up to the Ofsted inspection. We look forward to many

more successful and exciting years ahead!

'Gold' Sports Mark Award 2017-18



from

Exciting news arrived in the summer holidays of this special award—a step up Silver in the past 2 years! We are delighted that the opportunities and achievements have been recognised including our fantastic links with Steyning Grammar School—both staff and children are seeing their skills develop with specialist teaching and of course access to the fantastic resources on our shared campus. Miss Brown has led this area with great enthusiasm and we enjoyed much success at tournaments across the year. We can't wait to build on these successes!

International School Award Re-accreditation 2018- 2021

Further thrilling news arrived in the summer holidays! On joining the school in 2014 I have been strongly committed to ensuring that children have opportunities to develop their understanding of other places in the world, their cultures and lifestyle and languages. In 2015 we were awarded our first International School Award and this year Mrs Hoare and Mrs Stender worked tirelessly towards an ambitious action plan to gain re-accreditation for the next 3 years. This is in recognition of the opportunities children have been involved with this year. It does not stop there however, as already I know plans are afoot for some exciting learning opportunities this year!

If you as a parent/carer feel you have any skills/experience/talents you could share with us to support our curriculum work please let myself, your child's teacher or the office know and we would be delighted to welcome you .

Questions or queries?

Whether you are a parent who has joined us this year or been with us for a while, please do remember that if you have any questions about anything school related, we are always happy to help. Teachers are available first thing in the morning on the playground if it is a quick message but the best time to chat to them is after school. I am usually available on the playground before/after school if you would like a quick word or contact the office for an appointment. Don't hesitate to contact us to discuss your query, no matter how big or small.

Parent/Carer Support—Uniform

The children have returned to school looking very smart, thank you! We expect the children to look smart and take pride in their appearance both in class and during PE. Expectations regarding our uniform and kit are available on our website and in our School Prospectus.

Parent/Carer Support—Attendance and Punctuality

It has been positive to see children arriving on time for school this week. A reminder that the bell is rung at 8:45am and learning begins as soon as the children enter the classroom. Arrival after 9:00am is classed as 'late' and after 9:30am as 'unauthorised absence'. Arriving just 5/10 minutes after the start of the day means your child may be missing out on vital learning such as handwriting, spelling, maths activities etc. It is unsettling for the child too.

We have only just returned from the summer break but a reminder if you are planning a holiday that this ideally should be within the 13 weeks school holiday that children receive each year. In line with our Attendance Policy (see website) and DfE guidelines I am unable to authorise absence for holiday except in very exceptional circumstances. A morning or afternoon is classed as a session and 10 unauthorised absences in a period of 10 weeks will be referred to West Sussex County Council for a Fixed Penalty Notice. This is £60 per child, per parent. Please see our Attendance Policy available on our website for further details.

Parent/Carer Support—Playground

For health and safety and supervision reasons, our play equipment, trim trail and bikes/trikes are not available for use before or after school. We ask that you supervise your child closely during these times. Only children in Year 6 with permission may walk to school unsupervised and are permitted on the playground from 8:30am without parent supervision (staff member available). Parents who have children in any other year group should remain with their child on the

playground until the bell is rung at 8:45am.

Parent/Carer Support—Parking

Parking spaces are available both in our school car park at the side of the playground and in the car park behind Steyning Grammar School. Please note that their gates are locked at 9am. If you park in the neighbourhood, we ask that you do so considerately. Last year we had a number of complaints from neighbours which was very disappointing. Please note that the coach bay may be used by Year 6 parents only for drop off. Please do not park in this area. It is a very busy spot both for cars and coaches and access is needed at all times. Wherever possible and safe to do so, we hope you will walk to school. We are launching an exciting new scheme with support from WSCC this term—details to follow.

Parent/Carer Support—Home Learning

Details of days that home learning is handed out/due in can be found on your child's Curriculum Information Letter and will be discussed during meetings at the beginning of the year. It is our expectation that children should be able to complete this learning as independently as possible. For further details please see our Home Learning Policy on our website or talk to the classteacher. We operate a Home Learning Club on Tuesday mornings from 8am for invited pupils.

Parent/Carer Support— Thakeham Village Day Saturday 15th September

Our Village Day is going to be even bigger and better than ever before! This event on Saturday 15th September runs from 12pm to 4pm and the evening event runs from 4pm to 11pm. Head to Abingworth Football Fields for the fun! This event is jointly organised by our school, Thakeham Pre School and Thakeham Parish Council and is our biggest fund raising event of the year. We are in desperate need of funds to purchase canopies for the playground to provide shade. If the weather this summer is anything to go by we will certainly need them. Prices start at £9K and go up in excess of £20K so your help is very much needed.

Here's how you can help:

- Volunteer to help run a stall—even if it is for an hour or 2—every little helps! We still need help on the BBQ, refreshments, welly throwing and glitter tattoo stalls in particular. Either sign up on the playground sheet next week or let the office know. PLEASE!!!!
- Do you have a business and can offer a prize for our raffle? Let the office know if you are able to make a donation!
- Can you help with putting up the marquees on Friday 14th in the afternoon from 1pm? Let us know!
- Can you spare an hour to help clear away after the event on Sunday 16th from 10am please? Let us know!
- Can you bake a cake(s) for the Refreshment Stall? If so please bring this into school on Friday 14th.
- Do you fancy yourself as a budding baker? Take part in our 'Bake off' by baking a single tier sandwich cake (any shape) no bigger than 9 inches—with a Thakeham theme! 50p to enter (on the day) with a chance of winning a prize! Entries will be judged by a local chef! Just bring your cake along to the raffle stall at 12pm on the day of the fayre. Be warned though, we will want to raffle your cake in a (silent) auction to the highest bidder—well it's all in aid of a good cause
- Bring your dog along to the Dog Show! £1 entry and a prize of a rosette and goody bag for the winners of the following categories:

- ⇒ Prettiest bitch
- ⇒ Most handsome
- ⇒ Dog the judge would most like to take home with them

Just enter on the day. **Dog Show starts at 1:45pm.**

- Come along to our PTA (FOTS) meeting next **Tuesday 11th Sept at 7pm in White Lion Inn at Thakeham** to meet us and see how you can help, if not with this event, then the forthcoming firework event, Christmas Fayre or any of the other events we organise for children, adults and the community. **Debbie Pirkis has run FOTS with a very small band of helpers and myself during the course of the year, we are in desperate need of more parent helpers please!!!!!!**

We hope you will be able to support Thakeham Village Day—whether it be coming to see our Choir, supporting the Talent Show Acts, watching the dance/karate demos, taking part in the Bake Off or bringing your dog along for the Dog Show! With a wide range of attractions and stalls there really is something for everyone! We are positive you will have a fantastic day. Come along in the evening if you fancy letting your hair down - good music, food, drinks, entertainment—what's not to like?!

Please see attached flyers for details of events and attractions.

With very best wishes

Mrs S. Norton

Headteacher

Open Events for Prospective for Reception Sept 2019

We warmly welcome any families who have a child starting school in September 2019 to any of the following Open Events:

- 2nd October @ 2pm;
- 3rd October @ 6.15pm;
- 10th October @ 11am;
- 1st November @ 6.15pm

The sessions will last around an hour and will offer an opportunity for you to tour the school, meet myself and key staff and find out what life is like at Thakeham Primary School. Bookings can be made via the school office on 01903 740176 or office@thakehamps.co.uk

Elder—Stunning Start

An incredible artefact was on show in Elder Class this week in the form of an actual rock from the moon, brought back by Neil Armstrong in 1969. Ruby was lucky enough to hold it and was able to describe it as very light and tinted slightly blue.

Unfortunately, after a lengthy discussion and look at it, Mrs Hopkins proceeded to drop it as it was being put back in the travel case it was kept in safely all these years!

It was a jaw dropping moment, in more ways than one, to start our space themed topic of: Reach for the Stars!



Photo of the Fortnight



PLEASE HELP US TO RAISE MONEY FOR THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Sunday 28th October, Rob Pirkis, Lawrence and Cheryl Stockwell, and Carrie and Ben Nicholls are beginning the challenge of cycling 100 miles, nearly 4,000 meters of climbing along The South Downs Way, from Winchester to Eastbourne. Please support us to raise enough money to provide sun canopies for our school playground. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thakehamps



THAKEHAM VILLAGE DAY & FUN GUY FEST



PROGRAMME

Saturday 15 September

Village Day 12pm - 4pm

Happy Hour + Live Bands 4pm - 6pm

Fun Guy Fest - Bands & More 6pm - 11pm
Abingworth Playing Fields, Thakeham

The 2018 Thakeham Village Day and Fun Guy Fest is brought to you by



Thakeham
Parish Council



Thakeham Pre-School

The event is kindly sponsored by



and printing of this programme was supported by



Welcome and thanks for coming to Thakeham Village Day and Fun Guy Fest

Central daytime events

12 - 4pm

(Timings are subject to change - please listen to announcements.)

Event opens	12.00
Thakeham Primary School Choir	1.00
Children's Bake-Off competition	1.20
Dog Show	1.45
Thakeham's Got Talent finals (Primary School)	2.45
Martial Arts Demo	3.00
Dance Demo	3.30
Raffle draws	3.45
Close	4.00

Happy Hour - Live Bands, Bar

4 - 6pm

Fun Guy Fest - Bands, Food, Bar (ticketed event) 6 - 11pm

Featured bands

Jodie Munday/Small Town Kids
Blues, Funk & Jazz Band
Snakes & Ladders
GJS Function Band
Miles High



Displays, Activities and Stalls

Including

Classic Vehicles and Fire Engine

Birds of Prey display

Princess of Wales Royal Regiment

Fair Rides

Bouncy Castle - Welly Throwing/Coconut Shy

Raffle - Bake off Competition



Thanks for their support to Oakford Homes, Alocalprinter, Thakeham FC and Ashington Cougars, St Mary's Youth Group, Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, Southern Transit Bus Co., Hepworth Brewers, our volunteer helpers and especially the children, parents and staff of Thakeham Primary School and Pre-School.



Food and Drink

Daytime session

Cafe for cakes, scones, hot and cold drinks



BBQ



Ice Cream



Evening session (Fun Guy Fest)

soul street kitchen

Street food from

Jerk Chicken charcoal BBQ, Oak smoked pulled pork, BBQ/Jerk Jackfruit

Daytime and Evening Bar until 11pm

supported by **HEPWORTH** proud local sponsors

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FUN GUY FEST



Other Information

Organisers - if you need us, event organisers will be wearing high-viz tabards.

First Aid - a medical cover team is in attendance, near the Changing Rooms.

Car parking is at owners' risk - the organisers cannot accept responsibility for damage or theft from vehicles. Please don't leave dogs or valuables in cars.

Lost & Found Children - will be reunited with parents at the DJ Tent.

Dog owners - you are welcome but please scoop any poop and dispose in litter bins.

Photos on public media - the organisers will not post photos of children online without parents' permission, but please be aware that others may do so, and that local press may attend.

The next local event for your diary...

Firework Display

Friday 12 October

Abingworth Football Fields

Organised by SGS Rock Road School



**Thakeham
the Village that Rocks**

FUN GUY FEST

SEPTEMBER 15th

**BANDS+BARS+STREET FOOD+FAIR
RIDES+STALLS+BOUNCY CASTLES**

Village Day 12pm - 4pm

Happy Hour + Live Bands 4pm - 6pm

Live Bands + More 6pm - 11pm

ABINGWORTH FOOTBALL FIELDS

Storrington Road, Thakeham, RH20 3EJ

**Book an evening table via www.eventbrite.com
search thakeham**