



THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

8th February 2021



Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 25th January 2021, awarded in Celebration assembly on 2nd February 2021:

Positive, Persevering

Poppy

Amariaah Smith (Acorn)
Jacob Smillie (Acorn)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Frankie Golds (Oak)
Kaden Burnell-Haxell (Oak)

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Aria Pcitti (Oak)
Huxley Colver (Maple)

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

Gabe Wiffen (Maple)
Beth Wills (Elder)

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 1st February 2021, to be awarded in Celebration assembly on 9th February 2021:

Positive, Persevering

Poppy

Kevin Metaliaj (Maple)
Harvey Kennaird (Elder)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Bertie Bevan (Oak)

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

Edie Calland (Acorn)
Jeni Santos (Oak)

Time to Shine

Poppy in Maple Class distinction in her Grade 1 in her drumming exam! Well done Poppy we are all very proud of you!

We would love to hear about what your achievements, so please do email us via the office!



Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Brrr! Hope the children had fun in the snow flurries over the weekend? Not enough to make a snowman (yet) but a change from the relentless rain!

Our Super Learning Hero Staff!

A huge thank you to our amazing staff for all their hard work and help to ensure everything in school runs smoothly during these challenging times, no matter what their role. It has been heartening to hear the positive feedback on home learning and teacher/TA feedback via Tapestry/SeeSaw. I know the teaching videos have been particularly welcome. As with everything Covid, lesson preparation too is taking longer than in normal times, and much time and effort is going into this, to try to engage children as much as possible.

I am also very proud that every member of staff has joined the Lateral Flow Device twice weekly Covid testing programme, and although these are unpleasant, they are committed to testing to keep everyone at school, their families and the community as safe as possible.

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you and unfortunately farewell, to our Secretaries Mrs Ayres and Mrs Hall as they leave their roles. They have worked incredibly hard over the past few years at Thakeham and supported children, staff and families for which we are all very grateful for. We wish them all the very best for the future.

We have recently appointed Mrs Campbell to a full-time Secretary role to follow on the excellent work of Mrs Ayres and Mrs Hall. Mrs Campbell has a strong admin background and her recent roles provide her with a valuable insight into life in a primary school. Mrs Campbell will join us after half-term.



Home Learning

We are so grateful with the support parents/carers are providing at home and as we approach the end of the half-term, I would like to thank you for everything you are doing at home to keep your children focussed and buoyant. I would also like to echo feedback teachers have provided via SeeSaw, to help support children's independence. It is so important to help support your child to start an activity, but then allow children (especially in Maple/Elder) to attempt the work **independently**. Whilst the children are of course benefitting from 1:1 attention they may be having, teachers are finding it difficult to assess the children accurately and plan the next steps if too much parent/carer support and intervention has been provided. The work needs to be a true reflection of what your child can achieve independently so the level/pitch of the work both ahead and when they eventually return to school, will be appropriate.

Home learning can be intense so we recommend children start at the same time they would for school 8:45/9:00am and take breaks to support concentration. Children may well work at a slower rate at home than school and so it is helpful to upload the work after the allocated session time. This helps the teacher to see what they have achieved in the time allocated, which will then influence further planning and teaching. Sticking to roughly the school timings during the day (if possible) will help with the transition back to school too, so it won't be such a shock to the system! Well done and thank you to parents/carers for all your support.

Googlemeet and use of Online Platforms for Teaching and Learning

We have added an appendix to our Home Learning Policy linked to our use of live/recorded (teaching) sessions. A copy should be emailed today for your information and is also available on our school website. It is important this is read carefully and the consent forms completed and returned to school, preferably by email.

We are trialling some live support sessions this week for some of our Pupil Premium pupils with Mrs Mills. Consent forms contained at the end of the policy are critical in ensuring these are undertaken safely. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Safer Internet Day 9th February

Classes will continue to focus on important aspects of keeping safe online with an activity linked to this year's theme: **An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world**. There will be an activity for children whether at home or school.

Co-operative, Caring Craig Day (11th February)

Following on from **Children's Mental Health Week**, this day will really help us focus on 'healthy minds and healthy bodies' and links with our school value 'care.' In the morning children will be set an activity linked to the theme of the week which was 'Express Yourself.' In a nutshell, children will be tasked with choosing an activity that makes them feel good and they enjoy for example creating a piece of art, making a video, playing an instrument, acting, singing, dancing, writing etc, capturing it through a photo or video and uploading this to Tapestry/SeeSaw to share with the teacher/class. We can't wait to see what the children will chose and send us! Full details will be available in the home learning instructions.



The other morning activity will also be linked to mental health and **Heads On' - the official NHS charity for mental health in Sussex**. The Covid-19 pandemic can be difficult for everyone, and we all know people who have made us feel better when we've found things hard. **Heads On Hearts of Gold** is a way of spreading joy, raising awareness and thanking the people who have made us feel better during this time.



Children will be making their own golden heart to hang at their window for others to see and enjoy. They could also send a Hearts of Gold postcard to someone who makes them feel good and is there for them when times are tricky.

Postcards for children to use and a video to help support your creative work will be added to Tapestry and Seesaw.'

The afternoon will be linked to keeping physically fit (which in turn supports mental wellbeing). Full details will be available via Tapestry/SeeSaw, again we look forward to see the children's responses.

Our Co-Operative, Caring Craig Day links with our focus of 'wellbeing' and 'PSHE' in our School Strategic Development Plan.



Make Memories not waste



Before Christmas we set the children a Wastebuster challenge called 'Make memories not waste'. Wastebuster was asking us to think about food waste more responsibly, particularly over Christmas when a lot of food is wasted.

Food waste has economic, environmental and social implications and impacts. If food waste was a country, it would be the third biggest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions after the USA and China.

Some children in Elder class have already completed this challenge, so a huge thank you from The Green Force team. I have sent their work into the Wastebuster team and they were delighted with their work!

If anyone else would like to create a poster showing how to reduce food waste, please complete this on the poster template given to you before Christmas or a piece of paper you have at home. All posters must be given in by **February 24th 2021**. You can either take a photo and email into the school office or take a photo and upload to your class Seesaw page.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Stender and The Green Force team.

INSET Friday 12th February

A reminder that the school will be closed to all children to facilitate teacher professional development. Our focus for the day will be 'Therapeutic Approaches to Behaviour' and revising our curriculum in light of the impact of the pandemic.

I would like to wish you and your children a really good rest over the half-term break. I know it has been a tough 6 weeks home learning with children missing school routines, their teachers and friends and many parents also trying to juggle work commitments, running a home and other siblings. I really hope you all manage to switch off from home learning and re-charge!

We will also be listening for the government announcement on Monday 22nd February to find out what the next phase will look like for children returning to school. As we will be finding out at the same time as you, please be patient with us whilst we consider and plan for how this will look for our school. We will be in touch as soon as possible after this, with further details.

Best Wishes

Mrs Sam Norton

(Headteacher)

30-Minute 1:1 Music Lessons

Guitar | Drums | Piano | Vocals

ONLINE



- Price:
- **Half-price taster offer = £8.25!**
- 1:1 lesson = £16.50
- We accept childcare vouchers
- Lessons online after school & weekends
- Booked half termly
- Inspirational tutors!
- Weekly lesson reports



Enquire today!

Web: www.sammusicservice.com

Email: lessons@sammusicservice.com

Tel: 0800 756 9411

