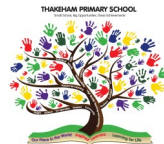


THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

Monday 24th May 2021



Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations go to the following children for their recent certificates awarded over the past two weeks:

Positive, Persevering
Poppy

Amaya (Oak)
Logan (Oak)

Co-operative, Caring
Craig

Zack (Oak)

Curious, Questioning
Quinn

Noah (Maple)
Iga (Oak)

Reflective, Reviewing
Ruby

Sophie (Acorns)
Rowan (Elder)
Lucas (Maple)

Headteacher Award

Terry (Elder)

Time to Shine!

Congratulations for outstanding achievements outside of school

Elliott (Oak) and Max (Oak) play for Storrington Swans U7 football club and played a match against WHKYE in Chichester on Thursday 13th May. They both scored a goal each and won the match 12-9. Elliott was also chosen to be Man of the Match.



Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Changes to Covid-19 Protocols

Following updated DfE guidance regarding Covid-19 easing of restrictions, we are making the following changes from today:

- All classes will revert to group tables in class (rather than the rows that have been in place for over a year). Elder will start this next week as they are undertaking some assessments this week.
- Acorn and Oak will be able to mix together across the full playground and will continue to have assemblies together in the hall.

The KS1 (Acorns and Oak) are a much smaller bubble than KS2 so the changes are more easily implemented and with less impact should a positive case arise. Following further DfE updates and if restrictions in England continue to be moving forwards, we will look to resume shared breaks/lunches/assemblies for Maple and Elder, but this would be later in June.

All our other protocols remain in place, re handwashing, movement around the school, ventilation etc. **After half-term** we would like to trial a change in arrangements for drop off as follows:

Acorn & Oak class drop off at 8:45am. Acorn parents and children to wait together in the last 1/3 of the playground. Oak parents to wait with their child along the gate as usual until children are directed in. Once Acorn children have lined up, Acorn parents please exit the playground to enable Oak children to come in. If you have a child in both classes you will remain on the playground until both classes have lined up. We will monitor these arrangements in the first week back and adapt as needed. There are no planned changes for the end of the day.

We remain hopeful that we will be able to welcome parents to Sports Day later this term, though may need to restrict numbers on site. Parent attendance at the Elder concert remains in question, though we have plans to video this as an alternative. We very much hope we will be able to invite parents of Year 6 in for the Leavers' Assembly given the size of our hall and size of the year group, providing we are within Covid-19 regulations at the time.

Parent Governor Role

It was the closing date for Parent Governor nominations today, but sadly we have not received any volunteers. We really encourage you to consider joining us to support the school. If you would like to discuss the role, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the Chair of Governors (Judith James). The school has really benefitted from the support and challenge of the governing body over the past four years and it is a really rewarding role. We will send out nomination forms electronically again with a closing date of Friday 11th June 2021. The nomination process is very simple and straightforward. I am sure there are many Thakeham parents/carers who could contribute well to the role, so we look forward to hearing from you.

Staff Update

Following recent interviews, we have appointed an excellent French specialist teacher, Mrs Knight who will teach French in both Maple and Elder classes from 24th June. Children in Elder Class were fortunate enough to see Mrs Knight in action last week and were hooked, thoroughly enjoying their lesson! Mrs Knight leads on the Modern Foreign Languages Initial Teacher Training courses at Sussex University and will continue to take French at Thakeham, from strength to strength.

Transition

We have begun our meetings with pre-school/nursery providers ahead of the new Reception children starting school in September. Children's visit dates are set and we will shortly be contacting new parents for dates for home visits. This year the visits will take place in the garden/public park being mindful of minimising any Covid-19 risk. Mrs Stender will also be visiting some of the pre school/nursery settings.

Transition meetings for children moving on to secondary schools are about to take place for those with SEND/additional needs. Transition dates for children are also booked in.

Please check our website calendar for dates.

Hair and nail varnish

A gentle reminder that long hair should be tied back for school to ensure this does not distract from learning and to minimise any issues with potential headlice please. Nail varnish is not permitted. We thank you in advance for your support.

With Best Wishes

Mrs Sam Norton

Headteacher

Guitar & ukulele lessons

West Sussex Music are still offering guitar and ukulele lessons in school.

Taking place during school hours or at home using Zoom, group lessons are £8.50 per week. Y2 and above can apply. Instruments can also be rented from WSM.

Chris Eaton has been working for them for 7 years and was head of the guitar team for a number of years.

Here's a video that demonstrates the different guitar styles Chris teaches; <https://youtu.be/oj45J3hCRKA>

To apply for lessons please complete an application form on the WSM website; <https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/page.cfm?title=application-for-music-lessons-1>

If you have any questions you can email Chris direct; chris.eaton@westsussexmusic.co.uk



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Nicola Eves, Area Manager via email at
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