

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

December 15th 2020



Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 30th December 2020, awarded in Celebration assembly on 7th December 2020:

Positive, Persevering

Poppy
Eddie (Oak)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig
Miguel (Acorn)
Jessica (Maple)

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby
Juliet (Acorn)
Dylan (Elder)
Matthew (Elder)

Governor award

Dylan (Elder)

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 7th December 2020, awarded in Celebration assembly on 14th December 2020:

Positive, Persevering

Poppy
Teela-Mae (Acorn)
Eloise (Oak)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Curious, Questioning

Quinn
Sadie (Maple)

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby
Max (Oak)
Lexi (Elder)

Time to Shine!

Congratulations to the following children for their outstanding achievements outside of school:

- **Max (Oak)** scored for Storrington against Horsham Hornets. It was his first goal during a match!
- **Daniel (Maple)** was 'Player of the Week' in a recent rugby match!
- **Poppy (Maple) & Maddie (Elder)** both had parts in a song for 'Britain's Got Talent.'
- **Frankie (Elder)** took part in his team's football match and they won!
- **Rowan (Elder)** played football for Steyning and they won 8-1!

Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Giving Thanks

As we approach the end of the 1st term with everyone back at school, I would like to express my sincere thanks for all for all your support during this challenging time. Our routines and protocols are now clearly embedded behind the scenes, and children have been utterly amazing across the term, taking the changes on board in a positive manner with a good level of understanding and co-operation. The responsibility on myself and staff has been huge but we have not waived from this and have ensured every reasonably possible strategy has been implemented to minimise risk and keep everyone as safe as possible, even with frequently changing government guidance. We have worked hard to try to keep school life as normal as possible for the children, but still supporting them to maintain a good sense of the situation, at an age appropriate level.

In fact I was very touched by the children's understanding and their appreciation recently, when Elder class children wrote to me to thank me for keeping them safe. Receiving 31 such letters was very emotional as you can imagine! I have included some examples on the following pages.

FOTS have worked hard to ensure the children didn't miss out on Christmas fun, providing the resources for their Decorations Afternoon and we look forward to the Christmas Crackers at tomorrow's Christmas Lunch (don't forget Christmas jumpers/outfits can be worn that day!) A big thank you from me to the team for the very lovely and unexpected Christmas hamper they have made me, I shall definitely enjoy the contents over the festive period!!

We are enjoying seeing the fantastic Amazon Wishlist books coming in over the past few weeks, thank you for sharing your generosity with the school, it really is much appreciated. The staff have worked incredibly hard but it was their idea to 'give something back' rather than have their own gifts this year. Everything in school has only been possible because of the strong sense of team in school.

I am really looking forward to sitting down to watch the Christmas Nativities and plays that the whole school have worked so hard on. Filming is now complete and editing is either in progress or completed with the next job to convert to a version to share with you on our YouTube channel. This is harder and more time consuming than herding Reception Nativity cattle, but we will have these with you in the next day or two!!

We have really missed having parents in for these and other Christmas festivities and we look forward to a time next year when we can do these safely and complete our Thakeham family!

It is the kindness amongst the children, staff, governors and families that makes Thakeham a very special place and I hope that this stays strong as we move into the new year, when the first few months may be challenging in terms of the pandemic. I am sure pressures are felt at home too, so please share with us if there are struggles as we are always willing to help and support.

We have been very grateful to our local community for their support, it was wonderful to have Rev'd Sara Jane visit assemblies last week to share with us a rhyming Christmas message and help us learn to sign 'Little Donkey.'



We hope children will be joining in with Holy Trinity Church's Nativity Trail competition, if not, there is still time, as the competition closes Thursday morning. We have been provided with Book Tokens as prizes, so do encourage your child to take part.

Thank you to Thakeham Parish Council for organising a Christmas Bauble colouring competition for the children, complete with Lindt Chocolate Santas as prizes. We completed the colouring task as part of our mindfulness work.



As part of the festive fun this year, Acorn & Oak class helped me decorate the Christmas tree this year, as you can see they didn't agree with the 'less is more approach!'



Essential Parent/Carer Help

As you will no doubt have read and seen in the press, children's academic abilities have been significantly impacted on by the absence from school during lockdown, especially younger children where close support to build those strong foundations is even more important. Assessments took place early in September and learning has been adapted to support children at various levels to facilitate their progress. Catch up groups have been implemented to further support gaps in learning and these will continue for reading/writing/maths across the year.

Parents/carers have an essential role to play in supporting their child as always, working together on this will really make a difference, so **we are asking for your unequivocal support. Please hear your child read 3 times a week and support them to ensure their homework is completed to a high standard.** Homework is an important way we use to ensure learning from class is reinforced and children have opportunities to reflect (like Ruby!) on their prior learning.

Attendance—support for children is most effective when they are in school. With so much missed time last year and if needing to self-isolate for Covid-19 reasons, it is essential that your child is in school as much as possible at every other opportunity. It goes without saying that children should not attend school if they or anyone else in the household is suffering from Covid symptoms and children should not attend in line with PHE advice on infection control https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

Overall we have maintained our attendance rate, but the number of children whose absence is below 90% has increased. We are required to report on attendance to the DfE on a daily basis and those that are missing 10% or more schooling are particularly concerning us, when we are working hard to ensure that children are making the progress needed. NB Covid-19 related absence (shielding) does not affect your child's attendance rate. Our usual attendance letters are in the process of being sent home, so please look out for these in your child's book bag. I would like to highlight the positives, that 80% of children have 'green attendance' ie at 95+%.

Please be aware that should school have ongoing concerns about your child's attendance we liaise closely with WSCC who may suggest steps such as evidencing medical need/intervention in the case of regular absence linked to illness. The past months have been worrying for everyone, we completely understand; the children's health and safety is of paramount importance. There are strategies we can implement or draw on to support attendance, for example referrals to the School Nursing Service, so if you do have concerns, please let us know.

By school and home working together on homework and attendance we can help ensure your child reaches their full potential and is not disadvantaged. Missed schooling and homework means gaps in learning which may well impact future prospects.

Important Covid-19 Updates

Isolation Periods

The isolation periods have now changed, and contacts of confirmed cases (as well as those testing positive) **now both need to isolate for ten days, instead of the 14 days it has previously been.** This applies to those who started isolating before yesterday's date (14/12/20), when this comes into force.

The changes mean that day one of the ten day period starts the day **after** a person's test, or the development of symptoms, or their last exposure to a person who has tested positive if they are a contact. [Read the full government guidance here.](#)

6 Day Test and Trace during the Christmas Holidays

For the first 6 days after teaching ends, on 18th December, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the DfE have asked schools to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. We have set up a dedicated email for parents/carers to alert us which will be monitored between 10am and 2pm up to and including December 24th by myself, Mrs Hopkins and Mrs Ritchie. If we receive an email of this nature we will then contact you and identify close contacts. Please use the following email address for this purpose only. Covid@thakehamps.co.uk

The school office email will not be monitored outside of school hours and staff will not be monitoring their work emails or SeeSaw/Tapestry as it is essential that they rest over the Christmas period and have time with their own families, which I know you support fully.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, you do not need to contact us. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, we do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

Public Health England guidance states that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Please remember to:

- wash your hands with soap and water often - do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If you need any clarification on the above information and the processes during the first 6 days of Christmas, please let us know before Friday.

It has been quite a year, but I truly hope you can spend some quality time with your children enjoy the festive season. We will look forward to seeing you all back safe and well on Monday January 4th. Have a wonderful Christmas, and our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 2021.

Mrs Sam Norton
Headteacher





Dear Mrs Norton,




I am writing to you about how lucky I am to have such a kind and caring headteacher for this fantastic school born by you. Thank you also for looking after me when I'm sad and having hard times with my family. You are a positive, person who is smiling every day!

You've kept me safe by reading every single document for Covid 19, spraying down tables and cleaning doors, toilets and corridors. I am really happy there's a vaccine coming soon so you don't have so much on your plate. My body and my hands thank you!

My worries or concerns about coming back to school this term were how strict will the coronavirus rules be at school? If we'll be going into lockdown again because of us? Will the teachers be stricter because of Covid? But, all of these worries and concerns have passed because of your amazing effort!

My hopes for 2021 are all positives like this virus is soon going to be eliminated because of the vaccine and that we can get back to work and what we do best! You are a golden treasure to me, thank you.



Yours sincerely, Timmy.





Dear Mrs Norton,

I'm writing to you about how grateful I am when you're working on safety and still trying to keep a sort of normality. I am so grateful of what you've done to keep it safe and fun at the same time. You have been responsible for everything that has happened to our school in this unprecedented time.

This term I was a bit nervous that I would get in trouble but the way you described everything perfectly. I really understood everything because of the way you said it. I really understood the rules and restrictions that we had to obey so tightly and saw why we had to do it.

The way you kept us safe is and was phenomenal the way you stayed up late to read sixty pages of rules, daily! It's amazing the way you walk the corridors cleaning walls and banisters. Plus you have to still do all the normal things headteachers have to do on a daily basis. All this and tons more!

In twenty twenty one, I hope that life and school will return to some normality. I hope everyone will have the vaccine and Covid 19 will be gone for good.

Yours sincerely Ben





Dear Mrs Norton



I am writing this letter to you because of all the things you have done for the school: you are constantly answering big questions and checking emails and thanking teachers and school council and green force. But now, someone needs to thank you! :)



When we came back to school this term I was worried that someone would bump into me, or that I wouldn't sanitize enough, or that I would get a cold or something. 2020 has been a funny year! :)



But you made sure that we all sanitize and that we social distance as much as possible! you have had to read all those documents and have had to co-ordinate different classes being in different places at different times! :)

I really hope that 2021 will be different

and that there will be a vaccine as soon as possible! Then I can hug my friends and see my family again!



Thank youuuuuuuuuuu!!!

Yours sincerely Maddie :)



P.S: Thaaaaaaank youuu!!!

P.P.S: Thank youuuuuuuuuuu sooooo much!

Small school big opportunities

Census Day—Thursday 21st Jan 2021

For the children in Years R, 1 & 2, we will be ordering all children these classes a hot school meal on Thursday 21st Jan, free of charge. All children are urged to try the meal please. If they really do not want the meal, they may bring in their own packed lunch to eat once they have tried the hot meal.

For children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6, if you wish to have a hot meal you will need to order one in the usual way, via meal selector.



£2.35

Childrens Choice Menu

Thursday 21st January

Choose a main

Sausages & Mash

Cheese & Tomato Pasta

on the side...

Vegetables or Salad

for dessert...

Chocolate Fudge
Brownie

for drink....

Blackcurrant Squash,
Milk or Water



 west sussex county council

To enjoy our Census Day Menu, please order at www.mealselector.co.uk by Sunday 9th January.

Please note: ordering is for KS2 children only.

 Chartwells

Make memories, not food waste, with Wastebuster!

Sadly, we waste the equivalent of more than 4 million Christmas dinners and around 7.4 million mince pies every year in the UK.

So, this Christmas the Green Force time would like the school to follow the Wastebuster campaign of 'make memories, not food waste'.

Wastebuster is asking us to think about food waste more responsibly. 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.



What ways could we reduce food waste at home and at school? Our Green Force team will be sending home a Christmas challenge all about reducing waste. Please complete the challenge at home then bring it back into school at the start of next term to share with your class. The Green Force team will also email a copy of your ideas to the Wastebuster team. We want everyone to make positive steps to reducing waste, and by taking part, Thakeham will receive a special Wastebuster award at the end of the school year. In school we will be launching the challenge in our class assemblies. The children will be



SAM Music Offer

If you would like your child to learn to play an instrument, why not take up this offer from SAM Music Service. They are currently offering online lessons, so there is no need to even leave the house!

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





SAM Online
www.sammusicservice.com
0800 756 9411



Weekly 30 Minute 1:1 Online Music Lessons Guitar / Drum Kit / Piano / Keyboard / Vocals

- *Online music lessons from home*
- *Learn to play the guitar, drum kit, piano / keyboard or to sing*
- *Childcare Vouchers accepted*
- *Ofsted registered*
- *Half-price taster lesson (£8.25)*

[Watch this video about SAM's online instrument lessons](#)

Dear parent,

We would like to inform you of SAM Music Service, who provide 30 minute one-to-one online music lessons, allowing your child the opportunity of learning to play the guitar, drum kit, piano / keyboard or to sing.

Lessons are on a weekly basis, and available until 8pm on weekdays, and 9am to 5pm on weekends, there are plenty of times to choose from to suit your weekly diary.

You are welcome to book a one-off half-price (£8.25) trial lesson, to be sure your child enjoyed the experience and is keen to continue.

***[Tax-Free Childcare](#)** - SAM is Ofsted registered and accepts payment through the government's childcare voucher scheme, along with other childcare voucher providers, a great way to help reduce the price of lessons.*

Lessons are affordable at £16.50 per 30 minute individual lesson, suitable for both children and adults.

To enquire, complete the short contact form on [SAM's website](#), and they'll be in touch soon, or you can call 0800 756 9411 to speak to one of their friendly team.

[SAM's Facebook page](#)

sammusicservice.com

lessons@sammusicservice.com

St. Mary's Church, Thakeham
&
Thakeham Community Events

present
#ThakehamAngels

"We bring you great news of amazing joy"
said the angels



LET'S FILL
THAKEHAM
WITH
ANGELS
AND SPREAD
CHRISTMAS
JOY THROUGHOUT
OUR VILLAGE

It would be amazing to see our village filled with angels this Christmas.
The angels brought "good news of great joy" at the first Christmas
and they bring the same to us today.

... we could all do with some good news and joy this year...

Whether you put a drawing of an angel in your window or create a life-size scarecrow figure for your garden or something in-between,
we can all get involved in #ThakehamAngels.

From Friday 18th December post a photo of your creation on Facebook
using the hashtag: #ThakehamAngels



THAKEHAM
COMMUNITY
EVENTS



Sullington & Thakeham with Warminghurst

Some family. Two parishes. Working together.