



# THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'*

25th January 2021



## Super Learning Hero Awards

**Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 11th January 2021, awarded in Celebration assembly on 19th January 2021:**

Positive, Persevering

Poppy

Gabrielle (Acorn)

Sam (Acorn)

Olivia (Oak)

Evelyn (Oak)

Emily (Elder)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

Chloe (Maple)

**Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 18th January 2021, to be awarded in Celebration assembly on 26th January 2021:**

Positive, Persevering

Poppy

Sadie (Maple)

Ben (Elder)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Logan (Oak)

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

Olivia (Acorn)

Freddie (Oak)

## Time to Shine

Congratulations to **Bertie** who has been a very helpful and lovely big brother. As well as doing his home learning, he has been a really big help at home helping with his little brother Henri, tidying his bedroom, emptying the washing machine, washing up his cups and plates, and cleaning the dinning table. Wow, well done Bertie, that's lovely to hear.

## Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has certainly been very chilly lately, though the snow seen by many across the country, seems to have missed us so far, much to the disappointment of the children I am sure! If we do need to close the school due to snow, we will alert parents/carers by text/email/school website.

We are now half-way through the date as we know it so far, of the latest national lockdown. As usual there is much speculation in the media about when restrictions will be eased and when/in what format schools will return. As soon as we have further information we will update you, you may be aware that the government have promised to provide 2 weeks notice for the return to school.

### **Welcome to the Thakeham Family**

It has been busy over the past few weeks welcoming new children to the school. We now say a very warm welcome to Ella in Year 2 (Oak Class) and Mary in Year 4 (Maple Class) who have now joined us from Brighton and Hove, (though not yet on site). For all the new children who have stated since January we have organised calls with their teachers and myself and we have also planned brief socially distanced 'hellos' in



the school car park! There will be an opportunity for the children to meet each other during class Google meets.

The school now has 105/105 on roll, though we do still have a place in Reception and Year 3.

### **Reminders for those onsite**

Children are really in the swing of the new school times and routines now, thank you for your support with these. Just a couple of reminders to make you aware of.

It is particularly cold at the moment, so please ensure your child comes to school with plenty of layers on as we try to keep rooms ventilated as one of our Covid control measures. They will also need a warm coat/gloves/scarf/hat to keep them warm outside.

To help support onsite arrangements, please ensure you arrive promptly at 9am. We have only minimal staff onsite to collect late comers.

It would really help us to minimise the number of contacts/touchpoints and in light of reduced staffing onsite, please ensure your child enters school with their water bottle/belongings, rather than bring them along later. We understand mornings can be a rush at times, but your full support with this would be appreciated.

### **Home Learning**

We are delighted with the resilience shown by children (and parents) in persisting with home learning. Teachers and TAs are thoroughly enjoying seeing all that the children are producing. Thank you to parents for your encouragement, support and patience as we do understand how difficult this is on a number of levels.

Teachers are working very hard to prepare lessons and resources and we hope your child is finding the videos helpful alongside written instructions. A reminder that your child can ask a question/seek clarification/support via SeeSaw (Year 1 to 6). If parents need to pass on any messages or information, please use the office email: [office@thakehamps.co.uk](mailto:office@thakehamps.co.uk) We have loaned laptops for those in need of one, if you do have issues on this front, please let the office know.

Also coming out to you today is a letter from Paul Wagstaff, Director of Education for WSCC on the topic of home learning. It sets out the national expectations and explains that just like schools are organised in different ways and deliver the learning differently, so too may home learning be unique to each school. It makes an interesting point about expectations of levels of independent working (as age appropriate). We are very grateful for the support of parents with home learning, but would also highlight that once children have set off on the task that they should try to complete the learning as independently as possible. Encouragement and reminders to focus are really appreciated, but if the work is heavily supported by the parent this may affect our assessment of what your child can do/understands. We would much rather see what the children can do in the time as independently as possible as this helps us to accurately plan the next steps in the child's learning and will also make the transition back to school much easier.

In 'normal' times, many children who are Pupil Premium receive in school support and intervention from Mrs Mills. These sessions will resume this week for those in school and Mrs Mills will be contacting children who are at home to support with learning also. This is a trial as we look to provide additional learning support for those who are eligible but learning at home. For this and any other online contact we will be sending out our policy and protocols this week to ensure effective safeguarding procedures during these online times.

If you questions or queries about home learning, please feel free to contact the school office either by email or by phone.

### **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.**

### **Physical and Mental Wellbeing**

Each week both in school and for home learning, teachers are setting PE tasks and PSHE (Jigsaw) learning. These are 2 of our School Strategic Development areas of which we remain very committed to, despite lockdown. We recognise that for children to be away from their teacher and friends can be challenging, and some may struggle at times. This is a very normal reaction to a very abnormal situation. As with last year's lockdown, staff closely monitor children's wellbeing and some will receive individual weekly calls or Google meets to support wellbeing and engagement.

The online platforms we use have been a really useful tool to help children stay connected with their teacher and I know that in addition to the set learning, many have personalised the week to include 'lighter moments' to help ease the strain. We hope your child is finding the weekly class Google meets a helpful way of staying in touch and boosting spirits.

If you do find your child is struggling emotionally, despite best endeavours at home and from school, please do alert your child's teacher, via the school office email or by phone. As soon as the teacher is available they will be in touch either by phone or email or Google meet and can also send a message to your child via Seesaw.

If you are worried about your child's wellbeing there are other sources of support that we can signpost you to including:

- **Partnership for Children**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KqYAUVneOU&feature=emb\\_logo&safe=true](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KqYAUVneOU&feature=emb_logo&safe=true)

This video is from the UK charity Partnership for Children which helps children to be mentally and emotionally healthy – just as exercise, good food and sleep help them to be physically healthy.

The website <https://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/what-we-do/childrens-wellbeing-activities-for-teaching-staff-and-families.html> has details of useful ideas and strategies to support children during the Covid-19 pandemic which are based on their [Skills for Life programmes](#). These can be used to help your child find healthy ways to deal with their feelings and reactions to the Covid-19 situation.

- **Young Minds**

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

This UK charity offers tips, advice and where to get support for your child's mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. You can call the [Parents' and Carers' Helpline](#) on 0808 802 5544.

- **MindEd for Families**

[MindEd for families](#) is a free online educational resource on children and young people's mental health for all adults, which can support parents and carers through these exceptional circumstances.

Further support and advice can also be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

- **Childline**

[ChildLine](#) provides a confidential helpline for any child with a problem. It comforts, advises and protects.

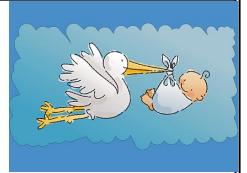
You can:

- call 0800 1111 any time for free
- have an [online chat with a counsellor](#)
- check out the [message boards](#)

In line with our Strategic Development work and in true Co-operative, Caring Craig spirit, we will be holding a special day to focus on children looking after their minds and bodies. This will be instead of the usual home learning offer on Thursday 11th February (details to follow). This will be for children at home and at school.

**Free School Meals Vouchers**

## Staff Updates



We are delighted to share with you that Mrs Eatwell is expecting her 2nd baby in the summer term! Mrs Eatwell usually teaches in Elder on Fridays and teaches French across both Elder and Maple classes. She will finish her contract with us at the end of the summer term, beginning her maternity leave at Easter. Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Eatwell and we can't wait to hear the baby news in the summer term.

We warmly welcomed Mrs St Clair to Thakeham last week. At the moment she is supporting learning in the 'KS2 bubble' though in 'normal times' she will be Teaching Assistant in Elder Class, in addition to Mrs Bowbrick. Mrs St Clair is a qualified teacher and also Director of West Chiltonton Pioneers Club (wrap around childcare) so a great asset to our staff team.

## Staff Covid Testing (Lateral Flow Devices)

This week sees us take delivery of staff lateral flow tests to be offered as home testing kits to all staff currently working on site. Staff will have the opportunity to test themselves for Covid-19 twice a week with the principle aim of the government to identify any asymptomatic adults, thereby reducing the spread of Covid-19. The scheme is voluntary, though we hope staff will take up on this opportunity alongside the other measures we have in place to help keep everyone safe.

## Covid Symptoms

A reminder for all that should you or anyone else in your household experience any of the 3 covid-19 symptoms, you must book a test and self-isolate for 10 days.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child has a place at school currently, please inform us if your children is absent for this reason (or any other) via the usual email address ([office@thakehamps.co.uk](mailto:office@thakehamps.co.uk)). If your child tests positive, please report this to us using the following email address:

**[covid@thakehamps.co.uk](mailto:covid@thakehamps.co.uk)**

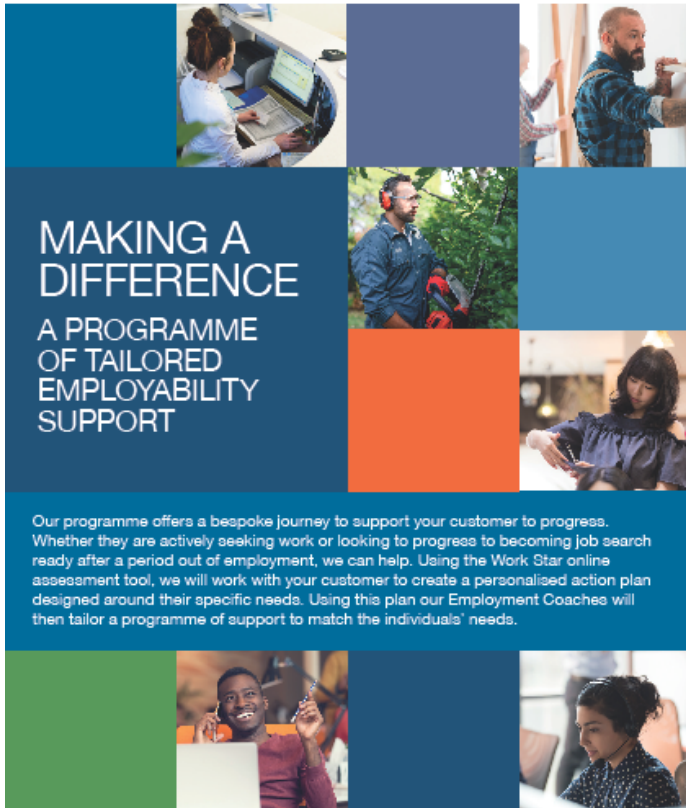
This email should only be used for this purpose. It is monitored throughout the week/evening and at the weekend to support swift implementation of tracing close contacts of the individual who has tested positive.

Best Wishes Mrs Sam Norton

(Headteacher).

## Employability Support Scheme

We have been contacted about a new employability service in Horsham that is offering support to unemployed people in West Sussex. The service is free and personalised to offer people the best chance of finding work. They particularly want to support parents during these difficult times and have asked us to share the flyer below about their service.



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**  
A PROGRAMME OF TAILORED EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT

Our programme offers a bespoke journey to support your customer to progress. Whether they are actively seeking work or looking to progress to becoming job search ready after a period out of employment, we can help. Using the Work Star online assessment tool, we will work with your customer to create a personalised action plan designed around their specific needs. Using this plan our Employment Coaches will then tailor a programme of support to match the individuals' needs.



For each customer, their programme will last up to four months with a range of interventions on offer, including but not limited to:

Group workshops covering:	Employer-led activities including:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CV writing</li><li>• Interview skills</li><li>• Money management</li><li>• Confidence and self-esteem building</li><li>• Transferable skills</li><li>• Sector specific labour market information.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Job tasters</li><li>• Volunteering opportunities</li><li>• Jobs fairs</li><li>• Conferences</li><li>• Work experience.</li></ul>

All customers will be offered a free advice and guidance session with a qualified National Careers Service Adviser before starting the Making a Difference programme. Customers will have access to a dedicated Employment Coach for the full period of their programme who will offer 1-2-1s by phone, email and face to face where restrictions allow.

Our Employment Coaches are supported by a dedicated Employer Engagement Manager who will offer a range of employer led activities and opportunities designed to achieve customer progression.

If you would like to join the Making a Difference programme, talk to your National Careers Service Adviser who will be able to make an appointment for you. Alternatively, for more information and to speak to us about joining the programme please email [mades@educationdevelopmenttrust.com](mailto:mades@educationdevelopmenttrust.com) or call 01329 559177 to make an appointment.

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