

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

12th October 2020



Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 28th September 2020, awarded in Celebration assembly on 5th October 2020:

Positive, Persevering
Poppy
Freddie (Oak)

Co-operative, Caring
Craig

Curious, Questioning
Quinn
Noah (Maple)

Reflective, Reviewing
Ruby
Joseph (Acorn)
Eryn (Oak)
Ben (Elder)
Beth (Elder)

Headteacher award

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 5th October 2020, awarded in Celebration assembly on 12th October 2020:

Positive, Persevering
Poppy
Dylan (Oak)
Lucy (Oak)

Co-operative, Caring
Craig
Rocky (Elder)

Curious, Questioning
Quinn
Poppy (Maple)

Reflective, Reviewing
Ruby
Reggie (Acorn)
Callum (Elder)

Hall of Fame
Ava (Elder)

Time to Shine!

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

Poppy (Maple) & Maddie (Elder) for their effort and practice involved in recent auditions.

Daniel (Maple) for being awarded 'Player of the Week' in rugby at Pulborough RFC.

Beth (Elder) for being awarded 'Player of the Year' in rugby at Pulborough RFC.

Mabel (Elder) for being awarded a solo part in the Theatre Academy she attends.

Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Harvest Celebration

It was so wonderful to have a slice of 'normality' during this time with a visit from Rev'd Sara-Jane from St. Mary's Church, Thakeham to help us celebrate Harvest. Children from each class shared their thoughts and feelings through paintings, poetry and readings on the theme of hope, which we felt was a very fitting theme for this year's Harvest celebration. Thank you to parents and carers for sending in your kind donations which Rev'd Sara-Jane collected from outside of the school to take to the charity 'Family Support'. We are sorry we

could not welcome you into school for the celebration, but here are some photographs to provide a flavour of the event. As well as our usual parent presence, we also missed not being able to sing due to Covid-19 reasons!



Covid-19 Related Matters

End of day arrangements

The vast majority of parents are now in the swing of following the arrangements in place regarding where to stand to collect children at the end of the day. It is so important that we keep pathways clear so that teachers dismissing children can see parents/carers and to enable children to walk to their parent without having to weave in and out of other parents. A reminder for Elder parents to stand alongside the path adjacent to the stream where there are socially distanced markers on the fence. Please do not wait for your child in the middle of the car park or on any other path. Also if you have a child in Maple and Elder classes that are dismissed at the same time, please take up your place on the playground for your Maple child; Elder children will be sent across to meet you on the playground.

Acorn parents, a reminder to please stand on the left hand side of the pathway as you face the school (black playground fence side) so we can keep the pathway clear on the right hand side for children to walk down to meet their parents.

Parking

Only parents/carers of children in Elder class should be using the drop off area in the coach bay. No other classes should be dropping children off in the mornings in this area – please park and wait with your child. It is a parental responsibility to ensure your child arrives safely in school. The same applies to parking at the end of

the school day. We have made these arrangements clear in many different communications over the past 5 weeks, so if issues persist we will need to take further action with individual parents. The parking bay is used by SGS for coaches at both ends of the day and it is important we respect this. Also if parents of other year groups are using this area, this prevents Y5/6 parents from being able to access it.

A note too for all parents/carers to please only park in allocated spaces. There are some parents causing congestion and potentially dangerous conditions for others by creating their own additional spaces.

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 at SGS (Shooting Field Site)

Many of you will be aware that unfortunately SGS have had 2 confirmed cases of Covid-19 on their Shooting Field site—NOT Rock Road. This does not affect any of our planned learning activities or day to day operations.

Home Learning if in self-isolation for Covid-19 reasons

It is the DfE's expectation that the school set home learning for all pupils who are required to self-isolate due to Covid-19 reasons. Our Home Learning Policy (not to be confused with our Homework Policy) is going through a consultation process with staff and governors currently and will be available for you next week. It is our expectation that children engage fully in the home learning provided, to ensure their absence does not impact on their progress and attainment. If children are required to remain at home due to testing reasons or in the closure of a bubble, this could mean them missing a significant proportion of learning. Your full support with this at home is very much appreciated. Of course, if your child is unwell with Covid-19 symptoms we would not expect them to engage in the learning until they are well.

Our baseline assessments show that the long gap of time away from school has had a significant impact on many children's starting points this September. Whilst the government have provided some 'Catch-up' funding to support with addressing gaps in pupils' learning, as this is equivalent to £80 per child, you can imagine this will not be enough to address all of the issues caused by the lockdown. Teachers will deliver this support which will be discussed with you at Parent-Teacher Consultations as needed.

Temporary Start/End of the Day Arrangements from Thursday 12th -Friday 23rd October

Our replacement window/cladding project is going very well, despite the periods of inclement weather! So far the windows have been replaced in most of the rooms along the western elevation (stream side) of the building. This Thursday 15th October, works will commence on the corridor section of windows and cladding. As a result of this work we will not be able to have children /staff enter/leave the school via the main entrance area and part of the playground/Acorn outside area will be cordoned off to allow works to progress safely. Acorns will use the playground during the day for their outside activities.

We will send out the amended plan separately. We ask you to study this carefully as this will result in change for most of the start/finish times and collection/drop off points for the classes. We ask you to bear with us on this temporary change until we finish school for the half-term break. The improvements will be worth any inconvenience!

Parent -Teacher Consultations

Last week we sent out details of dates and appointments to all parents/carers. Thank you for signing up for these so promptly. These will be via Google Meet as explained previously due to Covid-19 reasons. Your code for these will be sent out by the end of this week.

Prospective Parents for Reception 2021

Available on our website under the 'Parents' tab are details regarding arrangements in place of our traditional Open Event Meetings. Prospective parents will find a detailed presentation and hopefully later today we will be uploading our school virtual tour video. A huge thank you to staff, pupils and parents who contributed to this! Prospective parents are also being offered a place on an external tour of the school (prior booking essential for track and trace reasons). Prospective parents are invited to send in any questions they may have after viewing the powerpoint and video. This will inform answers to FAQs which we will post on our website. We have contacted all local early years providers, but please do feel free to pass on this information to any parent who is considering a place at Thakeham.

With Very Best Wishes

Mrs Sam Norton

Headteacher

Introduction to Sumdog



At school, we're using an engaging learning program called Sumdog. It uses games to encourage children to practise, and automatically adapts to your child's needs.

Below is some key information about what Sumdog is, how it works, and how you can help your child get the most out of using it.

What is Sumdog?	<p>Sumdog is an online learning service that adapts to each individual child, using engaging games to motivate and build confidence.</p> <p>Sumdog provides fun practice in numeracy and literacy for children aged 5-14, and literacy for children aged 5-11.</p>
How can pupils access Sumdog?	<p>Sumdog can be accessed on a variety of devices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Desktop computers and laptops• Tablets• Smartphones <p>Access online via www.sumdog.com, or download the free Sumdog app from the Apple or Play store.</p>
Why use Sumdog?	<p>Sumdog's mission is to help every pupil reach their full potential by making learning fun.</p> <p>Sumdog recommends your child spends at least 30 minutes each week on Sumdog, which can be broken up into smaller chunks of time. The little and often approach gives them regular and consistent practice.</p> <p>When a child uses Sumdog for 30 minutes or more in a week, they will be rewarded with 100 bonus Sumdog coins on screen.</p>
What can pupils do?	<p>When pupils first use Sumdog, the service will assess the level at which each child should be working, so they get personalised questions. After they complete this diagnostic test, they will work through the curriculum at their own level and speed.</p> <p>When playing Sumdog games, pupils have the choice of playing against the Sumdog robot, their friends, or other pupils from around the world. Don't worry, they can't communicate with them, they are just competing against them. Sumdog asks each child personalised questions and rewards them for correct answers, so they can win against children of higher ages or abilities!</p>
What can teachers do?	<p>Teachers can use Sumdog in a variety of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set specific skills for pupils to practice• Assess and track pupils progress• Use as an intervention tool or to extend learning
What can parents do?	<p>Parents can also sign up for a free parent account. With your parent account you will be able to keep track of what your child is learning in school. You can also play the games with them and encourage them along the way! Sign up at www.sumdog.com</p>
Sumdog Contests	<p>Sumdog's contests are free to take part in. They let children compete against other classes - either locally or nationwide. Their scores will count towards their class' score in the contest. The score is a class average. The questions adapt to each pupil's ability - so everyone has a fair chance of winning!</p> <p>All contests last a week and they can play at any time during the contest week - either at home or at school.</p>

www.sumdog.com

Sumdog is published internationally by Sumdog Ltd. (43 Queensferry Street Lane, Edinburgh, registration SC167331), and is distributed in the USA by Sumdog Inc (902 Broadway, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10010, EIN 35-2503565)



Christmas Card Competition for Andrew Griffith MP



Every year, Andrew Griffith (the member of parliament for Arundel & South Downs) sends a Christmas card to over 1,500 people, including the Prime Minister. This year he has opened up his Christmas Card Competition to include children from Thakeham Primary School. This will be a special opportunity for our young Thakeham artists to potentially have their work reproduced and circulated to a wider audience.

If your child would like to take part in designing a Christmas card for him, please submit your entry following these simple rules;

- No words – these will be printed on the finished design
- A flat medium – eg. No cotton wool, glitter or large decorations.
- No bigger than A4.
- Approximately in a rectangle shape that can be reproduced on a card.

A scan or photograph of the artwork should be emailed by **15th November** to christmas@andrewgriffithmp.com You should include the child's name, ages and school.

Tips: Mr Griffith would be especially happy to see paintings incorporating local places or scenes.

Andrea Prior, the South Downs based children's author and illustrator will be helping judge the entries. The overall winner and 10 runners up will receive a prize. Each suitable entry received will be displayed on the online gallery on Mr Griffith's website <http://www.andrewgriffithmp.com/christmas> and every child will receive a personal letter of thanks.

Mr Griffith is looking forward to receiving your children's pictures.
Good Luck!



www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions



**Was your child born between
1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017?**

If so they are eligible to start
school in September 2021.

Apply online!

It's simple, convenient
and timesaving. If your
application is received after
the deadline of Friday 15
January 2021 your chance
of securing a place at one of
your preference schools could
be seriously affected.

You can apply online from Monday
5 October 2020. If you would like
further advice or information contact:

03330 142 903

Free internet access to apply
online is available at all:

- West Sussex libraries
- Children and Family Centres



Apply online at:
www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions
Deadline: Friday 15 January 2021



Wednesday 16th December

£2.35



Festive Menu

Choose a main meal...

Roast Turkey
with Stuffing, Cocktail Sausage & Gravy
or
Quorn Fillet
with Stuffing Ball & Gravy

on the side...

Roast Potatoes
Peas and Carrots

for dessert...

Chocolate Dipped Shortbread
or
Fruit Salad

for a drink...

Fruit Squash
Milk
Water



*To enjoy our festive-inspired day, please
order at www.mealselector.co.uk
no later than Sunday 6th December
2020*


