

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'



Friday 12th January 2018

Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 11th December 2017. These awards were recognised in assembly on Monday 18th December.

<u>Positive, Persevering</u> Poppy Jonatan ((Maple)	<u>Co-operative, Caring</u> Craig	<u>Curious, Questioning</u> Quinn Amber (Oak)	<u>Reflective, Reviewing</u> Ruby Jessica (Acorn)/Evie/ Evelyn (Elder)
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Head Teacher's Award

Dylan A (Maple)/Dylan FF (Elder)

Governor's Award

Dylan FF (Elder)

Congratulations goes to the following children for being given awards for the week commencing 8th January 2018. These awards will be recognised in assembly on Monday 15th January 2018.

<u>Positive, Persevering</u> Poppy Emma Rose (Maple) Reuben (Oak)	<u>Co-operative, Caring</u> Craig	<u>Curious, Questioning</u> Quinn Millie/Isabella (Elder)	<u>Reflective, Reviewing</u> Ruby
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Head Teacher's Award

Harrison (Acorn)/Isabella (Elder)/Dylan FF (Elder)

Time to Shine



Congratulations to these children for their outstanding achievements outside of school, well done to all of you



Grace (Oak) Achievements in Karate



Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and I hope you enjoyed a wonderful time with your children over the Christmas break.

Christmas Celebrations

Nativities and Church Service

It was a busy end to our first term as a Primary School at our new site with many festive celebrations. The EYFS/Year 1 Nativities were a joy to behold! We were very proud of all the children's achievements and were very impressed with their confidence with singing and acting. It was notable to see how far the EYFS children had come in just 14 weeks and the Y1/2 children in a year. These events were well attended by parents and families so thank you for supporting your child and the school. A huge thank you to Mrs Byatt, Mrs Hoare, Miss Killner Brown for their hard work in organising and leading the performances and also to Mr Beeching, Mrs Younger and Mrs Turner for their help with preparations, rehearsals and performances. Next year we will be able to host the concerts in our new hall, which if you haven't seen yet, is quite spectacular.

KS2 pupils joined together at St. Mary's Church in Thakeham to celebrate with a service packed with carols, readings and prayers and of course much joy! Once again we were so impressed with the quality of singing and the clarity and confidence with which the children delivered their readings. At such a hectic time of the year it was a welcome opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. The warm welcome from Church Warden Allison Goodfellow and Rev'd Bernard Sinton was palpable and we are grateful to them for continued celebrations at St. Mary's Church. Despite feeling very under the weather, Mrs Hopkins played the guitar and co-ordinated the service with such gusto and enthusiasm. We really are so grateful for all her hard work in preparing for this event, supported by Mr Penty. It was wonderful to also have governor representation at this event.

We are pleased that St Mary's church have taken up our offer this year of leading assemblies at points across the next 2 terms and look forward to sharing news with you about this.

As always a visit from SPLASH brightened our day—the children always enjoy these assemblies and was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the Christmas story. SPLASH visit our school each term and provide a Christian based assembly to the whole school—always accompanied by wonderful props. We look forward to further visits this year.

Further links are being established with other local churches including Trinity Methodist Church and Rev'd Dawn Carn will also be visiting us to lead an assembly this term.

Carol Performance at Sussex Care Downs Home

This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the children's singing talents, bring some cheer to the senior citizens and workers of the care home and of course continue to play our part in the community. Once again we were very proud of the children's singing achievements and how well they represented the school. Thank you to parents for help with transport and supporting the children at this event.

Fabulous Finishes

Maple and Elder class hosted their Fabulous Finishes at the end of term which we well attended and enjoyed by both the children and parents. Thank you for joining us and sharing in some of the highlights of the children's work this term.

Decorations Afternoon & Christmas Fayre

Thank you to parents for joining us to help decorate the classrooms and areas around the school in preparation for the Christmas Fayre. It is always good to have parents in school helping alongside children and staff.

I am so grateful to the parents of the FOTS team for all their hard work and preparations for the Fayre. Once again parents worked alongside staff with support from a governor to host our Christmas Fayre, the first on our new site. It was a great success and we look forward to putting the hard earned £960 towards shade canopies to extend our learning to outside areas and help protect the children whilst out at play. Once again the new hall will be the perfect venue for this in the coming year.

Christmas Lunch

Turkey and all the trimmings was the order of the day, rounding off our festivities nicely. Barbara, our new Chartwells School Cook did a wonderful job as did the staff who helped in the hall. A thank you to FOTS for providing the Christmas Crackers which the children clearly enjoyed!

Eco Warriors News

Our Eco Warriors watched the laying of our wildflower turf on the last day of term. We can't wait to watch the flowers grow from spring onwards. The gardeners shared with the children that it was the same type of wildflower turf used at the opening ceremony for the London Olympics!



New Term, New Year, New Resources

It was a busy time during the Christmas holidays and the on the INSET days at school. Mr Gilligan has started to paint the corridor which will be the back drop for a whole-school Art project this term. Each child will make a clay leaf for our Thakeham tree that will extend along the wall and up the corridor.

Our new hall is now operational and is truly spectacular! We can't wait to host our summer production and other events to make full use of the AV system. It is also a wonderful, purpose built space for PE. We have been lucky enough to have new gymnastics wall bars installed and have taken delivery of a whole range of new PE apparatus this week including mats, balance beam, tables and benches. The children have already used some of the equipment and so is already having a positive impact on teaching and learning. We look forward to further resources for the hall including new chairs, blinds and display boards shortly.

As per communication before Christmas, work is underway to provide us with a new roof. This will also involve replacement or removal of some roof lights. This work is due to last around 3 months and so we have postponed our official school opening ceremony until the works has finished, details to follow in due course. Scaffolding is up around the school as needed and children have been reminded not to touch this and been reminded about being safe.

Next week playground markings chosen by the School Council last year will bring some colour, fun and educational value to the playground. These are being laid on Tuesday afternoon. For some children in Maple class week, this involved real life Maths, measuring the area needed for some of these. Depending on how long this takes, we may need to close the playground at the end of the school day and dismiss children via the front entrance area. We will provide a further update on the day by text message.

Arrangements for the adventure trim trail have been finalised and this will be installed in February. This was partly funded by FOTS, use of our school budget that can only be used for premises related work and our Sports Funding. We are all very excited. It is worth pointing out that this will **only be for use by the children on roll at our school and strictly during school time only. This equipment will be out of bounds before/after school.**

We would also like to remind you only children with relevant permissions in Year 6 can travel unaccompanied to school and therefore be dropped off in the morning. All other children should remain supervised by parents/carers/by an adult we are aware of, on the school site. This includes the playground and car park area. At the end of the school day children should also be supervised on the playground as outlined as staff are not contracted to be on duty outside once they dismiss their class. Before and after school, equipment is not available for use including balls, hoops, Connect 4, bikes, trikes etc.

Whilst we have temporary fencing on the edge of our playground, children should not use this top playground at the beginning/end of the school day. We have reminded the children not to touch the scaffolding, parent supervision and enforcement of this at these days of the day is also important.

Parents may be aware that earlier this week one of our pupils was injured after the end of school. If there are any concerns you have about child safety on site, for whatever reason, please do discuss this with me. We will continue to employ health and safety measures and apply vigilance but also ask for parent support with this too.

All of our dates for this term are available on our website calendar. Letters will continue to be sent home of events. There are many exciting learning opportunities planned for the term ahead which we hope you will be able to join us for.

A reminder that if you wish to speak to teachers or myself we are available for a quick chat at the beginning/end of the day or will happily make an appointment to see you at a convenient time. Please just be mindful that the beginning of the day children and staff are eager to move inside quickly to get learning underway, so if you do need more time, the end of the day is much better for everyone.

The Hive

We received sad news in the holidays that The Hive will no longer be operating on our school site past the end of January. This is due to very low numbers using the service, making it unsustainable for Jenny and Sue, despite financial assistance to keep this service going from us as a school. You may recall an open event was held last term to try to boost numbers but sadly only 1 parent attended. The Hive will be operating alternative arrangements for children offering a shuttle service to their base at Washington Community Hall. If you would like further information on this please contact The Hive directly or ask at the school office.

We will now look at a range of further options for wrap around care on site as some parents have requested this.

Best Wishes,

Mrs S. Norton

Photo of the Fortnight



West Sussex Music Service

On Friday 26th January we will have a guest speaker from West Sussex Music to visit our Year 2–6 children. Valerie Will will be inspiring the children to learn a musical instrument with a view to teaching violin, guitar and ukulele here at school. You can visit West Sussex Music at www.westsussexmusic.co.uk to learn more about their services



Oak Stunning Start

On Monday, Oak received a special delivery from Antarctica. The children were really excited to see what was inside and we eagerly ripped open the package. A baby penguin popped its head out of the box and the children quickly named him Fluffy. The rest of the day was spent learning how to care for Fluffy and we even had a penguin waddling competition.



Wombles

The Wombles grabbed their gloves and buckets again on Tuesday 8th January to tidy our adopted part of Rock Road. We are happy to report that there was a lot less rubbish for us to collect this time. Still too many sweet papers and drinks bottles though! We had members of the public stop and thank us for all of our hard work. Thank you Wombles.



DEAR Oak Class

DEAR Time: On Friday a class of Year 7 children from Steyning Grammar School came over to read their written and published stories to Oak Class. The children found this time extremely rewarding and thoroughly enjoyed hearing the stories read to them. There will be many other opportunities this term for more students to come across and read, which Oak Class are already excited about.

