

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'



Wednesday 28th April 2021

Super Learning Hero Awards

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

Positive, Persevering

Poppy
Gabe (Oak)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig
Beth (Elder)

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby
Samuel (Acorn)
Holly (Oak)
Austin (Maple)

Headteacher award

Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Children have returned very positively following the Easter break and are back into their routines with confidence and are looking very smart!

We would like to thank you for your full support with the changes to parking implemented after Easter. A reminder to let any family member know about the changes too, in order to avoid confusion if they support with pick up/drop off. There are some measures we have been able to put in place albeit on a temporary level in relation to SGS students crossing our car park to enhance safety. We are looking to make these more permanent with a gate at the western edge of the car park.

Steps Towards 'Normality'

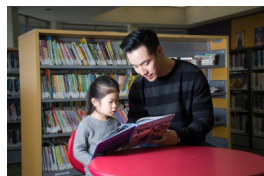
Although we have a clear roadmap out of lockdown on many levels as a nation, we haven't yet been advised by the government as to how restrictions will ease in schools over the next couple of months. We are however planning events in the school calendar with alternate scenarios should we not be able to run then in the usual traditional way. This includes transition events for new Reception children/Year 6-7 transition, Sports Day/Week, Elder Class production, end of Year 6 treat etc. Please see page x for key calendar dates. There are so many things we are all looking forward to doing later this term and into the autumn, so we are crossing everything that the plan for further relaxation of restrictions nationally, goes smoothly.

As a school and parent community we have all worked very hard to ensure to date we have not had to close a class bubble due to any confirmed Covid-19 cases since the pandemic began.

KS1 Assemblies and Class Organisation

Currently Acorn and Oak have their lunch in the hall at the same time at opposite ends of the hall. From next Monday we will revert to both classes also having assemblies together in a similar manner with a gap between the classes. In Oak/Maple/Elder classes, our tables are arranged in lines, all facing forwards in line with government Covid-19 advice. This however has been very challenging in terms of delivering effective teaching and learning, especially with the youngest children, which is recognised by the DfE. Therefore, with all of our other successful control measures in place, and with decreasing cases locally we will revert to group tables for Oak class from May 17th.

Volunteers in School



DfE advice outlines that schools are now able to welcome (parent) volunteers back into school to support learning. We have really missed our reading helpers that we introduced in the Autumn 2019 and have sadly not been able to have in school since Spring 2020. If this is something you are interested in supporting our school with, regardless of whether you have helped previously, please look out for a letter from Mrs Hopkins on this. Due to the gap of time, we will have to renew DBS (police) checks and refresh safeguarding knowledge with attendance at a face to face session in school being essential. We will also refresh parent volunteer expectations, ask that the volunteers join our LFD testing schedule and follow all of our Covid-19 protocols.

Reading is a priority area on our School Strategic Development Plan, so increasing reading opportunities will be really important to support our catch up work. We have already welcomed back parent volunteers to support with swimming and are looking forward to your support with reading once again!

FOTS (Friends of Thakeham School)

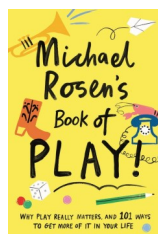
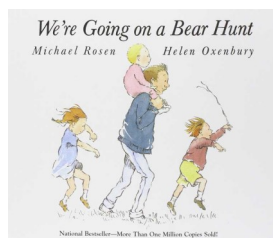
This week we were delighted to hold our first FOTS meeting (virtually) since before the pandemic. We welcomed some new parents and shared some great fundraising ideas. It was wonderful to return to home/school collaboration and discuss a fantastic project that we aim to part fund through school and FOTS support—a daily mile track. Post-lockdown it is more important than ever that we support children's physical wellbeing and recognise the positive impact this has also on children's wellbeing. We are at the stage of seeking quotes for the track which will be installed down the side of the building, where staff cars were previously parked.



We look forward to welcoming new parent FOTS members at the next meeting which will be held on Thursday 10th June.

Live Sessions with Michael Rosen at Our School!

We are very excited to be welcoming Michael Rosen virtually (live!) to our school on Thursday 1st July! He will spend a 30 minute session with Acorn & Oak classes and a 30 minutes sessions with Maple and Elder, sharing his poems, stories and experiences along with some tip tips for writing! There will be an opportunity to buy a signed book which is also very exciting. School will part fund the cost of this virtual visit and will ask for a donation of £3.00 towards the overall cost (those in receipt of Pupil Premium funding will not need to make a contribution).



New Reception Children September 2021

Despite the challenges with conducting tours to the school last autumn under Covid-19 restrictions with holding these externally and using video virtual tours, we are delighted to have a full 15 cohort of children (all first choice places), starting with us in September. Again we were oversubscribed! We have written to parents with information regarding transition arrangements and are looking forward to meeting new children and siblings of many of our current children on roll in June/July. Teachers will be meeting with pre schools/nurseries to ensure a smooth transition as well as meeting with parents in the next couple of months.

Staff Update

We are pleased to be welcoming Mrs Morling to our school in the next few weeks who will be teaching mainly in Elder class on Fridays, but who will also lead French across this class and Maple class, taking over from Mrs Eatwell. She is an experienced practitioner who will continue to add strength to our talented staff team.

Best Wishes

Mrs Sam Norton

Headteacher

Bluebell Bushcraft



£35 per day

10% discount for 5 or more days



Wilderness Kids Holiday Camp

26th—30th July & 2nd—4th August

- 9:00a.m. — 4:00p.m.

- For ages 5 - 12

- Near Ashington



- Den Building
- Climbing
- Carving and Tool Use
- Campfire Cooking
- Bramble Mazes
- Woodland Crafts
- & Much More...



To book a space, contact Matt:

matt.bluebellbushcraft@gmail.com

www.bluebellbushcraft.co.uk

An opportunity has arisen for people to apply for the role of Junior Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. This request has come from Kay Whiteley who is the Voluntary Sector Support Advisor for Horsham District Council.

If there are any parents who would be interested in applying for this role, then please click on the hyperlink for more information: <https://horsham.volunteerplus.org.uk/opportunities/48/view>

It is an exciting opportunity for someone to get involved with helping young people to become actively involved in their communities and for their voices to be heard.

Stars Gymnastics offer general gymnastics sessions and parkour Street gymnastics at various Leisure Centres close to you.

Here is the website to the club if you would like more information

www.starsgymclub.co.uk



CRICKET CAMP

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£60 NON-MEMBERS

HALF TERM
1 & 2
JUNE
09:00-15:00

**COMPLETE AN
APPLICATION
FORM TODAY!**

ANY QUESTIONS?
CONTACT: HARRY METTERS
07772 041 873 | h.mettters@live.co.uk

FINDON CRICKET CLUB, LONG
FURLONG, FINDON, SUSSEX, BN14 0RJ

FCC WILL ADHERE TO COVID SAFETY GUIDELINES AT ALL TIMES.



VEGPOWER

60-Second Vegtastic Lunchbox Hacks

Veg are a key part of a healthy diet but it can be a real struggle to get kids to eat enough of them. Adding an extra portion or two to their packed lunch will help to up their intake. Try these simple ideas to **veg-pack their lunchboxes** with limited faff.

The basic toolkit:

- 🔥 **Containers** (small and lidded for dips, leftovers and more)
- 🔥 **Cutlery** (if needed)
- 🔥 **Thermos** (any heat-retaining flask is great for soups, baked beans, leftovers, etc.)
- 🔥 **Bamboo kebab sticks** (optional, but helpful for making veggies more fun)



Top tip: Know your portions – a child's portion of veg is roughly 50g or what fits into a child's hand.



#LunchboxHacks

@VegPowerUK



For recipes, tips and
free downloads visit:
vegpower.org.uk

5 easy #LunchboxHacks to add more veg in 60 seconds or less:



1. The Salad-on-a-Stick



Get a bamboo kebab stick and thread on different veg such as cherry tomatoes, cubed cucumber, cubed cooked beetroot, chunks of peppers, raw button mushrooms, crunchy lettuce, etc) in fun colours. If your child isn't a fan of veg, try starting off by alternating veg with cooked meat, cubed cheese, etc to ease them into it.

My Favourite veg was:

2. The Lunch Crunch



1 carrot chopped into sticks (or pre-chopped carrot sticks) with a pot of hummus (or their favourite dip) adds a portion of veg.

I ate this many carrots:



3. The Sandwich Slice



Slice 5cm cucumber (about the length of a small egg) and add to a sandwich for an extra portion of veg with minimal effort.

I ate this much cucumber:



4. The Helpful Handful

Add a handful of ready-to-eat snacky veg to a container. Try cherry tomatoes, drained tinned sweetcorn, celery sticks, green beans, cucumber etc.



My Favourite veg was:

5. The Half-Baked Plan

Heat through half a tin of baked beans (ideally low sugar and salt) and stick in a heat-retaining flask for an easy veg portion win.

This week my rating is:

Top tip: Keep trying! If they are not used to veg in their packed lunch, it may be picked out and ignored on the first few days. The more they see it and interact with it, the more the veg becomes "normal".

For recipes, tips and free downloads visit:
vegpower.org.uk