

# THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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

February 4th 2019



## Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 21st January 2019, awarded in Celebration assembly on 28th January 2019:

Positive, Persevering  
Poppy

Holly (Elder)

Co-operative, Caring  
Craig

Curious, Questioning  
Quinn

Reuben (Oak)  
Sam (Elder)  
Drew (Elder)  
Harrison (Elder)  
Ruby (Elder)

Reflective, Reviewing  
Ruby

Gabe (Acorn)  
Emily (Maple)  
Ava (Maple)  
Amber (Maple)

Hall of Fame  
Drew

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 28th January 2019, awarded in Celebration assembly on 4th February 2019:

Positive, Persevering  
Poppy

Pollie (Acorn)  
Emilia (Oak)  
Flossie (Maple)

Co-operative, Caring  
Craig

Curious, Questioning  
Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing  
Ruby

Lily (Oak)  
Millie (Elder)

Headteacher award  
Archie (Elder)

Hall of Fame  
Jaime (Elder)

## Time to Shine!



Congratulations to Oliver on his success with his Connect 4 Challenge and Yeti Sleepover at Beavers!

Congratulations also to Maddy and Poppy on their Level 3 swimming award and Grace on her acting part in a local production of 'Grease' over the weekend!



## Message from Mrs Norton

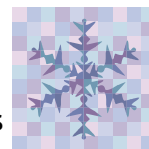
Dear Parents/Carers,

### **The Growing Thakeham Family!**

A very warm welcome to Emilia who has joined our 'Thakeham Family' in Oak Class! I know children in the class and others across the school have been just like 'Co-operative, Caring Craig' looking after her and ensuring she is settled and happy. It is wonderful to welcome another family to our school and I know that they will be warmly welcomed by our parent community. We now have 104/105 on roll and every year group is full (and many with waiting lists) apart from Year 6, though some of you may remember this year group started with just 3 pupils many years ago!

## Snowy Weather!

It has been a very cold couple of weeks, with just enough snow to excite the children, but thankfully not enough to disrupt school! In the case of inclement weather, we will communicate with you via text and a message will appear at the top of our website. You may also hear the news via local radio stations and West Sussex County Council publicise school closures on their website: <http://westsussex.cdmf.info/incident/school-closures.htm>



If you hear nothing from us—we are open!

Please ensure your child has a coat each day and even better if they have gloves/scarf/hat to keep them warm, temperatures especially in the morning, have been as low as -5 degrees!

## Curriculum Enrichment

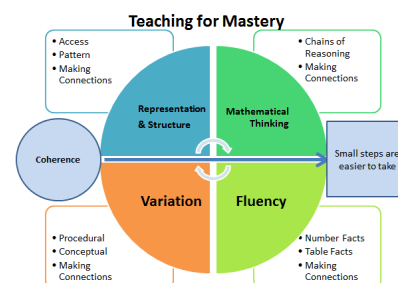
As you will see later in this newsletter, classes have been making the most of local links to enrich and deepen children's learning. Whether it be through a visiting author, Forest Schools sessions, RSPB visits or local charities such as 'Living Streets' or 'Sustrans', children are learning valuable skills and knowledge, not just about their current curriculum work but also life skills and about the world around them. Children really enjoy these sessions and many are provided free of charge.

If you are aware of how others in the local community may support and enrich our learning, or perhaps you have skills and interests that may link with our curriculum work, please do let us know. You can find our Curriculum Overviews on our website - <https://www.thakehamps.co.uk/web/pupils/>

## Mastery

We are delighted to be part of a STARS group of schools working together to improve children's understanding and skills in Maths. You may well have heard about a 'Mastery' approach to Maths, which is focussed on children developing a deep, secure understanding of mathematical concepts throughout their journey through primary school. It draws on approaches used in high achieving countries such as Singapore and Shanghai including '5 big ideas.'

Miss Brown is our Lead Teacher for Mastery and is attending on going training throughout the year, supported by a locality Mastery Specialist. She is working alongside our classteachers and TAs to trial the Mastery approaches in order for us to create our own Thakeham approach to Mastery. The impact of this has been very positive so far. Mastery is endorsed by the Department for Education, Ofsted and NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mastery).



We would like to offer parents opportunities throughout the year to learn about this approach and understand how this works at Thakeham, which I hope you will be able to take advantage of.

## Staffing

You will be aware that Mrs Byatt was due to start her maternity leave in a few weeks, with her last day being Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Unfortunately on medical grounds she has been advised to start this as soon as possible. Mrs Byatt and bump are doing fine, but it is possible the baby may arrive earlier than expected, hence Mrs Byatt has taken immediate maternity leave. The teaching plans for Acorn that were due to start after half-term have begun this week with Mrs Turner teaching alongside Mrs Hoare. Very kindly Mrs Stickings has stepped in to be the TA for the next 3 weeks. Mrs Stickings has been volunteering in Acorn class and has worked with us at lunchtimes since September and has previously worked as a Teaching Assistant. Mrs Jouanides will join Acorn class as a Teaching Assistant after half-term.

## Meet the New Staff!

We have a number of new staff join the school in various different roles this year. They have settled in well and are making a great contribution to our Thakeham Team! The School Council have had the role of interviewing the new staff and finding out a little about them! Together they devised the questions and met with each member of staff. Here's what they found out:

### Mrs Hall—Secretary



- Works Thursdays and Fridays in the office.
- Wanted to work at our school because she felt it is a nice place to work and because it is busy!
- Mrs Hall really enjoys her job because of the children and chatting to people on the phone/ in person and answering emails.
- Outside of school Mrs Hall loves playing the bassoon—she is very musical!
- Mrs Hall has 2 children who are at our school.
- She has 2 cats and 2 guinea pigs.
- Mrs Hall loves dark chocolate!
- Mrs Hall is also a Parent Governor.

### **Mr Saunders: Premises Manager**



- Works every morning to open up the school and for 3 hours on a Wednesday doing DIY and other jobs.
- Wanted to work at our school so he could help us with DIY jobs, he is also a handyman when he's not working at our school!
- Mr Saunders likes starting out early in the morning and getting everything ready for us at school.
- He loves to help the teachers with jobs.
- Mr Saunders is married to a teacher (not at our school!)
- When he isn't working, Mr Saunders enjoys woodwork, walking on the Downs and adventure Books, his favourite meal is a roast dinner.
- Mr Saunders has 2 cats.

### **Mrs Petros—Teaching Assistant**



- Mrs Petros works every morning in Oak Class, helping children.
- She wanted to work at our school because she had heard how lovely it was and because she lives locally.
- Mrs Petros thinks the best thing about our school are the cheery children who are all so friendly!
- Mrs Petros has worked in schools for 12 years.
- Mrs Petros has 3 children of her own who are all grown up—2 girls and a boy, some of you might know Mr Petros (her son) who leads some of our sports clubs?
- Mrs Petros has a puppy.
- When Mrs Petros is not working she loves to do Art and gardening and she also enjoys running after school clubs.
- Her favourite dish is Shepherd's Pie.

### **Ms Makuch—Oak Class teacher (alongside Mrs Stender)**



- Ms Makuch works Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at our school.
- She loves working in small village schools because she can get to know everyone really well.
- Ms Makuch's favourite part of the job is being with the friendly Thakeham children.
- She has worked in schools for around 16 years.
- Ms Makuch has 4 older sons.
- Just like Mrs Petros she has a puppy!
- When she's not busy working she loves running (and eating chocolate!)

I am sure you will have an opportunity to get to know our new faces and will agree they are doing a fabulous job at our school! Please feel free to say hello and have a chat!

With very Best Wishes

Mrs Sam Norton

Headteacher

## Storytelling Workshop with Ross Montgomery



With thanks to Barratt Homes, Storytelling week was celebrated on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January with the visit of author Ross Montgomery. Ross spent time with all the children through different workshops, he re told his story Space Tortoise to Oak and Acorn class encouraging children to join in and make predictions about just how space tortoise would reach those stars?! He then worked with Maple and Elder class talking through his novel Max and the Millions. Many children were then able to purchase a signed copy of one of Ross's novels. It was a great opportunity for the children to meet an author and get an insight into his work.

## Year 5 & 6 Basketball Tournament

A group of 6 year 5 and 6 students went to Steyning Grammar to take part in a basketball tournament against other STARS schools. What stood out the most was their teamwork and concentration during each game. They finished 4th overall but all with high scoring games and a one point difference between the next position.

## Air Quality Day

The Eco Warriors and Junior Road Safety Officers have had a busy time campaigning for cleaner air around our school. Led by Bettina Reynolds from the charity 'Living Streets', they learnt what happens when car engines are left on whilst stationary (called 'idling') and the harmful gases this releases into the air.

They created posters to encourage drivers to switch off their engines and highlighted the issues to parents at the end of the day on the playground. Parents were very impressed with the children's confidence and knowledge and I am sure will really think about the information!

As part of the day the whole school participated in an assembly led by Bettina about air pollution and engine idling.

You will recall that Sustrans have also been working with the Eco Warriors and the JRSOs on air pollution over the past few months. They are delighted to share with parents some key messages and things they have learnt in a special assembly on Friday 15th February at 11:30am—all welcome!



## FOTS—Design a New Logo Competition!

**Welcome to Claire Forrester who joins Debbie Pirkis as Co-Chair of FOTS!**

FOTS have launched a regular newsletter with news of upcoming events and success with fundraising. They are looking for children in our school to design a new exciting logo for them. If you are creative and have an idea—why not give it a go? There will be a prize of some amazing art supplies!

Entries to be handed in to the office (no bigger than A5) **by Friday 15th February.**

## Elder Class



### RSPB

Elder class has recently taken part, alongside representatives from the RSPB at Pulborough Brooks, a fascinating investigation into our local flora and fauna around our school. Led by the experts, they looked for animal evidence such as trails, discarded shells, droppings and habitats as well identifying and reporting on all the different British common birds in the area. It was a fascinating afternoon of scientific investigation which has greatly supported our science and geography work on biomes.

### Forest School

Elder Class have had a great couple of weeks out at our Forest School. Led by Stuart, the children have explored the area - again, focusing on our science and geography topic of biomes - looking for evidence. They have lit group and individual fires, enjoyed hot chocolate and played a range of games which support their work on Cooperative Caring Craig.





**£2.35**

## Pancake Day

Tuesday 5th March

*Choose a main meal...*  
BBQ Chicken & Rice  
or  
Veggie Sausage & Bean Casserole

*on the side...*  
Carrots & Sweetcorn  
or  
Fresh Salad

*for dessert...*  
Pancake with Chocolate Sauce  
or  
Fresh Fruit Salad



To order or for more information please contact us at [www.mealselector.co.uk](http://www.mealselector.co.uk)  
by Sunday 24th February  
For more information on special diets please contact  
[westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk](mailto:westsussexspecialdiets@compass-group.co.uk)  
Terms and Conditions apply.



## Image of the Fortnight



## Once upon a time....

Join us at the library for fairy tales  
with a difference!

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February  
2.30pm-3.30pm

Tickets are free but please  
reserve your place to avoid  
disappointment



Everyone  
welcome!

Parents and carers are asked to remain on the premises during this activity