

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'



Monday 29th June 2020

Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 15th June 2020, awarded in online Celebration assembly on 22nd June 2020:

Positive, Persevering

Poppy

Dylan (Acorn)
Ralph (Oak)
Amber (Maple)
Charlie (Elder)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 22nd June 2020, awarded in online Celebration assembly on 29th June 2020:

Positive, Persevering

Poppy

Amaya (Oak)
Archie (Oak)
Chloe (Maple)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Tamira (Acorn)

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Harvey (Elder)

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

Headteacher Award

Spotlight on our Co-operative, Caring Craigs

Care (Respect) . Co-operation . Honesty . Responsibility

Alhannah was a fantastic CCC last week when she wrote a letter to her brother Zeb telling him she loves him very much, as he was very upset. She tried cheering him up by making him his favourite drink, getting his favourite toys for him to play with and giving him lots of cuddles. She wasn't asked to do this and it made mummy so proud that she thought about all the things she could do to try and make him feel better. Well done Alhannah!

Lucy made a card for our new student, Amaya. She wrote 'Lucy, Pollie and Nikos' in the card to let Amaya know some of the student's names. Lucy hoped that the card would make Amaya feel welcome and loved as she drew lots and lots of hearts on it. Amaya stood with a big grin on her face hugging the card and Lucy smiled from ear to ear knowing she had made Amaya's first Thakeham Primary School experience special. Well done Lucy, what a Co-operative Caring Craig you are!



Isla has been absolutely super this week! She has been tremendously helpful around the house and has undertaken the task of independently working through her school work.

Time to Shine!

Congratulations to:

Maddie who has been called back for a second audition on Bass Guitar for the national tour of 'School of Rock'. Well done Maddie!

It would be lovely to hear from other children who would like to share a (non-school) achievement with us—as we would do in Celebration Assembly.



Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Amaya in Oak Class

We are delighted that Amaya has joined our Year 1 group last week and is settling into Thakeham under slightly different circumstances to what a new child to our school would normally expect. We are really pleased to see, like other children, she has adapted to the 'new normal.' I am really pleased to see how welcoming children and parents have been to another family joining us at Thakeham.

Updates on Class Bubbles

In our class bubbles up until recently we have maintained as close to 2m distance between children's tables/seating as possible meaning we have only been able to accommodate around 11 pupils in our classrooms. In order to accommodate Elder class (group of 15) we have used the hall. Ahead of the government's amendment to the social distancing rule on July 4th to 1m, they recently published a statement clarifying expectations on schools:

"Primary schools should continue to operate in groups of no more than **15**.....Primary pupils do not and have not needed to be kept apart in the classroom, and we are encouraging primary heads to use the capacity they have and the flexibility we have given them to bring more groups of children back into school, if they can work within the protective measures."

Over the past 3 months the government's priorities have been to accommodate vulnerable pupils, those whose parents are key workers and since June, those who are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Over the past few weeks we have seen an increase in pupils back at school whose parents are in the key worker category, vulnerable pupils and those in Year 1 especially. We have been able to accommodate all requests for places in the eligible year groups.

We have worked within the government's guidelines of welcoming further children back to school and have been required to seek permission from our Chair of Governors and Paul Wagstaff (WSCC Director of Education and Skills) in order to open up spare places in Year 3/4. As anticipated numbers were higher than we were able to offer (with only 4 places being available to work with within the government's limit of 15 pupils). I published the criteria for admitting these final few children in the last edition of the newsletter and in letters to parents who applied for these places. We have felt we are in a fortunate position to welcome back pupils in Maple who do not meet the government year group criteria. This was something we felt important as a staff. We recognise that across the school, just under half of the children have been at home since mid-March and some in the non-eligible year groups would have liked to have returned, but we must work within the government's guideline of no more than 15 pupils in a class.

The result of this is that **we have now met the government's limit of 15 in all classes except Acorn (where 3 Reception places remain).** Most schools have also reached capacity and have been unable to bring back further pupils and have even been unable to admit further key worker children and so have not been able to consider children from non-eligible year groups such as Y2/4/5 either.

The Next Few Weeks—Planning for September, Transition and Reports

Our focus is very much on September now and despite a lack of information from the government other than their press release on June 19th stating that in September every child would return to school full time, we have no further information on which to plan. Last week the government promised further information in the weeks to come. We sincerely hope this information is published soon, as with just 3 weeks left until the end of term, there is much to do to plan for September! I know many of you will be aware that this is usually the busiest time of the year in schools with much time being spent on transitioning planning for the new Reception joining us and for pupils in Year 6 moving on to their secondary schools. Sharing information across a wide range of feeder settings and revising transition arrangements has taken much time and thought but provides a good range of opportunities for children and families joining us in September.

Internal Transition

We dearly hope to be able to talk to the children about specific plans for September when we hold our transition events and so have postponed these until **Wednesday 8th July**, as we hope to have heard from the government by this date. We will be sending out a letter shortly outlining arrangements. These have been organized to include children at home as well as those at school.

Annual Reports

Of course it is also a busy time for teachers writing reports for their classes. I will be looking forward to reading each one and adding my comment. **These will be emailed to you on Monday 13th July. Should you wish to discuss your child's report once you have read it, please email the office by 12pm on Tuesday 14th July and you will be given a time slot for a telephone call with the relevant teacher to discuss any questions you may have, during that week.** Please bear in mind that teachers are teaching in class each day so this will be an after school appointment of up to 10 minutes. Regretfully, due to COVID-19 restrictions we are unable to meet with parents on site.

Sports Week & Sports Day

The Olympics has been cancelled but our Sports Week has not! We will be enhancing both our PE skills across the week and each class will be expanding their horizons as they learn about the geography of one

of the countries that would have been participating. Learning both at home and at school will be different during the week, which is probably what we all need! It will be a chance to get active and learn about the wider world, which in recent months seems to have shrunk! We are looking forward to everyone at home and at school taking part and thank you in advance for supporting your child if you are at home. You will receive a letter from Miss Brown, our PE Leader this week regarding the overview and individual classteachers will send the specific learning expectations by 8:45am Monday 6th July.

Sports Day (at home and school) will be held on Tuesday 7th July with each class having a separate time for their events which will take place in their class bubble. Sadly this will be attended only by children and staff in the bubble. We are unable to welcome in parents unfortunately.

Staffing Update

Mr Howse, our Premises Manager will be heading off to a bigger role at Storrington Primary School at the end of this term. Mr Howse has been a very committed member of our school and contributed to maintaining and improving the school over the past year. We will be sad to see him go but wish him well in his new role. Mr Meacher will take up the reigns at the end of July and the school will continue to thrive with an experienced Premises Manager at the helm. Mr Meacher has worked at West Park and Upper Beeding Primary School in this role.

Ahead of the internal transition date (July 8th), we will be sharing with you the staffing plans for September.

Catch Up Funding/Tutoring Scheme

Once the government publish details of their 'catch up' and tutoring scheme we will share these with you and our initial thoughts on how this will operate at Thakeham.

Unfortunately other than the headlines which you will already have seen, regarding how much money they planning on spending overall, schools have not been given any further information!!

Summer Holidays

The government have stated that there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over the summer holiday. Importantly they have also stated: *"Teachers, support staff and school leaders deserve a break, to recharge and rest."* The past few months have been very intense for everyone with work continuing through holiday periods under stressful conditions.

Those who are eligible for Free School Meals will receive vouchers as before which I will apply for on your behalf. Please note that pupils in school during July will receive a hot lunch but not vouchers alongside this.

Baby News— We are delighted to welcome baby Bailey, born on 21st June to our Thakeham Family. Proud sister Tamira has been enjoying lots of cuddles. Congratulations Mum and Dad! And more baby news, Zack has a new baby sister, Yasmine Ivy, congratulations to Mr & Mrs Maggs.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Sam Norton, Headteacher



Meet the New Governors

We are delighted to welcome 2 new Governors to the Thakeham Team. We can't wait to show them around our lovely school as soon as we're able to.

Judy Tuck

After 17 years of school headship and more than 32 working in education, I understand the critical role of great governance in supporting school staff to secure the best experiences, opportunities and outcomes for children and their families.

I have worked across all age ranges and have a thorough knowledge of education strategy from nursery and EYFS to key stage 4.

Now retired and living very locally, I am so pleased to be a governor at Thakeham Primary School and believe my skills and experience complement those of the governing body. I am passionate about learning and equality of opportunity for all and I am committed to supporting the Headteacher and staff in achieving the school's vision for the future.

Tom Gray

I have lived and worked in West Sussex for my entire life, and I'm keen on providing something back to the local community that has provided so much for me.

I have worked as a software developer for a little over 10 years, and have produced, managed and maintained simulation products primarily in the air training and simulation domain, but more recently within in space and maritime sectors. I'm passionate about all things Science, Maths and Engineering, and outside of computers I pretty much play and/or watch any sport! I'm eager to bring my enthusiasm in these areas to the Governor role at Thakeham, but also to continue to learn about and contribute in other areas - I firmly believe you are never too old to learn something new!



Movie Afternoon!



A huge thank you to FOTS for organizing and paying for the popcorn and drinks on Thursday afternoon! It made a lovely change for the children in school and at home to sit back and relax for an hour or so and enjoy something they would have joined together as a whole school for as an evening activity this term.



Acorn



Oak



Elder



Maple



Aria



Ben & Amelie



Erin

Evelyn



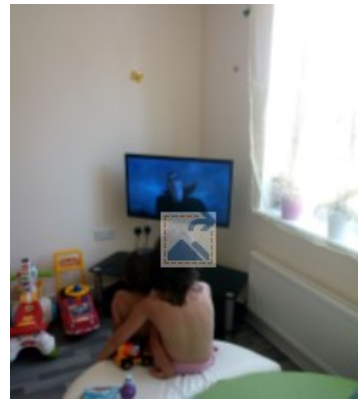
Movie Afternoon!



Isla



Jeni



Lexi & Eddie



Beth & Thomas



Mabel & Reuben

Max



Harriet

Noah

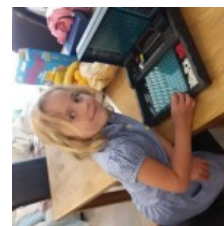
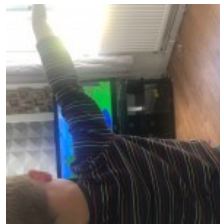
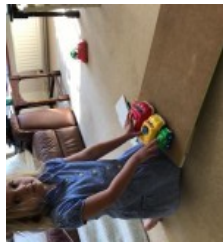


Sadie

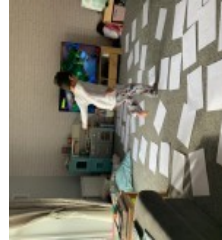
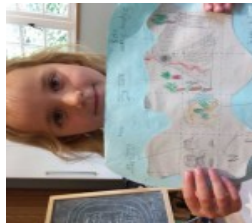
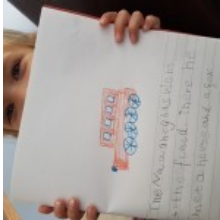
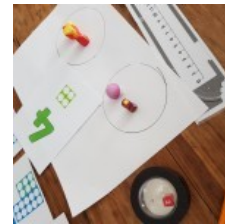


Acorn Class Learning— w/c 15th June & w/c 22nd June

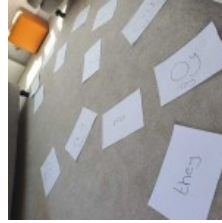
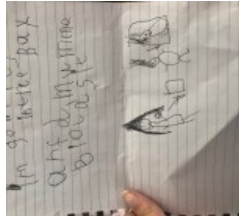
Topic



Maths



Literacy



Look and say	Look and write	Copy and write
do	do	do
some	some	some
come	come	come
were	were	were

Acorn Class home learning Summer 2 weeks 3/4
The Naughty Bus and Pirates, plus some yoga and making a Father's day card

Oak Class Learning— w/c 15th June & w/c 22nd June



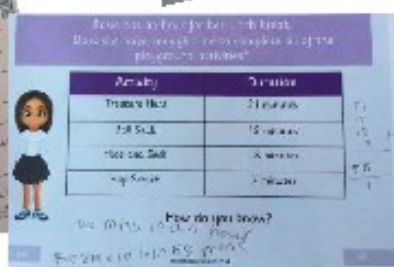
Making our
own
Superhero
School



Oak class
learning



Reading
activities



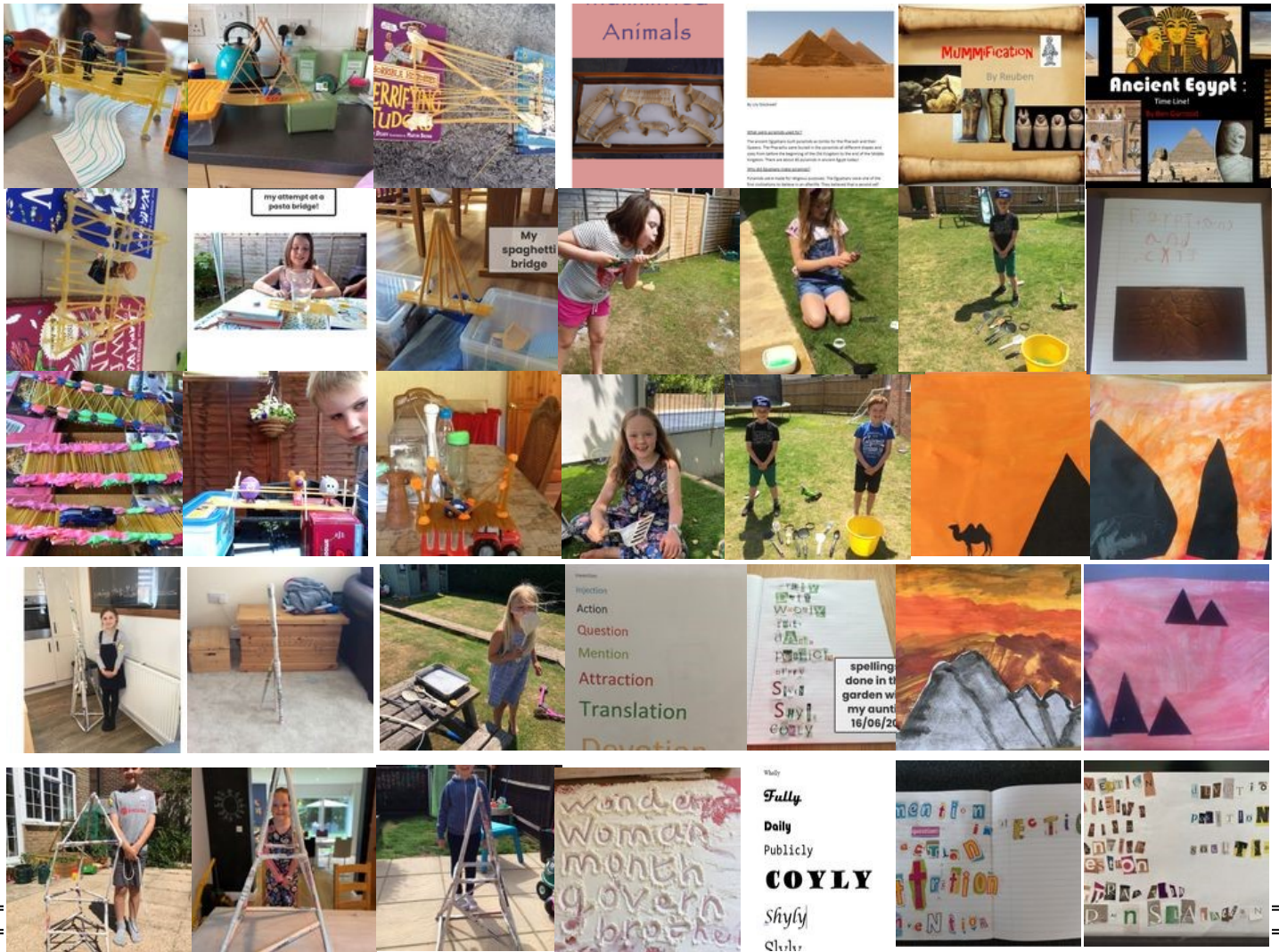
Caring for
our gardens
and
butterflies



Understanding
time and
maths games



Maple Class Learning— w/c 15th June & w/c 22nd June



Elder Class Learning— w/c 15th June & w/c 22nd June

Elder Highlights



Greenforce



Although we cannot be together as a Greenforce team at the moment and implement new challenges in school, we would like you to take up the 'Recycle it Right' pledge at home! We all love Busta and Pong and this is a great opportunity to support their campaign whilst also giving the school an opportunity to win an amazing prize!

Wastebuster and the West Sussex Waste Partnership are inviting West Sussex schools and families to take

part in the **"Recycle it Right" Pledge Challenge** from 30th June to 14th Aug 2020. The school gaining the highest percentage of family pledges will **win a year's subscription to National Geographic Kids for Schools**, including print magazines and unlimited online access to the National Geographic Kids online library of primary resources.

A new "West Sussex Wastebusters" family home learning website is launching alongside the Challenge on 30th June 2020, with enriching, child-led waste prevention and recycling focused activities for different ages. These home learning activities are supported by new "Busta and Pong" videos and competitions. Our children will earn rewards for completing activities and have chances to win fantastic prizes. If they wish, children can share their work with others via an online gallery. The website and home learning activities will remain available to families to access and enjoy throughout the summer holidays.

Please help support our environment and school by taking up this challenge!



10 TOP TIPS

REMOTE LEARNING FOR CHILDREN

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For students, it's the perfect way to ensure they still get the education they need, despite not being at school. However it also requires a level of discipline and careful planning. That's why we've created this guide to help pupils understand different aspects of remote learning and to support them in ensuring their experience is as safe and secure as it can be.

1) Treat remote learning the same as classroom learning

Despite being at home, it's important to remember the same rules apply as being in the classroom, particularly in respect of behavior and conduct. Focus on learning and don't get distracted by your surroundings.



2) Use classroom language

If you are encouraged to communicate through emails and online messages, don't use shorthand text speak and write as though you would speak in class. Remember to be respectful and polite and avoid posting negative comments or spamming the chat.



3) Take regular screen breaks

Whilst remote learning might be an exciting experience to begin with, having prolonged periods of time in front of a screen isn't always healthy. Remember to have regular screen breaks where possible and in your spare time, try to get some fresh air and enjoy other activities away from electronic devices.



4) Always conduct video learning in an open space at home

To get the best experience from remote learning, it's important to create the right environment around you. Try to set up a mock 'classroom desk' at home in an open space so parents can supervise if necessary. Avoid bedrooms as this could be considered inappropriate.



5) Only communicate through approved school portals and platforms

It's important that you send messages and any pictures or images required for class through approved school channels, such as internal learning portals or approved platforms. This will help to keep your personal information safe and secure.



6) Stick to teacher rules and guidelines around online learning

Your school should issue you with guidance around remote learning and the rules to follow. Always maintain classroom behaviour and try to remember that you are in a learning environment and not a social setting.



No.7 does not apply to children at Thakeham Primary School.

8) Don't share passwords or other sensitive information

In order to begin your online lessons or to gain access to learning materials, you may be provided with login details and passwords. In the same way you keep your personal details private, always keep these safe and never share them with others.



9) Don't use school platforms to discuss personal matters

It's important to keep your school communication channels separate from your own personal communication with friends and family. Don't be tempted to engage in casual discussions or send images, videos or links via official school apps or platforms that aren't associated with your learning.



10) Look after your mental health and wellbeing

Remote learning ultimately means working alone and missing out on daily social interaction with your friends. If you ever feel frustrated, low or sad, it's important to discuss how you feel with your parents or your teacher. Keeping in touch with friends over the phone or on social media can also help to keep your spirits up.

