

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'



Tuesday 15th September 2020

Super Learning Hero Awards

Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 7th September 2020, awarded in Celebration assembly on week beginning 14th September 2020:

Positive, Persevering

Co-operative, Caring

Curious, Questioning

Reflective, Reviewing

Poppy

Craig

Quinn

Ruby

Kaden (Oak)

Nikos (Oak)

Rudee (Maple)

Mabel (Elder)

Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a lovely summer break, even though it may have meant a quieter one with perhaps changed/cancelled plans. We have been very impressed with how well the children have settled back into school, which for some has meant a gap of 6 months. A very special welcome to all our of our new Acorn children and their families. We are busy learning new names and faces. It really is a joy to have the children back at school.

Wellbeing

As previously outlined our priorities for the first week back have been to settle children in with new routines in place as a result of Covid-19 protocols and also to have a key emphasis on wellbeing. During lockdown, a think piece entitled [A Recovery Curriculum: Loss and Life for our children and schools post pandemic](#) was published. In it, mental health expert, Professor Barry Carpenter recommends five sensible 'levers' that can help schools recover following a 'systematic, relationships-based approach to reigniting the flame of learning in each child.' Following this research we have focussed on re-establishing and embedding **relationships** in school child to child and between children and staff, children have had **time and space** to share their experiences over the past few months, what went well and what they found challenging. We have invited our **parent community** to share any anxieties the children have had and to keep us informed if their child is anxious on return to school. Children in Year 1 to Year 6 have completed a pupil wellbeing survey adapted from the County's Educational Psychology Service. We are analysing the outcomes of this to help tailor support as needed. We have had a focus on our School Values and Super Learning Heroes, supporting children with strategies to aid effective learning (**metacognition**).

Last week we launched our new PSHE programme 'Jigsaw' across all classes. This will help to support effective teaching and learning of the DfE statutory Relationship and Health Education curriculum. Further parent information will be provided on this shortly.

Mind the Gap!

This week we are focussing on identifying the gaps in children's learning in reading/writing/maths through a range of assessments. We are using a variety of strategies which are likely to look different in each class. These range from reading with children to reading comprehension tests to free writing opportunities and maths assessments. For younger children in Oak this will extend into next week as we will be spacing these out carefully. In addition to identifying gaps, the assessments will provide teachers with a starting point (baseline) from which to measure progress across the year.

Children in Acorn Class will be starting their own set of assessment activities this week as is the usual pattern in every school. Again these will provide teachers with a baseline from which to measure progress across the

year. We are working with the DfE to begin implementing the new Early Years Curriculum Framework earlier as part of a nationwide scheme. We will be in touch with parents regarding the new curriculum but in the meantime information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-adopter-schools-eyfs-framework>).

We will be sending out our Termly Curriculum Letter on 28th September following assessment, as this may well influence some key aspects of the curriculum for the term ahead.

We plan to hold parent-teacher consultations earlier in the autumn this year. Teachers will discuss with you how your child has settled back into school, key outcomes from assessment and next steps for the year ahead. We will be in touch shortly regarding format and dates etc.

Covid-19 Protocols and Reminders

We are pleased with how well the children are learning new routines to limit the spread of Covid-19. Handwashing/sanitising and key messages such as ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ are being implemented and children are becoming more independent with this. As you can imagine our protocols govern our way of life in school and I am very grateful to parents for their support of these messages at home too. We are working very hard to embed the routines and have appreciated the positive feedback from parents on this. This is a constantly changing picture with daily DfE updates which we are assimilating and daily monitoring and review of our protocols and risk assessment.

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Aide memoire regarding symptoms actions to taken:

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our school safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19

YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS

<p>A HIGH TEMPERATURE</p> <p>This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature)</p>	OR	<p>A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH</p> <p>This means coughing for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. (if they usually have a cough it may be worse than usual.)</p>	OR	<p>A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF TASTE OR SMELL</p> <p>This means they have noticed they cannot smell or taste anything or things taste or smell different to normal.</p>
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IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COVID LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS	YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19	SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS	SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19
<p>WHAT TO DO?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL • BOOK A COVID-19 TEST • HOUSEHOLD SELF ISOLATE • INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY OF TEST RESULT 	<p>WHAT TO DO?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL • INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY • SELF ISOLATE FOR AT LEAST 10 DAYS 	<p>WHAT TO DO?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL • THE HOUSEHOLD MEMBER SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST • HOUSEHOLD SELF ISOLATES • INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY OF TEST RESULT 	<p>WHAT TO DO?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL • INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY OF TEST RESULT

Testing

You will have heard stories of those requiring a test being asked to travel considerable distances to a testing centre or delays with receiving home tests/results of these. We are hearing this is the case for local schools too unfortunately. The DfE have now asked schools to “only ask children or staff to self-isolate and recommend they get a test if they develop [symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/symptoms-of-coronavirus-covid-19). Those sent home to self-isolate, having been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, should only get tested if they develop symptoms themselves.” Tests can be booked online <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Colds

A couple of parents have asked whether children should attend school with a cold presently. There is no DfE/PHE/NHS advice available that states that children should remain at home. Presently, NHS offer the following advice:

“It’s fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.”

In line with Covid-19 advice a temperature (hot to the touch on the front/back or 37.8C) is one of the symptoms so self-isolation and testing are necessary.

If your child is not managing with a cold and is very unwell then parents will need to exercise their parental responsibility regarding attendance at school. Similarly if a child is struggling with cold symptoms that have developed whilst at school we will contact you as we always do. We will only recommend a test if your child is displaying a current coronavirus symptom. Staff are well trained on spotting symptoms.

Other contagious illnesses

We follow PHE advice to school regarding infection controls in schools: https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

‘Rule of Six’

From 14th September new laws prohibiting social gatherings of more than six people come into effect in England. It means that - apart from a set of limited exemptions including education and work - any social gatherings of more than six people indoors or outdoors will be against the law.

Thakeham Covid-19 protocols—updates

We sent out key information before the summer holidays and updates to this were communicated during the break regarding our onsite arrangements and expectations. We have been closely monitoring arrangements throughout the week to make refinements and improvements as necessary:

- To ease access to toilets we now have up to 3 children from each class bubble able to access these.
- We have dedicated the disabled toilet to Year 6 girls (one at a time).
- Elder class will go home in their PE kit on Mondays and Thursdays and Maple on Tuesdays.
- The after school parent playground waiting area for Maple/Oak has been increased to support more effective social distancing. Please play your part in this too.

Others ways in which we need your help:

- * Only arrive at your allocated time: Mornings Maple and Elder—8:40am
Oak—8:45am
Acorn—8:50am
End of day Maple and Elder 3:10pm
Acorn & Oak 3:15pm

Arriving earlier means you are taking up another class space, creating busier pathways and reducing opportunity to social distance. Arriving later is likely to mean your child has to wait until a member of staff can take them into school. We need to keep bubbles separate in corridors but a late arriver makes this more difficult.

- * Mondays & Fridays Oak enter and leave via the playground
- * Tuesdays—Thursdays Y1 continue to enter/leave via playground but Y2 enter via main entrance and leave via playground
- * Queue on the left facing the school, this means we can keep pathways clear for others to pass. Please do not queue on both sides of the path or in front of the green electricity cupboard at the front of the school
- * Markers/spaces start right outside the main entrance so please use these first allowing others to queue behind you
- * Please ensure your child arrives with everything they need for the day and especially a water bottle, we do not allow children to use plastic cups.
- * Please ensure your child’s uniform is labelled—when it is warm cardigans/jumpers come off and also children change for PE. It is very difficult to work out lost property if it is not named and we are also trying to reduce the touch points for staff.

Your full co-operation with these is much appreciated! Please ask if you are unsure, these are new for all!

Use of drop off car park area extended to Year 5 from today!

For the past 3 years, parents of children in Year 6 have been able to drop off their child at the correct time in the parking bay and leave. We are now extending this to Year 5. This must not be earlier than the arrival time—currently 8:40am as there is not a member of staff on duty to supervise your child. My focus is currently on managing the gate to the playground at this time, Mr Meacher (Premises Manager) is supporting with the car park and teachers are busy with class set up and many other additional roles.

No other parent should be using the drop off zone.

School improvements—windows and cladding to the western (stream side) elevation - impact on parking

After 4 consecutive annual bids to the local authority works will begin to the western side of the building to replace all windows and cladding. This will also involve replacement of those along the corridor/playground. All other windows/cladding in the school were replaced as part of our re-location, 3 years ago and we have had to live with the old, inefficient glazing during this time (hot in the summer and cold in the winter!)

We have had no control over start time and due to previous lockdowns we are currently on schedule for the **works to begin on 28th September with set up of site from Monday 21st September**. This will impact parking to the front of the school. Currently teachers park along the western side of the building which will not be available from 21st September. Where they may have heavy items to bring into school they will park in the front car park though otherwise will use SGS car park. As a result available spaces at the front of the school are likely to be very limited and so we would like to remind you to use the SGS car park wherever possible from 20th September. Works are due to finish at the end of the October half-term holiday. The corridor entrance and cookery room works will be undertaken during this half-term period to reduce impact on school life.

We appreciate this works will cause unavoidable disruption and ask that you plan your journey very carefully to school during this time. Pathways and access to school will remain unaffected. Elder will continue to enter/leave from the same point as the affected area will be fenced off and will continue to be supervised along this stretch. Wherever possible we would encourage you to walk/cycle/scoot to school.

Kind Donation from Storrington SSC

We have been overwhelmed with a very generous donation from this local charity recently. This will be used to support the creation of our Mindfulness Garden and enriching the children's curriculum.

With very best wishes and thanks for all your support with new routines and rules during this unprecedented time. We are grateful for your patience and understanding.

Mrs Sam Norton

Benefits of Puffin Crossings

SAFER FOR PEDESTRIANS

- The sensors that see you at a Puffin crossing also control the traffic lights, making sure you have enough time to cross the road safely.
- Because there is no flashing traffic light sequence, drivers can no longer start to move until you have finished crossing.
- You can see the Red/Green Man box and watch traffic approaching at the same time.
- Partially sighted pedestrians can see the Red/Green Man signals more easily than a signal on the other side of the road.

BETTER FOR DRIVERS

- Traffic lights change to green as soon as the crossing is clear, so drivers will no longer be stopped unnecessarily if there are no pedestrians in the road.
- Traffic won't be stopped if pedestrians push the button and then cross the road before the traffic lights change to red, or if they push the button, then change their mind and walk away from the crossing.
- Look out for more and more Puffin crossings on our streets and roads. They all look the same and they all work in the same way, improving safety while reducing delays.

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How to use a Puffin Crossing

safer for pedestrians...
better for drivers



How Puffin crossings work

Most Puffin crossings have sensors on top of the traffic lights, although some may be buried in the ground in the waiting area. **The sensors can spot if you are waiting to cross.** This is why it is important to stand where you can clearly see the Red/Green Man box.

Other sensors can spot if you are already crossing the road. Drivers waiting at a Puffin crossing will only be allowed to continue once you have finished crossing the road.



PULBOROUGH R.F.C.



QUIS NOS SEPARABIT

Calling all Year 5 & 6 Girls who fancy giving Rugby a try at one of the most successful girls clubs in England! Pulborough RFC Girls Section Under 11's Squad needs more players to join our existing girls to learn the fun of the game. Contact Woody(Keith) on 07752 169852.

