

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
Rock Road
Storrington
West Sussex
RH20 3AA

Headteacher: Mr L. McDonald
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs E. Hopkins
Inclusion Co-ordinator: Mrs A. Mullineux
Tel: 01903 740176

Email: office@thakehamps.co.uk
Web: <http://www.thakehamps.co.uk>

'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

Monday 4th September, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back!

We are delighted to welcome all pupils back after, what we hope, was an enjoyable summer. We are all looking forward to the academic year ahead. The school has had some building work over the holiday period and we have our new teachers! Lots to be excited about.

Please see below for some useful, initial information. As always, if you need to speak with any of us then do get in touch. We love hearing from you.

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Team remains the same. Mr McDonald is Safeguarding Lead with Mrs Hopkins and Mrs Stender as Deputies. If you have any concerns, please ask to speak with one of them in the first instance. Refer to our website for associated policies and contact information. Remember, if a child is in immediate danger please call 999.

Routines

Most of our routines remain the same.

When Mr Goddard opens the gate in the morning, families are welcome to come onto the playground. Please ensure children line up in the correct place. Mr McDonald will be out from 08:40am, followed by teachers at 08:45am and then the bell just after that. Teachers will bring pupils out for you to collect at 3:15pm. Please wait for them on the playground. The usual arrangements for Year 6 remain in place with Year 6 being the only year group that can walk home on their own (subject to permissions being received via the school office).

A reminder that animals are not allowed on the playground as they can trigger allergic reactions.

The gate will shut at 08:55am after which you will be considered late.

Attendance

Attendance is a legal requirement and parents/carers are expected to do all you can to ensure your child is at school. This is a top priority for us this year. We do not encourage taking term-time holidays and ask that you ensure children arrive on time. Regularly missing school or being late adds up. For example, missing one day a term equates to one week which can be an entire unit of work missed. In





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turn, they may then struggle to acquire the missed skills and underperform. This can lead to feelings of low self-esteem and no one would want that for a child.

We will only authorise absences in exceptional and compelling circumstances, such as death of an immediate relative or medical appointments. You will need to complete a removal from learning request form and provide evidence.

This half term, we will begin with using the old attendance policy but by October will be using a new policy. This policy will be explained to you when we are ready to start using it but will require all parents who arrive late to report to office to complete a form explaining the reason why.

Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the following:

Standard Uniform:

- White polo shirt or blouse, with or without the school logo
- Royal blue jumper or cardigan with or without the school logo
- Plain grey trousers, smart shorts or skirts (jogging pants, sports shorts and leggings are not acceptable)
- Royal blue and white small checked summer dress
- Grey or white socks, grey tights
- Sensible black shoes, not trainers or boots

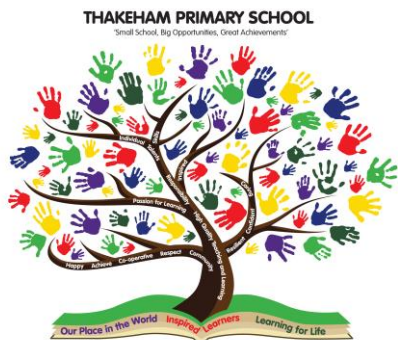
PE Uniform:

- Royal blue shorts
- White crew neck T-shirt (with or without the school logo)
- Plimsolls or trainers
- During cold months children may wear plain black tracksuits (not leggings please)

On PE days, pupils should come wearing their PE kit. Please ensure it aligns with the requirements above. Class PE days are as follows:

- Wonder (years 1 and 2): Tuesday and Friday
- Marley (years 3 and 4): Monday and Tuesday
- Franklin (years 5 and 6): Monday and Thursday





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Staffing

We are thrilled to welcome two new teachers to the family: Mr Daplyn and Miss West. The class teams are:

Beatles	EYFS	Teachers: Mrs Stender (Monday to Wednesday) and Mrs Usherwood (Thursday and Friday) Teaching Assistant(s): Mrs Devereux
Wonder	1 and 2	Teachers: Miss West Teaching Assistant(s): Mrs Younger and Mrs Stickings
Marley	3 and 4	Teachers: Mr Daplyn Teaching Assistant(s): Miss Merritt
Franklin	5 and 6	Teachers: Mrs Hopkins Teaching Assistant(s): Mrs Elvery and Mrs Bowbrick

Mrs Hopkins remains as Deputy Headteacher and Mrs Stender is the SENCO.

Volunteers

If you would like to help out in school, at events or on school trips please let Mrs Campbell in the office know. We really value the support and it can be good fun!

Medicines, First Aid and Healthcare Plans

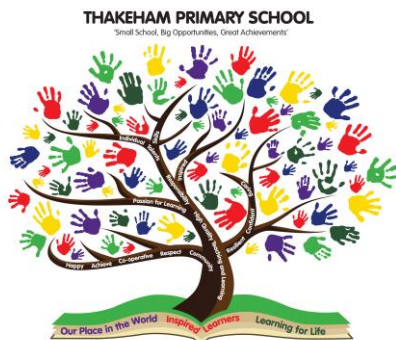
Please ensure we know of pupil medication or first aid needs so that we can liaise with you and staff. Mrs Bowbrick and Mrs Younger are our Medicines, First Aid and Healthcare Plan Leads. They will liaise with you if needed.

Mrs Hopkins is our Education Visits Coordinator. She is the designated member of staff to speak with regarding any concerns you may have around any upcoming trips.

Positive Behaviour Policy

We continue to use our Therapeutic Thinking approach to behaviour. We like it because it focuses on the needs of pupils, the context and the individual voice of the children. If you have any questions, please ask to speak with Mr McDonald about it.





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Parent Engagement

Please watch out for invites to various parent events. We will be having open mornings, parent training events and more! We look forward to seeing you attend.

Stage 1 of the School Building Project

Earlier this year we were awarded almost half a million pounds to improve the school site. This will be taking place in four stages:

- 1] New key stage one playground at the rear of the school and a new outdoor area at the rear of the school.
- 2] New special needs facilities in the centre of the school.
- 3] New rear walls and entrances.
- 4] A second hall, revised admin block and intervention spaces where the current excess hall stands.

I am pleased to say that stage 1 is now complete. We are so thrilled and excited to be able to offer this to pupils from tomorrow. Talk to them about it and hear what they have to say!

Finally, it goes without saying that the relationship between school and home is important. It needs to be deep and positive. If we work together then there is no limit to what your child can achieve. Please feel free to approach us, speak to us and help us ensure Thakeham is the best school it can be.

Have a great term!

Will McDonald

