



THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Rock Road  
Storrington  
West Sussex  
RH20 3AA  
Headteacher: Mr L. McDonald  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs E. Hopkins  
SENCOs: Mr L. McDonald & Mrs R. Stender

Tel: 01903 740176  
Email: [office@thakehamps.co.uk](mailto:office@thakehamps.co.uk)  
Web: <http://www.thakehamps.co.uk>

## ‘At Thakeham we CARE’

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Re: you asked for it and we are doing it!**

As I am sure you are already aware, we have been engaged over the past year in a serious programme of school improvement. We have looked at everything from our curriculum to our environment. I have gained much family voice via the parent surveys, talking to you on the gate and listening to what you have been telling others. Please visit our website and navigate to the ‘For Families’ tab to read the feedback from the latest parent survey. I thought now would be a good time to feed back a little bit about what you have been asking for and our progress with it.

#### **What you asked for: an even better behaviour policy**

When I started at Thakeham, one of the biggest requests was for a revised policy with behaviour. We switched last year to our current policy and I can proudly say that behaviour is not a concern in our school. We very rarely have incidents and when we do, the children report that they are dealt with quickly and sensitively.

#### **What you asked for: a different type of transition from EYFS into Year 1**

Many parents asked for a longer, gentler but more thorough transition into Year 1. This year is the first year we have completed our new transition process. It started in July 2022 with a meeting for parents to tell them all about Year 1. We then sent home transition booklets for children to read over the summer break; built Year 1 their very own playground; implemented a brand new curriculum for Years 1 and 2; and worked hard to ensure that the children felt safe with the change. The year has been a roaring success so far! We are looking forward to seeing the next lot of Year 1 transition.

#### **What you asked for: access to more clubs**

We have worked incredibly hard to bolster our clubs offer. This year, we have offered: two sports clubs, dance, pottery and science clubs. This is alongside taking children in Years 1 through 6 to various sporting tournaments across the locality. We are always open to ideas for more clubs. So, do get in touch. Despite asking for the clubs and us going to some length to organise a selection, uptake from parents has actually been limited. Please ensure you liaise with the office if you are interested.





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### **What you asked for: safer parking arrangements at pick up and drop off**

Parking out the front of the school was a major concern for many parents. I hope you can all see how seriously we took the matter and now notice how quiet, calm and safe pick up and drop off are. With the update we sent out recently, you will see that we also do monitor it. Thank you for your support!

### **What you asked for: wrap-around care**

This is something many parents have been requesting for a long time. We are now in the final processes of putting together our new provision. It will begin in the summer term. A letter will be sent to parents this term. Please do book your child in and give it a go! It will also be the cheapest afterschool care in the area...

### **What you asked for: even more communication when children are in Year 1 and 2**

We started the academic year trialling a continuation of Tapestry with Year 1. This was partially successful but we found that the Key Stage 1 curriculum did not fit with the methodology of Tapestry. After speaking with parents, we began sending home a timetable and communication sheet (including homework) every Friday. Parents have reported that this has proved incredibly useful! We are pleased you like it. A gentle reminder that you are okay to approach Miss West on the playground at drop off. She would love to talk with you and is always willing to help.

### **What you asked for: an even greater focus on mental health and wellbeing**

We now have the NHS supported Thought-Full Team on site. They are already carrying out mental health work with staff and pupils. We have also engaged the services of Mrs Sercombe to support parents as needed. A gentle reminder that if you would like any confidential support from her, just email me and we can arrange it. Furthermore, we have reinforced our RSHE and PSHE teaching curriculum to better reflect our semi-rural context and worked hard to ensure that pupils feel confident speaking about how they feel in lessons. We are shortly to introduce our new Mental Health and Wellbeing offer – watch this space!

### **What you asked for: further access to the Senior Leadership Team**

With my start; Mrs Hopkins' promotion to Deputy Head; the employing of Mrs Stender as SENCO; and Mrs Ritchie as Operations Manager, we began with our new Senior Leadership Team last academic year. Hopefully, you can see that all four of us genuinely care. We are always available before and after school and no problem is ever too small! Kindness is key and we are here to help. To aid you, here is an overview of our main roles so that you know should you need something:

- **Mr McDonald:** Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead
- **Mrs Hopkins:** Deputy Headteacher (responsible for curriculum support, Key Stage 2)





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provision, school trips and visits and part of the safeguarding team)

- **Mrs Ritchie:** Operations Manager (responsible for managing the site, finance, health and safety, HR and administration. Mrs Ritchie is also managing all of the building projects we are carrying out this academic year)
- **Mrs Stender:** SENCO (responsible for inclusion systems at Thakeham Primary School)

Alongside the above, we also have been working hard on our various building projects. The refurbishment of the Excess Hall is due to commence shortly and we are so excited about it!

Furthermore, this year in September we rolled out our new Vision, Values and Mission Statement. We sent a letter to the Community, but here it is as a reminder:

### Mission Statement

Thakeham Primary School is committed to providing a high-quality education that prepares all of our pupils for the future. We believe that every child has the potential to succeed, and we are dedicated to providing them with the opportunities they need to reach their full potential. We create a safe and supportive learning environment where pupils feel valued and respected. We foster a culture of curiosity and inquiry, and we encourage our pupils to step forward and ask questions, think critically, and solve problems. We understand and respect our place in the world. We believe that education is a lifelong journey, and we prepare our pupils for success in education and beyond.

### Values

At Thakeham we CARE. In everything we do we can see:

- Courage
- Ambition
- Respect
- Enjoyment

### Vision 2023 - 2028





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## ‘At Thakeham we CARE’

Our vision for Thakeham Primary School 2023 - 2028 is to simply be ‘Even Better’. By focusing on our core values of Care, courage, ambition, respect and enjoyment we will create a school where all children can reach their full potential and enjoy success. We will be a school where children are excited to learn and understand the value of respect. We will be a school that is known for its culture of excellence, but also its focus on community. As our children continue their education journey and beyond, they will be proudly identified as someone that grew from Thakeham Primary School.

Please join and support us as we become ‘Even Better’.

To achieve our Thakeham Primary School 2023 - 2028 Vision, we will be focusing on the following goals:

- Continue to deliver an innovative high-quality curriculum that prepares all children for success
- Become renowned for academic excellence in all areas, not only in the core subjects, but across the wider curriculum
- Foster a culture across the school community that understands the importance of being respectful to others and the world around us
- Enhance our reputation as a school that is committed to ensuring that all children, regardless of their background, attend school and feel welcome, respected and care for

This vision, its values and the mission statement is the driving force behind all work we do in school, including for pupils with additional needs.

Thakeham Primary School is a very special place. Thank you for all your support as we continue on





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our journey with your children at its heart.

As always, if you have anything you would like to speak to us about please do get in touch. We love hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Will McDonald

