



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

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 Web: <http://www.thakehamps.co.uk>

'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

Friday 7th July, 2023

RE: New Class Names for September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are looking forward to the summer break. We have our fingers crossed for good weather!

As I mentioned in a letter a couple of weeks ago, we have decided to change class names in September 2023. The children have been engaged in a series of votes this week and chose what is below.

For many, many years (both at the current site and the previous one), trees have been used as names for the classes. This was an excellent idea and right for that moment in time. However, Thakeham is about to begin a new and exciting journey towards becoming a forward-thinking, innovative and exciting institution; one fit for the diverse and modern world we live in. Absolute uncompromising excellence in all areas will be at the core of everything we do and this extends to ensuring seemingly small things, like class names, reflect this ambition.

With this in mind, the class names for next year will be:

Year Groups	New Class Names
EYFS	Beatles Class (after The Beatles)
Year 1 and 2	Wonder Class (after Stevie Wonder)
Year 3 and 4	Marley Class (after Bob Marley)
Year 5 and 6	Franklin Class (after Aretha Franklin)

We have chosen a musical theme to fit with music being one of the areas in school we particularly excel at. But, importantly, the whole point of these names is to introduce the children to people from history that they will likely never have heard of! People who will teach them about the world they will be entering as an adult; the power of being the best person you can be; its challenges; and the beauty of inclusivity and diversity.





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We have chosen the names for the following reasons (and I hope you will explore these more with your children):

The Beatles: widely regarded as the single most influential music band of all time, The Beatles were integral to the development of 'pop music' and ended up becoming the best-selling band in history. Such is the power of the movement that they created that now every year there is the UNESCO World Heritage Beatles Day. They were considered innovative in the 1960s. But, despite facing much pressure to conform, they continued to produce music they believed in. Their journey teaches us about the power of harnessing your talent and fostering a love for what you are passionate about.

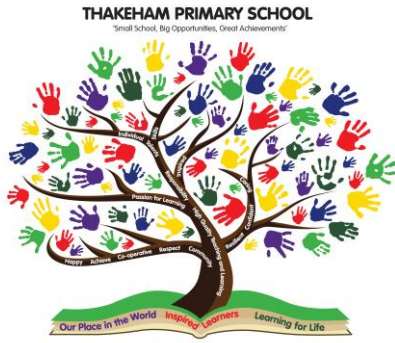
Stevie Wonder: a world-renowned, blind musician who fought racism, his own blindness and a society not used to people from his background succeeding to become one of the most influential and decorated artists of his generation. His life teaches us about the value of never giving up and believing in yourself despite what others think.

Bob Marley: one of the most famous and culturally influential black musicians of his time. His music crossed cultural lines and taught people about the power of peace, community and respect. His advocacy of indigenous populations across world showed us the value of togetherness and not judging those who are different. Everyone has value and everyone has something important to say.

Aretha Franklin: a woman who rose from a relatively humble background to not only being one of the world's best-selling musicians but also a poet, documentary maker, actress and author. Aretha Franklin not only had to battle against attitudes towards women but also work even harder than others because of how people, at the time, perceived those of her race. Her advocacy of civil and women's rights was second to none. Her life taught us the power of standing up for what you believe in but also about getting your voice heard in the right way.

At Thakeham Primary School we strongly believe that every pupil should leave us in Year 6 with the power and self-belief to succeed. It is important to us that they know they can make a difference no matter who or what they identify as; their gender; their ethnicity; their country of origin; and the like. Every person matters. Every person has the power in them to be the best person they want to be.





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Finally, as a reminder, here is the staffing for the classes for September:

Year Groups	Class Teacher	Teaching Assistants
Beatles	Monday to Wednesday: Mrs Stender Thursday and Friday: Mrs Usherwood	Mrs Devereux
Wonder	Miss West	Mrs Younger Mrs Stickings
Marley	Mr Daplyn	Miss Merritt
Franklin	Mrs Hopkins	Mrs Bowbrick Mrs Elvery

We are looking forward to the next academic year! If you have any questions, feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help.

Kind regards,

Will McDonald
 Headteacher

