



THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
Headteacher: Will McDonald
Operations Manager: Georgina Ritchie
Senior Teacher: Bex Stender
Inclusion Manager: Bex Stender
Rock Road
Storrington
West Sussex
RH20 3AA
Tel: 01903 740176
Email: office@thakehamps.co.uk
Web: www.thakehamps.co.uk

Wednesday 8th October 2025

Dear Families,

RE: Whole School Visit to St Mary's Church Thakeham for Harvest Celebration

As many of you know, the school used to be on the high street in the village but moved 3 miles away (in 2017) to our current site. Therefore, it is important the school is seen as one of the core functions of the parish and that our pupils understand the value of being part of a community.

The Rev. Joel Willmer has recently joined St Mary's Church as their Priest in Charge and as his daughter attends Thakeham Primary School, we thought it fitting to ask him if he would kindly lead our Harvest celebrations! The Harvest Festival will be on **Tuesday October 21st 2:00pm until the end of the school day.**

Pupils will be taken to the church via coaches. Due to the prohibitively high cost of hiring coaches, we are asking families to **collect their children from the church that day and not school.** This means we do not have to pay for a return coach trip. It also means we do not have to rush the church service. So, the children will get a truly wonderful experience. Parents will not be able to attend due to the small size of the church as it will be a tight fit with just the children. We do not normally invite parents to harvest so this will be nothing new. The church's postcode is **RH20 3ER.**

The entire school will be attending; all pupils from all classes and all staff members. We are keen for it to be a success. With this in mind, please can I kindly ask you read the following guidance to help us make the outing one that the children will enjoy and remember:

- Please aim to arrive at the church for **3:00pm** ready for pick-up from that point onwards. It will likely be closer to 3:15pm once we have the children lined up (etc.)
- If you live in the village, **please aim to walk.** There is a very small car park next to the church but we ask that you help us work with the village to reduce congestion.
- At pick-up time, each class will move to a designated point outside the church. **Please do not attempt to come up to the church door. Please see the diagrams below for where children will wait for you.**

Courage • Ambition



Respect • Enjoyment



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- Mr McDonald, Mrs Ritchie and Mrs Campbell will come down to the bottom of the steps and support with handover of the children. Due to the small walkway, this may take longer than normal. Please be patient with us.
- Children who have been booked into Saplings after school will be brought back to school by staff. You will then pick them up from school as per usual. Please make sure you have booked Saplings by **latest Monday 20th October**, so we know how many children need to come back to school.

We have carefully planned our support for the pupils, including those in Beatles Class, for whom this will be their first Thakeham Primary School adventure! It will be a wonderful experience and there is absolutely nothing to worry about. However, if you have any questions then do contact the office via office@thakehamps.co.uk or speak to your child's Class Teacher.

Thank you for your support.

Take care,

Will McDonald

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Image 1: Franklin and Marley classes will come to the waiting point below. Class Teachers will then hand children over to you from that point:



Image 2: Beatles and Wonder Class will line up in two lines at the top of this pathway. Parents are welcome to meet us halfway (in an orderly line) and we will hand children over to you:



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Image 3: please see below for an overview:



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