



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 5th September, 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back!

It was absolutely superb to see the energy and excitement on the playground this morning. 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. As our motto goes, we are a wonderful small school that will offer your children big opportunities this year so that they leave next July having achieved well in whatever they set their mind to!

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 Mullineux and Mrs Hopkins 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.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

This is a key focus for us this academic year. Good mental health is vital to not only achieving well in life but also feeling centred and whole. Our INSET training focused on this and we will be rolling out some great initiatives later this term. Watch this space!

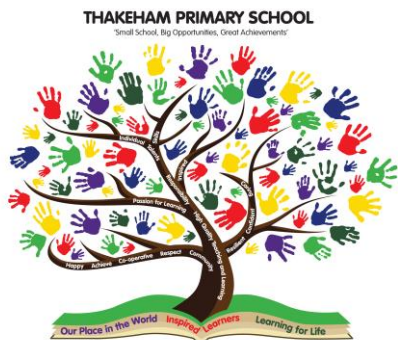
Routines

Most of our routines remain the same (see section below about assembly).

When Mr Meacher opens the gate in the morning, families are welcome to come onto the playground. Please ensure children line up in the correct place and do not run around the playground. 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.

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





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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 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 an absence request form and provide evidence.

Staffing

We are thrilled to welcome back Mrs Macready as one of our Oak teachers. Many of our Teaching Assistants have also moved classes or changed roles. Mrs Hopkins remains as Assistant Head and Mrs Mullineux as Inclusion Coordinator.

Sadly, our long-standing Cleaning Team are no longer with us. So, if you know of any persons who would be interested in applying do ask them to get in touch.

We have a new Cook starting this week. We look forward to many more years of excellent lunches.

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! Our wonderful FOTS team would certainly appreciate any support you can give.

Assembly

To aid with routines in the morning, we have moved assembly time to 1pm Monday through Thursday. This should enable teachers to get stuck into lessons straight away. Celebration Assembly has been moved to 2:45pm on a Friday. This means you can pop by just before pick-up. Mrs Campbell will let you know on a Thursday if you have been invited. If this is not enough notice, just let her know and your invite will be extended to another time.





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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 Mrs Mullineux about it.

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.

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

