

September 21st 2020 School Newsletter



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Dates

- ◆ 26-30/10/20 - Half Term
- ◆ 31/10/20 - Secondary School Applications in.
- ◆ 18/12/20 - Last day of term

Next Steps

If you have a child in Year 6 the information about transferring to secondary school is available online at www.devon.gov.uk/admission/online. This link takes you to a 'Citizens Portal' where you will need to sign in. The secondary schools are working out how they can safely organise visits so keep an eye out for information about this and be aware that things may change. Applications need to be in by **31st October 2020**.

Year 5 and 6

Year 5 and 6 have made some fantastic dragon eggs out of clay in worked linked to their literacy book 'How to train your dragon'.

Accelerated Reader

We are really excited about a number of new resources that we have for the children this year. For Years 3,4,5 and 6 we have Accelerated Reader. This is a computer programme that encourages children to read books at the right level, help them to read for understanding and adds incentives for reading. It also helps the teacher to easily track the books your child is reading and provides information about possible areas of teaching for reading. As the children finish a book they can complete a quiz (this can only be completed in school) and earn themselves points. This helps us to know if the children understand what they are reading. Most of the Key Stage 2 children have completed the assessment; this gives them a range of books to choose from in the library. Our library has been completely set up for Accelerated Reader so the children should have a good selection of books to choose from. Children can still read their own books too and they can see if it is on Accelerated Reader here: www.arbookfind.co.uk. There is significant research that shows if children can read for 20 minutes a day with a 90% comprehension rate they will make the greatest gains. Accelerated Reader will help us to achieve this. Over the coming weeks as the system settles down there are areas of the programme that you will be able to access at home too. In the short space of time we have been using it we can already see some of the benefits of using this system.

Governors

As a school we are lucky to have a committed group of governors from across the community who help to ensure that St. Thomas Primary is as effective as it can be. Whilst we have all the elected parent vacancies filled we do have two spaces on the board. We are currently looking for people with skills in either finance, education or fund raising. If you have or know anyone with these skills, who would like to be part of the governors, please contact the school as we would love to hear from you.

School Census

On the **1st October 2020** it is school census day. The school's funding for Free School Meals is determined by the number of children that are entitled having their meal. It would be great if all of our infant children and junior children that are entitled to a free meal are able to order a meal on that day. I know the kitchen has put on a popular menu for the day and they will be hiding raffle tickets with a chance to win a prize.



Parking

Please can I ask that when picking up children from school cars are not brought down School Road or the end of Union Street. Cars and children do not mix and it feels an unnecessary risk to be bringing cars into these spaces as the children are leaving. Thank you for your help with this.

