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Welcome to our first issue of ‘The Federation Flyer’. At Easter, it will be a year since our fantastic schools have been federated. There has been so much to celebrate as the schools have developed together and we now have a shared logo too – see above. This flyer will be published on the first (school day) Friday every month. Page one will share our progress and next steps as members of ‘The High Peak Federation’. Pages two and three will share information specific to each school and page four will keep everyone updated with news from our PFA (Newtown) and PTA (Thornsett). We will also include extra features in the future and ensure the children have a voice in the content too.

For our first edition we would like to share our joint Federation Improvement Plan. We have six areas of focus at the moment:

1. Continue to develop our Maths teaching and learning through the ‘Maths Mastery’ approach – all PEGS schools are involved too.
2. Provide an even wider range of opportunities for children to write extended pieces based on their projects and promote a wider vocabulary development.
3. Introduce ‘Forest School’ and ‘School of Military’ to further develop character and ‘learning through doing’.
4. Offer an even wider range of learning opportunities in our curriculum with a focus on IT, Arts and Character Education.
5. Provide opportunities for teachers to further develop key subject areas and to utilise DfE funding to provide additional training for our teachers.
6. To further develop the effectiveness of our Governing Body.

The above targets are broken down into 33 specific actions. We have already made progress with 29 of these. Further feedback will follow in future editions.

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**Federation News**

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We have some exciting events coming up in the next few weeks. These include visits to Manchester for Arts based projects and Engineering Week. Today Class One enjoyed a visit to the Fire Station. We continue to attend and enjoy the local PE events and festivals – with a Dance Festival and Boccia coming soon. Class Three have a brass concert in the afternoon on 7th February that parents are welcome to come along to.

A position of Catering Assistant for 7.5hrs per week is being advertised at the moment on the DCC website. The job reference is JOB/19/000254 if you wish to apply.

Thank you to all the parents who are using School Money to pay promptly for school dinners. Remember, dinners need paying for by Monday morning before dinners are taken.

We are focused on improving the environment for Class One and have already made some positive changes:

* installed new storage for outdoor equipment
* introduced new equipment for the playground
* replaced furniture and storage in the classroom
* provided new ‘learning through play’ resources in the classroom

We will continue to make improvements – watch this space!

We have responded to school photos feedback and have made the next booking with an alternative provider. This should see a better quality of photo, a wider range of choice, lower cost and free provision of lanyards and staff ID badges too. We will get even better cost savings by using this supplier at Thornsett too.

Class One

We are enjoying our Great Fire of London topic at the moment.

Class Two

We are studying World War Two and have a visit arranged to Stockport Air Raid Shelter on Friday 8th March – letter to follow shortly.

Class Three

We are immersed in Magic, Fantasy and Mythology for this term.

**Newtown News**

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We have some exciting events coming up in the next few weeks. These include visits to Manchester for Arts based projects and Engineering Week. We continue to attend and enjoy the local PE events and festivals - with a Dance Festival and Boccia coming soon. On Thursday we ran a brilliant Science morning packed with experimenting, led by our our staff and Year Six children, and have a Mersey Class brass concert in the afternoon on 7th February that parents are welcome to come along to.

There has been an improvement with less lateness and an increase in overall school attendance too – please keep this up. Children are engaged with learning activities from 8.45am and those not arriving until after this time are regularly missing important support with their learning.

Our Breakfast Club continues to provide great support for those families who need an earlier start to the day. By arriving at 8.10am we have time to organise breakfast for the children. Recently, we have received some children much later than this, which does not give us adequate time to provide a breakfast before the school day, starts. Any children arriving after 8.20am, will be provided with fruit, but not cereal, toast, etc. Also, if parents can avoid parking along the school wall when dropping off, as staff are arriving without a space close to school and they usually have bags and resources to bring to / from school.

Our neighbours have requested again that parents continue to the Aspenshaw turning circle to turn in the road. This takes an extra minute instead of using the passing space. The wall has been knocked down and damaged - this will incur a cost to rebuild and does not provide security for the sheep too. We have spoken to the children in Assembly to explain and asked them to help us to be good neighbours.

We are expecting fully funded installation of Fibre to the Premises broadband in February – this should give us the fastest connectivity in the area!

Sett Class

We are enjoying our Polar Regions topic at the moment.

Goyt Class

We have gone back in time this term to Anglo-Saxons and the Beowulf myth.

Mersey Class

We have travelled into the past for our Vikings and Anglo-Saxons topic.

**Thornsett News**

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Our next meeting is our AGM – details to follow shortly.

We have been pleased to support the school, this school year, with several initiatives that have provided children with enhanced learning experiences, such as:

* Subsidising Goyt and Mersey Class visits to Shield Tree Wood.
* Subsidising visitors to school such as the ‘Ancient Greek Experience’.
* Providing additional classroom resources (dictionaries and reading books).

We are always looking for others to join the team. Please get in touch with school if you require any further information.

As Co-op New Mills charity of the year, we also have several events around the corner that we will let you know about.

If you’ve not already done so, sign up to become a member (it costs only £1) and choose Thornsett School Field as the charity you wish to support.

**Thornsett PTA News**

Our next meeting is a social one! We are getting together on Saturday 2nd March for 7pm at Simply Indian (New Mills). Please let Cassie / or school know if you would like to join in – new parents are always welcomed.

Our next event is the Spring Fair on Saturday 6th April.

We have been pleased to support the school, this school year, with several initiatives that have provided children with enhanced learning experiences, such as:

* Subsidising class visits to Joddrell Bank, Shield Tree Wood and Stockport Air Raid Shelter.
* Subsidising visitors to school such as the ‘Ancient Greek’ and ‘Owls’ experiences.
* Providing classroom resources for Wet Playtimes and Golden Time.

We are always looking for others to join the team. Please get in touch with school if you require any further information.

As Sainsbury’s New Mills charity of the year, we also have several events around the corner that we will keep you informed about.

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**Newtown PFA News**