

THURNHAM CE INFANT SCHOOL

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**Summer Terms 2017
Newsletter No 4**

“At Thurnham we learn to love and love to learn.”

Dear Parents,

Assessment Information In Reports Clarification

When you receive your child's report towards the end of term there will be differences in the assessment information given as it relates to the particular assessment for that year group.

Reception: An assessment on the 17 Reception areas of learning (using emerging, expected, exceeding against Reception national expectations).

Year 1: An assessment on all National Curriculum subjects for Year 1 (using emerging, expected, exceeding against Year 1 national expectations) and the result of your child's Phonics screening.

Year 2: The assessment system (using Government terminology of working towards, expected and greater depth). Remember, this is a newer assessment system for Year 2 with much higher expectations than before and is based on Teacher Assessment, not just a test. Moderators for Kent County Council assess how robust these assessments are and have the power to change the assessment if necessary. I am pleased to say they have agreed with our assessments.

Reports are due to be sent out on Thursday 6th July.

E-Mails To School

As I am sure you can understand the staff e-mail inboxes have 'spam filters' which can inadvertently hide e-mails. I can receive over a hundred sales and marketing e-mails on some days and recently I nearly missed an e-mail from a parent that had automatically gone into such a folder.

Naturally, parents from time to time will want to e-mail members of staff including myself with issues and comments. The best way to do this is to always send to the School Office one: manager@thurnham-infant.kent.sch.uk. You can then be sure it will reach the right person.

Thank You!

A huge thank you to all the parents who helped with the Friends Of Thurnham stall (and indeed thank you to the Friends Of Thurnham themselves) at Bearsted Fayre and also parents who spent money there and supported it. I would also like to thank Miss Pack, Mrs Johnston and Mrs Barker as well as the children who worked hard on their dances in the arena and the parents who supported them.

We would also like to thank parents for your support with Sports Day, especially those of you who worked so hard to set up equipment and making sure everything was ready for events. I am especially grateful to Miss Pack for organising it, Mrs Moore and Mrs Kinsman for keeping the scores, the Mums who worked very hard repeatedly setting up the track and Friends Of Thurnham for negotiating donations of refreshments from Morrisons Supermarket and serving strawberries. What was lovely was how regardless of where pupils came, everyone was clapped and cheered too.

What good sports you are!

Fantastic New Playground Equipment

I am sure the children will have told you about the several playground additions recently installed such as the low climbing wall, the Music area, the quiet reflective space and of course our own Thurnham Castle. The Rev. Corbyn came last week and blessed it during an outdoor worship time to officially 'open it' for everyone to use.

I particularly thank Friends Of Thurnham for helping to fund it all, one of our Governors Mr Wale for helping design it along with the School Council and Mrs Savage (our Bursar) for spending many hours making the whole project come to fruition. We are just awaiting some final work on the surface for an improved 'friendship area' of the playground too to finish the project. We hope to next refresh the playground markings as our funds allow.

Below are a few photos for those of you who may not have seen any of the new items yet.



The Rev. Melissa will shortly be coming in to do so work with each class on how to use the quiet reflective space.

We also held a competition to design flags to go on the top of the Castle.

Congratulations to the six winners who were: Leyla, Joshua, Myla, Dylan, Megan and Isobel. The flags are being made ready to go on the top of the Castle.

Classes Next Year

Reception:

Rainbow - Miss Chastney

Gold - Miss George

Silver - Mrs Bodkin

Year 1:

Orange - Mrs Chaudry

Yellow - Mrs Evans (Monday - Thursday) / Mrs Wass (Friday)

Red - Miss Saunders

Year 2:

Green - Mrs Fowler (Monday - Tuesday) / Mrs Shaw (Wednesday - Friday)

Purple - Mrs Watkin

Blue - Miss Pack

Teaching Assistants stay in the classroom in which they are currently working.

Your child's new class and teacher will be indicated on their reports. As ever, we will mix Reception going into Year 1 (taking friends and individual needs into consideration) and Year 1 classes will stay the same going into Year 2. I would just like to remind you that parental requests for particular teachers for new classes is not something we can accommodate. Obviously it would be impossible to please 270 differing requests and it is also damaging to staff morale to hear requests made. Parents are in the fortunate position of having a school of excellent teachers.

Reminders

- Wednesday 5th July - Whole School Annual Worship At Holy Cross Church.
- Thursday 6th July - Year 2 Visit Roseacre
- Monday 10th July - Reception parents can dine with their children.
- Wednesday 12th July - At lunchtime, a picnic with Roseacre. There will be no need for parents of school dinner children to provide a packed lunch from home but you can provide one if you prefer. The kitchen will make up a picnic for them and arrange for it to be taken on the field.
- Thursday 13th July - Year 1 parents can dine with their children.
- Thursday 13th July 3:30pm - 5:00pm - Parent Evening (to discuss reports).
- Monday 17th July, 5.45-7:00pm - Open Evening / Walkabout in school, parents and families welcome.
- Tuesday 18th July at 9:15am in school. All Year 2 parents are invited to the Year 2 Leavers' Service. Ticket letters will go out soon.
- Wednesday 19th July 4:00pm -5:30pm - The Year 2 Leavers' Party is in the school hall.
- The last day of term is on Friday 21st July and the children are back on Tuesday 5th September. Monday 4th September is a staff development day for both Thurnham and Roseacre.

I look forward to a successful and productive last few weeks for the children and thank parents for your continuing support.

Thank you for your continuing support and the nice things you say to the staff - they are much appreciated.

Mr C K James
Headteacher