



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

Dear Parents,

Congratulations Year R!

Well done to all our new year R children and their parents. The children have settled beautifully. It has been lovely chatting and getting to know some of you as you have dropped off the children initially, and of course seeing parents again with children already at (or have been at) the school. Remember, from Monday 25 September Reception children will be collected from the gate by staff.

Some Reception parents have recently asked me if I intend to mix the classes when they go into Year 1 - at present this is our intention as we feel it is beneficial to the children.

Website

New parents may find it useful to check dates on the website calendar, download forms or newsletters and of course what is happening if there is a severe weather warning (although we usually do not close for snow as a number of staff live within walking distance).

The location is still www.thurnham-infant.kent.sch.uk.

Waiting Areas Reminder

Some parents are still not sure where their year group waiting area is at the end of the day, so to remind you:

- Year R Parents wait near the caterpillar and by the office walls of the building - follow the green footprints. Please keep behind the yellow line when collecting your Reception pupils. Please resist the temptation to rush forward over the line when you can see your child - it can slow the handover down. We aim to ensure Reception are the first children to come out.
- Year 1 Parents wait well away from the gates, near the curving fence where the blue benches are - Orange will follow on Reception by leaving through their gate. Please try to not stand forwards, particularly blocking where Reception parents wait.
- Year 2 parents wait by the boundary fence near Roseacre's playground where their children can still see them - follow the red footprints. Please try to keep pushchairs to the sides of the areas so you're not blocking access. Please leave the area by both gates free so little children don't have to push their way through - they find this very daunting.

Please try to collect your child on time - phone us in advance if you have been delayed for any reason. Also make sure a responsible adult collects your child from school, not another school age pupil.

Parking

Sadly we are little more than a week into term and already I am receiving complaints about parking and driving on The Landway. I will say again, parents have a duty to park sensibly and safely for everyone. I will contact our PSCO again and request more spot checks on The Landway area.

Also, no parents should be parking on the school site at any time, whether a before school club or later in the day, unless they have a disabled permit from us.

Y1 & Y2 Welcome Evenings

Thank you for everyone who attended. The slides from these events are also on the front page of the website. The Reception evening is scheduled for Wednesday 4th October at 6:30pm.

Scooters

Whilst we are happy for scooters to be used in coming to school we have also had accidents where children have been riding them on the drive or where parents are waiting.

Please note, scooters should not be ridden on the school premises at any time and always kept safely in the scooter bay. Do keep a close eye on the children on their scooters on the way to and from school as well.

Friends Of Thurnham

Friends Of Thurnham is a parental organisation that raises a lot of money for the school that goes towards resources for the pupils. On Wednesday 20th September at 6:00pm parents are welcome to come to a meeting of Friends Of Thurnham in the School Hall. FOT is a good way to get to know other parents and have some fun organising events and getting involved. We still need some kind volunteers for particular roles so look forward to seeing any interested people at this meeting. You hopefully will be aware of the Family Fun Day on Saturday 23rd September and the 'Funky Friday' (for parents) event on 13th October.

Hall Floor

Just a small bit of house keeping - earlier this year we have some very expensive work carried out to refresh our Hall floor. Can I politely ask that if attending an event in the Hall you could wear flat heeled shoes as the high heel type creates holes in the floor. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Mary's Meals

New parents may not be aware, but there are small collection boxes in every class and any small change the children have can be deposited in these boxes. Last year we were again overwhelmed by the support parents and children gave to this initiative. Remember, we are only asking for 2 and 1 pences children may have left over at home, not huge cash amounts! £10.70 pays for a year's school meals for a child in a developing country. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Thurnham Early Risers

We offer before school supervision at a daily rate of £3.00 from 8:00am through to 8:45am when those children then join the others on the playground. This is becoming increasingly popular and has a maximum number of sixteen places. We currently have average daily bookings of thirteen to fourteen children so do be aware this could soon be full. Please contact the office if you would like to book any dates. We can in some cases, accept childcare vouchers. Remember, this is intended to be something relaxed and enjoyable for the children and is not deemed to be part of the educational day.

Y2 Choir Club Friday Lunchtimes

Mrs Holland and I will again not have membership of the choir through audition and will instead give each class a chance to attend this club on Friday lunchtimes if they wish.

Terms 1 & 2 will be Blue class

Terms 3 & 4 will be Green class

Terms 5 & 6 will be Purple class

For this to work we will need a reasonable number of children wishing to participate, if numbers from each class are too small we will review how we manage it. Each class choir group then get an opportunity to sing at each end of term event i.e. Christmas, Easter and Leaver Services.

Flu Vaccinations

Later this term, the NHS would again like to carry out a programme of flu vaccinations for all our pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This will be by nasal spray and not by injection. Please note, all parents will be asked whether they wish their child to take part. We will be contacting you nearer the time.

Dates

You should find on the last page some useful dates for your diary. These are the expected dates for events but may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

If you are a new parent and are unclear what some of these events listed involve, we will let you know more nearer the time.

Rules and Sanctions

We are very lucky to have well-behaved children in this school, and also lucky to have parents who support us in our high expectations of behaviour. We have a system of rules and sanctions displayed in each classroom and I thought it might also be useful for parents to see it as well.

Our Golden Rules

We will try to be kind and helpful to everyone

We will try to always do our best

We will try to listen carefully

Please try to keep our Golden Rules, and help people in your class to remember them. Then this school will be a lovely place to work in and play in.

If you find it difficult to keep the golden rules your teacher will help you.

Your teacher will:

- Remind you (this is called a verbal warning)
- Give you a Yellow warning card to remind you
- Ask you to go away from your group with an Orange card, so that you can calm down.
- Send you to another class with a Red card, so you have time to think about the golden rules.
- Send you to see the Headteacher to talk about what has happened.

Try hard to make sure our school is a happy place

We don't usually need to use all these sanctions. A verbal warning or a yellow card is normally enough. If your child needs more than this the class teacher will let you know. Year R children are gradually introduced to this system over their first year in school. Thank you for your support.

Mr C K James

Headteacher

Thurnham Key Dates for AUTUMN Terms 1 & 2 2017

NOTE – ALL DATES ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGES DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Friday	15	September	9-10.30am New Parents' Coffee Morning - School Hall	
Monday	18		Yr R all attend morning session and lunch, go home at 1.20pm	
Tuesday	19		Yr R full time	
Wednesday	20		FOT AGM (in School Hall)	
Saturday	23		FOTS Fun Day	
Monday	25		All Year R classes leave parents at main gate	
Wednesday	4	October	6:30pm Reception Evening	
Monday	9		Global Citizenship Week	
Friday	13		1:30pm Harvest Festival Rehearsal	
Monday	16		9:15am Harvest Worship (1) (KS1)	
Tuesday	17		9:15am Harvest Worship (2) (KS1)	
Thursday	19		End of Term 1 (100% attendance stickers)	
Friday	20		Staff Development Day	
23 October – 27 October - School Holiday				
Monday	30		Term 2 starts	
Wednesday	1	November	Individual Photos	
Wednesday	8		Flu Vaccinations Rec – Year 2 3:20pm – 5:10pm Parent Evening (1)	
Friday	10		11:00am 2 minutes silence for Remembrance	
Tuesday	14		3:20pm – 5:10pm Parent Evening (2)	
Thursday	16		3:20pm – 5:10pm Parent Evening (3)	
Friday	17		Children In Need Day Non-Uniform Day – also bring Tombola/Raffle item	
Friday	24		11.30am Early Lunch – 1 st sitting only Advent Market in afternoon	
Monday	11		December	Dress Rehearsal day for Christmas assemblies 9.15am Year 1 to school 10.45am Year R to school 1.30pm Year 2 Carols to school
Tuesday	12	Christmas Productions 1 / Carol Service Day 9.15am Year 1 parents 10.30am Year R parents 1:45pm Year 2 at Holy Cross Church (collections at all 3 performances for Christmas charity)		
Wednesday	13	11:00am Children's Christmas Walkabout 3.05pm Parents' Christmas Walkabout		
Thursday	14	Christmas Dinner		
Friday	15	Christmas Productions 2 9.15am Year 1 parents 10.30am Year R parents (collections at performances for Christmas charity)		
Monday	18	Party Day (non-uniform day for Christmas charity)		
Tuesday	19	Pantomime Possible Visit Date		
Wednesday	20	Last Day of Term (100% attendance stickers) 2:00pm Candlelight Carol Service (children & staff only)		
21 December – 3 January - School Holiday				
Thursday	4	January		Staff Development Day
Friday	5		Staff Development Day	
Monday	8		Term 3 Starts	