

THURNHAM CE INFANT SCHOOL

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Autumn Terms 2017

Newsletter No 3

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

Dear Parents,

Friends Of Thurnham Family Fun Day

Thank you to all who supported this event last Saturday and again to the Friends Of Thurnham. An enormous amount of unseen work goes into this by our volunteers and I would like to thank them all for their efforts in creating an enjoyable event. I especially thank Mrs Norris and Mrs Small for their hard work in organising the day and making sure it was a success. The event made a profit of £1904 so well done everyone who made a contribution to the day! Some photos are below.



New parents should watch out for the build up to the Advent Market on 24th November as this is the next 'big' event we will need you all for!

FOT are holding a 'Volunteer and Class rep' meeting on Wednesday 4th October in Costa Coffee (on the Ashford Road) from 9.30am. All are welcome.

New Parents' Coffee Morning

Thank you to all of you who joined us on Friday 15th September and the Friends Committee for organising this event. I was pleased to meet so many people and look forward to working with you all.

A reminder that the 'Welcome To Reception Year' event is Wednesday 4th October at 6:30pm.

Parking On The Drive

Despite what I said in a previous newsletter it seems we do still have parents parking on the school drive, particularly at the time of Early Risers club each morning. To be completely clear - parents should NOT park on the drive or school site at any time of day, unless they hold a disabled permit. If you see a car parked it is likely that the parent has such a permit and should not assume it is fine to therefore park as well. This is a Health and Safety matter.

As we did last year, I will again pass number plates of non-permit holders parked on the drive from Monday to the Community Police Warden.

Global Citizenship Week

Global Citizenship Week will be held the week of 9th - 13th October.

Our main aim in Global Citizenship Week is to support the children in developing their knowledge and understanding of the many different cultures and lives of peoples of the world which they are a part of. Also they will learn about the world they will grow up to be a citizen in.

You will hopefully have already received notification that on Tuesday 10th October the children can to dress up in a costume representing a country or more likely, in the colours of a particular country's flag. During the week each day will have a theme such as food, water, environment or art from different countries.

Drinks Bottles / Named Clothing

Just a reminder that we ask that drinks bottles are not carried in book bags.

Not only does it make book bags much heavier for some children to carry, it can also result in wet contact and reading books!

Again, if names are in clothing it should find its way back to your child. We still have clothing without names and obviously cannot reunite it with the proper owner!

Fire Drill / Gas Leak Drill

Today we carried out the fire drill. Just to reassure parents that if we carry out a fire alert, or the slightly different gas leak alert procedure that if you do not hear anything from us it will have only been a drill. We would always share it with you if something like this happened for real. We also always try to make sure the children understand it is not a real event.

Census Day Meals

Three times a year, the Government carries out a census of various school statistics to calculate funding. One part of this is how many children stay for dinner on a certain day and then this gives us funding going forward. To this end, we would like as many children to stay for dinner if possible on Thursday 5th October. The funding doesn't just pay for the dinners cooked, it also funds freezers, cooking equipment and repairs to items in the servery which have heavy use.

The School Office has already sent further information (including the menu for that day).

Friends Of Thurnham

Following the recent AGM, we have confirmed in the following roles:

Mrs Norris (Chair), Mrs Kupis (Vice Chair) Mrs Small (Treasurer), Mrs Batchelor (Secretary). Of course everyone can be a member of FOT and help us with events.

Thanks again to everyone on the FOT team for generously giving up their free time.

Vandalism

I was saddened to discover that a few weekends ago we had intruders on the site who decided to empty our sand over the play areas and move some of the toys around. Whilst nothing was stolen, it is a pity bored individuals cause these problems and a lot of work had to go into clearing all of this up on Monday morning.

Thank you to parents who pass by when school is closed and are vigilant on our behalf.

Term Dates 2017/18 & Guide Dates For 2018/19

I shared these dates with the current Year 1 and 2 parents in the Summer, I enclose them again on the next page for the new Reception parents in order to avoid any term time holidays. Despite what I have explained previously, I am still receiving requests for term time holidays without any supporting information as to the exceptional reasons for the term time request. These can include letters from employers, letters from a medical professional or even duty rotas.

With regard to 2018-19 although we have not yet allocated four of the five staff development days, I can provide a link to the guide dates that Kent have indicated to us. The link is:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/71851/Term-Dates-2018-19.pdf

The final dates (including the staff development days which will fall within these dates) will be confirmed in the Spring and as usual we will negotiate with Roseacre so they are on the same days.

I have been delighted to have received a lot of positive messages from parents recently, thank you on behalf of the staff and myself. Whilst we always want to hear any concerns or issues, praise and positive comments from parents does boost the staff's spirits as well!

I look forward to continuing to work with you in achieving the best for the children.

Mr C K James
Headteacher

TERM DATES: 2017-2018

Following negotiation with Roseacre these are the term dates for next academic year for both schools.

Term 1

Thursday 19th October **Term Ends**
Friday 20th October **Staff Development Day**

Term 2

Monday 30th October **Term Begins**
Wednesday 20th December **Term Ends**

Term 3

Thursday 4th January **Staff Development Day**
Friday 5th January **Staff Development Day**
Monday 8th January **Term Begins**
Friday 9th February **Term Ends**

Term 4

Monday 19th February **Term Begins**
Thursday 29th March **Term Ends**

Term 5

Monday 16th April **Term Begins**
Monday 7th May **Spring Bank Holiday**
Friday 25th May **Term Ends**

Term 6

Monday 4th June **Staff Development Day**
Tuesday 5th June **Term Begins**
Tuesday 24th July **Term Ends**

2018-19

Monday 3rd Sept **Staff Development Day**
Tuesday 4th Sept **Term Begins**