

## **THURNHAM CE INFANT SCHOOL**

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**Autumn Terms 2017**

**Newsletter No 4**

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

Dear Parents,

### **Harvest / Friends Of Thurnham**

Thank you to parents that have e-mailed me to share their appreciation for a lovely Harvest Festival. Whilst we are happy to hear about concerns and issues, we welcome your positive comments as well.

The collections at the Harvest events raised £274.24 and Friends Of Thurnham have also raised £101 with the Harvest Raffle. Thank you again for your kindness in donating so many items or for money given. The Maidstone Homeless Centre is also delighted and grateful at the amount of donations that we have passed on to them.



The Friends Of Thurnham Funky Friday event also raised £552, again thanks to everyone who organised it and took part.

### **Global Citizenship Week**

Thank you to everyone who participated in and helped to make our Global Citizenship Week a success. In particular I would like to thank those of you who supported the children by sending in additional information and resources to support the children's learning. The children really enjoyed all the activities and hopefully are even more encouraged to find out about the varied and exciting world we live in.

As we have taught and engaged the children about different countries of the world, later in the year we will have themed days on Britain to go alongside their Global Citizenship work.

### **Attendance Data**

The children with 100% attendance for term 1 should have received their special stickers today. After the October holiday I always begin a weekly analysis of each child's attendance data. The school system gives a percentage for every pupil as a proportion of the year so far - obviously a small number of absences at this point in the year gives a high absence figure but as the year progresses as long as a child attends well this figure decreases.

Parents should be aware an absence figure above 10% is defined as a persistent absentee by the Government and if this figure is sustained as the year progresses you should expect me to contact you to discuss how to address this. It also may attract the attention of the Educational Welfare Officer.

### **Completion Of Term Time Absence Form**

I will yet again clarify that I am not permitted to authorise leave other than in 'exceptional' circumstances. When you complete a leave of absence request form please do explain the exceptional reasons clearly. This will make a huge difference to whether the leave can be

authorised. These forms may be looked at by Educational Welfare Officers or Inspectors so it is in your interest to elaborate any special reasons. For instance, one parent recently supplied me with several pages of evidence including a letter from their employer as to why this was the only time leave could be taken. I therefore felt confident in authorising the absence and the exceptional reasons for it.

Please note, I decline many more absence requests than I authorise. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

#### **Individual Photographs**

Another date for your diary is the morning of Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November when the photographers will be in school to take individual portraits of the children. I am sure you will want them looking their best!

#### **Flu immunisation**

Years 1 & 2 have received a consent form regarding the flu immunisation. Please make sure you have returned this to the office by 30.10.17. Year R parents have to fill in an online registration form please go to [www.kcht.nhs.uk/imms](http://www.kcht.nhs.uk/imms) .

The flu immunisation will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> November from 9.30am.

#### **School Improvement Plan 2017-18**

All schools have a School Improvement Plan that highlights priorities for the academic year ahead. On our current plan the five key priorities are:

- Building On Existing Firm Foundations For Writing
- Review And Develop Christian Aspects In RE and Worship
- Boosting Development In Personal, Social, Health Education
- Reviewing, Refreshing & Further Developing Our Approaches To Science
- Being Even More Creative In Our Teaching & Learning

We will be working hard on these areas in particular over the next year.

#### **Roseacre Open Days**

For parents of children wishing to join Roseacre in Year 3 in September 2018 Roseacre will be holding open mornings on:

15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 9.00am

17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 9.00am

20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 9:30am

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 at 9:30am

28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 9:00am

30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 9:00am

There will be a tour of the school lasting approximately one hour. Please contact the school office to book an appointment on one of the above sessions on 01622 737843.

#### **Holiday Next Week**

I would like to remind you all that the school is closed to pupils from this Friday as it is a staff development day and then next week from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

Thank you for all your support and please do keep sharing any good comments as well as any concerns. I wish you all an enjoyable week and I look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Yours sincerely,  
Mr C K James  
Headteacher