

THURNHAM CE INFANT SCHOOL

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Autumn Terms 2017

Newsletter No 5

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

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a good break. Christmas is already on its way in school and rehearsals and preparations are beginning for several events. We are sure parents and children will enjoy what we have planned.

Remembrance

We sold many poppies and additional items we were sent by The Royal British Legion. It seems these items are quite a hit with the pupils! Thank you for all your generosity.

We also held two minutes silence today at 11:00am. The children were quiet and respectful.

Letter Of Congratulation

We are delighted to have received a letter of congratulation from the Director Of Children's Services at Kent County Council for our outstanding performance in Government assessments last academic year. Whilst we would never want the school to only be about results, it is always pleasing to receive any letter of praise. It also shows that working together, parents, staff and children can achieve a great deal. As ever, we will continue to place equal emphasis on our pastoral care, ensuring an enjoyable and engaging curriculum for the children and delivering the best in all areas, especially outside of the narrow part of the curriculum that is externally assessed.

This goes alongside a letter of congratulation we received from Kent County Council for having a very high attendance rate and low numbers of term time holidays.

Tesco Blue Coins

As previously mentioned, every time you shop at Tesco Grove Green during November and December (ideal timing for Christmas shopping!), please ask for a blue coin and vote for FOT - The Thurnham Infant School Playground Project.

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

We will also have a jar in the school reception area to collect coins to take to the Grove Green Tesco, so if Grandparents and family friends live out of area they can still collect for us too.

Children can also bring them in via their book bags. If enough people 'vote' we will receive a donation from Tesco.

A member of staff said Thurnham was in the lead when visiting earlier in the week but I appreciate this situation may have changed!

School Photos

Please make sure you return your school photo order into school or online by Friday 17th November to ensure delivery before Christmas.

Children In Need - Friday 17 November

I am very conscious of continually asking for money and donations from parents, especially with the expensive Christmas period approaching! I am asked by many charities for the school to support them on an almost weekly basis and I obviously have to be selective on which ones we do ultimately support.

Next Friday is Children In Need day therefore if children want to bring a donation for that charity, small or large (the donation is optional as we will be also asking for donations for the Advent Market next week), the children can be in non-uniform as well. The children may wear something spotty like Pudsey if they wish but it is not a requirement.

Be Aware Year 2 Parents - Applying For Junior School

Although it may seem early, if your child is in Year 2, you need to be thinking about a Year 3 school place for September 2018. Applications have already opened this week and have to be in by Monday 15 January 2018 and you can of course apply now online (use the same link as for Reception shown in the next item). Junior schools / KS2 departments will give you any advice you need and applying online of course has the advantage of receiving the offer quicker.

If you are seeking a place at Roseacre under our linked admissions policy you will be ranked higher than just on distance by already being a Thurnham pupil.

In the last four years since the linked admissions was introduced every Thurnham pupil who wanted a Roseacre place was offered one.

Children Starting School in September 2018

If your little one is due to start school next September, this is also the time to apply - deadline dates and details are the same as for Year 3 above. Apply online at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places> Remember, under the linked admissions policy, sibling link operates with a child currently in Reception or Year 1 at Thurnham, a Thurnham Year 2 that accepts a place at Roseacre once offered, or a child with a sibling due to be in Roseacre Years 4, 5 and 6 in September 2018. A sibling must be on either school roll the same academic year as the pupil who starts with us in the September.

We still remain an over-subscribed school so it is essential you put in your application whether your child has a sibling link (either at Thurnham or Roseacre) if you wish this to be taken into account.

The sibling link is broken if you move to a new address more than two miles (as the crow flies) from Thurnham. If you are still at your original admission address and it is more than two miles then the sibling link still stands.

Remember, these rules are there to help our community and I am happy to help any parents with any queries they may have or individual cases concerning admissions and distance. As with Year 3 applications, the deadline is Monday 15 January.

The Advent Market

This event is one of the biggest events in the school calendar on 24 November. You will receive information from Friends Of Thurnham explaining more of what will happen and what will be needed but any support you can give will be much appreciated. Proceeds of course will go towards funding events and items for the children whilst hopefully giving all a very enjoyable event and a lovely start to the festive period.

Friends Of Thurnham ask for donations of items towards stalls, especially the Tombola one. Parents are extremely kind and generous and we are often overwhelmed by what comes in. To this end, if at all possible can any donations come in next week on these particular days to help us manage the flow of items:

- Donations from Year 1 children: Monday 13 November

- Donations from Year 2 children: Wednesday 15 November
- Donations from Reception children: Friday 17 November

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Christmas Dates

The school has already begun its preparations for the festive period and I'm sure you have too. Please be aware of the Christmas events planned at school and put them in your diary - dates were sent out early last term but I have reproduced the remaining dates here in case you have mislaid a copy. As ever, there may have been some small changes to dates and times.

Please note, we will be ticketing performances as usual, so we will ask parents to choose to attend one performance for their child to allow space for everyone that wishes to attend. As Year 2 have to walk to the Church (and the Church is always in use for other events) and as there is always ample space at Holy Cross we will still have only one Year 2 Carol Service on Tuesday 12 December. This will also be ticketed.

Dates Reminder

Friday	17	November	Children In Need Day - optional donation for non-school uniform
Friday	24		Advent Market (2:15pm onwards, more details to follow)
Tuesday	12	December	Christmas Performances / Y2 Carol Service Day 9.15am Year 1 (In Hall) 10.30am Year R (In Hall) 2:00pm Year 2 at Holy Cross Church (collections at all performances for Christmas Charity)
Wednesday	13		9:30am Children's Christmas Walkabout 10:30am Pantomime In Hall 3.05pm Parents' Christmas Walkabout
Thursday	14		Christmas Dinner
Friday	15		Christmas Performances 9.15am Year 1 (In Hall) 10.30am Year R (In Hall) (collections at all performances for Christmas Charity)
Monday	18		Party Day (non-uniform day for Christmas Charity)
Wednesday	20		Last Day of Term 100% Attendance Stickers 'Special Christmas Visitor' (if his reindeer are able to get him here...) 2:00pm Candlelight Carol Service (children & staff only)
Thursday	4	January	Staff Development Day
Friday	5	2018	Staff Development Day
Monday	8		School Opens For New Term

I wish parents well with their Christmas preparations, I am sure you are aware there are now just over six weeks to go to the big day. We do understand that once we reach December the children's minds turn more to Christmas rather than their work - we always do our best to keep the children working hard despite the very exciting distractions of Christmas!

Mr C K James
Headteacher