

THURNHAM CE INFANT SCHOOL

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Spring Terms 2018

Newsletter No 3

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

Dear Parents,

Easter Events

To celebrate Easter we will be holding an optional Easter Egg Event that all children can take part in, if they would like, to decorate an egg of their own. Note, this is not a competition, it's just for fun!

If you wish your child to take part you will need to:

- Hard-boil an egg
- Decide on a theme to decorate the egg. You can either just make it look attractive with patterns, or a seasonal picture. Or you can be a bit more adventurous, and take any theme - in the past people have made 'egg-mobiles' for the egg to travel in, dressed them as different characters, or just made them eye-catching!
- The children can decorate the egg themselves, or receive help from you or anyone else.
- Bring your egg into school on preferably Monday 26th March (we will accept them Friday 23rd March but they will be a little fresher on Monday!) and the eggs will be displayed outside the Hall.
- On Tuesday 27th March there will be a Parents' Walkabout straight after school, when you are welcome to look at displays, books, and the Easter Egg displays.

Snow

It is already starting to feel like a distant memory but of course the school battled to remain open in the recent severe weather. Thank you to the staff who could get here safely, which allowed us open.

Several parents have asked me to clarify snow and absence permissions. I will only apply a special absence permission when it is deemed a severe weather event which of course that week clearly was. Do be aware that days with a light dusting of snow or just sleet but perfectly fine to travel through would not be given a special absence permission. I hope that gives clarity and that there isn't much more snow to come before Easter!

Writing Week

Sadly Writing Week was badly affected by the snow so as you are hopefully aware, we have either already restaged some events and will still hold the pyjama party story time on Tuesday 20th March at 4:30pm - 5:15pm - thank you for your returned forms.

I know of what we have covered the children thoroughly enjoyed and I am sure they got a lot out of it! Thank you to Mrs Watkin and the staff for making it a success.

Thank you very much for all of your fantastic support over the (extended) Writing Week and the dressing up day. We saw some wonderfully creative costumes.

Well done to Freya, Myla and Nathan who won our Writing week photo competition - it was a hard job to choose winners!

Also, thank you very much to Mrs Simpson and her helpers for giving so much of their time to run the book fair event. We raised a total of over £1,222.40 which gives the school £733.44 to spend on new books!

Safeguarding

A reminder that Mrs Pateman, Miss Chastney and myself are Designated Safeguarding Leads and are available to talk to on any safeguarding matters.

Diocese Inspection Of Christian Aspects And Educational Standards

Parents will be aware that we had this inspection on Tuesday. I will share the report to parents when available but in the interim I would like to thank those parents who spoke to the inspector as well as recognise the efforts of Staff and Governors and particularly the children, who were a credit to the school and I am very proud of them all.

Admissions

As parents know, demand for places at both Thurnham and Roseacre is very high. I am pleased to report that Mrs Watson met with us to compare and check our admission lists to ensure the linked admissions process again goes smoothly. Occasionally, parents can make small mistakes on their applications, such as forgetting to mention sibling link and we work together to ensure our knowledge of the families makes the process work well and hopefully sort out any innocent errors in advance.

If parents ever want to ask about our Admissions Policy please contact the office (or ask myself) or go to the link on the school website here:

<http://8863081.eiswordpress.uk/applying-to-thurnham>

The Landway / Birling Avenue Area - Complaints From Residents

We have received complaints about children from Thurnham after school playing on residents' gardens or around cars parked on drives. We have apologised to those who have spoken to us on behalf of the parents and we have assured them we will highlight this issue.

We pride ourselves on good relationships with the community and look to parents to back this up. One of our school values is respect - we therefore expect the children to honour this outside as well as inside school.

Administration Of Medicines

I would like to remind parents that we can only administer medicines that are prescribed by a GP and are for four doses per day, in line with our school policy. The medicine will need to be delivered and collected from the school office in person each day it needs to be given during school hours. This is to protect the children in school in case of allergies etc.

Please also remember that it is 48 hours after the last bout of diarrhoea or sickness that your child can return to school to prevent the spread of any bugs to staff and other children.

Pamper Evening / Flowers

A huge thank you to the ladies from Friends Of Thurnham for organising the Pamper Evening, which was a great success. A lot of work went into to it and I know it was enjoyed by the attendees. It has raised £892.10 so thank you again to everyone who took part.

Also a thank you to FOT for the Mother's Day flowers - I know Mums were pleased with them. FOT also raised £243.75 for Marie Curie from your kind donations.

Attendance Data

In February, all parents should have received their child's attendance data for the mid-year point. Many parents do not realise the figure is arrived at by counting each morning, and each afternoon as separate sessions.

Obviously if a child has a high figure, as it is mid-year, excellent attendance for the rest of the year will bring the figure down substantially. A number of parents have commented to me that they are delighted to see how well their child is doing on attendance too.

A persistent absentee is any child with less than 90% attendance. At the time of writing, the Thurnham average attendance rate is 97.1%, very slightly down on the same point last year.

Parent Consultations

To my surprise, holding some parent consultations in the afternoon rather than evening has proved extremely popular with demand exceeding the number of appointments available. I am minded to use a similar pattern to these ones (i.e. an afternoon and evenings) again next time.

Mrs Chaudry In The Manchester Marathon

On Sunday 8th April Mrs Chaudry (Orange Class teacher) will be running the Manchester Marathon in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support.

This will be her first (and only!) marathon before she hits a milestone birthday this year. She has chosen this charity for all the amazing work they do to support cancer sufferers and their families, so that they may live life to the full.

If you would like to sponsor Mrs Chaudry there is a form in the office and all donations will be very gratefully received.

Final Few Dates Reminder

Tuesday	20	March	4:30pm - 5:15pm Pyjama Party
Friday / Monday	23/26		Children Bring In Decorated Eggs (just for fun) - Details To Follow
Monday	26		9.15am Easter Performance 1 10:30am Easter Performance 2
Tuesday	27		9.15am Easter Performance 3 3:10pm Easter Walkabout
Thursday	29		Last Day of Term 4 100% attendance stickers For Term 4
Friday 30 th March - Friday 13 th April - School Holiday			
Monday	16	April	Start of Term 5
Monday	7	May	May Day Single Bank Holiday

Easter Holiday

Remember, the last school day before this year's two week Easter holiday is Thursday 29th March. We return on Monday 16th April. A few final dates are above leading up to the end of term. A letter about the Easter Service tickets should have already have been sent out.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all to achieve the best for the children.

Science Day

In February, Miss Chastney led a day of Science related activities. You can find a report on it on the next few pages. Thank you to Miss Chastney and the staff making it so fun!

Mr C K James
Headteacher

Science Day 2018

On Friday 2nd February, we held a Science day themed around 'Exploration and Discovery'.

We started the day with a launch assembly. It began with a WOW moment, when we demonstrated how to blow a balloon up with vinegar, bicarbonate of soda and an empty bottle.



We thought about what a scientist looked like and tried to get over the stereotypical view of a crazy haired man in a lab coat!



We learnt a little bit about Stephen Hawking, Brian Cox, Thomas Edison and Rita Levi Montalcini.

Miss Pack then helped to act out the story of Mary Anning, who discovered the Ichthyosaur.



We had a great day carrying out lots of different experiments.

Reception

In Year R we continued with the balloon experiment from the launch assembly, put gingerbread men into different liquids and watched how long it took them to disintegrate, made giant bubble mixture and much more!



Year 1



Year 1 did an experiment about the changes that happen to bread when it is cooked.



Year 2



Year 2 did a 'fabulous forces' experiment!

We had so much fun that we would like to do a whole Science week next year!