



**“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 24<sup>th</sup> September Reception children will be collected from the gate by staff. Reception stay for lunch from next week.

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](http://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 always 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.

**School Dinners**

A reminder that the school is funded by the Government for school dinners. Every child is eligible and if you choose to have a school dinner on a Monday, the pattern must continue for the rest of the week. As the funding is based on a particular uptake number and ordering of the food is done in advance, we need to have a good idea of numbers across the week to avoid unnecessary supplies being bought that may subsequently perish.

**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 welcome evening is scheduled for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 6:30pm.

**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 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm 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 already aware of the Family Fun Day on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

A big event organised by FOT is the Advent Market - we will confirm the date when the new FOT team is established.

### Summer Works

During the Summer holiday we had a new sound system, projector and screen installed and our front fence repainted. Both of these projects were supported by the Hilton hotel and of course Friends Of Thurnham. We are grateful for their support.

We also had new playground markings placed on the playground which look splendid, partially funded by the Tesco 'bags of help' initiative.



### New Governor

Mrs Kirstin Shepherd joined the Governing Body at the start of term as one of our co-opted Governors. We welcome her to the team.

Be aware we will be looking for new parent governors in particular early next year as some existing tenures come to an end.

### Mary's Meals / Link With Pupil In Uganda

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.

The school also supports Mercy, a child at a school in Uganda (of a similar age to our pupils) in helping fund her education. The money for this was kindly raised by the children last year. I was delighted to read out a letter to the children from Mercy at the start of term telling them about her school life.

### 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. 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.

### Information Forms / Flu Vaccinations / GDPR

In the next few days we will be sending out to you your personal information sheets (in sealed envelopes) so you can check we have accurate information for contacting you etc.

In November, 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 also be sending the forms out in the next few days.

You may be aware from your own workplaces the significance of GDPR - there is a section of the school website with such things as our privacy notice should you wish to read it and other related documents.

## Y2 Choir Club Friday Lunchtimes

Mrs Holland and I will again not have membership of the choir through audition and will instead give each Y2 class a chance to attend this club on Friday lunchtimes if they wish.

Terms 1 & 2 will be Purple class

Terms 3 & 4 will be Blue class

Terms 5 & 6 will be Green 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.

## 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 continuing support.

Mr C K James  
Headteacher

## Thurnham Key Dates for AUTUMN Terms 1 & 2 2018

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

Monday	17	September	Yr R all attend morning session and lunch, go home at 1.20pm (until Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> )	
Thursday	20		Yr R full time (collection at 3:05pm)	
Saturday	22		FOTS Fun Day	
Monday	24		All Year R classes leave parents at main gate	
Wednesday	26		7:30pm FOT AGM (in School Hall)	
Wednesday	3	October	6:30pm Reception Welcome Evening	
Tuesday	9		Global Citizenship Day	
Monday	15		9:15am Harvest Worship (1) (Y1 & Y2 only)	
Tuesday	16		9:15am Harvest Worship (2) (Y1 & Y2 only)	
Friday	19		End of Term 1 (100% attendance stickers)	
<b>22 October – 26 October - School Holiday</b>				
Monday	29		Staff Development Day	
Tuesday	30		Term 2 starts	
Wednesday	31		(am) Individual Photos	
Monday	5	November	Y2 Parent Consultation Afternoon	
Friday	9		11:00am 2 minutes silence for Remembrance	
Tuesday	13		3:20pm – 5:10pm Parent Evening Consultations (1) – All Years	
Friday	16		<b>Possible</b> Children In Need Day Non-Uniform Day	
Monday	19		Y1 Parent Consultation Afternoon	
Wednesday	21		3:20pm – 5:10pm Parent Evening Consultations (2) – All Years	
Monday	26		Reception Parent Consultation Afternoon	
Tuesday	11		December	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	12	3.05pm Parents' Christmas Walkabout		
Thursday	13	Christmas Dinner		
Friday	14	Christmas Productions 2 9.15am Year 1 parents 10.30am Year R parents (collections at performances for Christmas Charity)		
Monday	17	<b>Possible</b> In School Pantomime Date (9:15am)		
Tuesday	18	Party Day (non-uniform day for Christmas Charity)		
Wednesday	19	Last Day of Term (100% attendance stickers) 9:00am Visit From Father Christmas With Presents 2:00pm Candlelight Carol Service (children & staff only)		
<b>20 December – 2 January - School Holiday</b>				
Thursday	3	January		Staff Development Day
Friday	4			Staff Development Day
Monday	7		Term 3 Starts	