

THURNHAM CE INFANT SCHOOL

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Autumn Terms 2018

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 £195.89 and Friends Of Thurnham have also raised £133.80 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. It really does make a difference to them.



Global Citizenship Day

Thank you to everyone who participated in and helped to make our Global Citizenship Day 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 a themed day 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 31st October 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

Thank you for the consent forms giving permission for the nasal spray to be given. The team have now collected them from us and for now on the NHS will manage the process.

The flu immunisation will be held on Wednesday 7th November from 9.30am.

School Improvement Plan 2018-19

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

- Developing Further Writing Successes And Building Upon Existing Ones
- Developing Our Christian Distinctiveness Further & Responding To Our SIAMS Report
- Build Further On Our Existing Successful Parental Engagement Strategies
- Promoting And Developing A Wider and Deeper Curriculum
- Reducing Gaps Between Boys and Girls Performance In All Aspects Of The Curriculum

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

Kent Library Service Event - Maidstone

I have been asked to share the message below from the Kent Library Service.

"At the Kent History and Library Centre storytellers from the Maidstone Interfaith Group will be telling traditional tales from many faiths across the world on Saturday 17th November. We will be holding two sessions, one beginning at 11am and the other at 2pm.

This is a great opportunity for your pupils to get an insight into different traditions. Please encourage them to come and join us."

Holiday Next Week

I would like to remind you all that the school is closed to pupils from today, as next week is a well deserved break for the children from Monday 22nd October to Friday 26th October. Monday 29th October is a staff development day so school opens again to the children on Tuesday 30th 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 Tuesday 30th October.

Yours sincerely,
Mr C K James
Headteacher