

**THURNHAM CE INFANT SCHOOL**

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**Autumn Terms 2018**

**Newsletter No 3**

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

**Dear Parents,**

**Friends Of Thurnham**

**At the recent AGM and after a brilliant tenure in charge of Friends Of Thurnham the following people stood down from their roles:**

**Mrs Norris (Chair), Mrs Kupis (Vice Chair) Mrs Small (Treasurer), Mrs Batchelor (Secretary). I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate the team for their wonderful work and effort in organising excellent events that raised a great deal of money for the school. Examples of their success can be seen in the transformed playground or the audio visual equipment in the Hall and the number of fun events that parents and children have been able to enjoy. I am sure they will appreciate getting some free time back! I am particularly grateful to Mrs Norris for her dedication in leading FOT and for being willing to still support the new incumbents and offer advice if necessary.**

**We have confirmed their successors in the following roles, some of which will be joint ones:**

**Mrs Barling / Mrs Painter (Chair), Mrs Blythin (Vice Chair), Mrs Jerome (Treasurer), Mrs Pottage (Secretary). Of course everyone can be a member of FOT and help us with events.**

**Thanks again to everyone on the FOT team for generously giving that most precious commodity, their free time.**

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**Friends Of Thurnham Family Fun Day**

**Thank you to all who supported this event last Saturday and again to the Friends Of Thurnham. An enormous amount of unseen work goes into this by our volunteers and I would like to thank them all for their efforts in creating an enjoyable event. I especially thank Mrs Norris and the team for their hard work in organising the day and making sure it was a success despite very unhelpful weather conditions. The event made a profit of £1872.70 so well done everyone who made a contribution to the day!**

**New parents should watch out for the build up to the Advent Market on the afternoon of 7<sup>th</sup> December as this is the next 'big' event we will need you all for!**

**New Parents' Coffee Morning**

**Thank you to all of you who joined us on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September and the Friends Committee for organising this event. I was pleased to meet so many people and look forward to working with you all.**

**A reminder that the 'Welcome To Reception Year' event is Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 6:30pm.**

### **Parking On The Drive**

Despite what I said in a previous newsletter it seems we do still have parents parking on the school drive, particularly at the time of Early Risers club each morning. To be completely clear - parents should NOT park on the drive or school site at any time of day, unless they hold a disabled permit. If you see a car parked it is likely that the parent has such a permit and should not assume it is fine to therefore park as well. This is a Health and Safety matter.

As we did last year, I will again pass number plates of non-permit holders parked on the drive from Monday to the Community Police Warden.

### **Global Day**

Global Day will be held the week on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Our main aim is to support the children in developing their knowledge and understanding of the many different cultures and lives of peoples of the world which they are a part of. Also they will learn about the world they will grow up to be a citizen in.

You will hopefully have already received notification that on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October the children can to dress up in a costume representing a country or more likely, in the colours of a particular country's flag.

### **Fire Drill / Gas Leak Drill**

Last Thursday we carried out the fire drill. Just to reassure parents that if we carry out a fire alert, or the slightly different gas leak alert procedure that if you do not hear anything from us it will have only been a drill. We would always share it with you if something like this happened for real. We also always try to make sure the children understand it is not a real event.

### **Census Day Meals**

Three times a year, the Government carries out a census of various school statistics to calculate funding. One part of this is how many children stay for dinner on a certain day and then this gives us funding going forward. To this end, we would like as many children to stay for dinner if possible on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October. The funding doesn't just pay for the dinners cooked, it also funds freezers, cooking equipment and repairs to items in the servery which have heavy use.

The School Office has already sent further information (including the menu for that day).

### **Term Dates 2018/19 & Guide Dates For 2019/20**

I shared these dates with the current Year 1 and 2 parents in the Summer, I enclose them again on the next page for the new Reception parents in order to avoid any term time holidays. Despite what I have explained previously, I am still receiving requests for term time holidays without any supporting information as to the exceptional reasons for the term time request. These can include letters from employers, letters from a medical professional or even duty rotas.

With regard to 2019-20, although we have not yet allocated four of the five staff development days, I can provide a link to the guide dates that Kent have indicated to us. The link is:

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/71850/Term-Dates-2019-20.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/71850/Term-Dates-2019-20.pdf)

The final dates (including the staff development days which will fall within these dates) will be confirmed in the Spring and as usual we will negotiate with Roseacre so they are on the same days.

I have been delighted to have received a lot of positive messages from parents recently, thank you on behalf of the staff and myself. Whilst we always want to hear any concerns or issues, praise and positive comments from parents does boost the staff's spirits as well!

I look forward to continuing to work with you in achieving the best for the children.

C K James  
Headeacher

### TERM DATES: 2018-2019

Following negotiation with Roseacre these are the term dates for next academic year for both schools.

#### Term 1

Friday 19th October      Term Ends

#### Term 2

Monday 29th October      Staff Development Day

Tuesday 30th October      Term Begins

Wednesday 19th Dec      Term Ends

#### Term 3

Thursday 3rd January      Staff Development Day

Friday 4th January      Staff Development Day

Monday 7th January      Term Begins

Friday 15th February      Term Ends

#### Term 4

Monday 25th February      Term Begins

Friday 5th April      Term Ends

#### Term 5

Tuesday 23rd April      Term Begins (Note, Easter Monday is 22nd April)

Monday 6th May      Spring Bank Holiday

Thursday 23rd May      Term Ends

Friday 24th May      Staff Development Day

#### Term 6

Monday 3rd June      Term Begins

Tuesday 23rd July      Term Ends

### 2019-20 (dates confirmed with agreed development days in the Spring)

Monday 2nd Sept 2019 Staff Development Day (PROVISIONAL)

Tuesday 3rd Sept 2019 Term Begins (PROVISIONAL)