

## **THURNHAM CE INFANT SCHOOL**

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**Autumn Terms 2018**

**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.

### **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 2019. Applications have already opened this week and have to be in by Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 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 five years since the linked admissions was introduced, every Thurnham pupil who wanted a Roseacre place was offered one, so we feel the system is working.

### **Children Starting School in September 2019**

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 2019. 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 get a fair place 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 Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

### **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.

### **School Photos**

Please make sure you return your school photo order into school or online by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November to ensure delivery before Christmas.

### **Children In Need - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 are also likely to be asking for donations for the Advent Market soon), 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!

### **Toys**

A number of children are bringing toys (particularly small toys) into school that are getting lost or result in the children having arguments about ownership. Please can we keep them at home. Thanks in advance for your support on this matter.

### **The Advent Market**

This event is one of the biggest events in the school calendar and is on 7<sup>th</sup> December. 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. Parents are extremely kind and generous and we are often overwhelmed by what comes in.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### **Equality Steering Group**

Our Equality Group meets three times a year. The purpose and rationale behind it is to ensure that throughout the school we are meeting the equality objectives we have written and the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

We are currently looking for new parental representatives to join.

If you feel you would be interested in joining this committee then please speak to Mrs Pateman or leave a message at the school office.

### **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 11<sup>th</sup> December. This will also be ticketed.

### Dates Reminder

Friday	16	November	Children In Need Day - optional donation for non-school uniform
Friday	7		Advent Market (mid afternoon onwards, more details to follow)
Tuesday	11	December	Christmas Performances / Y2 Carol Service Day 9.15am Year 1 (In Hall) 10.30am Year R (In Hall) 1:45pm Year 2 at Holy Cross Church (collections at all performances for Christmas Charity)
Wednesday	12		11:00am Children's Christmas Walkabout 3.05pm Parents' Christmas Walkabout
Thursday	13		Christmas Dinner
Friday	14		Christmas Performances 9.15am Year 1 (In Hall) 10.30am Year R (In Hall) (collections at all performances for Christmas Charity)
Monday	17		9:30am Pantomime In Hall
Tuesday	18		Party Day (non-uniform day for Christmas Charity)
Wednesday	19		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	3	January	Staff Development Day
Friday	4	2018	Staff Development Day
Monday	7		School Opens For New Term

I wish parents well with their Christmas preparations, I am sure you are aware there are now just over seven 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