

## **THURNHAM CE INFANT SCHOOL**

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**www.thurnham-infant.kent.sch.uk**



**Spring Terms 2019**

**Newsletter No 1**

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

**Dear Parents,**

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and break. The staff, governors and I wish you a very Happy New Year.

Dates for the Terms 3 and 4 are attached to this letter – please note the February week long break is 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Term ends for Easter on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April and we return on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

I am currently in the process of agreeing the dates for next year with Roseacre (including Staff Development Days).

### **Christmas Gifts / Donations**

Thank you again to the marvellous team that is Friends of Thurnham for the Advent Market. They made a superb profit of £2,651.63 (there may be one or two small costs still to come off this figure).

I would also like to pass on thanks from the staff for the lovely gifts they received from the children and appreciate your generosity.

We had Demelza as our Christmas charity this year. The final figure is now £1030.47. Again, thank you for your generosity.

### **Father Christmas**

The children had a lovely last day of term in December. Father Christmas distributed presents to each class in the morning and we thank him for taking time out of his busy schedule to come in!

### **Admissions - Last Chance!**

I am sure the vast majority of you will have now done this but would like to remind you one final time that the deadline for online applications (for Y3 next year or for Reception at Thurnham for a sibling) is on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. If you wish to use the linked admission with Roseacre to ensure you are ranked higher, please make the link clear in your application. Since the link was introduced it always seems to go very smoothly but I am happy to help anyone with their applications.

I also receive an interim list from Kent so that I can check all Year 2 parents have actually made an application and have time to catch anyone who hasn't applied yet! I appreciate life is busy for parents.

### **School Dinner Census**

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January the Government will carry out their count of the number of children staying for school dinners. I ask if as many children take part as possible as we are not funded for the coming months on a daily take up rate but only based on the numbers eating on a census day. Therefore, if numbers are lower that day but are substantially higher another we would have to fund the difference out of other budgets. Even if you do not always take a free dinner (but may at times in the near future) I ask if you could take part on that day.

### Reminder - Phonics & Spelling Evening / Y2 Assessment Evening

I will send out letters about the Phonics and Spelling evening (6:30pm on 24<sup>th</sup> January) next week.

We have subsequently discovered a Roseacre Parent Evening will clash with our planned date for the Year 2 Assessment evening so have moved it to enable as many Year 2 parents to come as possible. This will now take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 6:30pm instead.

### Save The Advance Date - Mother's Day Storytime

Thank you all the Dads / Grandads and male family members who come in for Christmas Storytime last term. They all had a great time reading their stories!

As promised, Mums, Grandmothers and other female relatives will be able to come in for a similar session on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 2:35pm if they wish (Mother's Day is the following Sunday). Please save the date!

### Attendance

The Government defines 'a persistent absentee' (and therefore a cause for concern) as any child below 90% of the school year for attendance - approximately a maximum of 19-20 school days off including sickness and holidays.

All attendance is computer tracked and parents are often surprised to receive a call from me when their child's absence trends higher. Therefore, close to the mid-year point (near the February holiday) I will issue every parent with a breakdown of their child's attendance to date and guidance on whether their figure is a good one. They can also be aware of how their child is being flagged on our system.

As you know, we have been praised for our very high attendance rate and want to retain that high rate.

### Severe Weather Alerts / Snow

As we are entering the time of year for severe weather, parents can find out if the school is able to open following snowfall in the following ways:

- The most effective way is to check by looking at 'updates and important announcements' near the top of the main page of the website ([www.thurnham-infant.kent.sch.uk](http://www.thurnham-infant.kent.sch.uk)) and a decision should be made by 7:30am each morning to enable contingency planning (and always refresh the page with F5).
- Listen to Radio Kent / Heart FM for school closures, if you do not hear Thurnham mentioned we will be open.

It is very likely the school will be open as myself and a number of staff live within walking distance of the school. Depending upon staff and numbers of children attending, we may not be able to offer the full curriculum but appreciate there are some parents who depend upon school being open, particularly those who work in the emergency services.

We will always try to open the school in bad weather, and there have been occasions when we have opened during snow when many did not. Snow can also be notoriously difficult to predict and the health and safety of parents, staff and pupils is paramount, especially those families and staff who travel long distances to get to the school. The minority of parents who live too far away to walk should assess the risk of driving in these conditions before leaving for school. However, expect school to be open.

Below is a key dates list for terms 3 & 4 is to give you an idea of important dates.

I look forward to successful Spring terms at school for the pupils and working with you all to secure the best for all the children.

Mr C K James  
Headteacher

### DATES FOR SPRING TERMS 2018-19

Monday	21	January	Writing Week Starts (Book Fair Monday to Thursday in Hall)
Wednesday	23		4:30pm – 5:15pm Bedtime Stories (Tea/ Coffee in Hall for parents waiting)
Thursday	24		6:30pm Phonics & Spelling Workshop Evening For Parents
Friday	1	February	FOTS Quiz Night
Tuesday	5		Safer Internet Day (In School)
Thursday	7		6:30pm Y2 SATS Evening For Parents
Friday	15		Last Day of Term 3 100% attendance stickers
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February School Holiday</b>			
Monday	25	February	Start of Term 4
Monday	4	March	Y2 Parent Afternoon Consultations
Wednesday	6		Maths Day Parent Consultations 3.30-5:10pm
Thursday	7		World Book Day In School
Monday	11		Science Week Begins Reception Parent Afternoon Consultations
Thursday	14		Parent Consultations 3.30-5:10pm
Monday	18		Y1 Parent Afternoon Consultations
Friday	29		Children bring in decorated eggs pm Easter Rehearsal 2:35pm Mother's Day Storytime (open to a female family member)
Monday	1		April
Tuesday	2	Easter Services 9.15am Easter Performance 3 3:10pm Easter Walkabout and refreshments	
Friday	5	Last Day of Term 4 100% attendance stickers	
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April School Holiday (note Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April is Easter Monday)</b>			
Tuesday	23	April	Start of Term 5