

THURNHAM CE INFANT SCHOOL

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Spring Terms 2019

Newsletter No 2

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

Dear Parents,

Writing Week

Writing Week was very successful and not only enhanced Writing in school but also was very enjoyable for the children. Mrs Watkin has prepared a report on what took place with some lovely pictures that are at the end of this newsletter. Thank you to Mrs Watkin for organising it and everyone for making it successful. I also thank the ladies from Friends Of Thurnham for helping with the book sale.

We thoroughly enjoyed reading the competition entries of everyone who took part. Well done!

Safer Internet Day / Maths Day / Science Week

On Tuesday 5th February it was Safer Internet Day in school, where the children enjoyed a variety of activities about this area.

Our next curriculum enhancement days will be Maths Day on 6th March and Science Week 11th - 15th March. We really enjoy bringing the curriculum alive with special themed events!

Phonics and Spelling Evening / Forthcoming Year 2 Assessment Evening

Thank you to the parents that attended the recent Phonics and Spelling evening, we hope you found it useful and we appreciate your interest. The slides can be found at the 'latest news' clickable icon on the website. Year 1 will hold a short briefing on the Government Phonics screening just after Easter. The screening itself for Year 1 will be in mid-June.

A reminder the Year 2 Assessment evening is today (7th February) at 6:30pm.

Attendance Data

As parents know, our attendance rate is pleasingly well above national average and I am challenged to maintain this high rate.

As we are virtually at the school mid-year point, later this week you will receive attendance data covering from the start of school in September to the week ending 1st February for your child via the book bag. This will let parents know how their child's attendance rate is currently trending. By doing this mid-year, it will allow continued good attendance for the rest of the year to have a positive impact on any children whose absence to date is currently trending higher. Alternatively, it will inform parents of their child's excellent attendance record which they will be eager to celebrate and maintain.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE ABSENCE FIGURE COUNTS HALF DAYS NOT FULL DAYS.

School Clubs - No Cars On Site

A polite reminder that parents should not drive onto the site unless they have a special permit. We still find a number of parents will drive onto the site as they think at Clubs finish times (or in the mornings) the drive will be quiet. In some ways this can actually be more dangerous for those using the drive so I remind parents to please refrain from doing so. Parents are very embarrassed when I have to approach their car directly or report their number plate to the Community Warden.

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.

Requests For Early Pick Ups

We are starting to get parents frequently coming to the office to pick up their children before the end of the school day. Unless you have an exceptional reason that has been discussed in advance with the school, you should be picking up from 3:05pm as usual.

One Last Reminder!

The next school holiday is now not far away which is from Monday 18th February through to Friday 22nd February.

Children therefore return on Monday 25th February.

Thank you for your continuing support and especially the lovely e-mails and comments of praise we receive from you that really raise everyone's spirits.

Mr C K James
Headteacher

Writing Week Report

Thank you to everyone who supported our Writing Week earlier this term. It was a great success and the children really enjoyed all of the activities. Here are a few of the highlights -

- We all enjoyed a fantastic **drama workshop** based on Under the Sea. Thank you very much to Friends of Thurnham for fully funding this. The children learned about scuba diving and went to find a lost pearl, meeting many sea creatures and King Neptune along the way. It gave everyone lots of ideas to write about!



- Mrs Clifford (a Children's Librarian) also came to read some fantastic stories to the children that would make everyone want to write.



- After school on Wednesday, lots of children came back to their classrooms for **Bedtime Stories** and a snack, wearing pyjamas and carrying a cuddly friend. They all enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and low lighting!



- The **Book Fair** is always a huge success and the children all love looking at and sharing the books. Adults were as generous as always and spent over £1,800 at the Book Fair! This has generated over £1,000 in commission which we can spend on any resources from the Scholastic catalogue. All of the children will benefit from this. Thank you very much to all of the helpers and all of you who spent so generously.



- Friday saw children and staff all dressed up as characters from Under the Sea. We were amazed by how creative you all are and how sensible the children were in their costumes. Lots of people wrote about what they had come dressed as!



- Finally, we saw some fantastic entries for the **Writing Week competition!** Judging was extremely difficult for the team of adult judges as we would have liked to give a prize to everyone who entered! Please do come into school to have a look at the wonderful displays of all of the entries - in the Entrance Hall for Year R and Year 1, and outside Purple Class for Year 2.

The competition winners were Year 2 - Kara, Year 1 - Toby, Year R - Issy.



Well done to everyone who took part.



- The Phonics and Spelling workshop was very well attended on the Thursday evening - thank you to all who came along.
- The children in Year 2 enjoyed their first visit to Roseacre as a class and enjoyed sharing their writing work with the Year 3 children, as well as meeting some of the Year 3 staff.
- To finish the week, some children from each class were chosen to visit other classes to show and talk about what they had been doing during the week - the children were fantastic and all spoke clearly and sensibly about what they had learned and all their writing.

Thank you all once again for all your support.

Mrs Watkin (English Subject Leader)