



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

Dear Parents,

Congratulations Year R!

Well done to all our new year R children and their parents. The children have settled beautifully. It has been lovely chatting and getting to know some of you as you have dropped off the children initially, and of course seeing parents again with children already at (or have been at) the school. Remember, from Monday 23rd September Reception children will be collected from the gate by staff. Reception stay for lunch from next week.

Some Reception parents have recently asked me if I intend to mix the classes when they go into Year 1 - at present this is our intention as we feel it is beneficial to the children.

Website

New parents may find it useful to check dates on the website calendar, download forms or newsletters and of course what is happening if there is a severe weather warning (although we usually do not close for snow as a number of staff live within walking distance).

The location is still www.thurnham-infant.kent.sch.uk.

Waiting Areas Reminder

Some parents are still not sure where their year group waiting area is at the end of the day, so to remind you:

- Year R Parents wait near the caterpillar and by the office walls of the building - follow the green footprints. Please keep behind the yellow line when collecting your Reception pupils. Please resist the temptation to rush forward over the line when you can see your child - it can slow the handover down. We aim to ensure Reception are always the first children to come out.
- Year 1 Parents wait well away from the gates, near the curving fence where the blue benches are - Orange will follow on Reception by leaving through their gate. Please try to not stand forwards, particularly blocking where Reception parents wait.
- Year 2 parents wait by the boundary fence near Roseacre's playground where their children can still see them - follow the red footprints. Please try to keep pushchairs to the sides of the areas so you're not blocking access. Please leave the area by both gates free so little children don't have to push their way through - they find this very daunting.
- I may at times have to come out and gently remind people where to stand - obviously we just want to make pick up as easy and straightforward as possible for you.

Do try to collect your child on time - phone us in advance if you have been delayed for any reason. Also make sure a responsible adult collects your child from school, not another school age pupil.

School Dinners

A reminder that the school is funded by the Government for school dinners. Every child is eligible and if you choose to have a school dinner on a Monday, the pattern must continue for the rest of the week. As the funding is based on a particular uptake number and ordering of the food is done in advance, we need to have a good idea of numbers across the week to avoid unnecessary supplies being bought that may subsequently perish.

Y1 & Y2 Welcome Evenings

Thank you for everyone who attended. A link to the slides from these events are also on the front page of the website. The Reception welcome evening is scheduled for Wednesday 2nd October at 6:30pm.

Friends Of Thurnham

Friends Of Thurnham is a parental organisation that raises a lot of money for the school that goes towards resources for the pupils. On Wednesday 25th September at 7:30pm parents are welcome to come to a meeting of Friends Of Thurnham in the School Hall. FOT is a good way to get to know other parents and have some fun organising events and getting involved. We still need some kind volunteers for particular roles so look forward to seeing any interested people at this meeting. You hopefully will be already aware of the Family Fun Day on Saturday 21st September. A big event organised by FOT is the Advent Market - currently planned for the afternoon of Friday 6th December.

As school budgets have become tighter, I cannot thank FOT enough for the support they give us.

Departing Governor

Mrs Samantha Osborne, one of our Parent Governors, is standing down from the Governing Body. I would like to thank her for all her support and hard work as a Governor and wish her well with her future plans.

Be aware that we will therefore be looking for new parent governors soon.

Jewellery, Watches and Sunglasses

A reminder that in the interests of safety, no jewellery - chains, rings, watches, sunglasses or decorative earrings - may be worn in school. Stud style earrings only for pierced ears are acceptable and not any other type. However, no earrings can be worn for P.E. and would need to be removed at home or removed by the child at school. Staff are not permitted to remove earrings or replace them after P.E. sessions.

Please note, some children are permitted to wear particular items for religious or medical reasons.

Medical Conditions

Mrs Pateman and Mrs Johnston have worked hard to make sure our medical conditions information is now fully up to date. If your child's medical condition or provision for them changes at all, please let us know in writing so we can keep everything up to date.

Mary's Meals / Link With Pupil In Uganda

New parents may not be aware, but there are small collection boxes in every class and any small change the children have can be deposited in these boxes. Last year we were again overwhelmed by the support parents and children gave to this initiative. Remember, we are only asking for 2 and 1 pences children may have left over at home, not huge cash amounts! £10.70 pays for a year's school meals for a child in a developing country. Thank you for your ongoing support.

The school also supports Mercy, a child at a school in Uganda (of a similar age to our pupils) in helping fund her education. The money for this was kindly raised by the children last year. I was delighted to read out a letter to the children from Mercy at the start of term telling them about her school life.

Thurnham Early Risers

We offer before school supervision at a daily rate of £3.50 from 8:00am through to 8:45am when those children then join the others. This is becoming increasingly popular and has a maximum number of sixteen places. We currently have average daily bookings of thirteen to fourteen children so do be aware this could soon be full. Please contact the office if you would like to book any dates. We can in some cases, accept childcare vouchers.

Remember, this is intended to be something relaxed and enjoyable for the children and is not deemed to be part of the educational day.

Pupil Premium Funding

Even though all children can now have a free lunch, parents can still apply for the Pupil Premium funding that can support their child in school in a number of ways and is paid to the school to spend in supporting the pupil.

The criteria are that the pupil's family must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not including Working Tax Credit)
- If the household income is below £16,190
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Asylum Seekers / Proof of support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- An Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Forms are available from the office or apply online at:
<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent>

Coats

Please make sure your child has a coat in school each day, whatever the weather. We often take the children out to play even in fine drizzle so they can stretch their legs and get some fresh air. A light fold-up waterproof is ideal.

Information Forms / Flu Vaccinations / GDPR

In the next few days we will be sending out to you your personal information sheets (in sealed envelopes) so you can check we have accurate information for contacting you etc.

In November, the NHS would again like to carry out a programme of flu vaccinations for all our pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This will be by nasal spray and not by injection. Please note, all parents will be asked whether they wish their child to take part. We will also be sending the forms for this in the near future.

You may be aware from your own workplaces the significance of GDPR – there is a section of the school website with such things as our privacy notice should you wish to read it and other related documents.

Dates

You should find on the last page some useful dates for your diary. These are the expected dates for events but may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

If you are a new parent and are unclear what some of these events listed involve, we will let you know more nearer the time.

Rules and Sanctions

We are very lucky to have well-behaved children in this school, and also lucky to have parents who support us in our high expectations of behaviour. We have a system of rules and sanctions displayed in each classroom and I thought it might also be useful for parents to see it as well.

Our Golden Rules

We will try to be kind and helpful to everyone

We will try to always do our best

We will try to listen carefully

Please try to keep our Golden Rules, and help people in your class to remember them, so this school will be a lovely place to work in and play in.

If you find it difficult to keep the golden rules your teacher will help you.
Your teacher will:

- Remind you (this is called a verbal warning)
- Give you a Yellow warning card to remind you
- Ask you to go away from your group with an Orange card, so that you can calm down.
- Send you to another class with a Red card, so you have time to think about the golden rules.
- Send you to see the Headteacher to talk about what has happened.

We don't usually need to use all these sanctions. A verbal warning or a yellow card is normally enough. If your child needs more than this the class teacher will let you know. Year R children are gradually introduced to this system over their first year in school.

Y2 Choir Club Friday Lunchtimes

Mrs Holland and I will again not have membership of the choir through audition and will instead give each Y2 class a chance to attend this club on Friday lunchtimes if they wish.

Terms 1 & 2 will be Green class

Terms 3 & 4 will be Purple class

Terms 5 & 6 will be Blue class

For this to work we will need a reasonable number of children wishing to participate, if numbers from each class are too small we will review how we manage it. Each class choir group then get an opportunity to sing at each end of term event i.e. Christmas, Easter and Leaver Services.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Mr C K James
Headteacher

Thurnham Key Dates for AUTUMN Terms 1 & 2 2019

NOTE – ALL DATES ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGES DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Monday	16	September	Yr R all attend morning session and lunch, go home at 1.20pm	
Thursday	19		Yr R full time	
Saturday	21		FOTS Fun Afternoon (12:00pm – 4:00pm)	
Monday	23		All Year R classes leave parents at main gate	
Wednesday	25		7:30pm FOT AGM (in School Hall)	
Wednesday	2	October	6:30pm Reception Parents Welcome Evening	
Thursday	3		Global Citizenship Day	
Monday	14		9:15am Harvest Worship (1) (Year 1 & Year 2 only)	
Tuesday	15		9:15am Harvest Worship (2) (Year 1 & Year 2 only)	
Thursday	17		End of Term 1 (100% attendance stickers)	
Friday	18		Staff Development Day	
21 October – 25 October - School Holiday				
Monday	28			Term 2 starts
Wednesday	30		(am) Individual Photos	
Tuesday	5	November	Mindfulness Day	
Monday	11		9:00am Flu Immunisations 11:00am 2 minutes silence for Remembrance 1:10pm – 3:10pm Y1 Parent Afternoon Consultations	
Tuesday	12		3:20pm – 5:10pm Parent Evening Consultations (1)	
Friday	15		Possibly Children In Need Day Non-Uniform Day	
Monday	18		1:10pm – 3:10pm Y2 Parent Afternoon Consultations	
Wednesday	20		3:20pm – 5:10pm Parent Evening Consultations (2)	
Monday	25		1:10pm – 3:10pm Reception Parent Afternoon Consultations	
Friday	29		Bring Tombola/Raffle item	
Friday	6		December	Advent Market in afternoon
Monday	9			Dress Rehearsal Day (for Christmas Productions)
Tuesday	10	Christmas Productions 1 / Carol Service Day 9.15am Year 1 parents 10.30am Year R parents 1:45pm Year 2 at Holy Cross Church (collections at all 3 performances for Christmas Charity)		
Wednesday	11	3.05pm Parents' Christmas Walkabout		
Thursday	12	Christmas Dinner		
Friday	13	Christmas Productions 2 9.15am Year 1 parents 10.30am Year R parents (collections at performances for Christmas Charity)		
Monday	16	Pantomime Date (11:00am)		
Tuesday	17	Party Day (non-uniform day for Christmas Charity)		
Wednesday	18	Last Day of Term (100% attendance stickers)		
19 December – 3 January - School Holiday				
Monday	6		Term 3 Starts	