

Thornley Primary School

.....where everyone can shine like stars!



Newsletter

March 2016

Term Dates

Thursday 24th March
Tuesday 12th April

Break up – Easter Holiday
Return to school

Monday 2nd May

May Bank Holiday return on Tuesday 3rd May

Friday 27th May
Tuesday 7th June

Break up – Summer Half Term
Return to school

Wednesday 20th July

Break up Summer Holiday

Important Dates in the Academic Calendar: Statutory Tests

May 3rd – 31st : Key Stage 1 testing period (Year 2 pupils)

May 9th – 13th : Key Stage 2 Test Week

June 13th – 17th : Year 1 Phonics Check Week

- **It is important that all pupils are in school during their test weeks.**

18th March - Sport Relief – Run a Mile & Healthy Tuck Shop

22nd March – Easter Egg Decorating & card-making (Y1 – Y6)

23rd March - Easter Egg Decorating Foundation Stage

Sport Relief – Friday 18th March

Wristbands are on sale for £1 each from the school office. All pupils will try to run a mile for Sport Relief in the afternoon. A change of footwear is all that is needed. There will be a healthy tuck shop and all proceeds from this will go to Sport Relief. Dress code: School uniform for the morning and sports clothes for the afternoon.

Easter Egg Decorating Tuesday 22nd March

On Tuesday afternoon, pupils from Y1 – Y6 will be decorating Easter eggs to enter into our Easter Egg Competition on Thursday.

We would like to invite parents or other family members in to school to work alongside the children - helping them to decorate their eggs and take part in other Easter craft activities.

Just pop along to school for about 1.30 and join in the fun! If you have children in different year groups, then either split your time between them or we will get them both together in the same classroom for you.

Pupils in the Foundation Stage will be decorating eggs throughout the day on Wednesday 23rd March. Mrs Wardle will be producing a separate newsletter giving more details for parents of pupils in Early Years.

Attendance & Holiday; in Term Time

Attendance to date is : 95.7%

Class percentages are as follows:

Y5 :	96.6%
Y2 :	96.5%
Y6:	96.2%
Y3:	96.0%
YR:	95.8%
Y4:	95.7%
Y1:	93.2%

Holidays in term time have slightly decreased, but still continue to have the biggest negative impact on attendance. Please consider very carefully the consequences of taking children out of school for long periods during term time. Not only does it mean a possible visit from the Education Welfare Officer when attendance is low, but it also means children missing out on great chunks of learning and possibly finding it difficult or even impossible to catch up.

If you would like to discuss a holiday request, this can be done either in person or by ringing the school. I would be able to advise you on whether your request would be authorised or not.

After-School Clubs Spring Term 2016

Monday : Movie Club (KS1 & 2) Guitar Club (KS2)

Tuesday: Multi-Sports (KS1)

Wednesday: Technology Club (KS1 &2) Bugsy Malone Club (KS2)

Thursday : Chill-Out Club (KS1 & 2) / Netball (KS2) / Football (KS2)

Friday : Sports Club (KS2)

All clubs cost £1 per session. All clubs finish at 4.20 with the exception of Film Club which ends at 4.45pm. Please could you make sure that your child is collected on time. Attendance at any after-school club is dependent on excellent behaviour.

School Logo and Motte

You may have noticed the new school logo on the front of this newsletter. This was as a result of recent staff discussions about our vision, aims and values which have also been updated.

Thanks to our newly-discovered 'whizzy' computer expert Miss Baird who designed the new logo for us.

The new logo will gradually replace the old one on school letterheads, documents etc. and eventually on uniform.

School Uniform

There will be no need to buy new uniform because of the change of school logo. Uniform with the new logo will gradually replace the existing one and there will never be a time when the 'old' logo is not acceptable as school uniform.

I must congratulate you on the immaculate way your children are presented in school. It is always a pleasure to stand in front of the whole school in assembly time and see such well-groomed, sparkly pupils really shining like stars! Just a couple of things :

School Shoes

The school's uniform policy requires that pupils wear black school shoes. If pupils must wear trainers for school, then they should be completely black.

Hair Decorations

Please could you ensure that hair decorations are in the blue school colour as set out in the Uniform Policy. The girls in our school have the most beautifully-styled hair and I appreciate the time you mums, dads and family members spend making them look smart. Blue bows, ribbons and bobbles would complete the look!

Our School Vision, Values and Aims

We are spending time in staff meetings re-visiting our vision, values and aims. It is important that all who are involved with the school share the school's vision and help us to achieve it.

Our school's motto is :

'Thornley Primary School...where everyone can shine like stars!'

We feel that it is important that ALL members of the school community are allowed to 'shine' in many different ways.

I am attaching a slip at the end of this newsletter for you to say what your hopes and aspirations for your children are. The feedback from you will help us to re-write the school's Aims and Values.

Please take some time to think about what you value in education and what you would like for your child(ren) by the time they leave this school.

These are our Current School Aims (revised on Monday 14th March)

- To provide a setting where pupils feel safe and happy
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- To ensure that all pupils feel included and valued in a secure learning environment where respectful relationships exist
- To engage pupils' interest by providing a creative and relevant curriculum full of stimulating experiences which will motivate and enthuse them to learn
- To set high expectations for all pupils giving every learner the confidence to succeed and the resilience to persevere
- To raise the aspirations of pupils so that they aim high, work hard and become independent, lifelong learners
- To encourage pupils to grow into informed, confident citizens who can make a positive contribution to society; adopt a healthy lifestyle; are prepared for the world of work and are socially and morally respectable
- To foster good relationships with parents, carers and families of all pupils, engaging help and support when needed.

Please let us know what you think about these aims – they represent what we strive to do for our pupils and also relate to parents, carers and staff who are all part of the school community.

Pupil Experiences from January 2016

We have had a busy time since the turn of the year. Here is a list showing the range of activities and experiences pupils have had since January.

11/01/16 – Buddhist visitor for a day in Y1 and Y2 to launch Key Task on Buddhism

25/01/16 – Cookery lessons for Y3 and Y4 – practicing Italian dishes for Key Task

03/02/16 – 05/02/16 – Year 5 and 6 residential trip to Robinwood

08/02/16 – Gillian Bell, Parliamentary Education Service, working with KS2 classes

10/2/16 - Year 3 opened 'Bistro Zakino' for their Key Task

11/02/16 – Year 4 Opened 'Anno Quattro : Taste of Italy' Bistro for their Key task

11/02/16 and 12/02/16 – African workshops for whole school : Djembe drumming, singing, crafts and cookery with performance for whole school to take part in.

12/02/16 – Valentine's Disco

23/02/16 – NSPCC Assembly on safeguarding

24/02/16 – Y3 and Y4 trip to Durham Cathedral (rearranged due to closure of Bede's World)

29/02/16 – 04/03/16 – Book Fair in school

01/03/16 – NSPCC Workshops (safeguarding) Year 5 and 6

03/03/16 – World Book Day. Various activities including dressing up as a character from a book

03/03/16 – School Ambassadors to Wingate Infants for planning this year's Partnership Festival with pupils from other schools across the Partnership.

11/03/16 – Whole school watched performance of Jungle Book (M & M Productions)

Feedback on Changes to Morning Routines for Pupils coming in to School

The new system seems to be working well. Children are walking peacefully into school and the whole process seems far more sociable (I get to greet the children personally too!) Thanks for your cooperation in getting this new system in action so smoothly!

Do you share the School's Vision?

What sorts of experiences would you like for your own child(ren) while they are in this school?

What would you want your child(ren) to be like (skills, knowledge, character, etc) by the time they leave Thornley Primary?

What would you like to add to our Aims?

Any other thoughts / ideas?

*Optional

Name :

Contact details (email / mobile)