

Thorney Tribune

Thorney Island CP School

Newsletter No 1

September 2020

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Dear Parents, Governors and Friends,

Welcome to the new school year and to the first newsletter of the Autumn Term. I hope you all had a relaxing summer holiday. I would like to give a very special welcome to the many new children who have just started at our school, as well as to their parents. I am really looking forward to the exciting and fresh challenges that lay ahead of us and in helping all our learners to achieve their potential.

Social Distancing on the School Grounds

A concern has been raised by a parent about the lack of social distancing on the school grounds at the end of the day.

It is vitally important that all parents adhere to the social distancing rules that are in place. As a school we are doing all we can to keep children and staff safe and the school open.

The control measures we have put in place include requesting:

- Parents stick rigidly to the staggered start & finish times
- Only one person to drop off and pick up
- Parents not to congregate at the school gate at the end of the day and to leave the school site as soon as possible
- Parents to follow the one way systems – enter by the playground gate and leave by one of the gates at the front of the school
- Social distancing whilst waiting for children
- Parents not to enter the school building without a prior appointment and only in exceptional circumstances

We are very lucky that Thorney Island School has remained open and Covid free throughout lockdown and for this to continue we all need to play our part and adhere to social distancing and control measures that are in place.

Gifts and Cards - Last Term

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank all of those who sent in presents and cards at the end of last term. The messages written in the cards were especially welcomed by staff and your acknowledgement of their hard work and dedication much appreciated. Some of the gifts were very personalised and have been displayed around school.

Class Meetings/Phonics Meetings/Parents Evenings/Afterschool Club

These are all cancelled due to the restrictions placed on schools caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. I will be working with staff on the best way to engage with parents over the next few weeks.

Hooks into Learning



Thank you for providing all the costumes; the children looked great.

Parent Governor Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen for a Parent Governor on the schools Governing Body. This is a great way to support and make a positive contribution to the school and the children's education. If you think this is a role you would be interested in please email your details to Mrs McCrossan, Clerk to Governors (bursar@ticps.co.uk) by Friday 25 September 2020. The school very much values the contribution made by all governors in particular Parent Governors. Further information about becoming a Parent Governor can be found on the West Sussex Services for Schools website (google West Sussex School Governor).

Play Park

Children who go to the 'Play Park' before school should be supervised by an adult. It is not the responsibility of the school to supervise children in this area either before or after school. Many children often arrive late to school when playing in the Park which disrupts the start of the school day for other children. The behaviour of some children in the Park has also been raised as a concern by quite a few parents. The school cannot be held responsible for this and it does take up a lot of time when these issues continue in school. There also seems to be very little social distancing happening in the 'Play Park' which negates all the work we are doing in school. Please help me to keep the school open by helping to prevent the spread of the virus.

School Improvement Priorities

We have been extremely successful with your support in improving standards across the school in reading, writing and mathematics over the past few years. Our focus this year is to embed and build upon the work we have done along with keeping the school open during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We will be working hard this year on ensuring parents are aware of the best ways to support their children with their learning. Your encouragement and support is vital and makes such a difference. You may not always notice the impact you have, but we certainly do. **However, we are unsure at present how we will provide opportunities for parents to improve their understanding of how best to support their children with learning as the Class Meetings and Workshops that we usually run cannot happen at present.**

'Class Curriculum Letters' have been sent home with children and can also be found on our website. These letters offer advice as well as links to resources to support learning. Please visit www.thorneyisland.w-sussex.sch.uk The link can be found under Information for Parents. The hyperlinks for most resources suggested by staff can be found in these letters.

Medicines in School

With the exception of paracetamol and antihistamine, any medicines brought into school for your child to take during the school day, **must be prescribed by a doctor, in the original packaging and with your child's name clearly marked on it. Medicine should be handed into the school office by a parent/carer**, where it will be kept in a locked cabinet. If you would like a member of staff to administer a prescribed medicine to your child, you must complete a Consent Form that is available from the school office. The school **cannot** accept a verbal instruction or instruction from a child to administer medicine.

Health and Safety

Please do not bring peanuts or products that may contain peanuts into school as we have a few children who may/will suffer severe allergic reactions if they come into contact with them. This has happened once in my time at Thorney and although we have Epipens in school and staff are trained to use them, it is not an experience I would like to repeat.

Sickness Absence

If your child is ill and unable to come to school, please telephone us before 9.30am. If you do not inform us of the reason why your child is absent from school, they will receive an unauthorised absence mark in the Register. Please inform us of any medical/dental appointments before they are due. If possible these should be made outside of school hours.

Behaviour Policy

Please note that this Policy can be found on the school's website. The government has requested that we send an annual reminder to parents about this. The Policy clearly sets out our expectations and the actions we will take if children do not behave as expected. The behaviour of the vast majority of children at our school is outstanding. Unfortunately, on occasions a few children do not behave as expected but they are soon helped to achieve our expectations by both staff and their peers. Your support with promoting outstanding behaviour at school is always much appreciated.

Entitlement to remove children from school for term time holidays

As some of you may already know headteachers are no longer able to grant authorisation for children to take time off school for term time holidays with their families.

Headteachers **may not** grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. At a meeting of the schools Full Governing Body, governors agreed that authorised absence would only be granted for the following reasons:

A maximum of 5 days may be taken by any child/children whose parent is on an operational tour and returns for a period of R&R.

A maximum of 5 days authorised leave may be taken by any child/children during a parent's period of Post Operational Leave

A maximum of 1 days authorised leave may be taken by any child/children to visit a new school prior to Posting.

The guidance from the Department for Education states that "The current law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must be in exceptional circumstances and the headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave".

Any parent wishing to request leave for their child/children should request a 'Removal from Learning' form from the School Office.

Free School Meals Eligibility

Is your child eligible to Free School Meals?

If you are in receipt of any of the following benefits, your child may be eligible for free school meals.

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than **£7,400**.
- Child Tax Credit (**with no Working Tax Credit**) with an annual income of no more than **£16,190**
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you **stop qualifying** for Working Tax Credit)
- Income Support
- **Income-based** Jobseeker's Allowance
- **Income-related** Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit

Registering for free meals could also raise an extra **£1,320** for our school to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.

This applies to **all** children, including children in Years R – 2 who automatically receive Universal Infant Free School Meals.

If you would like more information about applying for Free School Meals, please contact Mrs Fung in the school office. All enquires will be dealt with confidentially.

School Uniform

I would like to say a big thank you to all parents for their effort in adhering to school uniform rules. The children look very smart and are a credit to you. New parents visiting the school, as well as staff, have commented on this. However, **please remember to name everything**. You would be surprised at how many children who have lost a jumper, when asked if it had their name in say, **“No but its RED!”**

Please can you also check that your child brings their own jumper home. Mistakes are easily made and children often arrive at school without a jumper but end up taking a friend's home by accident; after a hard day's work this is easily done. If you do get the wrong jumper brought home, please return it as soon as possible – your child's jumper will most probably be in lost property or a friend will be wearing it! With your help we can soon sort this out.

School Coats

We are pleased to be able to offer school coats as an optional item of uniform. The coats, which are fleece lined, shower proof and embroidered with the school logo, come in three colours – red, black and navy blue; they are priced £25.00 each. If you would like to order a coat, please speak to Mrs Fung in the school office before Monday 28 September. Please be aware that as coats are not a compulsory item of uniform they are ordered on request; we do not keep them in stock.

ParentMail

To help us communicate with parents, we operate a service called ParentMail. ParentMail has proved very successful and has enabled us to get important messages to you directly via email and/or text message, without relying on 'pupil post' which can be less reliable. Using ParentMail has also helped the school become more eco-friendly by using less paper and less electricity (i.e. less photocopying). Having the ability to send text messages to parents enables us to let you know when, for example, after-school clubs are cancelled or trips are due home late.

This is the only Newsletter you will receive in paper form. From now and wherever possible, we will be sending out correspondence such as Newsletters, curriculum letters, class letters, trip information, via ParentMail (email); you will also be able to find this information on our school website www.thorneyisland.w-sussex.sch.uk

We will also be sending this Newsletter via ParentMail. If you have not received it, please contact Mrs Fung in the school office to register and/or update your email address. Without a registered ParentMail account, you and your child may miss out on important information.

Dates for your Diary – Please see attached sheet

All staff are extremely sad at the lack of dates in the diary at present. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic many things have had to be cancelled. Our number one priority is to keep the children safe and healthy and the school open whilst making learning as enjoyable as possible.

Your support to date has been exceptional and much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Dean Clegg
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

September 2020

3 - First day of Autumn Term – all children back to school

October 2020

23 - INSET Day – **Children do not attend school on this day**

26 – 30 - Half Term

November 2020

2 - Children back to school after half term break

11 - Flu vaccinations – All Year Groups – more information to follow

December 2020

18 - Last day of Autumn Term

Term Dates and INSET Days 2020/2021

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|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 03 September 2020: | Start of Autumn Term |
| 26 Oct – 30 Oct 2020: | Half Term |
| 18 December 2020: | Break-up for Christmas Holiday |
| 04 January 2021: | Start of Spring Term |
| 15-19 February 2021: | Half Term |
| 01 April 2021: | Break-up for Easter Holiday |
| 19 April 2021: | Start of Summer Term |
| 03 May 2021: | Bank Holiday |
| 31 May – 4 June 2021: | Half Term |
| 23 July 2021: | End of Summer Term |

INSET Days

Friday 23 October 2020

Friday 12 February 2021

Friday 28 May 2021

Two to be set