

Thorney Tribune

Thorney Island CP School

Newsletter No 1

September 2023

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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 warm welcome to the many new children who have joined 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.

STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS

8 September			15 September		
Owl Class	-	The Whole Class!	Owl Class	-	Isaac Francis
Osprey Class	-	Archie Mercer	Osprey Class	-	Aubree Smith
Falcon Class	-	Jaxon Sheehan	Falcon Class	-	Alfie Lawes
Kestrel Class	-	Keresi Sauliga	Kestrel Class	-	Imogen Walker-McClimens
Raven Class	-	Elizabeth Ngugi	Raven Class	-	Ellis Bowman
Merlin Class	-	Peni Naiyaga	Merlin Class	-	Amari Vitalis
Hawk Class	-	Cotie Day	Hawk Class	-	Eli Clark
Eagle Class	-	Freyja Wright	Eagle Class	-	Joseph Cassford

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.

Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest Festival assemblies will take place on Thursday 12 October at 9.30am for Owl, Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel Classes and 2.30pm for Raven, Merlin, Hawk & Eagle Classes. This year our Harvest will be supporting Chichester District Foodbank who provide food for families in our local area who are struggling.

All donations should be brought into school on the day of the Harvest. Please only bring non-perishable/long-life items for example:

- Tins: vegetables, soup, pasta, fish, meat, rice pudding, custard
- Packets: pasta, rice, sauces, soup, jelly
- Jars/bottles: ketchup, mayonnaise, cook-in-sauces, squash, coffee
- Non-food items: toilet rolls, deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste

Armed Forces Families Fund

I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust for their continued support of the children at our school. This funding allows the school to provide additional enrichment opportunities such as Rainbow Theatre and the School Disco along with subsidising many other activities in school.

It also provides for additional staff to work with children to support their emotional needs as well as supporting other curriculum initiatives.



Class Meetings + Class Curriculum Letters

I would like to thank parents for attending this term's Class Meetings; the turnout was exceptionally good. These meetings enable teachers to explain class routines etc. and it gives parents an opportunity to put a teachers face to a name. I know working parents may find it difficult to attend these events at the start of each year and this is why we produce Class Curriculum Letters each Half Term; the link to these can be found here: <http://www.thorneyislandcps.org.uk/Curriculum%20Letters.html>

The relationship between school and parents is a vital one and any feedback on how we could improve these meetings would be welcome.

School Improvement Priorities

Priority 1: To ensure all foundation subject curriculums and assessment procedures are embedded across all Key Stages.

TARGET: Knowledge and skills within all subjects will be taught sequentially and assessments will ensure that any gaps in knowledge and skills are being addressed.

Priority 2: To review the schools Behaviour Policy.

TARGET: By March 2024 staff will report an increase in positive behaviour across the school.

Priority 3: To ensure the school website and prospectus truly reflects the enriched curriculum taught in school.

TARGET: For the school website and prospectus to fully reflect the enriched curriculum taught in school.

Alongside the School Improvement Priorities each subject has a range of priorities to achieve. Our main focus this year however it is to improve writing across the school. This will be led by Mr Vokes and funded by money from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund. More information on how you can support us with this will follow throughout the year.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be in school on Wednesday 11 October. All children will be photographed individually and with their siblings.

Secretary of State for Education visits TICPS



It was a pleasure to welcome Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education to our school. She was extremely impressed with all the hard work the staff had undertaken during the holidays to be fully prepared for the children to return in September.

Health and Safety

Peanuts or products that may contain peanuts should not be brought 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 Epi-pens in school and staff are trained to use them, it is not an experience I would like to repeat.

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/fridge. 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. **Only medication that has to be administered more than 3 times a day should be brought into school** (exemptions apply, see Medicines in School Policy for further information).

Sickness Absence

If your child is ill and unable to come to school, please telephone the office 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.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild illnesses. These would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. We have been asked by the Chief Medical Officer to share the following document with you that has been produced by the NHS. [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#)

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 occasion, 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. This policy will be reviewed this year and changes implemented, hopefully by Christmas, to bring it in line with government guidance.

Book Bags, Reading Books & PE Kits

Book Bags should be brought to school every day. Remember we can only do so much in school; your support is vital if your child is going to make expected progress.

Staff are also concerned that many children do not have their PE Kits in school. Please can you ensure that your child brings their PE Kit to school every Monday, they will then bring it home on Friday to be washed.

Free School Meals Eligibility

Is your family income below £16,190 per year and/or you are in receipt of Universal Credit (with no element of Working Tax Credit)? If the answer is yes, your child(ren) may be eligible to receive Free School Meals?

Registering for FSM could also raise an extra **£1,455** for our school.

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 McCrossan 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.

ParentMail / MCaS (My Child at School)

As I am sure many of you are aware, at school we use ParentMail to communicate with parents.

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. 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.

In the next few weeks we will start using a new system - MCaS (My Child at School). Once I have more information about how this will work, I will be sending out details. MCaS has a much broader range of features and will allow parents to give consent for visits, book Parents Evening appointments as well as all the features of ParentMail.

Entitlement to remove children from school for term time holidays

For some time now, Headteachers have not been able to grant authorisation for children to take time off school for term time holidays.

Headteachers **may not** grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. At a meeting of the school's 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/moving house out of the local area.

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.

Vacancy for a Parent Governors

We are looking for a new Parent Governor to join the schools Full Governing Body and would be delighted to hear from anyone with an interest in fulfilling this voluntary role. Governors perform a vital strategic role and as part of the governing body you will attend termly committee and full governing body meetings, as well as being invited to attend school event and spend time in school during the working day. Full training will be offered.

If you are interested, please contact Mrs McCrossan, Clerk to Governors at bursar@ticps.co.uk

You can find further information about the role of governors in school by clicking the following link <https://schools.westsussex.gov.uk/Page/1354>

Dates for your Diary - Please see attached sheet

Yours sincerely

Dean Clegg
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

18 September	Eagle Class - Bikeability
19 September	Owl Class - Phonics Meeting - 2.30 In the Hall
21 September	Raven and Merlin Classes to Marwell Zoo
02 October	Kestrel Class to Tuppenny Barn
04 October	Osprey Class - Teddy Bears Picnic
05 October	Owl, Osprey and Falcon Classes Book at Bedtime - 4.00-5.00
09 October	Eagle Class - Visit to Chichester Novium Museum
11 October	School Photographer
12 October	Harvest Festival - 9.30 - Owl, Osprey, Falcon and Kestrel Classes Harvest Festival - 2.15 - Raven, Merlin, Hawk, and Eagle Classes
13 October	Eagle Class - Roman Banquet
13 October	Osprey Class Fairy Tale Reading - 2.30
16 October	International Week - No after school clubs this week
18 October	Parents Evening
19 October	Parents Evening
20 October	INSET Day - children do not attend school on this day
30 October	INSET Day - children do not attend school on this day
03 November	Eagle Class - SAT's Meeting - 2.30
14 November	Hawk Class to The Planetarium in Chichester
16 November	Owl Class Play and Share
17 November	Children in Need Disco - more details to follow nearer the time
20 November	After school clubs end this week
22 November	Flu vaccination/nasal spray - whole school - more details to follow
01 December	Rainbow Theatre performing Aladdin - whole school
05 December	Nativity - Owl, Merlin & Raven Classes - 9.30
06 December	Carol Service - Hawk & Eagle Classes - 9.15
06 December	Nativity - Owl, Merlin & Raven Classes - 2.00
07 December	Christmas Performance - Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel Classes - 9.15
07 December	Carol Service - Hawk & Eagle Classes - 2.30
08 December	Christmas Performance - Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel Classes- 2.15
14 December	Christmas Parties

Term Date 2023/2024

01 September 2023	Start of Autumn Term
23-27 October 2023	Half Term
15 December 2023	End of Autumn Term - Break up for Christmas Holiday
02 January 2024	Start of Spring Term
12-16 February 2024	Half Term
28 March 2024	End of Spring Term - Break up for Easter Holiday
15 April 2024	Start of Summer Term
27-31 May 2024	Half Term
23 July 2024	End of Summer Term - Break up for Summer Holiday

INSET Days 2023/2024 - children do not attend school on these days

Friday 20 October 2023
Monday 30 October 2023
Monday 19 February 2024
Friday 24 May 2024
Monday 24 June 2024