

Thorney Tribune

Thorney Island CP School

Newsletter No 1

September 2026

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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

12 September			18 September		
Owl Class	-		Owl Class	-	Noah Mtekateka
Osprey Class	-	Rosie Burnand	Osprey Class	-	Shania Vitalis
Falcon Class	-	Alice Harpham	Falcon Class	-	Kshani Matthews
Kestrel Class	-	Dre Williams	Kestrel Class	-	Beau Ashton
Merlin Class	-	Cody Harrison	Merlin Class	-	Kenny Attfield
Hawk Class	-	Alfie Lawes	Hawk Class	-	Cole Talbot
Eagle Class		Ronnie Randall	Eagle Class	-	Darcie Edwards

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.

Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest Festival assembly will take place on Thursday 15 October at 9.15am for Owl, Osprey & Falcon Classes. This year our Harvest will be supporting Chichester District Foodbank who provide food for families in our local area who are struggling.

The Foodbank are in urgent need of the following items:

Tinned rice pudding, custard, sponge pudding
Tinned meat, fish, vegetables, soup
Biscuits, snack bars, crisps
Cereal, cereal bars

Squash, long life fruit juice
Shampoo, conditioner, shaving gel
Toilet roll, kitchen roll
Tooth-brushes, toothpaste

All donations should be brought into school on the day of the Harvest.

Cycle Helmets

If children have these, please can they be encouraged to wear them when cycling to school. This would be much appreciated.

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 educational and emotional support for children, 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 improve writing outcomes for children across the school by implementing a coherent whole-school English curriculum that ensures consistent progression in writing knowledge and skills from EYFS to Year 6

Priority 2: To improve pupil outcomes across the curriculum through the responsible and purposeful use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance teaching, learning and assessment.

Priority 3: To maintain and if possible, enhance the emotional support provided to children whose parents are deployed.

Alongside the School Improvement Priorities each subject has a range of priorities to achieve. Our main focus this year it is to embed the children' use of subject specific vocabulary.

Water Bottles

Having access to drinking water is vital to help keep children hydrated, something that is key to supporting concentration. We encourage all children to bring a water bottle into school and ask that it holds no more than 500mls of water and has either a 'sports top' or attached flip-lid to stop work being damaged should it be knocked over. Water bottles can be topped up in school throughout the day. We do ask that fashion bottles, e.g. Stanley Cups or Air Up Bottles are not brought into school.

Your co-operation in this matter would be much appreciated.



Examples of suitable water bottles

Health and Safety – Nut Products

We request that peanuts or products that may contain peanuts are not brought into school as we have children who **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).

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.

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. (Year 6 have different arrangements for P.E. Kit)

Sickness Absence

If your child is ill and unable to come to school, please telephone the office before 9.15am. If you fail to 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 our Behaviour 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.

Changes to Free School Meals Eligibility

From the start of this academic year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive a free hot meal at lunchtime.

Going forward, there will be 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals:

Targeted FSM, which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less.

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

Children who are eligible for **Targeted FSM** could also raise an extra **£1,550** for our school.

Expanded FSM, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for Targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit.

If you are in receipt of Universal Credit you are encouraged to apply for free school meals by clicking this link [Free School Meals](#)

If you require any further information, please contact either Mrs McCrossan at the school or email the FSM team at fsm@westsussex.gov.uk

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.

MCaS (My Child at School)

Communicating with parents is an important part of what we do, making sure you get the correct information about school news, activities and things that really matter is something we care about. We use MCaS to send out our newsletter, information about trips, visits & events and notify parents about exceptional events, i.e. emergency school closure.

Registering with MCaS is very easy; just look out for an activation email inviting you to set up a password; it really is as simple as that. Once registered we recommend you download the My Child at School app via the App Store.

Attendance and Term Time Holidays

For some time now, Headteachers have not been able to grant authorised leave for children to take time off school for term time holidays other than in exceptional circumstances. In August 2025 the Department for Education issued new guidance regarding attendance and changes to education-related Penalty Notices for unauthorised attendance. The new guidance can be found on our school website.

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

Pedestrian Crossings near School

Please do not park on the Zig Zag lines near the two pedestrian crossings by the school. We have already had one near miss due to parents parking illegally! Anyone parking illegally will be reported to Station Command.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be in school on Thursday 1st October. All children will be photographed individually, with their siblings and in class groups.

Mr Clegg Retiring

On 31 August 2027 I will have been Headteacher at Thorney Island Community Primary School for 22 years. It has been a privilege to lead such an outstanding school and work with such dedicated staff and governors. I have loved working with the children but with the proposed changes to the curriculum I feel that this is the right time to retire and let someone else implement a new curriculum that will continue to reflect the schools' vision and values.

I will miss all the children, staff, parents and governors but would now like to spend more quality time with my family and doing the things I have put off for far too long. My last working day will be 31 August 2027. I hope that by giving such a long notice period governors will have the time to appoint a suitable candidate. I will obviously do all I can to ensure the transition between headteachers goes as smoothly as possible.

Yours sincerely

Dean Clegg
Headteacher

Diary Dates, Inset Days and Term Dates 2026/2027

DIARY DATES

15 September	Owl Class Phonics Meeting 2.15pm
16 September	Kestrel Class to Tuppenny Barn
21 September	Eagle Class Bikeability all week
24 September	Merlin Class to Marwell Zoo
25 September	Hawk Class Bikeability (Friday)
30 September	Osprey Class - Fairy Tale Reading with Parents, 2.30pm
01 October	School Photographer
02 October	Flu vaccination/nasal spray - whole school - consent forms sent out
08 October	Owl, Osprey and Falcon Classes 'Book at Bedtime' - 4.00pm-5.00pm
15 October	Harvest Festival - 9.15am - Owl, Osprey and Falcon Classes
16 October	Eagle Class Roman Banquet
19 October	Osprey Class Fairytale Dressing Up Day
19 October	No after school clubs this week (19-22 October)
20 October	Eagle Class to Fort Nelson
20 October	Merlin Class - Wear it Wild Day
21 October	Kestrel Class Superhero Dressing Up Day
21 October	Parents Evening - more details to follow
22 October	Parents Evening - more details to follow
22 October	Eagle Class to Project Enthuse at Bourne Community College
24 October	INSET Day - children do not attend school on this day
27 - 31 October	Half Term
03 November	INSET Day - children do not attend school on this day
06 November	Eagle Class SAT's Meeting
11 November	Owl Class Play and Share 2.00pm
13 November	Non-School Uniform - Children In Need

INSET Days for 2026/2027; children DO NOT attend school on these days

Friday 23 October 2026
 Monday 02 November 2026
 Monday 22 February 2027
 Friday 28 May 2027
 Monday 21 June 2027

Term Dates 2026/2027

01 September 2026	Start of Autumn Term
26-30 October 2026	Half Term
18 December 2026	End of Autumn Term - Break up for Christmas Holiday
04 January 2027	Start of Spring Term
15 - 19 February 2027	Half Term
25 March 2027	End of Spring Term - Break up for Easter Holiday
12 April 2027	Start of Summer Term
31 May - 04 June 2027	Half Term
21 July 2027	End of Summer Term - Break up for Summer Holiday