

Thorney Tribune
Thorney Island CP School
Newsletter No 1
September 2017

September 2017

Dear Parents, Governors and Friends,

Welcome to the new school year and to the first newsletter of the Autumn Term 2017. I hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful summer holiday. I would also 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. This is a very special school with highly enthusiastic and well-behaved children, talented and committed staff and caring and supportive parents. I am really looking forward to the exciting and fresh challenges that lay ahead of us this year and in helping all our learners to achieve their potential. (N.B. This newsletter is longer than usual as it contains reminders to all parents about certain policies and procedures that need to be followed.)

Gifts and Cards - Last Term

On behalf of all the staff I would just 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. We have stored some of the biscuits and chocolate for the start of this term as a sugar rush is often necessary to get some of us going and I would just like to say the Chilli Jam was not too hot!!

Mrs Jennings and Mrs McCrossan

I would just like to inform parents that Mrs Jennings and Mrs McCrossan are both at present on sick leave. We are uncertain of when Mrs Jennings will return so governors have appointed Mrs Garnett on a full time basis to cover Osprey Class until her return. Mrs Garnett has been in school over the summer working alongside Miss Rutter to ensure both Year 1 classes have a successful start to the term. Mrs McCrossan is having Chemotherapy and will not return to school this term. Mrs McCrossan is vital to the financial management and running of the school - she supports Mr Clegg with many tasks. Hence things may not run as smoothly as usual and your support and patience during this period would be much appreciated.

Osprey & Kite Classes Parents - Phonics Meeting - 18th September at 2.30pm

On 18th September we are holding a Phonics Meeting for Osprey Class parents. Mrs Garnett & Miss Rutter will be looking at how you can support your child at home with phonics and how your child learns phonics in school. The meeting will take place in the school Hall at 2.30pm. At the end of Year 1 children sit the government's phonics screening check and they normally have to achieve 32 out of 40 to achieve the required standard. Your support at home is crucial to your child achieving this.

Owl Class Parents - Phonics Workshop - 26th September at 2.00pm

On 26th September we are holding a Phonics Workshop for Owl Class parents. Miss Goss will be looking at how you can support your child at home with phonics and how your child learns phonics in school. The workshop will take place in the school Hall at 2.00pm.

Owl Classes Parents - Play and Share - 3rd October 2.00 - 3.00pm

On 3rd October at 2pm, Owl Class would like to share their learning with you at their 'Play and Share' session. This is an opportunity for you to ask Miss Goss questions and find out what your child is learning during 'Independent Learning Time.' Mrs Jones the school's Special Education Needs Co-ordinator, will also be there if you would like to speak to her. We look forward to seeing you at our 'Play and Share' session.

School Improvement Priorities and Class Meetings

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 with the many new staff we have at the school. 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. We will be providing many opportunities for parents to improve their understanding of how best to support their children with learning, starting with Class Meetings. Please try to make the time to attend. Class Curriculum Letters can also be found on our website. These offer advice as well as links to resources to support learning. Please visit www.thorneyisland.w-sussex.sch.uk - The link is under Information for Parents. The hyperlinks for most resources suggested by staff can be found in these letters.

Class	Teacher	Day	Time
Osprey & Kite - Year 1	Mrs Garnett/Miss Rutter	Monday 11 th September	2.30 - 3.00
Falcon Class - Year 2	Mr Vokes	Tuesday 12 th September	2.30 - 3.00
Kestrel Class - Year 3	Mr Stamp	Wednesday 13 th September	2.30 - 3.00
Merlin Class - Year 4	Miss Noyce	Thursday 14 th September	2.30 - 3.00
Hawk Class - Year 5	Miss Hodges & Mrs Jessett	Friday 15 th September	2.30 - 3.00
Eagle Class - Year 6	Mrs Moody	Friday 15 th September	2.30 - 3.00

School Uniform

I would just 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. Children often arrive at school without a jumper but end up taking a friend's home by mistake. 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.

P.E. Kit

Please ensure your child has the correct P.E. Kit in school - black or red shorts, plain white t-shirt, plimsolls or trainers. We have kept the kit as simple as possible to help parents (i.e. no fancy colours or logos!)

Having the correct kit in school enables lessons to run smoothly which enhances learning. It also stops the older children from being embarrassed by having to ask to borrow kit.

Entitlement to remove children from school for term time holidays

As some of you may already know there has been a change in the guidance to headteachers regarding their ability to grant authorisation for children to take time off school for term time holidays with their families.

The amendment has been made to the section of the 2006 Education Act which relates to student registration and authorised absence. This amendment removes any reference to 'family holiday' and 'extended leave' as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days.

The amendment makes clear that 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".

In response to the changes we no longer issue 'Holiday Forms'. We do however issue forms to apply for 'Removal from Learning'.

Unauthorised Absence - Fixed Penalty Notices

Please be aware that the Fixed Penalty Notice Scheme for unsatisfactory school attendance is in use in West Sussex.

What is a Fixed Penalty Notice?

It is a fine given for unauthorised absence from school.

When are they used?

When a pupil has a minimum of 10 school sessions recorded as unauthorised in a 10 school week period, including:

for persistent late arrival at school after the register has been taken and is recorded as an unauthorised absence.

for unauthorised holiday in term time.

A school day is divided into 2 sessions, am and pm.

How much is the fine?

If paid within 21 days £60 per parent per child, after which it goes up to £120 per parent per child to be paid within 7 days.

What happens if I don't pay?

If you don't pay within 28 days the Authority will consider instigating a prosecution in the Magistrates court for the offence of poor school attendance. If proven this could result in a fine of up to £1000 per parent per child and/or a parenting order or a community service order.

Can I appeal?

There is no statutory right of appeal once a notice has been issued.

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.

Health and Safety

Please could parents not bring hot drinks onto the school playground or into school i.e. coffee from the shop as these pose a burns risk to children. Cold drinks are fine.

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 EpiPen's in school and staff are trained to use them it is not an experience I would like to repeat.

Behaviour Policy

Please note that this can be found on the schools 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.

School Times - Reminder

School begins at 8.50am although the playground is supervised from 8.40am by a member of staff. Children should not be on the playground before this due to insurance purposes. School finishes for all full time children at 3.05pm. Children should not enter school via the front door unless they are arriving after the whistle has gone i.e. they are late.

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 before school. Many children often arrive late to school when playing in the park which disrupts the start of the school day for other children.

After School Clubs

You should have already received a copy of this terms club letter. Clubs will begin week commencing 18th September and finish the week commencing 20th November. Organising clubs is quite complex and we try to ensure that all children are able to attend at least one club. We do not run a first come first served basis at this could mean one child gets into 4 clubs whilst others get none. We try our best to be as fair as possible to all children.

Clubs are a voluntary, unpaid extra run by staff and parents, and much appreciated by both the children and school governors. I am extremely proud of the support I get from everyone in this area as it is all based on goodwill. For our size of school we provide an amazing range of clubs, which is a real achievement.

Parent/Carer Helpers

I would like to thank all the parents who offer to help out on a voluntary basis in school. Staff really do value your help and support. If you would like to volunteer to help in classrooms, helping hear readers etc. please make contact with the school. This makes such a difference in so many ways and the children love to see their parents involved in school life nearly as much as we do.

School Coats & Polo Shirts

Several parents have asked about ordering school coats. The coats come in three colours - red, black and navy blue and are reversible - shower proof and fleece - and have the school logo embroidered on one side; they are priced £21.00 each. If you would like to order a coat please speak to Miss Rowe in the school office before Monday 18th 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.

Medicines in School

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.

If your child needs to take non-prescribed medicine, i.e. Calpol, Piriton, etc. during the school day, a parent/carer or other adult should arrange to come into school to administer it.

Important: West Sussex County Council does not hold malpractice insurance to cover its employees who administer non-prescribed medicine. It will therefore not be possible for members of staff at the school to administer medicine to a child unless a doctor has prescribed it.

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. **From now on and wherever possible we will be sending out correspondence, such as Newsletters, class letters, trip information, via ParentMail (email) to all those who have registered to use the system.** Anyone who is not registered will continue to receive paper copies of all correspondence.

Miss Rutter

Finally I would like to welcome Miss Rutter to Thorney Island School. This is her first teaching post and we were very fortunate to appoint such an enthusiastic teacher who has worked extremely hard over the holiday to plan and prepare work for her class. I am sure that the children will have an excellent year with Miss Rutter.

Chartwells Hot School Lunches

In a bid to encourage more children to take a hot school lunch, throughout the year Chartwells will be holding theme days. The first of these days is on Thursday 5 October, when a special 'Italian Menu' will be served. If you would like to order this meal for your child, please contact www.mealselector.co.uk Orders to be placed by midnight on Sunday 24 September.

Main Meal: Cheese & Tomato Pizza or Pasta with Beef Bolognese

Side: Garlic Bread, Garden Peas or Green Salad

Dessert: Tutti Frutti Yoghurt

Cleaner Vacancy

We are looking to recruit a Cleaner to work alongside our current Premises Staff. Application forms and job description are available from the school office.

Hours of work: Monday - Friday, term time (3.00 - 5.00pm)

There will be hours to be done in the school holidays to be agreed

Salary: £7.66 per hour

Thorney Island School is committed to safeguarding children and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practice reflect this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to Criminal Records Bureau checks along with other relevant employment checks.

Dates for your Diary - Please see attached sheet

Yours sincerely

Dean Clegg
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

September 2017

- 11 - Osprey & Kite Class Parents Meeting, 2.30 - 3.00pm
- 12 - Falcon Class Parents Meeting, 2.30 - 3.00pm
- 13 - Kestrel Class Parents Meeting, 2.30 - 3.00pm
- 14 - Merlin Class Parents Meeting, 2.30pm - 3.00pm
- 15 - Hawk & Eagle Class Parents Meeting, 2.30 - 3.00pm
- 15 - Merlin Class to Marwell Zoo
- 18 - Osprey Phonics Meeting, 2.30 - 3.00pm
- 18 - Hawk Class to Seacity Museum
- 18 - After school clubs start this week
- 25 - Eagle Class to Fishbourne Roman Palace
- 28 - Falcon Class to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- 26 - Owl Class Phonics Meeting, 2.00 - 3.00pm in the school Hall

October 2017

- 3 - Owl Class 'Play & Share' session, 2.00 - 3.00pm
- 4 - School Photographer - Individual, siblings (inc pre-school) only
- 10 - Flu vaccinations Yrs R, 1, 2, 3 & 4 - more information to follow
- 12-18 - Book Fair
- TBC - Red, White and Blue Day - Non-School Uniform Day
- 12 - Harvest Festival Assemblies - Parents welcome to attend:
9.00am Owl, Osprey & Kite Classes
10.30am Falcon & Kestrel Classes
2.30pm Merlin, Hawk & Eagle Classes
- 16 - Indoor Football at the Bourne
- TBC - International Week - NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK
- 18 - Parents Evening 3.15pm - 6.00pm
- 19 - Parents Evening 3.15pm - 5.30pm
- 23 - 27 - Half Term

November 2017

- 3 - School Disco KS1 4.00 - 5.00pm (Owl, Osprey, Kite & Falcon Class)
KS2 5.00 - 6.30pm (Kestrel, Merlin, Hawk and Eagle Class)
- TBC - Children In Need - Information to follow later from the School Council
- 20 - Last week of After-school Clubs
- 20 - Girls Football Tournament at the Bourne
- 21 - Owl Class 'Play & Share' session, 2.00 - 3.00pm
- 30 - Rainbow Theatre Company performing 'Cinderella' to Whole School

December 2017

- 7 - Carol Service 10.00am (Owl & Merlin Classes)
- 8 - Carol Service 10.00am (Owl & Merlin Classes)
- 12 - Osprey & Kite Classes to Pantomime at Kings Theatre, Southsea
- 12 - Christmas Performance Falcon & Kestrel Classes (1.30pm)
- 14 - Christmas Performances Falcon & Kestrel Classes (6.00pm)
- 19 - Christmas Parties

Term Dates 2017/18

5 September 2017:	Back to school
23 - 27 October 2017:	Half Term
20 December 2017:	Break-up for Christmas holiday
4 January 2018:	Start of Spring Term
12 - 16 February 2018:	Half Term
29 March 2018:	Break-up for Easter holiday
16 April 2018:	Start of Summer Term
28 May - 1 June 2018:	Half Term
24 July 2018:	Break-up for Summer holiday

INSET Days

Monday 4 September 2017

Monday 30th October 2017

There are three additional dates still be arranged