



Thorner Church of England Primary School
Kirkhills
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Newsletter – April 2019

“Time flies when you’re having fun...” - I’m not sure where this term has gone, but I hope each and every child has been inspired along the way. There have been so many wonderful learning events and experiences that have taken place since we returned in January, but what has particularly impressed me is the increased level of responsibility children are taking. Whether it is organising charity events, break time spelling support, or solutions to improve playtime – it is fantastic that they recognise they are part of a community and that the more they do, the greater it will become. Now I can’t wait to see what’s in store for the Summer Term...., but in the meantime I hope you all have the opportunity of some cherished family time over the Easter holidays.

Latest News

World Book Day - despite the weather (it obliged on providing a backdrop for “wild” reading) this was such a lovely day, as being able to involve parents and local community members (including a special visitor from Leeds United!) in promoting a love of reading was just a joy to be a part of. Thanks once again to all the staff, volunteers and parents that made it so memorable for the children, with special thanks to Miss Capstick and Miss Davies for planning it so superbly!

Comic Relief – another wonderful day where the children (and adults) wore something red and told some terrible jokes! Thank you to the Year 6 girls that organised the royal baby raffle (we will obviously need to wait on the result of this one), and to you all for your donations and contributions. We raised £340.39 in total for this worthwhile cause.

“World” Maths Day - I was very sorry to miss this event last week, but heard that the children’s times tables and number fact recall is mightily impressive. They spent the whole of Friday exploring the wonder of maths in different ways (in active ways, using technology, using music, using story) – and another huge thank you to Mr Mcvittie and Mrs Colaluca, along with all the staff, for delivering such a fun and engaging day.

Community Events - we continue to strive for our school to be at the heart of the community, so recent events such as World Book Day where so many volunteers came to join us was absolutely fantastic. This has sparked a range of offers from community members regarding how they can contribute to school, and I would like to thank Thorner Church volunteers Peter and Sarah, who have beautifully tended to our neglected flowerbeds outside the school main entrance. We want to ensure that this is a two way process, so it was wonderful this Tuesday to see Year 6 host their Easter community tea party – the efforts of the staff and children in planning, preparing and delivering this event were spectacular, culminating in an afternoon enjoyed by one and all, and of which everyone involved with Oak class should be very proud.





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What Moves You? Class Assemblies and Performances - the children seem to have been really inspired by our “What Moves You?” theme this term, and have enjoyed hearing from staff about things that inspire them in different ways. We have also had brilliant assemblies from Cedar and Hawthorn class, with the children demonstrating their learning over the term in so many varied ways – we particularly liked the “rain” body percussion performance that brought Hawthorn’s assembly to a close. We also had a thoughtful and reflective Easter service from Elm class, and today we will be celebrating music through the decades for our Thorner Performs event – what a way to wind down for the holidays!

House Competitions – the results are in and Yellow house have won this term’s house competition. Congratulations to them and to all of the children for taking part in the right spirit in the various events this term. The results of the individual events are detailed below:

- Tag Rugby – there was some excellent skill and agility on show, and all of the children had a really enjoyable afternoon. Red house narrowly won the Y3/4 competition and Yellow house won the Y5/6 competition, with Yellow house winning overall.
- 500 Words – congratulations to all the winners of our 500 words writing competition (Ellie B from Beech, Alice W from Cedar, Sophia L from Elm, William C-S from Hawthorn, Coby B from Maple, Charlie G from Oak). A copy of their winning stories will be in the reception area to read after the Easter holidays.
- Blue House Cake Bake - Blue house raised a fantastic £123.35 with their Easter themed bakes. This means that Green house are still in the lead in this competition, with only Yellow house to have their cake bake in the Summer term.
- Egg Decorating competition - this is only the second year we have run the egg decoration competition in recent times, and the results have “eggain” been outstanding! Thank you to all the families that have taken part and congratulations to Ellie S, Oliver and Ferne in EYFS/KS1 and to Harvey, Georgia L and Maisie in KS2 for their wonderful winning entries.

Inter School Competitions – It has been a fantastic year for our cross country runners both in terms of finishing positions, as well as modelling our school values. The Year 6 boys’ and Year 5 girls’ team, and Joseph T. (as a wild card entry) qualified for the City Finals, with the Year 5 girls and Joseph T then going on to qualify for the West Yorkshire Finals at Temple Newsam. They did brilliantly, in very muddy and wet conditions. In particular, Mia C-K qualified for the National Finals and then went on to win gold as part of the West Yorkshire team. Our sporting success continued with the Tag Rugby Team, who put in a sterling performance in our area competition and have qualified for the city finals! Thank you to Mr McVittie and Mr Timms for giving their time to develop the team. In addition, the great work done so far this year by our Year 6 Play Leader Ambassadors was recognised at an awards ceremony at Elland Road. In order to earn their certificate each play leader had to complete a training program with Leeds United which included planning and leading lunch time activities. Thank you to Mrs Daniel for all the support she has given to all our play leaders. We look forward to the Summer Term where, amongst other competitions, we have the opportunity to offer 60 children the chance to participate in the Brownlee Triathlon.



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Reminders and other information

Parent reports – per the parentmails last week, parent reports (except Beech class) will be issued today. If you haven't yet signed up for the parent consultations taking place the second week back after the Easter holidays then please do so, as these will be invaluable in the way we all support the children make the best possible progress in the Summer term.

School Dinners - thank you to all the parents/grandparents that came to try out the school dinners during the course of this term. I know that Leeds County Caterers (who provide this outsourced service) really valued all of the feedback provided, and have gone away to put together a plan for how they make further improvements. On the whole, with a few exceptions, the feedback was generally positive and parents recognised a range of improvements since last academic year. We will continue to seek feedback from both the children and yourselves regarding the quality of this provision, and please note that the Trust are also currently conducting their own review of school dinners across all the schools within Elevate, to ensure high quality and nutritious meals are provided on a daily basis to the children.

Key Diary Dates – please see the key diary dates for the Summer term below, and we have also reattached the 2019-20 holiday dates for your information. An event to briefly bring to your attention now, is that our House Athletics event ("Sports Day") will be split into two parts this year to enable us to improve participation and variety of events. Therefore, EYFS/KS1 will have their event in the morning, followed by KS2 in the afternoon.

Also, after Easter we will be starting our **Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) project**, kindly sponsored by the PTA, and will be holding a meeting for parents on **Wednesday 24th April at 2:30pm**, for any of you that wish to find out more about the programme (please also see letter attached).



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Key Diary Dates – Summer Term

April

- 23 School Opens
- 24 Information event for parents on Outdoor Play and Learning Project – 2:30pm**
- 25 Start of term service – 9:30am at Church
- 29-30 Parents' evenings/consultations

May

- 6 May day bank holiday (School closed)
- 7 Whole School Theme – Outdoor learning
- 13-17 Y6 SATs Week
- 22 Ash Class Family Event/Assembly-1:30pm
- 23 World Outdoor Classroom Day
- 24 House Penalty Shoot Out - pm
- 24 School closes for half term holiday
- 24 *PTA Summer Movie Night*

June

- 3 Staff Training Day (School closed)
- 4 School Opens
- 7 Beech Class assembly
- 10 Phonics screening check week – Year 1
- 11 New Parents Welcome Evening- 6pm
- 17 House cake bake 4 -3:15pm
- 18 EYFS/KS1 House athletics competition – AM**
- 18 KS2 House athletics competition – PM**
- 25 Reserve House athletics competition date

July

- 5 PTA Summer Fair-pm
- 9 Whole school transition day
- 12 House rounders competition - pm
- 12 Summer Term Reports to Parents
- 12 *PTA Summer Disco*
- 16 Y6 Production – 6pm
- 17 Y6 Production – 6pm
- 19 Leavers' Assembly 1:30pm/School close 2:30pm

With my very best wishes
Ian Holmes
Headteacher

