



Thorner Church of England Primary School
Kirkhills
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Newsletter – May 2019

Latest News

Welcome back to a very short half term – I hope whatever you did as a family that you had a wonderful Easter break. We have an exciting Summer ahead of us (regardless of what the weather may bring), with lots of learning, play and exploration to look forward to.

Outdoor Learning and Play – our whole school theme for this term revolves around outdoor learning, and over the coming weeks you should hear lots from your child about how they have been exploring the school grounds and wider area in both their learning and their play. Each class is also planning a foray into Thorner and the surrounding area, and will confirm with you directly their plans for this. We have also begun our “Outdoor Play and Learning” school improvement project (funded by the PTA), and I would like to thank the parents that attended the information event last Wednesday. In the coming weeks and months we will be developing our new play policy in conjunction with children, staff and parents, and providing regular communications and updates to you on how we are progressing. We will also be covering this aspect of school life in our weekly celebration assemblies on a Friday. In the meantime, if you would like a glimpse of what is in store over the coming months, please go to our website to view a video of another OPAL school in action (go to the “Curriculum” menu and then select the “Outdoor Play and Learning” page).

Collective Worship and our school vision and values - as part of our curriculum development as a church academy, we are working this term with the children through our collective worship on how our school vision and values link to stories and messages in the bible. We have detailed these links below, and every 2 weeks we will be looking at one aspect, and then asking the children to think about how this is relevant in the world today and how they might apply this in their learning and lives. If you are able to link these into life outside of school too, where appropriate, that would be fantastic.

Week	Vision/Value covered	Bible Link
1-2	“An inspirational place to learn and play, helping us make the most of every day”	“All things are possible to those who believe.” (Mark 9:23)
3-4	Enthusiasm	“You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)
5-6	Responsibility	“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.” (Matthew 7:12)
7-8	Courage	“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid...” (Joshua 1:9)
9-10	Perseverance	“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galations 6:9)
11-12	Ambition	“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds.” (Matthew 5:16)



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House Competitions – this month we have our annual penalty shoot-out competition for all children and will also be launching a home competition linked to outdoor learning theme (more on this in due course). Our penalty shoot out competition this year will be football at one end of the MUGA and basketball at the other – which has been organised by a couple of our year 6 children as their school community project. Please also note that the final cake bake of the year takes place just after we return in June (see dates below). This one will be run by Yellow house and the theme they have decided on a seaside and Summer theme – they have said they just want things that make us think of the sunshine!

Also, as highlighted previously, please note the dates and reserve dates below of our House Athletics competitions for EYFS/KS1 (morning) and KS2 (afternoon), as these will be organised slightly differently this year.

Inter School Competitions and participation events – this month we have 60 KS2 children taking part in the Brownlee Triathlon with Mrs Colaluca, and our Y5/6 Tag Rugby team heads to the City Finals with Mr Timms to show off their wonderful skills. We look forward to hearing how they all get on, and know they will be wonderful representatives for themselves and our school.

Reminders and other information

Assemblies and Performances – we are really looking forward to Ash class' assembly/family event on 22nd May at 2pm in the school hall. We look forward to seeing parents there for lots of sharing, and undoubtedly singing!

Statutory Assessments (SATs) – as I am sure you know (particularly if you have a child in these year groups) we are about to approach the statutory assessments for Y1 (Phonics), Y2 and Y6 (SATs). I hope it is clear from our regular contact with you and recent parent consultations, that our curriculum and day to day work with the children is about so much more than these tests. We believe in developing the whole child and these assessments measure the school and how we are supporting children's progress. It is our job as teachers and parents to remove any pressure regarding these (not that the media helps!) away from our children – letting them know that we are proud of them and encouraging them to do their very best – something we would hope they would do in any aspect of their learning and lives.

Staff Update and Arrangements for 2019/20 - I am really pleased to let you know that Mrs Whawell returns from her maternity leave on Tuesday 11th June, and we know she is really excited about being back. On that note, I'd like to thank Miss Capstick and Mrs Colaluca for the wonderful work they have done in covering Mrs Whawell's role, as well as confirming that they will remain very much involved in our senior leadership team going forward whilst resuming teaching duties next year.





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As we are in to the last term of the year, I know thoughts turn to arrangements for the next academic year, and which staff will be working with your child. We will be sending out details of which adults will be working with year groups, soon after we return from the May half term holiday along with details of the transition day for all existing classes on Tuesday 9th July. In the meantime, I'd like to refer to our vision and ask that we focus on making the most of each and every day of the Summer term before thinking ahead too soon.

Key Diary Dates – Summer Term

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-2pm
- 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
- 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
- 11 New Parents Welcome Evening- 5:30pm
- 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

