



Thorner Church of England Primary School
Kirkhills
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Newsletter – June 2019

Latest News

Although the first half to this term was relatively short, I reflected over the course of the half term break at how many amazing events and experiences took place for our children. It has been a real joy to see so much enthusiasm for learning, particularly in relation to our initiatives on outdoor learning and play. This is a key driver for our school as we finalise our new curriculum approach for next year, and I look forward to sharing more on this before September.

Outdoor Learning and Play – you will have already seen the request for equipment from Mrs Colaluca and our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) team, and they will also be sending out a new draft play policy very shortly for your information. If you have any thoughts or ideas on how this project develops, please do get in touch, as we have already had a number of amazing offers and suggestions which will shape how we implement what we hope will be the best play provision possible for the children at our school.

Enrichment and Performances – before we broke up for half term, we were treated to a wonderful family event by Ash class – with plenty of singing and enthusiasm to last us until the Summer holidays! In terms of enrichment experiences, Hawthorn class had a superb trip to East Keswick Wildlife Reserve, and Cedar class were wowed by the range of animals at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. This month we can't wait to see our final class assembly for the year from Beech class (this Friday), and Elm class are looking forward to taking part in the first ever Elevate music concert (actually on 1 July). In terms of other experiences, Maple class and Hawthorn class have Anglo Saxon and World War II experiences in school respectively, and Elm class venture to Magna in Sheffield for their class trip. Oak class also venture into Leeds for a bowling trip treat, spending the kind donations made to them from their superbly organised community tea party in the Spring term.

Community projects (in and out of school) – our Y6 tea party (referred to above) is just one example of how we wish to build on our community links going forward. It has been so wonderful this term to have so many children come to see me and tell me the things they are trying to do to make our community (and our world) a better place. From looking after hurt animals, to litter picking, to solutions for parking outside of school – it is great to see them coming up with their own projects to help and something we will continue to actively encourage going forward. Year 6 have also embraced this approach, by planting poppies on behalf of The British Legion, and we hope they will be flowering ready for the Remembrance service in November. Where possible, we will look to promote and highlight these in the children's newspaper (another example of the superb initiative and responsibility shown by our children). This newspaper has already raised over £109 this academic year, and the children wanted you to know they have donated the proceeds to the Disaster Emergency Appeal for the people affected by Cyclone Idai.





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Inter School Competitions and participation events – last month, our KS2 Rugby team headed to the City Finals hoping to build on the success of their initial cluster competition. They didn't quite make it through to the play-off rounds, but had an amazing time, and I know Mr Timms was very proud of the whole squad, in terms of both the way they played and behaved. Mrs Colaluca, Mrs Smith and several parent helpers then took 65 of our KS2 children to take part in the Brownlee's Triathlon event. As ever, the children absolutely loved the experience, and also demonstrated our school values superbly in the way they supported a child from Ninelands school across the finish line. I know that the staff and parents of both schools there were immensely proud of everyone, and I just wish I had been there to see it myself.

House Competitions – we finished this half term with our annual house football penalty shoot-out competition, with basketball penalties added in for KS2. It was a fantastic afternoon with Red house triumphing in the football, and Green house winning in the basketball. This half term we have our final cake bake (remember Yellow house want your cakes to remind us of the Summer!), and our house athletics events (see key diary dates below for start times).

Linking with our Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) theme, we would also like children to take part in our "best play ever" home competition. We want you to send in photos/posters/powerpoints of the best examples of your children having the time of their lives through play. If you are joining in too, then all the better! **Please can all entries be sent to your class teachers or directly to the office (with your child's name and house on) by Friday 28th June.**

Reminders and other information

Staff Update and Arrangements for 2019/20 - in May's newsletter I promised a staffing update after half term, and a separate communication about staffing and classes for next year will be sent to you on Friday 14th June.

PTA Summer Fair – please note that it is non uniform day on Friday June 28th, so that children can bring in donations for the PTA summer fair. This will be one of the last events organised by our current committee so please do support it generously, either through donations, by offering your time to help, or by turning up on the day.

Celebration Assembly – Friday 5th July - please note that our celebration assembly on this date will now be handed over to our Y6 children, to give them the opportunity to showcase some of their talents and interests outside of school. We already have two dance performances lined up, and look forward to showcasing all that is wonderful about our current Y6 as they prepare to leave us at the end of this term.





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Y6 Production – although this isn't until the last week of term, we are all ready excited about Y6's production of "Rockbottom" – a prehistoric stone age rock musical! Even though it is a Y6 production, please note that tickets will be on sale to the whole school community, so watch out for posters and further parentmails for details.

Key Diary Dates – Summer Term

June

- 7 Beech Class assembly
- 10 Phonics screening check week – Year 1
- 17 House cake bake 4 -3:15pm
- 18 EYFS/KS1 House athletics competition – 9:30am start**
- 18 KS2 House athletics competition – 1:15pm start**
- 25 Reserve House athletics competition date
- 28 Non Uniform day for PTA Summer Fair

July

- 5 PTA Summer Fair-pm
- 10 Whole school transition day (**please note change of date**)
- 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