



**Thorner Church of England Primary School**  
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## Newsletter – July 2019

As another academic year draws to a close, it is a time for reflection, celebration and looking forward. We have mostly completed our first year as part of Elevate Multi-Academy Trust and have introduced several initiatives (some visible, some behind the scenes) to improve what we provide for the children in our care and have also become a centre of excellence for the Yorkshire Sport Foundation along the way. We will be using these last few weeks to celebrate children's achievements (across the whole curriculum) with them and also help them to look forward to the exciting challenges ahead.

### Latest News

**Outdoor Learning and Play** – thank you so much to all of the donations and offers of help we have received in relation to our new project. We are making great progress and have already opened up the woods to our older children at lunchtime, with great results. Mrs Colaluca will be sharing our play policy with you shortly, and if you come to celebration assemblies on a Friday (or follow us on twitter), you will get to see photos and updates of how we are progressing. I was also delighted to receive some really inspiring entries for the “Best Play Ever” competition. Given the relatively few number of entries, we've decided to arrange a special play afternoon as a treat for all those children that entered. We will send details out to parents of the children in question, and if you wish to come and join us on the MUGA or in the woods then you would be more than welcome!

**Enrichment and Performances** – it was a delight to see Y3 perform as part of the first Elevate music concert in Knaresborough on Monday, and I'd like to thank Mrs Phelps, Miss Davies, and Mrs Wharton for taking on this relatively last minute project. We also have a few more school trips to look forward to before the end of term with Ash class off to Creepy Crawlies, Beech class off to Stockeld Park, and Hawthorn class off to Murton park. I'd also like to thank Mr Rawlinson, Miss Capstick and Mrs Drury for organising extra trips for our Y6, including bowling and a trip to the local woods. I'm sure you are aware that a trip out of school requires a great deal of planning and risk assessment, and I am so grateful to all of our staff for ensuring that our children get these valuable experiences across the year groups.

We finish the year with our Y6 performance of Rock Bottom on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm. Please remember that this is open to the whole community, and you can purchase tickets from Miss Trowell in the office. Y6 have promised me that it will “rock” so don't miss it!

**Inter School Competitions and participation events** – As ever, our children have been busy demonstrating our school values through sports. We received a special invitation from Nineland's Primary to participate in their GoTri event. This was in recognition of the support that 64 of our triathlon participants gave to one





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of their students. The GoTri event included a training day at the Brownlee Centre, where we met the British Triathlon team and a 'competition' day where the children swam at the Kippax Centre, cycled to St Benedict's School in Garforth and then completed a run. I am also pleased to say that our participation in the triathlon has also led to a further invitation being offered to us – and we will be visited by British Diving coaches in September. We also took two girls' football teams to the St. Bart's football tournament in which 62 teams competed. The girls did fantastically well and truly lived the values of courage and enthusiasm. The Year 6 team eventual came 2<sup>nd</sup> in their group. As our link with the Leeds United Wildcat team will be continuing in September we hope that more girls will come and try football by joining the after school football club.

**House Competitions** – thank you to all of you that came and supported our House Athletics day with such positivity and enthusiasm. We are a growing school, which is one of the reasons for splitting the events into EYFS/KS1 and KS2. Another is to provide our playleaders with the opportunity to support the younger children's events, and they did such an amazing job (with Mrs Daniel's brilliant support) and should be very proud of themselves. Congratulations to Green house for winning the inaugural EYFS/KS1 event and to Yellow house for continuing their domination in the KS2 event! Yellow House completed the final cake bake of the year, and narrowly missed out on beating Green house (£232.37) to the most money raised with their £214.05 total. Thank you so much to everyone who provided cakes or helped with these events as they have helped our wonderful PTA raise over £700. We finish house competitions this year, with a Spelling Bee at some point this week and our Rounders competition a week on Friday. It's become a very close competition this term, so it's all to play for before we announce the winners next Friday.

**New Curriculum** – our staff have been working incredibly hard planning and preparing our new curriculum approach for the next academic year. This has been based on your feedback earlier in the Spring term via survey, and the children and staff's feedback, to ensure our curriculum going forward is delivering the very best outcomes for all of our children. I've attached our curriculum policy from next year for your information, and each year group will share further details when we return in September. If you have any questions relating to this, please do not hesitate to let me or any member of our senior leadership team (Mrs Whawell, Miss Capstick and Mrs Colaluca) know.

## Reminders and other information

**Parent Survey** – thank you to those of you that completed our end of year parent survey. Overall, the results are really pleasing and I will share a summary with you with key themes before we break up for the Summer. Your feedback is so valuable and forms one part of our school improvement planning process, alongside feedback from children, staff, school improvement partners and children's outcomes in both their learning and personal development.





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**End of Year Reports** – please note that these will be sent home with your child on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July along with a reply slip for your comments. As with the parent survey, your constructive feedback is really valued so we would be so grateful if you could complete this and return to your class teacher or Miss Trowell in the office before the end of term.

**PTA Summer Fair** – our Summer Fair takes place this Friday – starting at 2:30pm. You can either collect your children at this time or at normal pick up time, but please note if you pick up early that for safeguarding purposes we must sign out each child individually before they leave with you. Thank you once again to our amazing PTA for all they do, and to our Y5 children and Mr Timms for running all the games stalls this year.

**Remaining Celebration Assemblies** – we only have three remaining Friday assemblies and I just wanted to confirm the arrangements for these as follows:

- **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July** – Year 6 takeover, sharing their talents from clubs outside of school
- **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July** – Values awards, Outstanding Achievement Awards, please note that the Winners of House Competition will be announced after the House Rounders competition in the afternoon (non uniform day for winners on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July).
- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July** – Leavers' Assembly at 1:30pm followed by early closing at 2:30pm

## Key Diary Dates – Summer Term

### 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

I will send a very brief final newsletter in the last week of term, but in the meantime I hope your child has the most amazing end to this academic year.

With my very best wishes

Ian Holmes  
Headteacher

