



Thorner Church of England Primary School
Kirkhills
Leeds, LS14 3JD

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Newsletter – September 2019

Welcome to a new school year at Thorner! It has been wonderful to welcome all of the children and to meet our new starters (either in Ash class or in other classes across the school). If you are a new family joining us, I hope you have been made to feel very welcome and part of our school community already. I am as excited as ever about all the wonderful learning, play and experiences that lay ahead for your children and I hope that this year brings success and joy to them in equal measure!

Latest News

Curriculum Focus – we start off our new curriculum approach this half term with our whole school theme “**We are Inspirational**”. The focus will not just be on looking at inspirational people and places, but to help the children realise that they can be an inspiration too! As promised in the Whole School Induction booklet sent out last week, teachers will shortly be sending out (with other key information in their class parentmail) learning organisers showing how they are approaching this theme - with the key outcomes and vocabulary highlighted for you to support and encourage your children’s learning.

Collective Worship and Spiritual Development – this year we are appointing “worship” leaders in KS2 who will get to play a greater part in deciding and leading how we deliver collective worship and spiritual development in our school. At the core of our new curriculum is a focus on wellbeing (body, mind and spirit), and we look forward to involving the children in finding and choosing their own ways to be “spiritual” – whether this is writing prayers for those in our school community and beyond or laying on the grass, looking up at the sky and revelling in the wonder of our world!

Enrichment and Experiences:

a) Friday Assembly and Worship – our parent community is such an important part of Thorner and we really enjoying welcoming those of you that can make our Friday Assembly and Worship. This year, we are making a slight change to the format, and each class will now “host” 2 celebration assemblies during the course of the school year. These will look slightly different to assemblies in prior years, so please read the Friday Assembly and Worship timetable attached for further details and the dates on which your child’s class is hosting.

b) Outdoor Play and Learning Project – Mrs Colaluca and our OPAL team (with fantastic support from our PTA and donations from you) have worked so hard over the summer to gather resources and make plans to enhance play at our school in so many different ways. You will have probably noticed the grass is growing across the field, and it won’t be long before various pathways are mowed through these, wellie racks are





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installed for each year group, sand and digging pits are in place, and our “loose parts” shed is installed. Our OPAL team will continue to send communications to you on our progress, and also look forward to showcasing this to you in due course.

c) Roles of responsibility – congratulations to all of the children who have been elected as either House Captain, House Vice Captain, or School Council this week. They will be receiving their badge in this week’s Friday Assembly and Worship so we will email the relevant parents via a separate parentmail should you wish to attend.



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Reminders and other information

Whole School Induction Booklet - just a reminder that this booklet was sent out to all parents last week and includes important information for both new and existing families. Please take the time to read through it and if you need anything clarifying please do let us know.

School Calendar – at the end of this newsletter you will find key dates for the Autumn term, and we've also the provisional calendar of events for the whole school year with this parentmail. Please put all relevant dates in your diary and we will do our very best to keep to the dates provided (or give you as much notice as we can if we can't!).

Term and Holiday Dates for 2020-21 – please also find attached term and holiday dates for next academic year. We appreciate that it's helpful to have these as far in advance as possible, but please do go through them carefully given our holiday dates and training days are set with our Trust rather than the local authority now.



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Key Diary Dates – Autumn Term

September

- 16-18 Y6 Residential to Robinwood
- 30 Parents' evenings/consultations

October

- 1 Parents' evenings/consultations
- 4 Harvest festival – 9:00am in school (Y4 led)
 - 11 Oak Class Hosting Assembly
- 17 Prospective parent tours – 9:15am
 - 21 House cake bake 1-3.15pm
- 25 Values Awards Assembly-9:00am
 - 25 School Closes for Half Term
 - 25 PTA Movie Night

November

- 4 School opens
- 5 Prospective parent tours – 1:30pm
- 8 Maple Class Hosting Assembly
- 11 Prospective parent tours – 9:15am
- 11 KS2 Remembrance Service KS2– 10:30am at church (Y6 led)
- 15 Children in Need - including House TT Rockstars Final
 - 29 Elm Class Hosting Assembly

December

- 2 House cake bake 2 – 3:15pm
- 6 PTA Disco (at Victory Hall)
- 6 Autumn Term Reports to Parents
- 9 Christingle – 6:00pm at Church
- 10-11 KS1 Nativity Play – 2:00pm (both days)
- 13 Values Awards Assembly-9:00am
- 16 Christmas Service at Church – 10am
- 17 Christmas Dinner/Class celebrations
- 19 Pantomime at Victory Hall – 1:45pm
- 20 Carols around the tree – 1.30pm at school
 - 20 School Closes at 2:30pm

With my very best wishes

Ian Holmes
Headteacher