



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

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Newsletter – October 2019

It has been so wonderful to see how quickly all of the children (including Ash class) have settled in to their new year groups in the first four weeks of term, and we look forward to seeing them continue to enjoy their learning and play as we approach half term.

Latest News

We are Inspirational – we are half way through our first whole school theme and the children are really enjoying looking at a wide variety of inspirational people and places. I've really enjoyed the discussions I've had with some of the children regarding their own inspirations (mum and dad do occasionally get a mention!), so following discussions with our new House Captains we have decided to launch our first house home learning competition. We would like as many children as possible to produce a poster celebrating the inspirations in their life (it could be one, it could be many) and hand this in to their class teacher on Monday 21st October. Please can you make sure entries include their name, class and house on the back of the poster – each one handed in will earn points towards this term's house competition.

House Competitions – these start in earnest in October with the following events taking place:

- Home learning competition (see above) – deadline Monday 21st October
- Blue House Cake Bake – Monday 21st October at 3:15pm on the theme of Halloween
- Cross Country (Years 1 - 6) – Thursday 24th October from 1pm

Please also note that after half term we will be looking for our class times table and spelling champions (Years 2 to 6), so if your child is interested in taking part they might like to start getting some extra regular practice in as soon as they can!

Friday Assembly and Worship – this Friday we welcome Ash class to their first ever Friday Assembly and Worship as part of our Harvest festival – led superbly by Hawthorn class. We then follow this with our first “hosting assembly” of the year, where Oak class will share what they have been up to in their learning and play since returning in September. I hope it will feature their recent experience on Robinwood residential, as I have heard that they shone in both the way they embraced the challenges but also in the way they behaved. As stated in a prior parentmail, please remember the new format for these assemblies, so if any Y6 children have achievements outside of school to celebrate, please make sure you bring this in before your assembly. I have reattached the Friday Assembly and Worship timetable with this parentmail for your convenience.



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Reminders and other information

Parent Consultations – we hope you found the parent consultations this week useful and have been reassured at how well the children have settled, as well as learning what you can do further at home to help them make even better progress. As ever, we are here to support your child (and you) in being safe, happy and the best learner they can be – so if you have any questions or concerns please do not wait until January for the next parent meetings – let us know straight away and we can work together to move things forward.

Autumn and OPAL - as you know our Outdoor Learning and Play (OPAL) project is already having an amazing impact on children's lunchtimes. As we discovered last week, the Yorkshire weather will not always help us out, so please can you ensure that your children bring a suitable waterproof coat and wellies every day so we can give them every opportunity possible to experience the great outdoors and be active as much as we possibly can. Just to reassure you that:

- i) We will obviously not make children go out in atrocious weather, and part of the OPAL project is to provide as many alternative forms of play as possible, which may mean spending some time under shelter (indoors or outdoors) enjoying different sorts of activities.
- ii) If your child does end up with wet clothing by the end of lunchtime, we will always let them get changed into their P.E. kit if they do not have any other alternative to keep them warm and dry. Therefore, again, it is vital that they have this kit in school each and every day (to include jumper and jogging bottoms).

Thank you to everyone who has donated items to our project. The more items we have the more creative the children's play can be. Therefore before throwing things out we would be grateful if you would consider whether they could be used in school. From wood planks and drain pipes, to desk chairs and cardboard boxes – the list is endless and as you may have seen on our twitter page, our children love dressing up!

Parking - we have a group of children in Maple class, who like Greta Thunberg, seem determined to change the world all by themselves. A few of them have recently been to see me again, still bothered about the parking and the impact it is having on both safety, health, and also the wider environment. Therefore, I will be supporting them with a "park and stride" event on **Tuesday 15th October**. At school drop off, the intention is that parents can leave their children with me and other supporting adults on the village green by Main Street (across the road from the Mexborough Arms which can be used for parking) at 8:30am to be walked up to school in convoy. At home time we will walk the children down to the village green to meet parents at 3:15pm for collection. Miss Trowell will set up a reply slip on parentmail for all parents (including any that are happy to walk with us as volunteers), and we will then confirm final arrangements depending on the amount of families taking part. Thank you from me and our dedicated Year 5 children for your support in advance!



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Term and Holiday Dates for 2020-21 – I have also reattached the holiday dates for next academic year (previously sent with the September newsletter) and will regularly resend these to help you plan future holidays with your family.



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Key Diary Dates – Autumn Term

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 Blue House cake bake-3.15pm
- 24 House Cross Country Competition
- 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 Green House cake bake – 3:15pm
- 6 Y2 – 6 Spelling Bee Finals – 2:30pm
- 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