



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

Telephone: 0113 289 2541
Email: office@thornerschool.org.uk
Website: www.thorner.schooljotter2.com



Newsletter – November 2019

I hope you all had a wonderful October half term, whether it be Halloween parties, early firework celebrations or just precious time together as a family. It is easy to get drawn into the excitement that Christmas in school brings, but there's plenty to look forward to during November - although Christmas does get a mention further down, but for a very good cause!

Latest News

We are Problem Solvers – we launched our new whole school theme yesterday, with a visit from the Happy Puzzle company. This was funded by our ever wonderful PTA and all of the year groups had a wonderful time playing and solving puzzle games collaboratively. By next Friday, we will send out learning organisers for each class in relation to this theme, and as before, please discuss these with the children and use them to support and explore further learning at home.

Park and Stride Follow Up – thank you to all the families that took part in our park and stride initiative last month. We had over 40 children taking part, and lots of enthusiasm for further opportunities to do this. As a school, we are going to try and run this once per half term, but in terms of pick ups in the morning, if parents would like to get together and agree dates they can “park and stride” together from the green, then please let us know if you are happy for us to promote this so we can get more children walking to school.

Assembly and Worship – thank you to Oak class for our first hosting assembly in October all about their brilliant residential trip to Robinwood, and also to Hawthorn for their wonderful Harvest service. We are looking forward to further hosting assemblies and worship from Maple and Elm this month, as well as our Remembrance Service (led by our Y6s at church) this coming Monday at 10:30am.

House Competitions

- **We are Inspirational home learning competition** – thank you to all the children that entered our “We are Inspirational” competition before half term. 23 children from across the school entered this event, who have all contributed points to the running house totals as follows – **Blue 2pts, Yellow 3pts, Green 5pts, Red 13pts**. As well as making a significant contribution to their house's totals, we will draw a winner at random during Maple class' hosting assembly this Friday, who will receive a £20 Amazon voucher to spend with parental supervision. The reason we have chosen to draw the winner randomly, is that it's very hard to judge who is the most inspiring – particularly when mums and dads have been included! We will run future competitions in this manner, to encourage more children to make the effort to take part and support their house in the process.





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- **Blue House Cake Bake** – congratulations to Blue house who raised a fantastic £144 and set the target for the other three houses to try and beat over the course of this year.
- **House Cross Country** – due to unavoidable circumstances we drafted in Sporting Start to run our house cross country this year. They did an absolutely fantastic job – setting a challenging course for the children but providing lots of encouragement and promotion of our school values. With all the races run, Red house finished on top, so congratulations to them and to all of the children who took part.
- **Coming up this month** – this month we have our Times Tables competition, and we will also be launching another home learning competition linked to our new “We are Problem Solvers” theme. More to follow on this after I have met with our House Captains and Vice Captains.

Intra School Competitions – this month we start our involvement in competitions with other schools, and will be taking part in Indoor Athletics and Cross Country competitions. We know the children will do themselves proud, and look forward to letting you know how they got on next month.

Children in Need – it’s that time of year again and having met with our school council we are incredibly excited about events this year. To start the fundraising, our school council will be devising a KS1 and a KS2 Children in Need quiz, which they will start selling from Monday next week. This will cost £1 to enter, and all complete and correct entries will be entered into a prize draw for a £20 Amazon voucher. On the day itself (next Friday), we would like children to come to school **dressed for disco!** This is because during the morning we will be holding a silent disco for each class (playlist selected by our school council). We will also be challenging each class to fill A3 Pudsey pictures with as many coins (50p, £1 and £2 coins only please) instead of making a contribution to non-uniform. We will finish the day with our Times Tables House competition at 2:30pm for Year 2 - 6, and will send an invite at the beginning of next week to parents of those children that have qualified for the final. Thank you in advance for your support in helping us raise money for Children in Need.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) – despite the poor weather, the children are continuing to love our new approach to lunchtimes. We now have the new wellie racks (which is making life inside school much cleaner!) and the sandpit is in place ready for use. Mrs Colaluca and the OPAL team will send further updates and requests for items in due course, but thank you once again for your support with this initiative.



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Reminders and other information

Thorner as a Church School – as a church school, as well as being subject to the OFSTED framework, our provision is also evaluated under the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection for Anglican and Methodist Schools) framework. This has recently been revised by the Church of England, and we have been working with the Diocese on ensuring we meet the relevant requirements. As a result we have updated our vision and values document (attached), involved children more in leading worship and writing their own prayers, and spent more time on helping them understand and reflect on bible stories both through collective worship and Religious Education. Ultimately, our new curriculum approach focusing on supporting children develop their “Body, Mind and Spirit” underpins the work we are doing, providing opportunities for children (regardless of their beliefs or faith) to develop their knowledge, understanding and own form of spiritual development along the way.

Parent Communications – I have had a few queries from parents regarding communications with teaching staff and notes in planners. Please be aware that we only expect staff to review children’s planners once per week, so if there are messages you wish to get to the teacher or issues that need addressing that can’t be dealt with quickly at pick up/drop off, then please speak to Miss Trowell in the office to arrange a call or appointment (preferably after school). It is important to us that you feel valued and able to communicate with us at mutually convenient times, and we will continue to do our very best in this regard for all children and their families in school.

Reverse Advent Calendar - hopefully you have already begun your reverse advent calendar in aid of St George’s Crypt, and a huge thank you to Chris Clark for leading on this again. If you have not yet begun, it’s not too late to catch up before the drop off deadline of 12th December. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

Term and Holiday Dates for 2020-21 – I have reattached the holiday dates again for next academic year for your reference.



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Key Diary Dates – Autumn Term

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 - 2:30pm
- 19 Individual & Sibling Photos
- 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)
- 12 Ash & Oak Class Childhood Measurement Programme & Ash Class Vision Test
- 13 Full School Flu Vaccine (if parents have consented)
- 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