



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

Telephone: 0113 289 2541
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Newsletter – December 2019

As we approach the end of the Autumn term we continue to do our very best to provide all of the children with an amazing curriculum, full of learning and experiences that inspires them in different ways. Mixed into this will be our range of Christmas celebrations (see key diary dates at the end of this newsletter), which are wonderful opportunities to bring our school community together.

Latest News

Staff Update – talking of our school community, Mrs Phelps (our music specialist) has decided to retire from her school commitments from this January. She has been at Thorner for over 10 years, teaching music to most year groups, and we have always recognised how lucky we were to have her as it ensured not only a full and rich music curriculum, but additional opportunities such as choir, orchestra and Young Voices. It is fitting that her last day with us will be the Young Voices concert in Sheffield with Maple class, and I know that this will only add to the many fond memories she has of working at our school. On behalf of us all, I would like to thank her for all of the wonderful musical experiences and opportunities she has given our children, and wish her all the very best for the future.

Children in Need - what an amazing event. The children really got into the spirit of Children in Need this year, and with your fantastic support, an amazing silent disco and a Pudsey challenge, we managed to raise a fantastic amount of £576.83. A special thank you to Miss Trowell for her superb organisation, enthusiasm and silent dancing on the day!

Assembly and Worship – thank you to Maple and more recently Elm for their hosting assemblies in November which provide a taster of what they have been learning in class alongside a chance to lead on some of our traditional Friday celebrations (e.g. golden book). Oak class also led our Remembrance Service with such respect and dedication, and it was wonderful to see ITV Calendar in attendance recognising the strong community links we have with both the church and British legion. In terms of December, we have two services at church which are the Christingle (6pm on Monday 9th for the whole community) and our school Christmas service at 10am on Monday 16th. **Please note that our service on Monday 16th will be led by our Y6 (and newly added Y5) worship leaders, and will also include a rendition of Away in a Manger from Ash class for any parents wanting to join us.**



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House Competitions

- **Times Tables Competition** - this was both a wonderful and tense event for those children involved in the finals on Children in Need day. The enthusiasm and speed shown by all those involved was phenomenal and the children should be very proud of themselves. We continue to promote Maths as a fun and enjoyable subject that **everyone** can get better at, so please continue to encourage and support your children in learning their times tables and other KIRFS (Key Instant Recall Facts) regardless of your own experiences of Maths as a child!
- **Green House PTA Cake Bake** - good luck to Green House this afternoon with their Christmas themed cake bake. As ever, thank you to the children involved and to all of you for supporting our PTA in raising money to enrich children's experiences at our school.
- **We are Problem Solvers Competition** - our House Captains and Vice Captains have done a brilliant job of organising and promoting this competition linked to Christmas. It's not too late for your child to enter – the closing date for entries is **Monday 9th December**, and the children have created a competition post box for these which has already received a lot of post! Each entry will earn house points towards our final competition total. Every person who enters will also be entered into a prize draw for a £20 amazon voucher which will be made in our values award assembly on **Friday 13th December**.

Intra School Competitions – we had a busy November, starting with Mr Timms leading our Indoor Athletics team to 4th and 5th in their qualifying round, and although this wasn't enough to take them through, all of the children had a great time. Mrs Colaluca then took 42 children from Oak, Maple and Hawthorn to compete in the Leeds North East Primary School's Cross Country last Friday, with over 800 children from schools across the city taking part. All the children did fantastically well and truly demonstrated the school values in what were very competitive and muddy conditions. All the children benefited from their own personal sense of achievement and accomplishment. However, we are pleased to also announce that the top five finishers from the girls' Hawthorn and Oak teams and the boys' Hawthorn and Maple teams made it through to the Leeds Cross Country Final, as well as Hana (Maple), Louise (Maple) and Joseph (Oak) who gained wild card places. Thank you to all the parents who provided both moral and logistical support and consequently enabled us to provide this opportunity to so many of our children.

Christmas Park and Stride – as promised in last month's newsletter, we would like to hold another park and stride event before the end of term. This time we thought we would hold a Christmas themed "park and stride" on the morning of Tuesday 17th December (our Christmas Dinner day). Whilst the children will be in school uniform, they are welcome to join myself and Mrs Whawell on the "green" (as for the previous park and stride) at 8:30am with any festive accessories (e.g. hats, tinsel, boppers) so we can all walk up together and prepare for our Christmas celebrations! Miss Trowell will set up another form on parentmail, and if you would like to join us please complete this by Friday 13th December.





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Reminders and other information

Walking to school and dogs - I know there continues to be much discussion in relation to this issue and following further conversations with different parents I would like to confirm the following. From tomorrow, we are giving permission for parents that have agreed it directly with school the opportunity to tie their dogs to the school fence at the bottom of the hill near the entrance to the school car park. One parent from the group will remain with the dogs, ensuring that they and the children are safe, but also not potentially blocking the main pathway into school from Kirkhills. If you would like the opportunity to also do this, please speak to the school office to discuss possible arrangements. Ultimately your children's safety is always our first concern, and therefore we will continue to review these arrangements to ensure this. I am sure we can make things work for everyone, so if you do have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to raise them with us, but also please remind children that they should not approach unfamiliar dogs regardless of the arrangements in place.

Reports and Parent Consultations – please note that your child's reports will be sent home this Friday, and we have attached a letter with this parentmail providing more detail on this. Miss Trowell will also shortly be setting up appointment slots for parent consultations which take place on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th January (our first two days back), where we will also be asking you to complete a feedback form at the end of the meeting in relation to this and your child's report to date.

Reverse Advent Calendar – just a final reminder to bring your Reverse Advent Calendars to school on Friday 13th December. We have been talking to the children this week about the concept and it is a wonderful opportunity to not only help a great cause, but also to reflect on opportunities to be kind, caring and giving – not just at Christmas but all year round! Thank you once again to Chris Clark for leading on this initiative.



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Key Diary Dates – Autumn Term

December

- 2 Green House cake bake – 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 Reverse Advent calendar boxes into school
- 13 Values Awards Assembly-9:00am
- 13 PTA Christmas Fair – 3:15pm
- 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

January (early dates for your diary only shown)

- 6 Training day (school closed)
- 7 School opens for Spring term
- 7&8 Parent consultation evenings
- 9 Start of term service at church
- 9 Young Voices concert – Maple class
- 17 Hawthorn hosting assembly
- 24 Takeover day – including Y2-6 Spelling Bee Finals at 2:30pm

With my very best Christmas wishes

Ian Holmes
Headteacher