



This week

Today the strangest year of my teaching career comes to a close – I am refusing to say these are unprecedented times!

Now seems a fitting time to say a big thank you and pay tribute to all the community support and effort that has helped the children at Thorns and Park Hill over the last few months. I would like to thank the staff team who have developed new skills and expertise and worked throughout the school closure period with humour, dedication and professionalism. I would also like to pay tribute to parents who have had such a huge challenge – I am in awe of the way in which so many of you have juggled childcare, home learning, working from home and so much more. And not least of course thank you to the children who have worked so hard at home and brightened our days with laughter and smiles and made the world seem just a little more normal. In short, I believe that everyone deserves a pat on the back and a well done sticker/ star of the week certificate! The second half of this school year has really demonstrated that our whole school community is ready to support and help each other. I am proud to be part of such a fabulous team.

Please remember that as we go through such a change in the dynamics of family life many of us will have days and times when we find things challenging. There is help available to families and we will continue to pick up school emails sent to the admin address through the summer holiday although it may take us a few days to reply. Alternatively use the team at the Family Information Service to help provide support during the summer holiday – you can find their details in this newsletter.

My very best wishes to all families and staff for a restful summer break, – stay safe and we'll see you in the autumn.

Best wishes, Mrs Liz Bradbury x

Thank you to Year 2



“Reading takes us places when we have to stay home!”

Year 2 have been inspired by this statement and their recent spell of learning at home to donate a whopping 63 books to the Thorns library as a leaving gift to our school. That's £525 worth of books!

There are picture books and non fiction books. Books which help children through anxiety, grief and friendship issues. Books about sharks, bees, dinosaurs, rivers, maps, fossil hunters. Books which encourage your imagination to fly, books which inspire you to wonder about the world and books which prompt you to look after our planet. The collection includes a diverse range of characters and authors. Each donated book has a bookplate on the first page with the name of the child who donated it.

Thank you to all the families who have been so kind and generous and to Kenilworth Books who topped up the pot and help to select the books.

As this week finishes we inevitably say farewell to some members of our school community who will be moving on to new adventures in the autumn.

Firstly farewell to three wonderful ladies who retire this year and who between them have given our schools seventy four years of service: Mrs Rawlings, Mrs Streeter and Mrs Wright. We really hope that they enjoy some relaxing and fun times with family and friends.

After a period of ill health Mrs Mandy Rawlings took the decision to retire from her role as Head of Teaching and Learning at Thorns. Before taking up her post at Thorns Mrs Rawlings had been in the same position at Park Hill and spent many years as a teacher at Park Hill. She really helped me when I was new to Park Hill and I know that many of you appreciate the support that you have received from her.

Mrs Jan Streeter, our every calm and smiling presence in Year 1, has decided to look after some even younger children and will be leaving her classroom to look after her twin grandchildren. I know that over many years parents have appreciated the nurture and care given to their children when in Jan's class.

Many parents will not know Mrs Janet Wright but she is our longest serving member of staff and has been working as a midday supervisor at Park Hill for 34 years! I'm sure that Mrs Wright will not miss the cold wind that blows across the Park Hill field at lunchtime but I am sure that she will remember her time looking after the children here with fondness – perhaps she even looked after some of our parents when they attended Park Hill.

Our Year 6 children have had an unusual ending to their primary education, however they continued to wow us right until the end of term by creating a wonderful leavers' performance on film and demonstrating such a supportive and fun side of their characters. We send them on to secondary schools with our very best wishes for a fabulous future – we feel certain they will continue to shine and show the world what they can achieve.

At Thorns we wave goodbye to our Year 2 children, most of whom are moving on to Park Hill. It has been so lovely to see them at Thorns this week for a few last days.

There are a few children from other year groups moving on to new schools and we also say farewell to Ellie from Year 5 and Jack from Year 2; Oscar from Reception and Oscar from Year 1; Finlay from Year 2; Daniel from Reception and Ava from Year 2 – your new schools will be lucky to have you join them.

Arrangements for the new school year

As we prepare to welcome back all children on Thursday 4 September schools have been asked to consider staggered start and end times and ways in which they can help families socially distance when on the school run. This has meant some small changes to the timings of the school day and the entrance and exit points for some classes.

Information has been sent to parents in a separate email.

If there are changes to the arrangements as the national or local circumstances are different we will email parents over the summer holiday.

PE kit and swimming

In the autumn term we ask that children come to school in PE kit on the days they have PE and they will stay in this kit for the day. Children should wear: trainers; leggings, shorts or tracksuit bottoms; a PE t-shirt; their Thorns or Park Hill sweatshirt or cardigan.

The swimming pool at Thorns is in need of some fairly major building work and at the moment is out of action. This means that nobody will be swimming at the start of this school year and children in Years 1 and 2 will have some extra PE sessions instead which will be led by an outside sports coach.

Summer holidays

Looking for something to do in the summer holidays?

You can find out about some of the things happening in Warwickshire from the Family Information Service; use the link below to access their summer newsletter.

<https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=a24b439ef7022ae0d86f9ca6e&id=f5ce768664>

Change makers are running some virtual workshops about leading a healthy lifestyle and we attach more information to this newsletter.

And don't forget the summer challenge from Warwickshire libraries signposted in the newsletter last week – there are some special events just for Kenilworth schools including free sessions with a story teller. You will need to log in with the given email address and password – although it says Thorns this is suitable for all children and there are some transition reads for Year 6.

<https://bit.ly/2VETBhs>

Login details are as follows:
Email address: admin2307@we-learn.com
Password: Thorns Infant

Great News



A Super Fundraising Achievement

After being inspired by the incredible Captain Tom and various other fundraisers Hannah wanted to do something to raise some money for charity and decided to join Myton Hospice on their virtual cycle race.

Hannah in Year 2 completed her challenge on Saturday - she cycled 12 miles and she had lots of her friends from Thorns and family sponsor her and has raised £400!
She is very proud of her achievement.

Term Dates for 2020 -2021

Autumn Term

Tuesday 1 September - teacher training day, school closed to children
Wednesday 2 September – teacher training day, school closed to children
Thursday 3 September - school opens
Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October – half term holiday
Monday 2 November - teacher training day, school closed to children
Tuesday 3 November – school opens
Friday 18 December – school closes for Christmas holiday

Spring Term

Monday 4 January - teacher training day, school closed to children
Tuesday 5 January – school opens
Monday 15 to Friday 19 February – half term holiday
Monday 22 February - teacher training day, school closed to children
Tuesday 23 February school open
Thursday 1 April – school closes for Easter holiday

Summer Term

Monday 19 April – school opens
Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June – half term holiday
Monday 7 June – school opens
Wednesday 21 July – school closes for summer holiday



What does the Family Information Service (FIS) do?

Albert Einstein said "I don't need to know everything. I just need to know where to find it when I need it."

FIS support families, and professionals working with families on a wide range of subjects. Everything that isn't behaviour or parenting (this should be directed to the Family Support Work duty line).

FIS webpages are better than google - This is because we have done all the research, and include only the safe, good quality information.

Newsletter - sign up to our twice weekly newsletter and encourage families to sign up for up to date information for professionals and families. 14th July will be a holiday activity specific newsletter.

Helpline available 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Trained team ready to support families and professionals on all subject areas.

The right support at the right time - we want to work with families at the earliest possible opportunity to prevent escalation of need.

FIS Brokerage team – work 121 with families with more complex needs where there are no safeguarding concerns (this should be directed to MASH). Due to COVID-19 all brokerage work is being carried out by telephone.

FIS support families in crisis to help them access the services they need to support them. Examples of areas of support; finance, housing, parental contact/conflict, relationships, SEND, holiday activities, childcare.

FIS can be contacted throughout the school summer holidays.

Helpline contact details - fis@warwickshire.gov.uk. **01926 742274**

FIS webpages: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis

Sign up to our newsletter here <https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/familyinfoservice>



- ✓ EVENTS
- ✓ DAYS OUT
- ✓ GROUPS
- ✓ PARKS
- ✓ WALKS
- ✓ ONLINE

FIND YOUR FUN AT COVENTRY ROCKS!

Coventry Rocks showcases a wide variety of family friendly activities - from local attractions, events and groups, to day trip ideas and some fantastic outdoor spaces and walks. Take a look and see what you think at www.coventryrocks.co.uk

Something that families really love, is that a lot of our 'Things To Do' are free or low cost. This means the website can be used as a 'one stop shop' for families looking for something to do, on any day of the week, with any budget.

Our social pages are also really popular, as we send posts out daily with ideas for things to do in the local area:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/coventryrocks

Instagram: www.instagram.com/coventryrocks

This Week, Happy Birthday to....



Children celebrating a birthday this week:

Josie and Lily who were seven years old.

Sam, Ryan and Lucy who were eleven.

Sophia who was nine on Thursday and Liliana who was ten years old.



Children celebrating a birthday in the summer holiday:

Charlie, Laurie, Eddie, Maks, Poppy, Alex and Jamie who will be five years old in the summer.



Theo, Daisy, Teddy, Annie, Amelia, Lewis, and Clara who will celebrate their sixth birthdays.



Nathan and Isla who will both be seven years old.

Sonny; Ethan; Jackson; Saffia; Thomas; Saoirse who will all be eight.



Stefan; Harry; Radvin; Franek; Tobias; Ella; Zara; Bella; Charlie Max; Archie; Sienna; Lucas who will mark their ninth birthdays.

Andrew; Harry; Gordon; Annie; Henry; Ellie; Emily C; Kyle; Kierney; Emily O; Luciana who will all be in double digits and ten years old.

Luca; Emileigh; Alex who will be celebrating their eleventh birthdays.