



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Reception children and families

This week it has been an absolute delight to welcome our new Reception children to school. They looked so smart and grown up in their Thorns uniforms and all went into school and met new friends so well.

Topic Themes



As I dropped into the classrooms this week I have seen the children starting their new learning topic themes. Year 2 looked marvellous on Wednesday as they arrived dressed as artists and created some work in the style of Giuseppe Arcimboldo. In Year 4 children were considering future ambitions which were many and varied and included: owning a pet snake; eating a big bowl of sushi; being the England Rugby team captain and being an explorer. Year 6 were learning about the solar system and Year 5 were also busy on science learning, investigating soluble and non-soluble materials.



This week

The class teachers have created knowledge organisers which will be shared with parents this week or next week depending on your child's year group. The knowledge organiser details the key facts and vocabulary which children need to learn in their current topic themes. The teachers will focus on this content in their lessons in school and it would be helpful if you could support your child in learning this content. The topics are wider ranging than the knowledge organiser covers but we have found this a helpful way to focus children's learning on the most important curriculum content. You can find details of the English and maths that is being taught on our school websites.

Fabulous handwriting

In school we spend time ensuring that children have a comfortable and efficient handwriting style. Parents can take a look at the letter join website to check the letter formation that is taught in school. As children's technique develops we award a pen license and then fountain pen license. This year our first fountain pen licence has been awarded to Lottie in Year 6 – congratulations Lottie.

PTA News

Both school PTA bodies are organising their AGM for October. We had hoped to hold the meetings in the school halls but given the new restrictions coming into place next week have decided to take them online. Park Hill will be on Wednesday 7 October at 8pm and Thorns on Monday 12 October at 7.30pm.

Late News - Fire at Park Hill

Most parents will already be aware that there was a fire in the hall roof at Park Hill on Friday afternoon. All children and staff were safely evacuated within minutes and classrooms have not been affected meaning that we are very hopeful of being able to open to children on Monday. Contractors and staff are in the building over the weekend ensuring everything is ready for Monday morning. Further information has already been shared with Park Hill parents and I will send more out tomorrow. The fire did cause a delay in sending out this newsletter and we have no internet connection at Park Hill!

Best wishes, Mrs Liz Bradbury

Online Safety

Some parents will be aware of some upsetting material posted on social media this week. I understand that the images and video are being removed by platforms as soon as they can however it is possible that it may pop up anywhere, including Tik Tok which some of our children use. I do not recommend that you go looking for it. If you have seen the media there is support on the Samaritans website to help you. Please remember to talk to your children generally about what they should do if they see something online that upsets them and give them a chance to talk. Try not to restrict your conversation to any single social media app as this may imply that one is bad and all others are safe and fine. Please put appropriate age restrictions in place on any device that your child accesses and spends time online to ensure they are using the social media apps in a safe way. We cover online safety in school as part of our curriculum but by reinforcing these messages at home in a way that is relevant to your child's access to social media and online devices will help to keep them safe.

Drop off and Pick Up at School

Many thanks for supporting us in our efforts to keep everyone safe with the staggered start and end times to the school day, one way system at Thorns, hand sanitiser on the way into school and social distancing on the school site.

A few requests to help everyone stay safe:

- **Social distancing** means trying to stay 2 metres away from people you do not live with if possible. When outside there is a reduced risk but we should still be making sure that we are least 1 metre away from each other.
- **Staggered times** for the start and end of the day and to help limit the numbers of families on the playground at any one time and therefore make the social distancing part easier. It would help if you could do your best to stick to the allocated times for your child and when you have dropped off and go or pick up and go.
- **Parents' supervision of children on the school site** needs to be a little different to previously when we could allow the children to run and play with friends at pick up and drop off. We spend a lot of the school day working hard to keep one group of children away from any other group of children and do not allow them to play together at breaktimes and lunchtimes. It is not helpful to us if parents then allow their children to play with friends from a different group whilst on our school site. This may send mixed messages to the children and will undermine the effort we have gone to during the school day. Our groups are classes except for Reception where it is the whole year group. Families will make their own decisions about who they see at home or in the park and that is not our school's responsibility. Preventing the children mixing with other groups will minimise the number of children or staff who have to self-isolate for 2 weeks should there be a positive case of coronavirus in school. Thank you for your help in this.
- **An extra note on the groups 'bubbles'** which children are in during the school day. These groups are created as young children cannot socially distance from each other so instead a group is socially distant from any other group. The group includes children and staff in school only – it does not extend to parents or siblings who should still be socially distancing from anyone they do not live with.

Year 1 and 2

Pencils

As we go through the days in school we are meeting new challenges with our Covid safe ways of working. One such issue is keeping the children's pencils sharp when they all have their own personal set and are not yet able to sharpen their pencils themselves. Each Friday we will send home the children's pencil case and ask that you sharpen any pencils as required and return it to school ready for a new week on Monday. As with many ways of working at the moment we will keep this under review and thank you for your help.



Year 2 Storage

Our Year 2 parents may recall that in the summer I asked if you would be willing to help us purchase some chair covers that will store your child's personal kit whilst in school and we have a very positive response. The children will be able to use the chair cover all year and even take it with them to Year 3 at Park Hill. We placed our order in July and expect delivery next week. Once the covers have safely arrived the office will request a contribution of £4.50 via parentpay. Many thanks.

All children

Reading Books

All children except Reception have taken home a reading book this week. We remain keen to work in partnership with parents to support children's reading and send home reading books. Communicating between home and school is proving a little problematic to resolve and we are still working through what that will work best so that we can support children's learning and help to prevent the spread of coronavirus. At present

All Children

PE Kit

Thank you to everyone who has sent their child into school in PE kit this week.

There was a little confusion over appropriate items this week. In the summer term we had a more relaxed approach to uniform but we are now back to our usual expectations. This means that we again request a school PE t-shirt and football shirts or similar are not appropriate for school. You can purchase a t-shirt with logo from the Michael Hope website or buy one in the appropriate colour without the logo from any supplier.

Thorns: red or white t-shirts

Park Hill: light blue t-shirt

On a PE day children should wear: trainers; leggings, shorts or tracksuit bottoms; a PE t-shirt; their Thorns or Park Hill sweatshirt or cardigan.

PE days

Year Group	Days to wear PE kit
Reception	Wednesday
1	Wednesday and Friday
2	Tuesday and Thursday
3	Monday and Thursday
4	Wednesday and Friday
5	Tuesday and Friday
6	Tuesday and Thursday

Term Dates for 2020 -2021

We have set some dates for this school year on the basis that we are likely to be working in our current way for the autumn and spring terms and hope to be back to business as usual in the summer term. Please see below for early notice of some key dates. Dates may be subject to change; as much notice as possible will be provided if this occurs.

Autumn Term

- 23rd September: Year 3 meeting online 9.15am and 7pm
- 25th September: Park Hill school photo day
- 30th September: Reception parents meeting online 7pm or 8pm
- 7th October: Park Hill PTA AGM at 8pm
- 12th October: Thorns PTA AGM at 7.30pm
- 12th-16th October: Park Hill parents evenings – more info to follow
- 19th-23rd October: Thorns parents evenings – more info to follow
- 10th November: Thorns school photo day
- 16th December: autumn term learning progress updates sent home to parents

Spring Term

- 26th March: reports out to all parents
- 30th March: open evening at Park Hill 5-7pm
- 31st March: open evening at Thorns 5-7pm

Summer Term

- 11-14th May: Year 6 SATs
- 24-28th May: Year 6 residential visit to Devon
- 18th June: sports day at both schools (Park Hill in the morning and Thorns in the afternoon)
- 2nd July: reserve sports day
- 6th July: Thorns parents evening 4-6.30pm
- 7th July: Warwickshire transition day and children move to new schools or classes
- 7th July: Thorns parents evening 4-6.30pm
- 8th July: Park Hill parents evening 4-7pm
- 13th July: Park Hill parents evening 4-6.30pm
- 15th July: Year 6 leavers performances at 2pm and 6pm
- 16th July: volunteers coffee morning 10.30am
- 20th July Year 2 leavers assembly at 9.15am (parents invited)
- 20th July: Year 2 Leavers' Party in the afternoon
- 20th July: Year 6 Leavers' Party 6.30pm
- 21st July: Year 6 leavers assembly 2.15pm (parents invited)