



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

Telephone: 0113 289 2541
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Website: www.thorner-school-jotter2.com



Newsletter – November 2020

Welcome back to a new half term. We hope you had a lovely half term holiday and managed to enjoy some family time. We know it might have been a little different to previous holidays with the restrictions currently in place and that from this week it is going to become even more challenging for families with another lockdown in place. We are pleased that schools are remaining open and want to reassure you that we will continue to do all we can to ensure that school is both a safe and happy place for your children. We hope you find the meeting with your child's class teacher(s) this month useful and as always, please remember that we are always here to help. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office to arrange an appointment.

Latest News

We are Problem Solvers– this week we launched our new whole school theme 'We are Problem Solvers'. We are very grateful to our wonderful PTA who have funded amazing new team building resources for the children to enjoy and use to develop their skills in cooperation and collaboration. Each class will be using the resources over the next few weeks and we will share photos with you on Twitter and on our website. 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.

Assembly and Worship-although we are not able to gather together in the school hall for worship, we have continued to have daily worship this school year either in class or as a whole school via Zoom. Oak Class have done an incredible amount of work for this year's **Remembrance Service**, which Miss Capstick has worked hard to put together in order to share with the school and parents on November 11th. A link to the video will be sent out on the 11th. This half term we also look forward to Class Assemblies from Elm Class and Maple Class, which will be shared via video with the rest of the school and parents of these year groups. We will also be working with our Worship Leaders this half term to involve them in leading and developing worship in school.

House Competitions- as mentioned in our last 'Celebrating Achievement' bulletin before the half term holiday, another big thank you and well done to all of the children who entered our "We are Inspirational" competition. We will share some of their wonderful posters this week on Twitter. The winner of the competition was Sofia C (Maple Class) who was awarded with a £20 amazon voucher. Well done to Sofia and all of the children who entered, contributing points for their House.

Children in Need-next week, we will be supporting Children in Need by taking part in the 'Five to Thrive' programme. It is led by Joe Wicks, Dr Radha and Blue Peter, it is a programme of wellbeing activities which we will be doing in school throughout the week. It is inspired by the 5 Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Take





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Notice, Get Active, Be Curious and Give. It's been designed with children's mental wellbeing in mind, to help children feel better about themselves – as well as helping others. On Friday 13 November, the focus is on 'Giving' and we are inviting children to come to school in non-uniform (fancy dress optional) for the 'Feel Good Friday' celebration and make a suggested donation of £2 or more to Children in Need. Please ensure your child comes to school dressed in something suitable in terms of comfort and warmth and that they are wearing appropriate footwear, as they will be taking part in a Joe Wicks challenge and will obviously be playing outdoors at playtimes and lunchtimes. From next Monday (9th November) we will also be selling Children in Need merchandise in school. More details of what will be available will be shared later this week. Children need to bring cash in for this merchandise (exact change where possible please). Thank you in advance for your support.

Reverse Advent Calendar-once again this year, we are inviting you to take part in the 'reverse advent calendar' project for St. George's Crypt. The idea is to fill your own 'reverse advent calendar' with food and useful gift items for the hungry and less fortunate. The concept behind it is to add an item of non-perishable food or a small useful item of clothing or toiletries, to a box, each day in the lead up to Christmas in place of removing a daily treat from your advent calendars. The idea was inspired by a Canadian food writer, who filled two empty 12-bottle wine boxes with food bank donations. By filling the boxes with at least one item a day, come Christmas time we can donate to people who will benefit from them over the festive period. St Georges Crypt has provided a list of suggested items for the reverse advent calendars (please see attached). Donations don't have to be expensive and all we ask is that food items are edible and within expiry dates. Please bring in your filled boxes on **Thursday 10th December** or contact Chris Clark who is organising the collection via the Thorner Facebook page to drop off with him from **Monday 30th November**.

Anti-Bullying Week-this year's Anti-Bullying week is 'United Against Bullying'. On the 16 November we are inviting children to come to school in odd socks as a way of celebrating their individuality and what makes us all unique. Throughout the week, we will be exploring bullying with the children and reinforcing our 'My Safe Place' initiative. We will send out a reminder nearer the time as we know there is a lot of dates to remember this month.

Parking-as we start this new half term, please can we appeal to you again to walk or cycle to school where possible and if not possible, then to park safely and responsibly when dropping off or picking up your child from school. We know that life is busy and that it is tempting to park as close to school as possible to save time, particularly when the weather is bad, but it is really important that everyone takes responsibility for keeping our school community and local residents safe. Please take the time to park slightly further away from school, ensuring that the pavements are not blocked by cars mounting them and visibility is not impacted by cars parked on the zig zag lines outside the school. Our School Council will be working on a campaign this half term to remind and encourage parents to park responsibly, so please watch this space.





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Warm clothing-We continue to follow Government guidelines regarding ensuring the classrooms are well ventilated, with some of the windows or doors open to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid. This hasn't been an issue to date, however, we are conscious that the temperature over the coming months will obviously be a lot colder and we do not want children to be cold whilst working in their classroom. We will make sure we are balancing the need to ventilate the classrooms with making sure the temperature is appropriate, but please could you ensure that your child wears suitably warm clothes to school and has a school jumper/cardigan in school every day. Children are welcome to bring in an additional layer to wear in the classroom, such as a fleecy or thicker jumper to wear if they do become cold (plain black or navy if possible).

Leadership at Thorner-Mrs Robertson, our Executive Headteacher will continue to support us at Thorner this coming half term and will be in school to work with us each Thursday. Mrs Whawell will continue to work from Monday to Thursday and Miss Capstick, will be available on a Friday if you need to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. As a Senior Leadership Team, we will continue to work with the Staff and Governors to do all we can to make Thorner Primary School the best it can possibly be in order to support your children's education and well-being. If you have any queries or concerns, which your child's class teacher has been unable to resolve, please do speak to us or make an appointment to meet with us.

Term and Holiday Dates for 2021-22 – please find attached term and holiday dates for next academic year. We appreciate that it's helpful to have these as far in advance as possible, but please do go through them carefully given our holiday dates and training days are set with our Trust rather than the local authority, so they do not always align completely with the dates for Leeds local authority.

Key Diary Dates – Autumn Term

November

- 2 School opens
- 11 KS2 Remembrance Service– 10:30am (Y6 led, via video)
- 13 Children in Need (Children invited to wear non-uniform/fancy dress)
- 16 Odd Socks Day-as part of Anti Bullying Week
- 19 Individual school photographs
- 23 House TT Rockstars Competition final-2:30pm (via Zoom)
- 24 Flu immunisations (all year groups)
- 27 Y3 Class Assembly (via video)
- Parents' evenings/consultations (via telephone/Zoom) throughout November

December

- 3 House Spelling Bee Finals – 2:30pm (via Zoom)
- 4 Y5 Class Assembly (via video)
- 7 Christingle Service
- 10 Reverse Advent Calendars collection





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- 10 KS1 Nativity Play – (via video)
 - 11 Values Awards Assembly-9:00am
 - 14 Christmas Service (via video)
 - 15 Christmas Dinner/Class celebrations
 - 18 School Closes at 2.30pm

With our very best wishes,

Gemma Whawell (Acting Headteacher), Sharon Robertson (Executive Headteacher) and Sam Capstick (Senior Leader)