



September 2020

The Thurleigh Times

Hello and welcome to another academic year. Things have been very different for all of us and it has been quite some time since we last had a 'normal' newsletter sent out. All staff really appreciate the amazing job our parents/carers have done with the Home Learning during the past 6 months. As it has been a long break from the usual school routines we are all used to, for the first two weeks of term, teachers will be assessing the children to give a starting point for new learning. We will then be able to put in support for children, fill any gaps or create new challenge for those who need it. Following this period of assessment our wonderful new topics will begin and you will be able to download the new curriculum topic maps from our website. Each topic will be kicked off with a 'Sparkling Start' and more news will follow via your class teachers very soon. In addition, please remember to look regularly at the school website www.thurleighprimary.uk for the latest news, updates and photographs.

A Few Classroom Changes

During the past couple of months Oak Class has been transformed. We were fortunate enough to be able to have some decoration and refurbishment done, and this has enabled Mr Burton and his team to create a beautiful working environment for our youngest children. The unit really does look stunning and the children have settled in very well and are enjoying their new-look classroom.

Miss Burgess has taken over from Mr Burton in Willow Class and has had a fabulous start to the term. She is thoroughly enjoying her new role and is looking forward to starting her new Castles topic.

Bothering Bites

Thank you to all parents/carers who have informed us this week that their children have been coming home with insect bites. You may remember that around this time 2 years ago, we had a few problems with insect bites affecting some of your children. After extensive investigations from outside contractors, it was found that the culprits were insects on the school field. We were advised that the problem had also been happening in other areas around the country and that the onset of the cooler autumn weather should soon stop the problem.



KS2 Residentials

We have received a few queries from parents regarding our intended Y3 & Y4 and Y5 & Y6 residential trips that had been booked for this term.

As the rules around residentials have changed for the time being, we are in talks with both Grafham Water and the Frontier Centre to arrange some alternative day visits. In due course we will consult parents/carers to obtain your views on these visits. More details will follow as soon as we have relevant information.



Programme and Build Day

We will be having another programme and build workshop for children in Willow, Chestnut and Ash classes. This will take place on Monday 21st September.

'Program and Build Day' are workshops on Robotics designed to help achieving curriculum goals within areas such as computing, D&T (design and technology) and sciences. During each session students build and code robots using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® sets and an easy to use graphical environment. This provides knowledge and understanding about some key concepts from fields such as science, engineering, technology and mathematics.

Look out for more workshops throughout the year as we hope to have this as a termly event to build on previous skills and knowledge.



Jeans for Genes – Friday 18th September 2020

Jeans for Genes Day is all about raising money to help some of the most vulnerable children in the UK. The aim is to transform the lives of children affected by a genetic disorder.

We will be supporting this amazing charity by having our event on Friday 18th September. Children are welcome to come to school dressed in jeans, an item of denim (or anything else similar) for a donation of £1 towards this very worthy cause. For P.E. Ready classes, it is suggested that children also wear your trainers and Mr Harrison, from Premier Sport, will organise lessons to fit around the day.

Parent/Carer Consultations

This term we will be having a bit of a change to the way we do Parent/Carer Consultations. We understand that things feel very different to our usual start to the new academic year. Mixed in with the usual anxiety of a new school year is the concern parents and carers will be feeling around all things Covid19 related and the affect it has had on learning. Therefore, we will be sending out brief settling in reports for every child to inform you how your child has settled and where they are progress wise, particularly in Maths, Reading and Writing. If you are happy with this information there will not need to be any further action. If you still have a few questions, there will be the opportunity to choose either a short telephone call or socially distanced face-to-face meeting with your class teacher which will take place on Wednesday 7th October. This will be bookable via Parentmail nearer the time. Of course, as always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please contact your class teachers in the usual way.

Harvest

This year we will be celebrating Harvest the week beginning Monday 19th October within our own classrooms. Each class will record their own contribution and this will be uploaded onto either Seesaw or OneDrive and then shared with you.

We would also welcome any donations of tinned/packet foods and toiletries for the Prebend Street Homeless Centre during this week which we will then transport to them. Thank you.



Help with FOTS Urgently Required

FOTS (Friends of Thurleigh) are a collection of parents/carers who arrange fundraising events for school projects on a voluntary basis.

Over the years there have been many lovely events that have enriched the school life of all of our children, whilst also supporting the school with funding of resources that would otherwise be unaffordable with the constraints of an always shrinking school budget. Examples of these are donations by FOTS for playground equipment, to subsidise school trips and to provide our Y6 children with hoodies.

Each year it is a challenge to enlist parental support due to children moving on to secondary school and working parents' availability to help. We now find ourselves in a position of **desperately needing help to continue to run**. If you can spare any time at all for this extremely valuable role, no matter how small, please contact either Mrs Augustine or Mrs Sansom.



Calling all parents and carers...

We greatly value the role that parents/carers play at home, in supporting the learning and progress made by your children.

Please continue to read at home with your child/children as often as possible. It doesn't have to just be school reading books – sharing stories or information books, comics or listening to story CDs are all extremely enjoyable and valuable. Having a chat about what you have read/listened to afterwards will make all the difference. If you would like some support with what sort of questions to ask children when reading, please talk to your class teacher.

Upcoming Dates for Your Diary for the Autumn Term 2020

Thursday 17 th September	Y3 & Y4 Bikeability
Friday 18 th September	Jeans for Genes
Monday 21 st September	Programme and Build Workshop
Wk beg Monday 21 st September	YR Balanceability (mornings only)
Wednesday 23 rd September	Y7 return visit 4.30-5.30pm
Friday 1 st October	National Poetry Day
Wednesday 7 th October	Parent/Carer Consultations
Monday 19 th - Friday 23 rd October	Harvest - Class events throughout this week will be available to view via Seesaw or OneDrive
Friday 23 rd October	Break up for half term
Wk beg Monday 26 th October	Half term
Monday 2 nd November	Return to school
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need – more details to follow
Monday 23 rd November	Individual & family groups school photos
Friday 27 th November	Decoration Day – this year will be for children only, more details to follow
Friday 18 th December	Break up for Christmas holidays

Safeguarding Reminders:

At Thurleigh Primary we take safeguarding very seriously, so to ensure the safety of every child in our care, we would like to remind you of the following:

- Please try to notify the school by 9.30am if your child will not be in.
- If you are not going to be the person picking up your child from school please remember to let us know in advance.
- Please remember to shut any gate as you enter/leave the premises. In particular please pay special attention to ensure that the playground gates are kept closed at all times and that you accompany your child if they leave the playground.
- Please remember to leave the yellow zig-zag lines at the front of the school clear at all times and avoid parking on the hill outside the school to avoid congestion.

If you see or hear anything that concerns you whilst at the school please talk to the class teachers or contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Designated Safeguarding Leads for the Thurleigh Kymbrook Federation -

Mrs Sarah Moore/ Mrs Kathy Augustine.

Mrs Rachel Smith (based at Kymbrook site)

Remember that safeguarding is everyone's business. Thank you for your support.