



January 2022

The Thurleigh Times

Hello everyone, here we are on our way to February half term, with Christmas and New Year a distant memory. You will be aware that we have been sending home updated guidance regarding covid, as and when we receive it, from Local Public Health at Bedford Borough. We sincerely hope that as we move into the spring and summer, we are able to invite you in to see the children and start holding events again, including workshops and work shares.

Thurleigh Primary Facebook

Being a small rural school has so many benefits, but we can also become vulnerable if numbers drop too low. This is because we completely rely on funding per child to stay viable. Often, small schools are competing to fill places in order to stay afloat, or to be able to fund a full time teacher for each class. We would never like to be in the position of having to move to 3 full time teachers instead of 4, therefore, we need to be able to advertise our wonderful school and we need your help with this. If you know of anyone who needs a school place within the primary age range, please encourage them to book an appointment to look around either Thurleigh Primary or Kymbrook Primary.

One way to show how amazing we are is on our own Facebook page. Please check back regularly to see what we have been up to.



Residential Visits

During their time at Thurleigh Primary, we give our pupils two opportunities to experience the fun and adventure of a residential trip with their classmates, and peers from Kymbrook. In Year 3 or 4, we attend a 3-day residential at the Grafham Water Centre. This is taking place in May this year and the plan is that this will happen again in two years time. In Year 5 and 6, the children visit the Frontier Centre in Irthlingborough. This took place in September 2021 and is booked again for September 2023. In recent years we have been choosing residential centres closer to our locality, as the prices of coach travel has become a huge additional cost and we are trying to keep costs as low as possible.

Blogs

We invite you to take a look at our class and Forest School blogs on our website:

www.thurleighprimary.uk

They are a great way of getting an update on what we have been doing. Class blogs can be found under the NEWS and EVENTS tab, Forest School blogs are under Forest Schools on the OUR LEARNING tab.



Snow Queen Performance

Ash Class have been having weekly drama lessons with Mrs Laura Backhurst. Drama is an excellent tool for children to show self-expression and build confidence, whilst also developing language and communication skills. During the sessions, the children have been practicing for a performance of 'The Snow Queen' which will take place next week. We hope to be able to film this performance and upload to Seesaw for Y5 & 6 parents/carers to watch. A big thank you to Mrs Backhurst for all her hard work.



French Challenge

Our specialist French teacher, Madame Bentley, has a new challenge for our children...find out more here:

<https://www.petite-etoile.co.uk/thurleigh-primary>

Achievement Assembly

Each Friday we get together for a special achievement assembly. We award certificates for demonstrating our school values (Determination, Respect, Independence, Working together, Kindness and Bravery), being our 'Pupils of the week' and for achievement at Forest School, as well as celebrating birthdays from that week and announcing which house has won the most points that week. Each achievement assembly is led by two Year 6 pupils in turn and this is a wonderful opportunity for them to try out something completely different!

We also love to hear about achievements from home, but we haven't been hearing much recently! Today we had a fabulous piece of art work and a wonderful certificate from a remote control car event.

Any achievements from:

- Clubs- Brownies, Cubs, swimming, gymnastics etc, as well as wonderful models, art or anything creative.
- Other achievements- for example a long walk or cycle ride the children have been on.
- Anything that took some effort will be gladly rewarded with a big clap from the whole school!

Perhaps you would like to prompt your child/children to bring achievements to share on a Friday? Thank you.

SATs week for Y6

SATs week for our Year 6 pupils is the week beginning 9th May. Please do not book any holidays or appointments in this time, as these statutory tests have to take place at specific times.

Year 2 children also take SATs, which take place during the month of May.

Year 1 children will do a phonics screening test during the w/b 6th June.

Bank Holidays and INSET days

Please note that our school dates do not always match with other schools your children may attend.

Friday 27th May – Additional day for Queen's Jubilee

Monday 6th June – INSET day for staff

Dates for the rest of the year are at the bottom of the newsletter, so please do check.

Thank you.



Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on **7-13 February 2022**. This year's theme is **Growing Together** and is focused around encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow.

***Growing Together** is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.*

Teachers will be covering this theme during the week and activities will take place in all classes.



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 notify the school on 01234 771252 as early as possible 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 leave the lines at the front of the school clear at all times. The village hall car park is available for parking.

If you see or hear anything that concerns you whilst at school please talk to the class teachers or contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Designated Safeguarding Leads for the Kymbrook and Thurleigh Federation – Mrs Kathy Augustine, Mr George Cole and Mrs Rachel Smith (based at Kymbrook site).

Remember that safeguarding is everyone's business.

Thank you for your support.

Upcoming Dates for Your Diary

Friday 11th February	Break up for half term
Monday 21st February	Back to school
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day- more details to follow
Wednesday 9th March	Year 3 and 4 to a Multi-sports event at Lincroft School
Friday 18th March	Red Nose Day- more details to follow
Monday 21st March	Year 1 and 2 Sports event at Sharnbrook Academy
Wednesday 23rd March	Possible date for Y3/4 to take part in the Creative Arts Festival at Sharnbrook Academy in the evening. We will let you know as soon as we have further details
Thursday 31st March	Possible date for Y3/4 to take part in a Sing On concert at the Bedford Corn Exchange in the evening. We will let you know as soon as we have further details
Friday 1st April	Break up for the Easter holidays
Monday 18th April	Easter Monday
Tuesday 19th April	INSET day for staff
Wednesday 20th April	Children back to school
Monday 2nd May	Early May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3rd May	Year 3 and 4 to a Multi-sports event at Harrold Primary School
w/b Monday 9th May	SATs week for our Year 6 children
Mon 9th to Weds 11th May	Residential visit for Year 3 and 4 children to Grafham Water
Thursday 26th May	Break up for half term
Friday 27th May	Extra Bank Holiday for the Queen's Jubilee
Monday 6th June	INSET day for staff
Tuesday 7th June	Children back to school