



Laying the foundations for a bright future

Website link: www.htpfederation.co.uk

A little note from Mrs FitzGerald...

What a busy time we have had at school. It was lovely that lots of you were able to make our 'share' session last week linked to National Storytelling Week, it always makes such a difference to the children having you there! This week we have also been busy with 'Safer Internet Day', learning more about how we can keep ourselves safe online.

As I write this I cannot quite believe that the half-term break is almost upon us! The last few weeks have flown by and I have a feeling the second half of the spring will do the same.

Bumblebees Class did a fantastic job this morning in their Celebration Presentation, sharing lots of their learning from their new theme 'Land Ahoy!'; it was lovely to see so many of you!

A huge congratulations go to Fleur who was the winner of the governor's telescope competition - the entries were all amazing, I am very relieved I did not have to decide on the winning entry! Everyone who entered did a superb job and will receive 10 dojo points each for entering.

We also need to say congratulations to our lovely Mrs Tipper, who has very recently been awarded her QTS - that is Qualified Teacher Status. This follows a very intense year of training and studying as well as undertaking teaching responsibilities in Otters Class as our first Teacher Apprentice. Mrs Tipper, you have worked so very hard, you should be very proud of what you have achieved, we are all so very pleased for you and feel very fortunate that you are part of the Federation Family and Thurlow Team!

Happy weekend everyone ☺

Warmest regards, Mrs FitzGerald

DRIVING AND PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL SITE

We are sending this message to remind parents and carers of the importance of driving and parking safely around the school site. It is vital due care and attention for our school, our neighbours and other drivers is given.

We know it is very challenging to park around our school site but none of us want a child attending our setting to be a road traffic statistic. We have received information from the Parish Council regarding speeding through the village at the start and end of the school day. This is obviously very concerning. The parking on several occasions this week would have prevented emergency services accessing our site and this is not acceptable.

Please consider leaving a little earlier in the morning and using the parking at the village hall or the church and take the short walk to and from the school site.

We are seeking support from Suffolk Constabulary as well as Suffolk Highways regarding this matter, in the meantime please, please have due care and attention when dropping off and collecting your children.

Thank you for your support in this important matter.

SEVERE WEATHER

As is always the case, every effort will be made to keep the school open in severe weather. The school would only close if it is not safe for staff and pupils to travel to / from school and/or be on site.

There was much concern this morning with the heavy rain overnight and localised flooding in our locality. Please be assured we will continue to monitor the weather, river levels and flood alerts in our locality and be in touch if we need to make any decisions linked to safety and risk factors as soon as we can.

We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Therefore, we will make every effort to prepare for severe weather and share information as soon as possible.

Information about school closure will be posted:

- Class Dojo
- ParentMail
- Via the Suffolk County Council website: <http://schoolclosures.suffolk.gov.uk>
- Facebook
- Local radio

A little note from our Chair of Governors

I am very pleased to let you all know that the winner of the Governors' Telescope Competition was Fleur Bennett, a Year 3 pupil at Thurlow. Huge congratulations to Fleur! The governors were really impressed with the effort she had put into her letter and the fact that she showed a real interest in astronomy and wants to share the telescope with her family. She included lots of reasons for wanting the telescope but also some humour: "I really would like to see if the face on the moon is real or if it is made out of cheese like Wallace and Gromit say!"

It was extremely difficult to choose just one letter as all of the entries were brilliant! Well done and thank you to everyone who entered the competition. The governors learnt new things about our galaxy and the universe just by reading the letters such as "there are more stars in the universe than grains of sand"!

*Val Phillips
Chair of Governors*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SPRING TERM 2024 continued...

FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY ~ END OF HALF-TERM

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 19th February ~ Friday 23rd February

Friday 1st March ~ Butterflies Class Family Celebration Presentation at 9am

Parents of children in Butterflies Class only are invited.

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HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 19th February ~ Friday 23rd February

Monday 26th February to Friday 1st March ~ UNICEF Fairtrade Week ~ more details to follow

Thursday 7th March ~ World Book Day ~ more details to follow

Monday 11th March to Friday 15th March ~ British Science Week ~ more details to follow

Tuesday 19th March ~ PARENT CONSULTATIONS for Butterflies Class & Bumblebees Class

Wednesday 20th March ~ PARENT CONSULTATIONS for Otters Class & Hares Class

Find out how your child is doing in class with their academic targets.

Thursday 21st March ~ World Poetry Day ~ more details to follow

Thursday 28th March ~ LAST DAY OF THE SPRING TERM

AS BEFORE: UNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP TWO-WEEK HALF TERM

Unity are again asking parents and staff about their opinions on the half-term break in 2024 and future years.

We remain unconvinced that a shorter lunch and/or break-time and an extra 5 minutes onto the school day across an academic year equates to a week's worth of learning.

We have shared our views and concerns with **Tim Coulson, Unity's Chief Executive**, highlighting the **negative impact on pupils, families and staff. We do not believe the benefits of the 'pilot' outweigh the children's loss of learning.** We have also raised the matter with our local MP, Matt Hancock.

We know Unity's plan is going to **adversely affect many of you financially, practically and logistically.**

Please contact the Chief Executive of Unity Schools Partnership, Tim Coulson, TCoulson@unitysp.co.uk and share your views!

Contact our local MP, Matt Hancock, matt.hancock.mp@parliament.uk and tell him!



OWL DISPLAY



**Get up close
with owls**

Presented by
Hawkeye Falconry UK.
Show lasts one hour.
Money raised goes to
St. Peter's Church
restoration Fund.



Choose your show

Date: 2 March 2024

Venue: St. Peter's Church

Little Thurlow CB9 7JQ

Display times: 10.30am and 12pm

Ticket price: Adults: £10

Children : £5 (12years & under)

Contact us

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