



Laying the foundations for a bright future

Website link: www.htpfederation.co.uk

A little note from Mrs FitzGerald...

What a lovely start we have had to the second half of the Spring term! I have been so impressed with the enthusiasm of the children as well as how well they have settled to the core business of learning.

What a super job the children in Butterflies Class did this morning in their Celebration Presentation! It was lovely to hear about their collaborative work, creating new landmark buildings for London, incorporating features from those they had learned about as well as using materials with the right properties!

I am also really proud of our fossil hunting Otters Class who had a great time yesterday at Cromer. The weather held, they enjoyed all elements of their trip and were impeccably behaved ~ a credit to our school!

We have an eventful few weeks ahead with lots of learning opportunities planned for our children to participate in and enjoy before Easter is upon us, not least with World Book Day and Science Week the week after.

We continue to aim high at Thurlow; committed to and striving for the highest quality education for all our pupils. It remains at the centre of everything we do.

I do hope everyone enjoys a peaceful weekend,

Warm regards, Mrs FitzGerald

SPRING TERM 2 ~ SCHOOL MEALS

For pupils in Years 3 to 6 (Otters Class and Hares Class) the cost of a school meal is £2.30 per day. Next half-term will cost £69.00 in total, (a week of school meals is £11.50.)

Children can alternate between packed lunches and school meals as preferred but school meals need to be paid for in advance. Here is the link: [School Meals - Suffolk County Council](#)

World Book Day ~ Thursday 2nd March

Next week we will be celebrating World Book Day by inviting the children to bring their favourite book (or 'prop') into school with them on this day.

During the day, alongside their usual learning, the children will be engaged in book related activities and have the opportunity to share their favourite stories.

We have received much feedback with regards the 'dressing up' element associated with this day, particularly in relation to the financial pressures of current circumstances as well as to highlight how much some children enjoy this element.

There is no expectation that anyone 'dresses up'. Children can come to school as usual in their uniform with their book and /or 'prop'. They can choose to come as a storyteller ~ in non-uniform (their 'normal clothes'). They also have the option to dress as a book character.



REPORTING ABSENCE / GENERAL ENQUIRIES / COMMUNICATION

Please note all absences, and changes to end of day collection arrangements, need to be communicated to the School Office in the first instance. The Administration Team, Mrs Sanders and Mrs Mitson, are responsible for attendance reporting and whilst we very much appreciate parents updating Class Teachers via Class Dojo, it is vital this information is shared directly with the School Office as soon as possible.

Our Administration Team, Mrs Sanders and Mrs Mitson, can be contacted by telephoning 01440 783281 or via email at admin@thurlowschool.co.uk The team are also best placed to support with general queries related to Morning Sports Club, after-school club, school meals, payments and so on.

For learning related matters it is, of course, your child's Class Teacher you need to speak to and the easiest and quickest way for this is via our learning platform, Class Dojo or via email. Whilst our teaching team is incredibly conscientious and will endeavour to respond to any and all messages sent as soon, I am very aware colleagues are receiving messages during their weekends and sometimes very late at night.

Please can I politely request that messages are sent during working hours, that is **between 8am and 6pm (at the latest,) Monday to Friday** and not at weekends. If you need to contact the school urgently, please leave a message on the school answerphone and office staff will respond as soon as they are able. Your email system may have a 'send later' function, which means you can compose your message at your convenience but time it to be sent during working hours. With Class Dojo messages can be composed and left there until it is an appropriate time to send.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

At Thurlow Church of England (VC) Primary School the governors and staff aim to provide the very best educational experiences and secure the highest educational standards for every pupil who comes here. We seek to ensure the National Curriculum is delivered to all children, regardless of social background, race, gender or differences in ability. All our pupils are entitled to the development of knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes, without exception.

We do this in partnership and collaboration with yourselves and without your vital support the positive progress and significant achievement of our pupils, your children, would be much reduced.

In recent analysis of our attendance figures I am a little disappointed to report that **around 20% of the School's population, have less than 90% attendance** for the school year to date. Whilst 90% in a test is often a positive outcome where attendance is concerned this equates to **a half-day absence every week**. These pupils have **missed the learning opportunities and the skill development provided in at least two subjects every week** for the entire school year to date.

90% attendance is also equivalent to missing four whole weeks of lessons; a whole month, absent from school. If a child has **90% attendance over five years at school it is the equivalent of missing one half of a school year!** Having **80% attendance** over the same period would mean they have **missed an entire school year!**

Attendance and punctuality are central to ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential – pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CONTINUED...

Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. It is widely acknowledged that children with poor attendance achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

Please can you help us by remembering any **leaves of absence** must be taken in school closure periods unless there are **rare and strictly exceptional circumstances** and **support your child's learning and progress** by ensuring that **non-urgent appointments**, for example, dentist, optician, Doctor, are **arranged outside school hours**.

I will, of course, be writing to some parents individually regarding this concern in due course but wanted to highlight this important issue as a matter of urgency so that all parents are fully aware of the impact poor attendance can have on their child's education, throughout their school career.

Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any queries or concerns regarding attendance or any other matter.

Best regards, Mrs Sharon FitzGerald, Headteacher

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please check back regularly as additional dates added as and when activities / visits are confirmed!

SPRING TERM 2 ~ 2023

Tuesday 28th February ~ Health & Wellbeing 'BE HAPPY' Workshops

Our children will be working with Annie from OM Health & Wellbeing Consultancy during the afternoon. **There is a parent 'Meercat or Grizzly' workshop at 2.30pm for those wishing to attend.**
(See Class Dojo for more information.)

Monday 13th March to Friday 17th March ~ British Science Week

There will be a 'share' opportunity linked to Science Week on the Friday afternoon in the form of an exhibition ~ more details to follow

Friday 17th March ~ Science Exhibition ~ 'share' afternoon ~ more details will follow

Friday 17th March ~ PTA Mothers & Special Others Gift Stall ~ see included flyer

Tuesday 21st March ~ WORLD POETRY DAY

Tuesday 21st March ~ Parent Consultations

An opportunity to follow-up with your child's Class Teacher on their academic and personal progress, following on from those in the Autumn Term and their Pupil Progress Check in December.

Wednesday 23rd March ~ WORLD POETRY DAY

Thursday 30th March ~ Our EASTER SERVICE at St Peter's Church at 2.15pm

Friday 31st March ~ END OF HALF-TERM

eats.

World Book Day Lunch

Mr Stink's Macaroni Cheese
with Garlicy Bread

Sweetcorn & Peas

Willy Wonka's Scrumdiddlyumptious
Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate Sauce

Date: **Thursday 2nd March**

Get Writing

Competition

To celebrate World Book Day, we invite our young people to write a short story on a Superhero who is trying to help the planet (no more than 500 words).

3 winners will receive a £20.00 book voucher. The competition will run from Thursday 2nd March through to Friday 10th March.



Mothers &

Special Others

Gift stall Friday 17th March

We will be holding our annual Mother's Day and Special Others Stall on Friday 17th March

As previously if your child would like to participate they need to provide a donation in the form of a small gift and £2.00 in a named envelope. This gift could be a small set of toiletries, (unused & packaged,) other cosmetics, bubble bath, a box of chocolates, a jar of sweets, cups, mugs and so on. No alcohol or alcoholic chocolates please.

The children will then have the opportunity to choose a gift on Friday 17th March in school, have it wrapped by our PTA volunteers and will bring it home ready for Mother's Day.

Please note: both a gift AND £2 are required for your child to take part.

Donations for this event will be accepted as of Monday 13th March but will need to be in school by Wednesday 15th March at the latest.

If you can spare a couple of hours on Friday 17th March to assist with running the stall and help wrap gifts please speak with a member of the PTA.

RECYCLE IT!

**WE WANT YOUR
OLD CLOTHES,
TOYS AND
HOUSEHOLD
ITEMS**

**We provide the bags for you to fill.
Collection is Thursday 30th March
Please leave your bags at Thurlow Village
Hall by 9.30am on the day only**

**SCHOOL TERM DATES: NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR
2023 ~ 2024**

Autumn Term 2023

Monday 4th September to Wednesday 20th December

Monday 4th September & Tuesday 5th September 2022: non-pupil days (PD Days)

Autumn Half-Term ~ Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October

Christmas Holiday

Thursday 21st December 2023 to Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Spring Term 2024

Wednesday 3rd January to Thursday 28th March

Wednesday 3rd January 2024: non-pupil day (PD Day)

Spring Half-Term ~ Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February 2024

Spring Holiday

Friday 29th March to Thursday 11th April 2024

Monday 6th May 2024: early May Bank Holiday

Summer Term 2024

Friday 12th April to Friday 19th July

Friday 12th April 2024: non-pupil day (PD Day)

Monday 15th April 2024: non-pupil day (PD Day)

Summer Half-Term ~ Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024

End of Term ~ Friday 19th July 2024