



Thorner C of E Primary School

An inspirational place to learn and play,
helping us make the most of every day!

☎ 0113 2892541

✉ office@thornerschool.org.uk

Kirkhills, Thorner, Leeds, LS14 3JD

Head teacher: Mrs Gemma Whawell



Newsletter – April 2024

A warm welcome back to the Summer term. I hope you enjoyed some family fun and chocolate over the Easter holidays. We have enjoyed hearing all about the children's holiday adventures! We are looking forward to the exciting learning and events that we have planned for the children during the Summer term. At the end of this week you will be receiving your child's termly mini-report and we are holding parent consultation meetings next week for you to discuss the progress your child is making with their class teacher. Please make sure that you book an appointment by 12pm this Friday (12th). We are also running the parent open mornings again later this term, so please save the dates in your diary for these, (**Friday 28th June** and **Friday 5th July**). We hope that you are able to make one of the mornings for your child to share their work with you and tell you about what they have been learning.

Latest News:

Easter- A huge well done and thank you to Elm Class who led the Easter Service at St. Peter's Church on the last day of the Spring Term. They spoke and sang with such confidence and demonstrated all of our school values. We were very proud of them. Thank you to the Elm Class team for supporting the children with this.



At the end of last term Year 4 and 5 enjoyed an Easter experience at St. Peter's church. They learnt about the stations of the cross in an interactive workshop. They even had to wash each other's shoes to understand how Jesus may have felt when cleaning the feet of his followers!



Thank you again for all of the entries to our Easter Egg competition. We were so impressed with all of the entries and it made it a difficult job to judge. Well done to the winners, who received Easter Eggs (thanks to the PTA) and to all of the children who entered, earning House Points for their House.





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Neurodiversity Celebration Week: in the last week of the Spring term, we raised awareness of neurodiversity by talking with the children about what neurodiversity means and shared examples of famous people who are neurodivergent. Some of the children in Year 5 led an assembly about neurodiversity and we watched videos with the children about people's experiences of neurodiversity, including ADHD, autism, dyslexia and Tourette's Syndrome. A group of children from KS2 also made fantastic posters which are displayed around school to raise awareness. The PTA kindly funded new children's books for us to share with the children to give them a greater understanding of neurodiversity. We will continue to build in learning about neurodiversity with the children, as we believe it is important for them to understand the importance of acceptance, equality and inclusion. There is a huge amount of resources for parents available on the Neurodiversity Celebration Week website, in the 'Parent' section if you would like to find out more.
<https://www.neurodiversityweek.com/>



Comic Relief-thank you for your support with our Comic Relief fundraising efforts. The children loved coming into school in non-uniform (always a hit!) and they enjoyed taking part in an orienteering activity in the school grounds. We do hope you have managed to get out and about in Thorner this Easter to take part in the family orienteering challenge that was launched before the holidays. Please could all competition sheets be handed in to the school office by this **Friday (12th April)** at the latest. All entries will be put into a prize draw. A big thank you to Mrs Colaluca for her time and efforts in organising the orienteering events.

Science Day-the children had a fantastic time during Science Week, taking part in a 'Sublime Science' Workshop on Wednesday 13th March. The children enjoyed an inspiring assembly to launch the day and then each class had the opportunity to take part in hands-on science activities during the day. At the end of the day, we came together as a school for the grand finale on the school field, 'Wacky Rockets'! It was a fun and memorable learning experience and we are grateful to Miss Davies for organising the day and to the PTA for funding it and of course for your support of the PTA fundraising events throughout the year, making it possible for us to enhance our curriculum offer for the children.



Eco-Schools



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Reminders and Notices:

Car park-please could we remind all parents that the staff car park is only for staff to park in. Parents who arrive late to school, or who are collecting their children from the after-school club should not be using the car park. We have been advised by our Health and Safety Lead in the Trust to avoid the use of the car park gate as an entry/exit point for pedestrians. Therefore, going forward, entry to school for pedestrians will be the side pedestrian gate at the front of school, leading onto the path which takes you to the school office. Please could we ask that you now use this gate instead of the car park gate to enter the school. Please do close the latch on the gate behind you when entering/exiting during the hours of 9am-3pm.

Parking: please could we remind all parents to park responsibly when dropping off and picking up children from school. Despite regular appeals to parents, we are aware that parents are still ignoring the zig zag lines on Church Hill and are parking on the lines. Please think about the fact that by parking irresponsibly, you are putting other people in danger. Everyone needs to do their part in keeping the school community safe. Please set off a few minutes earlier so that you have time to park further away from school. Please could we also remind parents not to idle. Please turn your car engine off when you are doing the school run. Our Eco-School committee will be distributing flyers to the children to bring home to you on air pollution and how we can all play our part in reducing it.

Attendance and Lates: please can we remind you that if you are taking your child out of school for any reason e.g. holiday or religious celebration, you need to complete a leave of absence form. Holidays during term time will not be authorised and may result in a fine issued by the Local Authority, even if your child's attendance is normally good. We can only authorise absence in exceptional circumstances. Holidays during term time result in lost learning time and can impact negatively on your child's progress. Attendance is very important and is monitored for every child. Any child with attendance below 90% is classed as Persistent Absence (PA) and we have a duty of care to follow this through to see how we can support them to improve their attendance. We will communicate concerns about attendance, in the first instance, by letter. If your child is absent from school due to an unexpected reason such as illness, please call the school each day of your child's absence. Also, please could we ask that you ensure your child is at school on time. This is important to enable your child to have a settled start of the day and to get straight into their learning. If you are late for any reason, you need to bring your child in through the school office and sign them in.

Key Diary Dates – Summer Term

April

- 8 Staff Training Day
- 9 School opens
- 12 Spring Term Reports to parents
- 15 World Art Day-whole school art project (portraits)
- 15 & 17 Parents' evenings/consultations
- 16 Mindmate Support Workshop on 'exam stress' at 2.45pm (Y6 parents only)
- 16 Y5 Class Trip - MAGNA
- 16 Year 6 Primary Choices with Leeds United





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- 23 Class photographs
- 24 Class photographs (back up date)
- 26 PTA Spring Disco (Thorner Victory Hall 6pm-8pm)

May

- 6 May day bank holiday
- 7 School opens
- 10 Fizz-Go (Thorner Parish Centre 7pm - adults only)
- 13-17 Y6 SATs Week
- 24 Thorner Performs
- 24 School closes for half term holiday

With very best wishes,

Gemma Whawell
(Headteacher)