

# Thornley Primary School

.....where everyone can shine like stars!



Newsletter

February 2018

## Term Dates for 2018

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Date of School Closure</b>	<b>Date School Re-opens for Teaching Purposes</b>
Spring Half Term 2018 (1 week)	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
Easter 2018 (2 weeks & 1 day)	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
Spring Bank Holiday 2018 (1 Day)	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
Summer Half Term 2018 (1 week)	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Summer Holiday 2018	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2018

7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Residential trip to Robinwood
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Y6 Mini Police community work
19 <sup>th</sup> February	NSPCC Assembly & Workshops
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Y1 Parents' Meeting about Phonics 2.30
26 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Book Fair in school all week
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Photographer in school (am)
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Y3 and Y4 trip to Arbeia
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Proposed Y5/6 trip to Planetarium (evening)
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Sport Relief

### National Testing Dates

May – KS1 tests all through the month

14<sup>th</sup> May KS2 tests Monday – Thursday

11<sup>th</sup> June – Phonics Screening week

## **Attendance Procedure; Update**

The Local Authority has produced an Attendance Toolkit for schools and procedures around school absences are being strengthened particularly for pupils classed as 'persistent absentees' (those pupils whose attendance is below 92%) To get to this low level of attendance, a child would need to have had 17 days off school over the year.

Durham County Council say that 'regular and punctual attendance at school is both a legal requirement and essential for pupils to maximise their educational opportunities.'

If a child has seven school days of unauthorised absence in a minimum 12 week rolling period, then a fixed penalty notice will be issued to each person with parental responsibility followed by prosecution if this is not paid.

This may seem harsh but it is to minimise unnecessary absence. Under the law (Education Act 1996) parents commit an offence if they fail to ensure their child's regular school attendance.

## **Parent App & Facebook**

Parent App is a simple way of keeping up to date with school news. The app is free to download on to any mobile phone or tablet. All you need to do is download OurSchoolsApp and then type in the school's postcode DH6 3DZ and choose Thornley Primary School from the dropdown list. You will then receive alerts from us.

We also have a Facebook page which Kelly updates regularly.

## **World Book Day: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**

This year, the theme is 'Share a Story' and we would like to invite parents or other family members to join us for this. We will invite pupils to attend school on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March dressed as their favourite book character. There will be a parade in the morning assembly and a winner from each class will be chosen. There will also be a Book Swap. In the afternoon, we will be having a 'Big Read' and parents are invited to come along from 2.15 to read with their child/children. There will be some reading-related activities to take part in too. Each class will be holding a fund-raising activity to raise money for new library books.

## **Right; Respecting School; Award**

At Thornley, we are committed to promoting childrens' rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We are hoping to be assessed for the Silver RRSA this year and as part of this need to make sure that everyone involved in the school's life and work knows about the award and what it involves. We need to set up a new Steering Group and are looking for a parent representative who is passionate about promoting the work of UNICEF and the CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child)

The steering Group will be meeting at 2.45 on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Please get in touch if you would like to come along and find out more.

### **Parent Pay**

You will by now have received the letter explaining about how Parent Pay works and giving you the opportunity to let us know if this is something you would be interested in.

### **School Nurse Drop-In**

Our school nurse is Bev Jones and she is an amazing source of helpful information and advice. Bev has offered to run a 'drop-in' session for parents after the February half-term holiday. You can pop in and see Bev if you have questions regarding any aspects of your child's health or development. Further details will be sent out once a firm date has been fixed.

### **Parent Governor**

There is a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you are interested in this, please pick up an information pack from the school office. This pack gives specific guidance on the Role of the Governor and includes the Governors' Code of Conduct. It is an expectation that all governors would be able to work in a professional manner, avoiding conflicts, and acting with transparency and integrity.

In addition, Governors are now required to demonstrate that they have certain sets of skills in order that across the whole governing body, we can be sure that all aspects of school governance are strong. The National Governors' Association sets out 45 aspects of knowledge, experience, skills and behaviours for Governors. No single governor is expected to be competent in all areas!

To complete and balance out our skills matrix we are looking for a parent governor who has experience in HR or management of people. Understanding of finance and budgetary issues would also be helpful.

Please pick up a pack if you think you can play a role in the strategic direction of the school by becoming a member of our Governing Body.

### **Happy Half-Term**

Have a good week off! We look forward to welcoming everybody back on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

After-school clubs will resume with Tea Time Club on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> replacing infant gymnastics. Tea Time Club is open to both Key Stage 1 and 2. Other clubs will run as usual.