

Thornley Primary School

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



Newsletter

October 2018

2018 – 19 Term & Holiday Dates

Holiday	Date of School Closure	Date School Re-opens for Teaching Purposes
October Half Term 2018	Friday 19 th October 2018	Monday 29 th October 2018
Christmas Holiday 2018	Thursday 20 th December 2018	Monday 7 th January 2019
February Half Term 2019	Friday 15 th February 2019	Monday 25 th February 2019
Easter Holiday 2019	Friday 5 th April 2019	Tuesday 23 rd April 2019
May Day Bank Holiday	Friday 3 rd May 2019	Tuesday 7 th May 2019
May Half Term	Friday 24 th May 2019	Monday 3 rd June 2019
Summer Holiday 2019	Friday 19 th July 2019	Thursday 5 th September 2019

2019 – 20 Term & Holiday Dates

Holiday	Date of School Closure	Date School Re-opens for Teaching Purposes
October Half Term	Friday 25 th October 2019	Monday 4 th November 2019
Christmas 2019	Friday 20 th December	Monday 6 th January 2020
February Half Term 2020	Friday 14 th February 2020	Monday 24 th February 2020
Easter 2020	Thursday 2 nd April 2020	Tuesday 20 th April 2020
May Bank Holiday	Friday 1 st May	Tuesday 5 th May
May Half Term 2020	Friday 22 nd May 2020	Monday 1 st June 2020
Summer Holiday 2020	Friday 17 th July	Thursday 3 rd September 2020

Holidays in Term Time will continue to be 'unauthorised'. Thank you for helping us to provide the best education for your child by minimising the amount of time they are away from school. It is possible to get cheaper flights & hotels by overlapping a school holiday by one day or so. 10 days away from school in a year means a loss of over 50 hours of learning and brings attendance to 94.7% which is well below the expected 97%

Harvest Activities

Due to the restrictions of the size of the hall, we have decided to hold our Harvest activities within classrooms this year. **Parents are invited in to school on Friday 19th October from 2.15pm.**

There will be some Harvest craft-activities to do with your child, as well as refreshments which will have been made by the children. It will be a good opportunity for you to meet the teachers and support staff too! If you have children in more than one class, you could visit them all or try and bring them together in one classroom.

Please do not arrive too early for this, especially if the weather is bad. The small area outside the main office is a thoroughfare for pupils returning to classrooms after break. The main door will not open until all pupils are safely back in their own classrooms.

Food Bank Donations

We will be collecting the usual tins, packets, bottles and other non-perishable foods to send to the East Durham Foodbank again this year. The people who collect our donations each year comment on how generous the people of Thornley are. Food donations can be sent in as soon as you like. Each class will collect their own food donations and take them down to the hall on the last afternoon ready for collection.

Hallowe'en Disco

As our Half-Term is early this year, we will be back to school before Hallowe'en. We will 'celebrate' on Wednesday 31st October with Hallowe'en Discos. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have their disco at 1pm. Key Stage 2 pupils will start their disco between 2pm and 2.15pm.

Pupils should come to school in uniform and bring their Hallowe'en costumes with them. Staff will be on hand at the end of lunch time to help them dress and apply face paint if needed.

I know that in the past we have allowed parents of younger pupils to come in and help them get dressed. Unfortunately, this will not be an option this year. Please understand, and trust the school staff to make your children look as fabulous (and scary) as possible!

Attendance

Our whole-school attendance to date is **96.4%**. The best attending class (y6) has 97.9% attendance, and there are 3 other classes with over 97% attendance. We are just 25 days in to the new school year, and 118 out of 182 pupils have full attendance (100%) 64 pupils across the school have been absent at least once. 9 pupils have already had a holiday in term time. The lowest attendance figure to date is 58.3%.

Statutory Assessment; 2018

Pupils are subject to National Testing and Reporting. Our Statutory test results for 2018 are as follows:

Class	Test	Expectation	Better than expected	Trend over 3 years	
Reception	Foundation Stage Profile	Good level of Development (GLD)	Exceeding E	2017	2016
		74.1%	7.4%	72.7%	60%
Year 1	Y1 Phonics Screening	At Expected	Y1 phonics is pass/fail	2017	2016
		83.9%		73.1%	70.8%
Year 2	KS1 SATS	At Expected (EXS)	Greater Depth (GDS)	2017 EXS	2016 EXS
	Reading	64%	16%	77.3%	78.3%
	Writing	56%	0%	63.6%	60.9%
	Mathematics	76%	12%	68.2%	78.3%
Year 6	KS 2 SATS	At Expected (EXS)	High Standard (HS)	2017 EXS	2016 EXS
	Reading	88.9%	22.2%	88.5%	100%
	Mathematics	81.5%	25.9%	88.5%	100%
	Grammar, punctuation & Spelling	96.3%	29.6%	92.3%	84.6%
Writing is teacher-assessed at 'expected' or 'Greater Depth'					
	Writing	EXS	GDS	2017	2016 EXS
		88.9%	14.8%	80.8%	84.6%

If you like data and tables, you might find this interesting! What it shows is a 3-year trend which is either upward or sustainably consistent. The anomaly is last year's Y2 class whose end of Y2 results are lower than previous years. This is the cohort who, in EYFS in 2016 achieved 60% for the Good Level of development. So other than for writing, down by 4% - which is one child, 4% progress has been made in Reading and significant progress in mathematics (16%).

Thornley Primary School continues to out-perform other schools nationally at the end of Key Stage 2 in terms of attainment in all subjects.

After-School Clubs

The following clubs are available this term:

Monday : Film Club (KS1 and 2.)

- Film Club ends at 4.45pm

Tuesday: KS2 Football Training
 Tea Time Club (KS1 and 2)

Wednesday : KS1 Sport
 Singing (KS1 and 2)

Thursday: Technology (KS1 and 2)
 Netball (KS2)

Friday: No Clubs on Friday evening

- On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, after-School clubs are from 3.20pm until 4.20pm.
- Please pick your child(ren) up at the correct finish time.
- Each club has a 'register' so we know who should be there. Younger children get confused about whether they are staying or not. Please let us know if there is a change in attendance.
- Clubs cost £1 per session. Thank you for your prompt payments.

Attendance at After-School Club is not an entitlement. Pupils will only be allowed to attend if their behaviour is good. Inappropriate behaviour will result in a fixed-term or even a permanent ban from attending.

New Dinner Menu

There is a new 3-week rolling menu for school dinners. As the cold weather approaches, it might be an idea to consider a hot meal for your child at lunch time.

Meals cost £2.05 per day. The new menu includes a good selection of roast dinners (popular Wednesday choice); 'Fishy Friday' selections, including chips and beans/peas; a nice range of comfort food such as mince and dumplings and spaghetti Bolognese and a daily selection of jacket potatoes or sandwiches/paninis/wraps.

If you want a menu to look at please ask at the school office. Governors visited school to see what the lunch-time experience is like and they had a very positive experience commenting on the quality of the food on offer.

School Uniform

Thank you for respecting our school uniform policy. Please remember that school shoes should be black and that girls' hair decorations should be blue to match with the school colours.

Hope to see you all at Harvest Time!!