

Newsletter



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It's been a great return to school. The children have returned with a great attitude and all look so smart in their new school uniforms. Our new Reception class have settled very well and it has been lovely to see them playing together.

We have a new teacher, Mrs Penny who has joined Thornhill. She will be working across the school in all classes, as well as working with Miss Overfield in the SENCO role.

Earrings

Just a reminder earrings can be taken out after 6 weeks of having them pierced. If your child still has their earrings in, we always give the 1st half term to make sure they are healed, but after October half term they will need to be taken out. Can we remind parents/carers earrings must be taped over, although we can do this in school.

Homework

At Thornhill, our homework consists of reading, spelling and maths facts. We know doing these makes such a difference. Please can we ask for your support at home with this. The teachers will recap on expectations at the Meet the Teacher meetings and there is guidance in the front of the planners. For children who have been unable to do their homework at home, we use Extra Learning Time on an afternoon to catch them up.

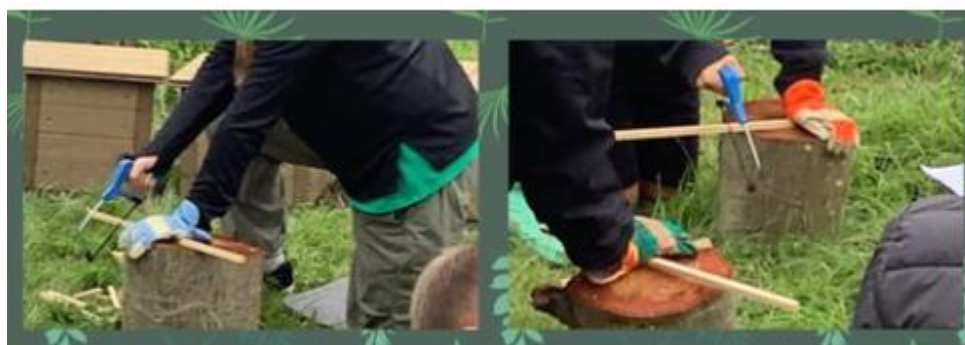
Clubs

Some great clubs have started this week - Cookery, Ultimate Frisbee, Basketball, Quiz Club, Golf and Netball. We are delighted to offer our clubs free of charge and all children will get an opportunity to attend a club over a term.



Forest School

We have an amazing forest school at the bottom of our school field. There is an orchard with apple and plum trees and we have a range of activities led by Mr Ayres and Mrs Penny, who are Forest School trained. Forest School is a great opportunity for children to work outdoors and develop skills of team work, resilience, exploration and confidence. On Tuesday, our Y6 class had a great afternoon using cutting tools, orienteering and of course toasting marshmallows!



Website

Our school website is a great place to find out more about our school. It has class pages and curriculum content so you can find out what your child will be doing this year. Our Parents Page is a wealth of information too, which includes key dates and newsletters, information on uniform, packed lunches, attendance and useful leaflets and advice for both children and adults.

Facebook

We update our Facebook page regularly and it is a great way to see all the activities we are doing in school. Just for information, we do not communicate through our Facebook page. All communication is via the office or teacher email.

Friday 15th September

Reading

At Thornhill, we place a high priority on reading – both learning to read and reading for pleasure. We are excited to start borrowing from the new school library and from October each class will have a weekly library slot.

This week has been Roald Dahl Week and today we had an assembly to learn about his life and talk about all his wonderful books that we know so well, like *The BFG*, *Matilda* and *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* to name a few. We read a selection of poems and rhymes that really made us laugh!

Reading at home with your child is one of the most magical things to do and it is such a lovely way to end the day with a great bedtime story. We all have busy lives, but making that special time to share a book is a great way to spend quality time with our children.



Attendance

Just a reminder if your child is ill please either call the office or you can send an email. NHS guidance was sent out via email earlier in the week for absence periods for different illnesses. If you are not sure contact the school office.

If a child is not in school after 9.15am and we have had no contact it will be recorded as unauthorised. Also any lates after 9.15am are recorded as unauthorised for the morning session.

We encourage holidays not to be taken during term time. Children miss lots of learning and also miss out on so many opportunities. If a child misses 10 days for a 2 week holiday their attendance would be equate to less than 95% for the academic year and that would be without any further periods of absence. The National Expectation for attendance is 96% and as a school we have to try our best to achieve that mark.

Further details about keeping you informed of your child's attendance will be sent out next week.

For any holidays, a Leave of Absence form must be filled out. This can be found on our website or you can contact our office. Please note that for holidays longer than 5 days absence, a referral will be made to Durham County Council and a fixed penalty notice will be incurred for both parents.

Meet the Teacher

Our Meet the Teacher sessions start next week. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and find out key information for the year ahead. Afterwards there will be an opportunity for you and your child to take part in a fun class quiz and test your knowledge! There is also an opportunity to look at the Book Fair and purchase any books.

We do hope you can join us and it would be great if every child had an adult with them.



Diary Dates

All dates below have been confirmed, so we look forward to seeing you at our many events we have planned this term.

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| Monday 18th Sept | 9.15-10 Y6 Meet the Teacher & Parent/ child open morning inc Book Fair |
| Tuesday 19th Sept | 9.15-10 Y5 Meet the Teacher & Parent/ child open morning inc Book Fair |
| Tuesday 19th Sept | Year 1 Forest School – Forest school clothes to be worn for school and change of footwear |
| Wednesday 20th Sept | 9.15-10 Y4 Meet the Teacher & Parent/ child open morning inc Book Fair |
| Thursday 21st Sept | 9.15-10 Y3 Meet the Teacher & Parent/ child open morning inc Book Fair |
| Friday 22nd Sept | 9.15-10 Y1 Meet the Teacher & Parent/ child open morning inc Book Fair |
| Monday 25th Sept | 9.15-10 Y2 Meet the Teacher & Parent/ child open morning inc Book Fair |
| Tuesday 26th Sept | 9.15-10 YR Phonics meeting and Parent/child open morning inc Book Fair |
| Tuesday 26th Sept | Year 2 Forest School – Forest school clothes to be worn for school and change of footwear |
| Tuesday 26th Sept | 3-4pm Book Fair in hall |
| Wednesday 27th Sept | Nursery - Stay and Play session – Times to be confirmed |
| Tuesday 3rd Oct | Year3 Forest School – Forest school clothes to be worn for school and change of footwear |
| Friday 6th Oct | 9.15-10 Y6 assembly |
| Tuesday 10th Oct | Year 4 Forest School – Forest school clothes to be worn for school and change of footwear |
| Friday 13th Oct | 9.15-10 Y5 assembly |
| Tuesday 17th Oct | Year 5 Forest School – Forest school clothes to be worn for school and change of footwear |
| Friday 20th Oct | 9.15-10 Y3 assembly |
| Monday 23rd Oct | Year R & KS1 Halloween Disco 6-7.30pm |
| Tuesday 24th Oct | Parent's Evening Online |
| Tuesday 24th Oct | Year R Forest School – Forest school clothes to be worn for school and change of footwear |
| Wednesday 25th Oct | 2-3pm Piece of Mind coffee afternoon – informal advice and info KS2 Halloween Disco |
| Thursday 26 th Oct | Parent's Evening Online |

Break up – Friday 27th October Half term – Return Monday 6th November

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| w/c 13th Nov | All week – Anti-Bullying week Friday – Children In Need |
| Tuesday 14th Nov | Photos |
| Friday 17th Nov | 9.15-10 - Year 4 assembly |
| Thursday 23rd Nov | Flu immunisations |
| Friday 24th Nov | 9.15-10 - Y2 assembly |
| Friday 1st Dec | 9.15-10 - Y1 assembly |
| Tuesday 12th | 2-3pm Year 1-6 Christmas Songs Concert |
| Thursday 14th Dec | 2-3pm Year 1-6 Christmas Songs Concert |
| Friday 15th Dec | Date and time TBC with St John's Church Reception Nativity with Y6 |
| Tuesday 19th Dec | Last day of term - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day |

Break up for Christmas– Tuesday 19th December – Return Wednesday 3rd January 2024

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| Monday 8th January | Y6 Residential / SATS meeting 5.30pm |
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Break up for February Half term Friday 16th February – Return Monday 26th February 2024

Break up for Easter– Friday 29th March – Return Monday 15th April 2024

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| Year 6 Easter School | 3rd-5th April & 8th-10th April |
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| Year 5 Camping Experience | 18th – 19th April |
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May Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May 2024

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| Year 6 KS2 SATS children must attend school w/c 13th May 2024 |
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| Year 6 Residential | 22nd -24th May 2024 |
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Break up for May Half term - Friday 24th May – Return Monday 3rd June 2024

Break up for Summer– Friday 19th July – Return Wednesday 4th September 2024

Friday 15th September