



## Laying the foundations for a bright future

Website link: [www.htpfederation.co.uk](http://www.htpfederation.co.uk)

### A little note from Mrs FitzGerald...

What a great couple of weeks we have had here at Thurlow! Those of our children in Year 5 and 6 who participated in our amazing residential trip to West Runton had a great time. In addition to all the new and exciting activities they got involved in, they also got to build their independence, resilience, co-operation and teamwork skills.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Feakes, Mrs Buckle and Mrs Wiffen who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure this trip was a great success and gave up time with their own families to accompany our children. Without staff such as these we would not be able to offer such enhancing opportunities to our children. Mrs Feakes, Mrs Buckle and Mrs Wiffen ensured they had the best time possible and have memories which will last well beyond their time with us ~ THANK YOU! You are the best!

Yesterday was National Poetry Day, something those of you who were able to make our 'SHARE' session today will have heard lots about. The day aimed to inspire a love of poetry and give children a fantastic opportunity to explore, celebrate and craft poems.

This year's theme was 'counting' and it certainly inspired our children! Here is a terrific, thoughtful poem created by **Kelly Goldsmith**, one of our Year 6's in Hares Class. It demonstrates the creativity as well as the thoughtfulness we endeavour to nurture and inspire in all our pupils:

#### **YOUR VOICE COUNTS**

**Why?**

**Because your voice is used**

**For the greater good.**

**Become it.**

**I use my voice**

**To speak out and give advice**

**My voice counts**

**And no one is changing that.**

Great job Kelly!

If you haven't already please check the 'Forthcoming Events' list at the end of this newsletter so you know what is coming up! As mentioned previously the list goes up to Christmas which hopefully will help everyone with planning and organisation!

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Warm regards, Mrs FitzGerald

## **~ Macmillan Cake Sale ~**

Thank you for supporting Macmillan, raising £195 here at Thurlow and a similar amount at our sister school, Hundon. We know this money will help support specialist health care as well as financial support for people affected by cancer.

**THANK YOU!**

### **REMINDER: FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

On a Wednesday morning, we have a short staff briefing at 8.20am to share anything pertinent about the day / week. This meeting includes all staff and means the School Office may be unmanned for a short amount of time. Please be patient, a member of staff will return!

### **Data Collection Forms**

The data collection forms have been sent home, please make any amendments to details on the data collection forms as necessary and return to school. If there are any details you think we need to know please inform the school office. Many thanks in advance.

### **PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL SITE**

We are sending this message to remind parents and carers of the importance of driving and parking safely around the school site. It is vital due care and attention for our school, our neighbours and other drivers is given.

We know it is very challenging to park around the school site but none of us want a child attending our setting to be a road traffic accident statistic. Please ensure when parking there are gaps left to ensure passing cars can in fact pass and ensure the front of school is accessible ~ this is with the emergency services in mind.

Please remember you can park at the village hall and St Peters Church and take the short walks from either location to and from the school site.

Thank you for your support in this important matter.

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ~ SEE FLYER ATTACHED AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER ALSO!**

Changes to School Attendance came into force from 19th August which includes higher fine costs and the Department for Education's (DfE) stance that a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation is not considered to be an exceptional circumstance.

As is the case for all schools we are obligated to follow the statutory guidance and regulations laid down by the DfE and in turn, the Local Authority. We have to follow this guidance and the fines are not received by schools.

Our attendance figures are closely scrutinised by the Local Authority as well as other professional bodies such as Ofsted. It is in our own best interests that all our children are at school on time and attend regularly, in order that they can take full advantage of the very best educational experiences and highest educational standards we are constantly striving to provide.

### **REMINDER!**

**Please be sure to name all uniform, particularly ties, jumpers and cardigans. This helps us ensure misplaced items can be returned quickly ~ thank you for your support with this!**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Others will follow but I know lots of you will want to get these onto the calendar as soon as possible. The team and I are continuing to add to our schedule with special days, visitors and trips, including some additional 'share' opportunities - we will keep you posted!

### AUTUMN TERM 2024

#### **Thursday 10th October ~ World Mental Health Day**

In-school learning related to mental health ~ being happy and building resilience across the school today.

#### **Friday 11th October ~ Hares Class Family Celebration Presentation at 9am**

Parents, carers & significant others of children in Hares Class are invited.

#### **Friday 18th October ~ Bumblebees Class Family Celebration Presentation at 9am**

Parents, carers & significant others of children in Bumblebees Class are invited.

#### **Wednesday 23rd October ~ HARVEST SERVICE at our church, St Peters, Thurlow**

### **FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER ~ END OF HALF-TERM**

### **HALF-TERM HOLIDAY**

Monday 28th October ~ Friday 1st November

#### **Tuesday 5th November ~ PARENT CONSULTATIONS for Butterflies Class & Bumblebees Class**

#### **Thursday 7th November ~ PARENT CONSULTATIONS for Otters Class & Hares Class**

Find out how your child is doing in class with their academic targets.

#### **Friday 8th November ~ Butterflies Class Family Celebration Presentation at 9am**

Parents of children in Butterflies Class only are invited.

#### **Monday 11th November to Friday 15th November**

**Anti-bullying week, including World Kindness Day (the Wednesday) and concluding with a non-uniform day at the end of the week.**

#### **Thursday 14th November ~ Key Stage 2 Science Museum Visit, London**

All the children in Key Stage 2 (Otters & Hares) will be heading to London to the Science Museum to visit various exhibits and attend specific workshops linked to their themed learning.

#### **Friday 15th November ~ Children in Need Day (non-uniform day)**

The children are asked to donate £1 in support of this charity and come to school in non-uniform.

#### **Monday 18th November to Friday 22nd November**

### **PARLIAMENT LEARNING WEEK including School Council Elections**

#### **Friday 22nd November ~ Celebration Presentation including introduction of new School Council**

Parents of elected School Council Representatives only are invited.

Wednesday 20th November ~ PROSPECTIVE PARENTS OPEN MORNING ~ 9.15am until 12pm

#### **Wednesday 27th November ~ CHRISTINGLE SERVICE at our church, St Peters, Little Thurlow**

**This includes a collection in aid of The Children's Society**

#### **Thursday 28th November ~ 3.15pm to 4.15pm ~ Health and Wellbeing Parent Workshop**

Our trusted colleagues at OM Health Consultancy will be offering a session about 'Supporting your child to be mentally well' ~ more details are available on Class Dojo, these sessions are highly recommended!

**AUTUMN TERM 2024 continued...**

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**Thursday 5th December ~ AM & PM Performances of our Reception Class Nativity**

**Wednesday 11th December ~ Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day**

**Wednesday 18th December ~ Carols on the Playground at 2.30pm**

**Friday 20th December ~ 'FANCY FRIDAY'**

**End of term parties & party clothes!**

**FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER ~ LAST DAY OF THE AUTUMN TERM**

***~ Colder Weather ~***

As we find ourselves in autumn the weather has finally started to change and turned a little chilly (and wet!!) Please can you ensure your child has a suitable coat with them as well as their jumpers / cardigans and their sensible shoes?

## Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance changed from 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices issued by DfE, the following changes came into force for School Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

### National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

**Please note:** The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:  
£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.  
Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.



### Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:  
£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.



### Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case could be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in Criminal records and fines of up to £2,500

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court may show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

### Per Parent\*, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent\* for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

### \*Parent

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" as:

- All natural (biological) parents, whether they are married or not.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.