



Laying the foundations for a bright future

Website link: www.htpfederation.co.uk

A little note from Mrs FitzGerald...

Goodness me, it has been ages since I sent out a whole school newsletter and so much has happened in between times! We've had some amazing Class Presentations from Hares and Bumblebees classes, we have participated in Safer Internet Day, celebrated World Book Day which also included a 'share' session, our Year 1 and 2 children visited Audley End as part of their themed learning and everyone has been to East Town Park to enhance their learning in Science participating in activities and workshops with their rangers as part of British Science Week! Phew, what a lot has been going on here at school! I know everyone will have been keeping up-to-date with all this through our Class Dojo communication platform pages.

Additionally, we now have the swimming pool mural in our possession, which has been over a year in the making, following the children's initial suggestions and designs around this time last year. This will be installed shortly once the extensive renovation work within our pool is completed. Having struggled to find contractors locally, Miles Laflin, 'The POOL Guy' and his team have been kind enough to travel from their base in North London to Suffolk to undertake work to replace the liner in our pool as well as the rail and steps. External work is also underway with the mural in mind too.

Our environmental learning area in the form of our pond project is also now completed and has turned out even better than we imagined! We can't wait for the amazing planting to expand and the frogs, newts, dragonflies and other beasties to move in with our Science learning in mind!

You should have received your child's new class newsletter recently which includes further information about what your child is learning during this half-term. If there is anything you would like to see in this newsletter or the whole school newsletter, please get in touch. You can do this by dropping a message to the admin@thurlowschool.co.uk email address.

Warm regards, Mrs FitzGerald





Here are a few pictures of our new environmental learning area!



IN OTHER NEWS...

STAFFING

We have been working hard to expand our support teams within the Federation, and we're excited to announce that new colleagues will be joining us over the summer term. We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Natalie Farrant to the Federation Administration Team, where she will be supporting both schools and helping to strengthen our capacity.

Additionally, we will be joined by Mr. Branham Ince, Mrs. Clare Mills, and Mrs. Dawn Hunt, who will be supporting the learning and progress of pupils at both Thurlow and our sister school, Hundon, as part of our Learning Support Team.

On the staffing front, we will also be bidding a fond 'Bon Voyage' to Miss Peacock, who, after completing her degree while working with us, will be taking a short sabbatical to travel. We are thrilled that she will return in September as an Apprentice Teacher within the Federation. We are incredibly proud of all that Molly (Miss Peacock) has accomplished during her time with us, including supporting many of our pupils and teaching our little ones to swim.

Although we have a new swim teacher lined up, who certainly has big shoes – or should I say flippers? – to fill, I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Miss Peacock safe travels as she embarks on this exciting adventure. We look forward to hearing all about her experiences when she returns in September!

As if all of this wasn't exciting enough, we're thrilled to share that two of our teachers based at Hundon will soon be welcoming the 'pitter patter' of tiny feet, as they prepare to expand their families in the coming months, just ahead of the new academic year.

While we will soon be advertising for maternity cover positions, we're fortunate to have a wealth of talent and experience within our Federation team to draw upon including our Deputy, Miss Buckle, our SENDCo, Mrs Budinger and of course Miss Peacock when she returns!

SICKNESS BUG

Unfortunately, the tummy bug we alerted you to recently is still present at school, with cases across all classes and it appears the symptoms are lasting beyond the typical 48 hours. To curb the spread we are undertaking additional cleaning and sanitising through the day and encouraging the children with their handwashing. Please can you continue to be extra vigilant at home, reminding the children to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently, especially before and after meals as well as after visiting the toilet? If your child shows symptoms of nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhoea, please keep them at home until they are symptom-free for a minimum of 48 hours. Thank you for your support with this matter.

STAFF BRIEFING

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!

SCHOOL MEAL PRICE INCREASE

After the Easter holidays the price of a school meal for children in Year 3 through to Year 6 will increase from £2.60 per day to £2.80. This increase is due to rising costs linked to food prices and our catering service. This change will take place from Tuesday 22nd April when term starts.

Payments for lunches can be made using the following link:

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-meals-uniforms-and-trips/>

This does not affect those of you whose child/ren have school meals through the government's universal free school meal' offer for children in Reception through to Year 2 or entitlement due to eligibility for Pupil Premium.

USEFUL RESOURCES

We wanted to highlight the availability of some NHS online learning resources which are being made available by Suffolk County Council for free to support parents with their children. As well as advice and guidance they include lots of practical tips. Whilst the courses look quite long, between 10 and 13 modules, each module is just 15 minutes, you can dip in and out, select certain sections or choose to use the courses as a whole in manageable chunks, coming back to it when convenient. These are just three:

Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager - <https://inourplace.heiapply.com/online-learning/course/59>

Understanding your child's feelings - <https://inourplace.heiapply.com/online-learning/course/40>

Understanding your child's mental health and wellbeing - <https://inourplace.heiapply.com/online-learning/course/56>

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 or the church and take the short walks from either location to and from the school site. **The school car park is for staff and visitors only.**

Thank you for your support in this important matter.

SEVERE WEATHER

Every effort will be made to keep the school open in severe weather. The school would only close if it is no longer safe for staff and pupils to travel to school and be on site.

We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Therefore, we will make every effort to prepare for severe weather.

Information about school closure will be posted Class Dojo, ParentMail, via the Suffolk County Council website: <http://schoolclosures.suffolk.gov.uk> and on Facebook.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS ~ SPRING TERM 2025

Other dates will follow but I know lots of you will want to get these onto the calendar as soon as possible. The team and I will be adding to our schedule of special days, visitors and trips, including some additional 'share' opportunities ~ keep checking this list!

Wednesday 26th March ~ Parent Consultations ~ Butterflies and Bumblebees Classes

Additional information has been shared on Class Dojo and sign-up sheets are available at the front of school

Tuesday 1st April ~ Parent Consultations ~ Otters and Hares Classes

Additional information has been shared on Class Dojo and sign-up sheets are available at the front of school

Wednesday 2nd April ~ Easter Service at St Peter's Church, Little Thurlow

Easter Service starts at 2.30pm

Friday 4th April ~ Progress Checks sent home

Friday 4th April ~ LAST DAY OF THE SPRING TERM

Spring Holiday ~ Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April 2025

Monday 5th May ~ Early May Bank Holiday

Friday 2nd May ~ Hares Class Family Celebration Presentation at 9am

Parents of children in Hares Class only are invited.

Friday 2nd May ~ Year 3 & Year 4 Visit to Colchester Zoo

The children in Otters Class, alongside their sister class, Oak Class at Hundon, will be undertaking trip to enhance their learning as part of their 'Blue Abyss' themed learning.

Friday 9th May ~ Bumblebees Class Family Celebration Presentation at 9am

Parents of children in Bumblebees Class only are invited.

Friday 16th May ~ Otters Class Family Celebration Presentation at 9am

Parents of children in Bumblebees Class only are invited.

FRIDAY 23RD MAY ~ END OF HALF-TERM

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 26th May ~ Friday 30th May

MOTHER'S DAY

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH

Roast Beef or Roast Quorn
Roast Potatoes
Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy
Seasonal Vegetables

DESSERT
Lemon Cookie

