



Laying the foundations for a bright future

Website link: www.htpfederation.co.uk

A little note from Mrs FitzGerald...

What a great job Otters Class did last week in their Class Celebration Presentation, it is great to see the children are enjoying their '1066' theme.

Similarly, our youngest children in Butterflies Class did really well in their Celebration Presentation today, sharing a little of what they have learnt about 'Long Ago' and demonstrating their new music skills, sounding out a steady beat! They showed great courage standing up and speaking in front of the whole school as well as lots of their important grown-ups!

Unfortunately, the tummy bug we alerted you to at the end of last week is still present at school, with cases now across all classes. 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.

In other news I am meeting with the landscaping team next week to finalise our pond project plans. This is due for completion over the February half-term. This will be an amazing enhancing learning resource for all our children to enrich their experiences in subjects including Science, Art and Design as well as aspects of environmental learning.

You should have received your child's class newsletter recently which includes more information about what your child is learning this 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.

We all hope the weather holds and storm Éowyn does not cause too many issues - be sure to familiarise yourselves with the severe weather information below - just in case!

Warm regards, Mrs FitzGerald

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>**
- **Facebook**

'DROP OFF' ADJUSTMENTS

In response to parental feedback from Monday 27th January we are going to trial a new approach to the start of the school day with the children going straight to their classes upon arrival at school rather than waiting for the bell and lining up.

As usual the gate will open at 8.40am with a member of staff on duty. On arrival at school, after goodbyes, the children can go straight through the gate to their classrooms.

The gate will remain open until 8.50am. Children arriving after this time should go straight to the school office.

Thank you for your support with this adjustment which we hope will address safety concerns regarding queuing, 'bottlenecks' etc...

COMMUNICATION - A REQUEST / REMINDER

We are extremely pleased to have every parent accessing and using our learning platform, Class Dojo, for communication, however, I am politely reminding parents that during the school day our Teachers and Learning Support staff are, as you would expect, directly engaged in teaching and learning activities with the children in their classes.

Our teaching teams are incredibly conscientious, whilst they will endeavour to respond to any and all messages, there may be a delay during the school day in order that teaching and learning continues without disruption.

Should you have a message that is urgent and cannot wait, please contact Mrs Sanders in the School Office who will be happy to assist you.

Additionally, I am also aware that colleagues are receiving messages, either by email or through Class Dojo, during their evenings and weekends, sometimes late into the night. Colleagues already work long hours in school and then frequently work at home during what should be their 'family time'.

*Please can I politely request that messages are sent during working hours, that is **between 8am and 6pm (at the latest,) Monday to Friday** and not at weekends.*

*If you need to contact the school urgently, please leave a message on the school answerphone and office staff will respond as soon as they are able. Your email system **will** have a 'send later' function, which means you can compose your message at your convenience but time it to be sent during working hours. With Class Dojo messages can be composed and left there until it is an appropriate time to send.*

Thank you for your patience, understanding and co-operation in this very important matter.

PLAYGROUND BEHAVIOUR

Recently, we have observed an increase in rough play during break and lunchtimes, particularly involving pushing, pulling, and grabbing, typically in chasing games but not always and sometimes linked to TV programmes, films or computer games, for example, Fortnite and Squid Game.

Unfortunately, this has led to some children becoming upset or getting hurt. Whilst injuries have been minor, we are concerned that these types of games are not safe or positive choices and could lead to more serious injuries if left unchecked.

We have already spent time discussing with the children how to play safely and kindly, but we are still seeing some rough interactions. We are speaking with parents where the behaviour is continuing but would greatly appreciate your support in speaking with your child about the types of games they are playing and how they are engaging with others. Reinforcing the importance of gentle and respectful play at home will help us create a safer and more enjoyable environment for everyone here at school.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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>

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!

Friday 31st January ~ Hares Class Family Celebration Presentation at 9am

Parents of children in Hares Class only are invited.

Monday 3rd February to Friday 7th February ~ National Storytelling Week

There will be lots of storytelling learning and activities underway across the school this week.

Tuesday 11th February ~ Safer Internet Day ~ more details to follow

Friday 14th February ~ Bumblebees Class Family Celebration Presentation at 9am

Parents of children in Bumblebees Class only are invited.

FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY ~ END OF HALF-TERM

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 17th February ~ Friday 21st February

Thursday 27th February ~ Bumblebees Class Trip to Audley End House

Thursday 6th March ~ World Book Day ~ more details to follow

Monday 10th March to Friday 14th March ~ British Science Week ~ more details to follow

Friday 14th March ~ East Town Park School Visit ~ linked to British Science Week

Thursday 20th March ~ Maths Workshops (all classes)

Friday 21st March ~ Butterflies Class Trip to The Food Museum, Stowmarket

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

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.

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!