



## Laying the foundations for a bright future

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

### A very warm welcome to our new pupils!

In Reception...	Reggie	Lottie	Zachary	Esme
Oliver Marshall	Noah	Meredith	Henry	Jacob
...as well as...	Harrison	Lois	Kalvin	Eloise & Sofia

...who join us in other classes across our school!

Welcome to the Thurlow and Federation Family, we are so pleased you are here!

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

Welcome to the new school year! A warm welcome to our parents, carers and pupils, especially those of you joining our Thurlow School Family for the first time.

We have been working hard at Hundon and Thurlow Primary Federation, both before the term ended and through the summer to further enrich our provision, making adjustments to our bespoke curriculum with our children in mind as well as making improvements to the physical environments at both our schools. Here at Thurlow work on our new environmental learning area (the pond) has begun and will continue between now and half-term. We hope to re-open the pool whilst the weather is good following the installation of a new heat pump and we are looking forward to the arrival of our pool mural which both schools worked on last year and has been finished over the summer.

The first of our half-termly class newsletters will be shared next week and, in response to your views, will include more information on what your children are learning.

We also have our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions scheduled for the week beginning 16th September with phonics and early reading sessions for our parents and carers of children in Butterflies Class. Please check the 'Forthcoming Events' dates at the end of this newsletter for more information on these and other upcoming activities.

Thank you for all your support with the children's smooth start to the school year. The children are looking very smart (and grown-up) in their uniforms and school PE kits ~ it really helps with our community and family ethos and supports the children in feeling like they belong.

As the first week comes to a close we have been so impressed with how well all the children are settling, following routines, working hard and giving their best efforts ~ they are a credit to you all!

We are excited to be working with you and your children on the next steps in their learning. We continue to be a dedicated team who will always go 'above and beyond' ~ with your children at the heart of everything we do.

Warmest regards, Mrs FitzGerald

### THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all the children and parents for your kind words, cards and gifts at the end of term ~ we very much appreciate your kindness and generosity!

### **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!

### **SWIMMING**

Hares Class will start their swimming sessions at the leisure centre from Tuesday 10th September and will need to remember their kits.

Given the lovely weather we are keen to make use of the school pool whilst we can. There has been significant work undertaken on the pool, (still on-going) but we are hopeful Bumblebees Class will have swimming sessions at Thurlow's heated pool shortly.

### **'MEET THE TEACHER' SESSIONS**

We introduced these some years ago with teachers sharing information on a 'typical' day in the classroom, the timetable, themes, subject details, and so on to support parents in knowing what their child is learning. Details of sessions are in the forthcoming events list and will also be shared on Class Dojo.

Remember these sessions are for you so if you have any particular questions / topics / information you'd like to know specifically please let your child's teacher know in advance so they can include these in their session.

### **MORNING CLUB AND AFTER-SCHOOL FOOTBALL CLUB**

Just a reminder that these sessions cost £2 per session which must be paid for in advance. We still have places available within our morning and football clubs, please speak to the School Office for more information.

### **SCHOOL MEALS ~ AUTUMN TERM 2024 ~ FIRST HALF**

The cost of a school meal in Years 3 to 6 is £2.60 (a week is £13.00.) **School meals MUST be paid for in advance.** Payment is required online where a minimum of five meals must be purchased at any one time. The cost of the first half of the Autumn term is £98.80. Here is the link for payment: [Pay for school meals - Suffolk County Council](#)

### **Data Collection Forms**

The data collection forms will be coming home with children in the coming weeks so please look out for them in book bags. Please make any amendments to details on the data collection forms as necessary before returning to school. If there are any details you think we need to know please inform the school office. Many thanks in advance.

### **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!**

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The children are looking very smart in their uniforms, thank you so much for your support with this. It really helps with enhancing the children's sense of belonging and contributes to their attitude to their learning and work. Our uniform requirements are as follows:

### **THURLOW CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VC) COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

#### **SCHOOL:**

- Royal blue sweatshirt, jumper, fleece or cardigan
- Grey or black trousers, skirt, shorts or dress
- White shirt
- Royal blue/gold tie (in stock at school)
- Summer option: Blue checked dress
- Plain socks / tights (royal blue, grey, black, white)
- Suitable black outdoor footwear\*
- Sunhats in summer

\*When the weather is particularly warm we suggest the children wear flat, closed toe sandals for comfort.

#### **PE:**

PE KIT consists of

- Dark, plain shorts with elasticated waist (no zips please)
- Official Thurlow PE shirt / plain T-shirt in white (no buttons or zips please)
- Trainers
- Plain tracksuit bottom and top (in winter / if cold)

SWIMMING KIT consists of

- A ONE PIECE swimming costume or pair of swimming shorts / trunks
- A towel
- A swimming hat
- Suitable footwear from the classroom to the pool. (e.g. flipflops / water shoes / crocs)

Uniform with the school logo are available from Brigade

## **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.

## **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**

#### **Wednesday 11th September ~ 3:15pm until 3:45pm ~ Kingswood Residential Trip Meeting**

Information session, including planned activities, groupings, dormitory allocations as well as an opportunity to ask questions.

#### **Friday 13th September ~ Roald Dahl Day (in-school activities)**

#### **Monday 18th September ~ 'Early Reading in Reception ~ Introduction to Phonics'**

3:20pm to 4pm ~ Butterflies Class with Mrs Read-Graves

#### **Tuesday 19th September to Thursday 21st September**

**~ 'Meet the Teacher' Sessions ~**

Tuesday 19th September ~ 3:20pm to 4pm ~ Hares Class with Mrs Feakes

Wednesday 20th September ~ 3:20pm to 4pm ~ Otters Class with Mrs Tipper

Thursday 21st September ~ 3:20pm to 4pm ~ Bumblebees Class with Miss Dennison

#### **Friday 20th September ~ Otters Class Family Celebration Presentation at 9am**

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

#### **Wednesday 25th September ~ NHS Flu Immunisations across the school**

(A further date will be forthcoming for Years 5 & 6)

#### **Wednesday 25th September to Friday 27th September ~ Kingswood Residential Trip**

#### **Friday 27th September ~ Cake Sale after-school in support of Macmillan**

#### **Thursday 3rd October ~ National Poetry Day**

There will be lots of poetry-focused learning across the school today.

#### **Friday 4th October ~ Parent 'share' session**

At 2:15pm in the afternoon, we are hosting 'share' sessions and parents and carers are invited to attend. Join your child and share their learning linked to yesterday's National Poetry Day.

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

#### **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

## 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.