

## Thurlow Church of England (VC) Primary School Newsletter Friday 26th April, 2024



# Laying the foundations for a bright future

Website link: <u>www.htpfederation.co.uk</u>

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

Time really is flying, as we come to the end of the second week of the Summer term! As well as starting to think about our sister school Hundon's upcoming birthday ~ the school will be 150 years old. I have been meeting with companies to discuss renovating our pond area to create a science focused environmental learning zone. We are also having a mural created for our swimming pool which will be a lovely enhancement to this area!

We have had some lovely visitors to school this week. Hares Class had a very informative budgeting session on Tuesday, delivered by REACH Community Projects in which they learned all about how to manage their money and the importance of saving!

All the children also enjoyed experiencing a BOCCIA session this week which is an indoor target ball sport played on a court roughly the same size as a badminton court. It tests both muscle control and accuracy. It is very inclusive and whilst it is easy to play it is much harder to master, all of the children had great fun and did very well indeed!

If your children would like to continue to develop, their skills Haverhill Leisure Centre have a BOCCIA session which runs on Tuesdays at 5pm.

Have a lovely weekend everyone ~ here's hoping for more of this sunshine!



# Do you have a little bit of time to give for our children? Have you heard the expression, 'many hands make light work'?

If you answered **yes**, then we need **you!** 

The PTA is looking for new 'active' members, (every parent is automatically part of the school's PTA) individuals able to take on specific roles such as Chairperson and Treasurer from September 2024.

The PTA organise fundraising events like discos to raise money finance 'additional' supplementary extras for the children including Class Christmas Parties, their Christmas Lunch, end of year activities and the Year 6 Leaver's 'hoodies'! Right now we have also been raising money to contribute towards the school's imminent pond renovation project.

If anyone is interested in finding out more we will be holding a meeting at school before half-term, in the meantime please contact gemma.cammiss@gmail.com

Without your valuable support, the PTA will be no more (X)



#### **SUMMER TERM 1 ~ SCHOOL MEALS**

For pupils in Years 3 to 6 (Otters Class and Hares Class) the cost of a school meal is £2.60 per day. This half-term will cost £78.00 in total, (a week of school meals is £13.00.) Children can alternate between packed lunches and school meals as preferred but school meals need to be paid for in advance. Here is the 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 eliqibility for Pupil Premium.

#### SPECIALIST MUSIC TUITION

Our specialist instrument teacher, Mr Calder, has some spaces for new pupils and is offering free taster sessions for violin, cello, clarinet and double bass this term for pupils in Years 1 to 5. If you are interested, please contact Mr Calder directly: <a href="mailto:steve.calder1974@gmail.com">steve.calder1974@gmail.com</a>

#### **SWIMMING**

Our youngest children across both schools started their swimming sessions at our heated pool this week and did fantastically well.

Just a reminder the children will need:

- A ONE PIECE swimming costume or pair of swimming shorts / trunks
- a towel
- a swimming hat
- Suitable footwear to walk from the classroom to the pool, (e.g. flip flops / water shoes / crocs,) otherwise they will be wearing their school shoes.

## PURPLE DAY FOR CANCER RESEARCH UK

## NON-UNIFORM DAY ~ FRIDAY 3RD MAY ~ DONATION REQUESTED £1.00

As in previous years we are holding a non-uniform day in support of Cancer Research UK. This year this will be on Friday 3rd May. The children are invited to attend school in their 'normal' clothes and are asked to wear / accessorise with something purple in recognition of the work the important work this charity undertakes.

Small amounts add up! If every child in our Federation donates a £1 each to this worthy charity enough funds would be raised to pay for five special machines which spin blood samples until they separate, allowing scientists to study cancerous cells, find out more about them and target their weak spots!





#### FREE SCHOOL MEALS ~ ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

With the current economic climate and continuing rises in costs to living, we wanted to remind families about accessing free school meals.

We strongly urge you to check, especially if your circumstances have changed or change unexpectedly and remember they are not just available if you are unemployed. The process is completely confidential and pupils entitled to and claiming free school meals are not identified in any way.

You can be reassured your child has access to a healthy, nutritious and tasty meal at lunchtime and is well nourished for an afternoon of learning.

In addition, the number of pupils registered will positively impact on school funding; in these tricky financial times this will provide much needed extra financial support to the school so please check and register, whether or not your child wishes to eat a school meal regularly.

**CHECK HERE: APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS** 

## Morning and After School 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.

Morning club sessions for the term will cost £56

After-school club sessions will cost £12

Payments for these sessions can be made using the following link: <u>Suffolk County Council ~ Payments</u>

#### **STAFFING UPDATE**

Many of you will know we welcomed Mrs Vicky Thomas to the Federation in late December when she joined us to work across both schools undertaking a part-time administrative role.

Mrs Thomas is leaving at the end of this week having secured a new position and, whilst we will be looking to recruit in the near future, I know you will join me in thanking Mrs Thomas for her contribution to our Federation and wish her luck in her new role.

#### **OFSTED'S 'BIG LISTEN'**

This initiative was launched earlier this month by Sir Martyn Oliver, the new Ofsted chief. He is seeking feedback on their work and they are keen to hear from parents, carers and learners.

The consultation is due to end on 31st May, if you wish to participate the consultation can be access via this link: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ofsted-big-listen">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ofsted-big-listen</a>

Key Stage One	YEAR 2 Reading and Maths Assessments (Y2) Teacher Assessed Writing (Y2) Teacher Assessed Science (Y2)	ADMINISTERED IN MAY (OPTIONAL)
	YEAR 1 Phonics Check	ADMINISTERED Week beginning 10th June
Key Stage Two	YEAR 4 Multiplication Tables Check	ADMINISTERED  Week beginning 10th June
	YEAR 6 KEY STAGE TWO ASSESSMENTS Monday 13th May ~ English Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (GPS) & Spelling Tuesday 14th May ~ English Reading Paper Wednesday 15th May ~ Maths Paper 1 (arithmetic) & Paper 2 (Reasoning) Thursday 16th May ~ Maths Paper 3 Reasoning	ADMINISTERED  Week beginning 13th May

We will be scheduling information sessions for parents as well as additional workshops / 'booster' sessions for the children in the coming weeks as necessary.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Please check back regularly as additional dates added as and when activities / visits are confirmed!

SUMMER TERM 2024

Month of May ~ Year 2 National Curriculum Assessments

Wednesday 1st May ~ Shimpling Park Farm Visit ~ Hares Class

Hares Class, along with their sister class at Hundon, will be visiting Shimpling Park Farm linked to their 'Sow, Grow & Farm' theme.

Monday 6th May ~ Bank Holiday (May Day)

Friday 10th May ~ Otters Class Presentation at 9am

Parents, carers and 'special others' of children in Otters Class are invited to join us.

Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May ~ Year 6 National Curriculum Assessments

Friday 17th May ~ Butterflies Class Presentation at 9am

Parents, carers and 'special others' of children in Butterflies Class are invited to join us.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### SUMMER TERM 2024 continued...

#### Tuesday 21st May ~ Renewable Farming Visitor ~ Hares Class

Hares Class, will be joined by a renewable farming expert to enhance their learning as part of their 'Sow, Grow & Farm' theme.

# Friday 24th May ~ LAST DAY OF THE HALF-TERM Summer Half-Term ~ Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May

Monday 3rd June to Friday 7th June ~ ACTIVITIES WEEK ~ more details will follow

Monday 10th June May to Friday 14th June ~ Year 1 Phonics & Year 4 Multiplication Checks

#### Monday 10th June ~ Cambridge Botanic Gardens ~ Bumblebees Class

Bumblebees Class, along with their sister class at Hundon, will be visiting the gardens linked to their 'The Scented Garden' theme.

### Thursday 12th June ~ 'NO JOKE' Play at Haverhill Arts Centre ~ Hares Class

Hares Class, along with their sister class at Hundon, will be visiting the Arts Centre to watch a performance of the play, 'NO JOKE'.

#### Friday 14 June ~ Bumblebees Class Presentation at 9am

Parents, carers and 'special others' of children in Bumblebees Class are invited to join us

Monday 17th June to Thursday 20th June ~ BIKEABILITY for Hares Class

#### Thursday 27th June ~ THURLOW SPORTS AFTERNOON

Join us from lunchtime for a picnic lunch followed by our sports afternoon

#### Friday 28th June ~ Fitzwilliam Museum Visit ~ Otters Class

Otters Class, along with their sister class at Hundon, will be visiting the museum linked to their 'Ancient Civilisations' theme.

Thursday 4th July ~ Year 6 Leaver's Trip to Pleasurewood Hills

#### Thursday 4th July ~ Years 3, 4 & 5 Inter-School Day

Inter-school activities with our sister school, Hundon ~ more details to follow

(Monday 8th July to Wednesday 10th July ~ Stour Valley Transition Days for Year 6)

Friday 12th July ~ Annual School Reports distributed

#### FRIDAY 12TH JULY ~ YEAR 6 LEAVER'S PRESENTATION at 9am

Year 6 Parents, carers and 'special others' are invited to this special celebration presentation

(Wednesday 17th July to Friday 19th July ~ Unity School Transition Days for Year 6)

Wednesday 17th July and Thursday 18th July ~ 'MOVE UP' DAYS for all pupils

Friday 19th July ~ LAST DAY OF THE SUMMER TERM





# Year 2 parents - are you ready for September?

Your child will no longer receive Universal Infant Free School Meals when they move to Year 3 unless you apply now and are eligible.

You will save over £435 a year and your child's school will receive extra funding to support your child with their learning.

If you have already applied and have been found to be eligible, you do not need to reapply.

To be eligible for Free School Meals you must receive one of the following:

- Universal Credit (up to £7,400 net earned income)
- Income Support
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit but no element of Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190.
- · Working Tax Credit 4 week run on





Applying online only takes a few minutes and is easy. Visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals







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