



# Newsletter No. 1

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our children are remarkable! They have adapted tremendously well to all the new systems and seem to love being back at school. Attendance this week is 97.1%! Thank you for your confidence in us and preparing your child so well.

The children are working hard and their behaviour has been exemplary. We are finding that many children's reading has really improved, thanks to your hard work at home and that those children in EYFS or Year 1 who watched Mrs Goodwin's videos regularly have kept up with their phonics! In the next couple of weeks, you will be sent the link to a video presentation from your child's year group team explaining their curriculum for this term and letting you know the measures we are taking to plug any gaps in children's learning.

As mentioned on the FAQs, we will not be having parents evenings this term, instead teachers will be calling 5 or 6 parents each week on a rota basis. You should therefore receive a call each half term. These calls may come from an unknown caller. If the teacher tries you several times, we will send you an email to let you know. Please do not feel that you need to wait for this call though if you have any concerns. We will have the support email running all year, so use that to contact us if you feel your child is struggling and we can swiftly put support in place.

Thank you for your cooperation at the beginning and end of the day - the system now seems to be working more swiftly - the key to its success is parents not arriving too early. In response to your feedback, we have now put signs on each gate to keep everyone right. We did have a number of parents asking if they could drop both children at the same time and we have looked at this, but due to the nature of our site with the different entrances and buildings, it just is not possible. So this means that if you have a child in KS2 who comes in at 8.45am and a child in Year EYFS, Year 1 or Year 2 who

come in later, you do have to queue again, I am sorry.

Clare Kershaw, Director of Education, yesterday congratulated all school communities for successfully getting so many children back to school - I think all of us, staff, parents, Governors and of course, our wonderful children, deserve a pat on the back!

Enjoy your weekend.

**Miss E. Dawson,**  
**Headteacher**

### **COVID Symptoms**

We would just like to remind parents/carers that if your child has any of the following symptoms, they will need to be tested and the results received before they can return to school:-

A temperature  
A new continuous cough  
Loss of taste or smell

Please **do not** send your child in if they are displaying any of these symptoms. Thank you.

### **COVID Testing**

Please note that we have been advised that there is a 'walk in' testing centre at Short Street, Southend where you do not need an appointment if you are having trouble booking a test online for your child.

### **Back to School**

What a fantastic start back to school the children have had! Daisy Avison and Isla Bedford (Frogs) and Ruby Abbott (Kestrels) tell below of their excitement at being back at school:-



"I've loved being back. I've liked everything, especially snack, having a new outdoor area and seeing my friends. I liked writing about my friend." (Daisy Avison)

"I like being back, I love being outside. We have a den to explore. It has an arrow to show you the secret entrance. Zog has been my favourite book so far. (Isla Bedford)

"I love being back at school, learning how to do new things and seeing my friends through this long time off during lockdown. Being Year 6 has a collection of different responsibilities, like taking care and showing new people around because I have been here the longest and know the school best! I love the virtual assemblies to see everyone and Miss Dawson since this hard time during lockdown. (Ruby Abbott)



### **Parent Governor Vacancy**

We are currently looking for a Parent/ Grandparent/Carer Governor to join our Local Governing Body. You do not need any previous experience, as training and mentoring will be provided. What we are looking for is someone who can work in a team and is committed to help to improve and support Thundersley Primary School.

We are interested in (but not limited to) the following skills:

- (a) Legal profession
- (b) Human Resources
- (c) Bid submission
- (d) Education

Please contact the Clerk to the Local Governing Body ([clerk@robusmat.essex.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@robusmat.essex.sch.uk)) for further details and an application form.





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In case we have more applicants than vacancies, you will be required to provide a written profile (up to 200 words) which can be published for a parent vote.

**Paul Harrod**  
**Chair of Governors**

## PSHE Plan for Autumn 2020



At Thundersley the health and well-being of all our school community is always important and this is even more so at the moment. PHSE

(Personal, Health, Social and Economic Education) is a central part of our curriculum and we are giving it even greater priority as we return to school. For the next four weeks, the whole school are going to be following a series of lessons and activities based on materials produced by the Place2Be. There are four weekly themes:

- Self-efficacy (believing that what we do and say makes a difference and we all have strengths that we can draw on in times of challenge.)
- Hope
- Gratitude
- Connectedness

We are planning a final whole school art project based on the work that we have done. Please view the link below to the Place2Be website who have fantastic mental health resources for parents and young people. If you would like any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/>

**Mrs. Farmer**  
**PHSE Co-ordinator**

## Polite Reminders

### Healthy Snacks



If you are providing your child with a snack, please ensure it is healthy (preferably a piece of fruit or a vegetable). Children must not bring in sweets or chocolate as a snack. Thank you.

### Toys/Cards

Please note that children must not bring any toys or cards to school as COVID can be transmitted by passing objects to each other.



Any items we take in from the children eg. reading books are quarantined before going back into use.

### Birthday Sweets



We know that some children bring in sweets for the rest of the class when it is their birthday but unfortunately, they are unable to do this at the moment. We thank you for your understanding.

### Breakfast Club & Treetops After School Club

We offer a Breakfast Club (7.45am to the start of school) and an After School Club called Treetops (3.15pm to 6.00pm) each day. If you are interested in a place for your child and would like more information, please speak to Mrs. Bezdell in the Green Building Offices.

### Uniform Shops

We would like to advise that we now have two uniform shops as follows:-

Penn UK,  
15-17 Kents Hill Road,  
South Benfleet,  
Essex, SS7 5PN.

Telephone:- 01268 751724

[www.pennuk.com](http://www.pennuk.com)

Danielle's Uniform,  
Claydons Lane,  
Rayleigh,  
Essex, SS6 7UP.  
Telephone 01268 967542

[www.daniellessshop.co.uk](http://www.daniellessshop.co.uk)

### Future Term Dates

26/10/20 to 30/10/20 - Half Term  
21/12/20 to 01/01/21 - Christmas Break  
04/01/21 - Start of Spring Term  
15/02/21 to 19/02/21 - Half Term  
29/03/21 to 09/04/21 - Easter Break  
12/04/21 - Start of Summer Term  
03/05/21 - Bank Holiday  
31/05/21 to 04/06/21 - Whitsun Break  
21/07/21 - Last day of Term

### **\*\*\*\*NON PUPIL DAYS\*\*\*\***

02/11/20  
22/02/21  
07/06/21  
08/06/21

