



Newsletter No. 1

10th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

A super first week at Thundersley and great to be back to somewhere near normal. Taking assemblies in the hall has never felt so good!



The children's attitude and enthusiasm for learning has shone brightly this week and I know it will be a successful year. We

have plans in place to ensure that all children make excellent progress and know you will want to be involved in these. As always, the main ways in which you can help your child is by, of course, ensuring that they come to school every day and by reading each night - 5 times per week is our expectation. If you have done so this week - fantastic! Please make sure that it happens every week.

You will have noticed a new face at our gate each day, the lovely Mrs. Thomas, who is our new Learning Mentor. She is here to help children make the most of every moment at school - to support those who are anxious, those who are having a tough time and those who find school a challenge. If you feel your child would benefit from her support or need some advice yourself about where to get support, please catch her at the gate or call into the school office to make an appointment. She will also work with children and families to help ensure attendance remains high and that children read at home. My aim is that every child gets their ice cream at the end of the year for reading at home 150 times!

I have fantastic news! Our children will once again swim in our pool! Many of you will know



that we were eagerly awaiting news on a bid we had made to the DfE to further renovate the changing rooms and add an air conditioning system to the pool. This would enable us to swim all year round and thus hire the pool out to other schools and possibly a swim school. Unfortunately, we were not successful in this and have

appealed the decision, so please let's have a collective crossing of fingers that the decision is overturned. In the meantime, we are going to offer children from Yr1-Yr6 a free 4/5 week swimming block to get them back into the pool, build confidence and help them improve their swimming. We would like to welcome Mr Hawkes and Mr Pagan who will be teaching them for these 5 weeks. You will receive a separate letter in this regard. I know the children will be delighted!

You will have noticed that the main driveway gate is being used again for drop off and pick up. This is for Year 6 children only to give them a bit of kudos and also to alleviate the congestion at the main gate ahead of our EYFS families joining in the coming weeks. Can I please ask that if you have only a KS1 or EYFS child that you arrive just before 8.55am. I noticed this morning that lots of KS1 children were arriving at 8.45am which is adding to the numbers at the gate. Obviously if you have children in both Key Stages, you can come in at 8.45am.

Have a super weekend and remember to share a book with your child. You could literally be changing their life!

Miss E. Dawson
Headteacher

COVID Risk Assessment and Outbreak Plan

You will find our updated risk assessment in the COVID section on our website and attached is our Covid Contingency summary, which I would ask that you familiarise yourself with. It shows the steps we will now take should we have positive COVID cases in school. It may be that there are measures that we will step up and down as the year goes by. You will know from Clare Kershaw's letter yesterday that whole classes will not now be required to self-isolate if a child in their class tests positive. All adults in school are now double vaccinated or on their way to being so and we test twice weekly. We know that this will not



necessarily be the case with all parents/carers, so we kindly ask that if you are coming to meet with one of our members of staff indoors, that you wear a mask.

Secondary School Admissions

Please note that if your child is currently in Year 6, you will need to apply online for a Secondary School place by 31st October 2021. Applications can be made from today. To register your choice please visit:-

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>

Maps of the Green and Yellow Buildings

Please find attached maps of the Green and Yellow Buildings for your information.

Modernisation Update



As part of our modernisation programme, we have been really fortunate once again in gaining money directly from the Government. In recent years we have had a whole new central heating system for the Yellow Building, a new swimming pool, plant and building over it, new flat roofs and insulation plus skylights in the Yellow Building and a whole new fire alarm system across the site.

This year, our project is to completely replace all of our cold and hot water systems across both main buildings. This will improve our supply no end so we are quite excited about it. Obviously, this is a huge project and will take many months to complete and clearly will mean some disruption. To minimise this we have left the library as a spare class for the time being allowing us the luxury of being able to move classes safely whilst contractors are working in the existing class base.





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Morrisons are giving away FREE gardening equipment for schools!



On Monday, 6th September 2021

Morrisons launched 'It's Good to Grow'. The programme aims to encourage school children to get outdoors and get growing, helping them to understand where their food comes from and how to grow their own fruit and vegetables, in order to make healthier food choices now and in the future.

To take part, customers just need to have a My Morrisons account and every time they swipe when they shop they'll collect **Grow Tokens**.

How does this work?

Between Monday, 6th September 2021 and Sunday 24th October 2021 for every £10 spent in store or online, customers will get 1 Grow Token which they can donate to their chosen school.

Customers will use their My Morrisons app or card when paying to collect their Grow Tokens.

Customers can select the school they'd like to donate their tokens to within their My Morrisons account.

From 1st November 2021 schools will be able to redeem their Grow Tokens against a wide variety of gardening equipment.

Schools will start receiving their order between the end of January and the end of March 2022.

We thank you in advance for taking part in this scheme and we are looking forward to being able to use any gardening equipment received from Morrisons next year.

Polite Reminders

Lateness

Please note that if your child is late for school they need to be signed in at the

main School Office (apart from Year 6 who can sign themselves in). Thank you.

eSchools App



As you are aware, our main form of parent/carer communication is via the eSchools platform. We kindly ask that you download the eSchools

App, which is free, in order that any messages we send you are not charged to the school. We thank you for your support.

Twitter

Please keep checking our Twitter feed for various updates/messages:-

@Thundersley_P_S

Honesty is the best policy!

We would like to congratulate the following for handing in money they found recently.

Ava Woodward (Ants)

Well done - you should be very proud of yourself!

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. Bezdel 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

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

www.daniellesshop.co.uk

PTA

Break the Rules Day

We would like to advise that we raised the magnificent sum of **£722.30** for Break the Rules Day. The children had an amazing day and we thank you for your support.

Community News

Teacher Training Recruitment Event

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

ACL Learning

Please find attached flyers in respect of the above.

Future Term Dates

25/10/21 to 29/10/21 - Half Term
20/12/21 to 03/01/22 - Christmas Break
04/01/22 - Start of the Spring Term
14/02/22 to 18/02/22 - Half Term
04/04/22 to 18/04/22 - Easter Break
19/04/22 - Start of the Summer Term
02/05/22 - Bank Holiday
30/05/22 to 03/06/22 - Whitsun Break
22/07/22 - Last day of Term

******NON PUPIL DAYS******

01/11/21
21/02/22
06/06/22
07/06/22

