

## Thwaites School – Half-Termly Newsletter – Summer

# BIG, EXCITING NEWS IN THIS ISSUE

### An Introduction

Hello and welcome to the sixth edition of the Thwaites School half-termly newsletter. We haven't slowed down for the final half-term of the year. We've crammed lots of incredible learning opportunities and events into this term and we can't wait to share them with you. Read on for some important information regarding the school day beginning in the September term as well as important dates for your diary. We hope you enjoy reading the final newsletter of the 2023/2024 academic year.



### Class One

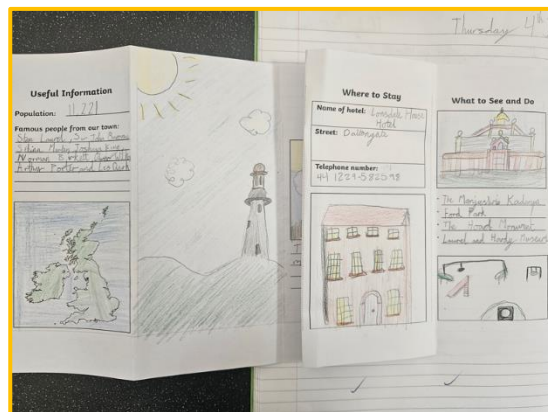
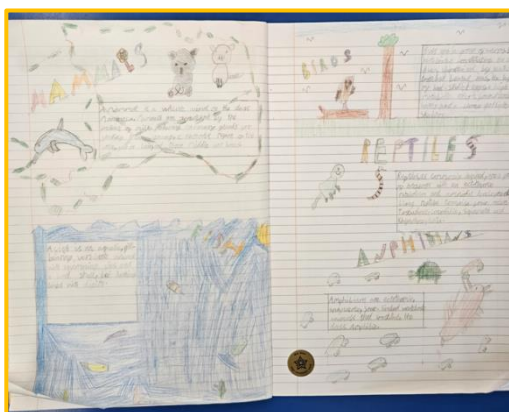
In Class One the children have been enjoying their learning based on the theme, 'The Toy Factory'. The children have designed and made their own soft toy in DT, putting their sewing skills to the test. They have been learning about the history of toys and programming bee bots in computing. In science they have been investigating everyday materials, testing absorbency and buoyancy through experimentation. In other subjects, children have learnt about friendship in RE and have been investigating amounts in maths, including length, weight and capacity, learning colours in French and have been playing music linked to myths and legends.





### Class Two

Class Two have been working on the theme 'Town Study' choosing the small market town of Ulverston to concentrate on. In geography they have learnt all about the town and created some fantastic PowerPoint presentations of the information they discovered in computing. In DT the children designed, made and enjoyed a healthy, balanced packed lunch that included delights such as chocolate covered strawberries, spaghetti Bolognese and fruit smoothies. In English the class have been reading 'Bill's New Frock' and writing formal letters, in music the children have been enjoying the music of South America and in science they have been learning all about 'Living Things and their Habitats', producing fantastic double page spreads on the five different distinct groups.



### Class Three

Class Three have enjoyed the theme 'Modern Life' this half-term which has included learning all about life in the 1900s in history and have created wonderful modern-art masterpieces in art. In English the children have been working incredibly hard to produce fantastic written recounts of their trip to London (read more about that later) that they have presented beautifully in their English books. As well as learning in the classroom the class have enjoyed a visit to Haverigg School to learn about pond habitats as part of their science topic 'Living Things and their Habitats' where they learnt about identifying and classifying living things. Class Three have also completed two weeks of swimming sessions, in which all children made fantastic progress in the water. Finally, last week the class had a fantastic STEM experience designing and building 'rocket cars' which were powered by explosives. The children had a fantastic time as they pushed the detonator and watched as their cars *rocketed* across the playground.



## London

The children in Class Three enjoyed a fantastic London adventure as part of their learning in Year Five and Year Six. The class set off bright and early on the Monday morning and arrived in London in the afternoon. They spent that afternoon touring the British Science Museum before enjoying incredible hands-on science activities in the Wonder Lab. After the Science Museum the children tucked into delicious fish and chips at The Great British Fish and Chip Restaurant and ended the day playing in Jubilee Gardens.

Day two began with a river cruise on the Thames, taking in the sights of the city before the class took flight on the London Eye. Soaring above London, the children pointed out famous buildings and landmarks before coming back down to solid ground. The class then toured the Sea Life Centre, tickets for which were paid for using a generous donation from the Thwaites Village Hall Committee, and watched enthralled as giant turtles, rays and sharks swam past their smiling faces. A walking tour of London followed and the class posed for photos outside Downing Street, fed birds and squirrels in St James Park, witnessed the changing of the guard, saw Buckingham Palace in all its glory and rested their tired feet in Trafalgar Square before taking in masterpieces created by some of the most famous artists around the world, such as Monet and Van Gogh, at the National Gallery. After tucking into a well-deserved dinner at Pizza Express, the children ended the day with the spectacular Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre.

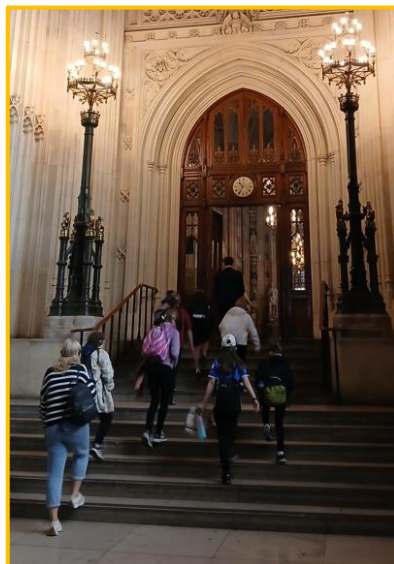
On day three, everyone enjoyed a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament where children learnt about how laws are made, what Guy Fawkes attempted and why the king is banned from the House of Commons. Then there was a final play in the park. The class arrived back at school on Wednesday night, thoroughly exhausted having had an excellent time.













### Awards Ceremony

A huge thank you to all who attended the annual awards ceremony at the Village Hall. It was a fantastic afternoon with singing and dancing, some lovely memories from the Year Six children and of course the awards, voted for by the school community. This year we introduced attendance awards and I was very pleased with the number of children who have achieved our target of 96% or above. Well done, everybody!



### The Thwaites School Day

As you know, it is our firm belief at Thwaites School that community is of the upmost importance. We know Thwaites plays a huge role in the lives of its children, its staff, parents, carers, governors and community members and we take that responsibility very seriously. This year we have been thinking about the school day, and what changes we could make to improve our offer to our children whilst at the same time, taking care of their teachers, support staff, parents and carers. Our discussions have led to the decision to extend the school day from September. This means the school day will officially begin at 8:45am and finish at 3:30pm. Morning club will begin at 8:00am and after-school club will run up until 5:30pm. This means that parents and carers can put their children in school from 8:00am until 5:30pm if they choose, allowing for more flexibility in their working and personal lives. Furthermore, this also allows for an extra break in the afternoon, giving children a brain break, safeguarding their mental health, and allowing teachers time to prepare more thoroughly for afternoon lessons. It also allows for additional time to practise spelling, times tables, reading and handwriting; skills that are vital for academic progress. The bus will continue to run as normal but the timings will be put back 20 minutes to allow for the extended school day. I sincerely hope this decision benefits everyone it affects and that we can all work together to make the transition into the new school day as smooth as possible.

### Charges

In addition to changes to the school day, we will also be making changes to some of our charges. We have kept our charges as low as we possibly can, for as long as we possibly can because we understand how difficult it has been lately, with the cost of living crisis amongst other things. With this in mind we have tried our best to make only small increases to our charges so that we do not put any further pressure on family finances at this time. We have researched schools in the area and made sure we remain very competitive in our charges. We firmly believe, that even with these small increases, parents and carers still get excellent value for money. The increases are as follows and will come into effect when we return in September:

Morning club: £2 (£3 with breakfast)

Lunches: £2.50

After-school club: £5



### Snack

In September we are changing the snack arrangements in school. The infants (N/R/1/2) will continue to have snack provided for them, as they receive free snack as part of a government healthy eating scheme. However, snack will no longer be provided to the juniors (3/4/5/6). Junior children will be able to bring a healthy snack in from home to enjoy at break time. This change has been made because classroom staff have been preparing snack for the school when their time is better spent supporting children with their learning. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

# THANK YOU!

Finally, Thwaites School has had an incredible academic year. From the Christmas show and the carol service to the curriculum afternoon, the award ceremony and sports day; the support of our community has been felt throughout and we could not be more appreciative. Thank you all so much for your support this year. 2023/2024 would not have been as successful without you.

Here's to an even better year, next year. Have an excellent summer, stay safe and we will see you all in September.

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September:

Children return to school

