

# Thwaites School – Half-Termly Newsletter - Autumn

## An Introduction

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter of the 2024/2025 academic year. We hit the ground running in September and we have crammed lots of quality learning and fantastic experiences into this eight-week half-term. We hope you enjoy reading all about it. A copy of this newsletter will be uploaded to the school website. If you wish to keep up-to-date with everything we do then please follow our new Facebook page. More on that later.



## Class One

In Class One this half-term, the children have been enjoying the theme 'My Family, Your Family'. The children have been investigating germs in science and learning all about how they spread. In geography they have been researching their local area and the country they live in, this included creating a river outside using natural materials. In RE, children visited the Thwaites church, created Stars of David using lollipop sticks and held a Welcome Ceremony for a new baby. They have designed and made picture frames in DT and have been learning how to play percussion and melodies in music. The nursery children have enjoyed learning through play, both inside the classroom and outside, including building towns and cities, creating faces out of material and recreating Hansel and Gretel by drawing sweets on the small play house.



## Class Two

The theme in Class Two this half-term has been, Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. The children have been learning all about these in history and their music has also been based on Viking music. In DT the children designed and made sock puppets which were great fun to make and turned out brilliantly. They then used these puppets to link in with their science topic of 'light' by creating a shadow puppet show. The children also enjoyed a light workshop in the hall, delivered by the wonderful experts at Unit 3. In computing the children have been learning how to code and in RE they have learnt all about people and faiths.



### Class Three

In Class Three this half-term, the children have been enjoying the theme 'Our Environment'. In Science, the children have been learning about climate change. Their learning experiences included a litter pick at Haverigg Beach, collecting and monitoring rainfall, a composting workshop with Unit 3 and analysing climate change through data collected and presented using spreadsheets. In geography, children have enjoyed learning about trade, this included Fair-Trade, things imported and exported from our country and global supply chains. The children have continued this learning on in their art lessons, producing beautiful Fair-Trade still-life observational work using oil pastels. In maths the class have been learning about prime, square and cube numbers and have begun to look at fractions. In English the children have written a persuasive formal letter linked to the text 'Where the World Turns Wild' and a literary recount.



### Black History Month

This half-term we have celebrated Black History Month. For this the children enjoyed a special afternoon of whole-school learning in the school hall. Children learnt all about important black men and women, such as John Blanke, Mary Seacole and Nelson Mandela. Nursery and Key Stage One children painted portraits of important black figures whilst Key Stage Two children researched, wrote and illustrated fact-files. These were made into a display in the hall to remind us of the important role black people have played in the shaping of our world.



### New Library

To begin the new academic year, we have overhauled the school library to promote the love of reading we want our children to develop and sustain. The two school libraries have been turned into one colourful and exciting library with the help of the Library Service. The children can now enjoy reading in comfort and choose from a wide selection of modern titles from a diverse variety of authors. We have removed all book bands so that children have much more freedom of choice and introduced comics and magazines for children's reading pleasure. The library has been very well received and the pupils have enjoyed choosing books from the new titles. A huge thank you once again to Mrs. Barrow for officially opening the library and for organising the Duck Race as we used the money raised to stock the library with new and exciting books.



## Facebook

Just a quick reminder that Thwaites Nursery and Primary School has a new Facebook page. We update the page regularly with lots of exciting photos and posts. The more follows and likes the page gets, the better so please share, share, share.



## Sport

We have had a very sporty start to the year. Children have enjoyed attending Mrs. Ross's fitness club and there have been opportunities to attend both rugby and football competitions. We are also looking forward to basketball, netball and cross-country in the following half-term. Go Team Thwaites!



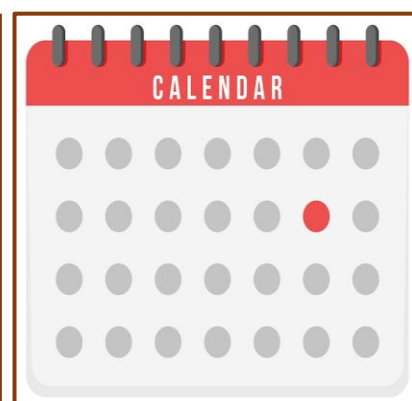
## School Council

We are very pleased to introduce this year's new school council. These children volunteered to give up their time and efforts to work alongside the children of Thwaites and Mr. Redhead. They will be making sure the pupil voice in school is heard loud and clear and will help to make important decisions that will shape this academic year. Congratulations to you all.



## Dates for Your Diary – Details will follow closer to each date if necessary

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Back to school after the half-term break
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Thwaites School to host the Village Hall Playgroup
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Parents' and Carers' evening
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day - £2 donation to Save the Children
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas school dinner
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas production at 7pm
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas carol service at 1:30pm
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Break up for Christmas (following the carol service)
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Back to school after the Christmas break



## Thank You

As always, we would like to wish all of our Thwaites families a huge thank you for your ongoing support.