

Thwaites School – Half-Termly Newsletter - Spring

An Introduction

Hello and welcome to our third newsletter of the 2024/2025 academic year. Can you believe we are now half way through the year?

What a half-term we have had, the children have enjoyed fantastic learning opportunities and produced some wonderful work. I hope you enjoy reading all about it.



Class One

The children in Class One have been enjoying the topic, 'What a Wonderful World' this half-term. They have been learning all about habitats around the world in science and geography and building animal shelters in DT. In computing they have been writing and debugging algorithms on Turtle Logo and have learnt gymnastic and hockey skills in PE. The Nursery children have enjoyed learning about farm animals and have role-played as vets, built farms and been on nature walks.



Class Two

In Class Two children have been focusing on 'Sound'. This has involved learning about sound in science, including a session led by Unit 3. They have designed and made musical instruments, drawing cross-sectional designs and using saws, drills and construction materials to strengthen structures. In history they have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Scots whilst in English they have been writing diary entries based on the class reader, 'KindleKrax'.

Class Three

In Class Three, the children have been immersed in 'The Stone Age', going on an adventure that has put them in the 'shoes' of our prehistoric ancestors. They have designed and made stone age weapons using natural materials found at the woods, identified dangerous animals, discovered the meaning of archaeology and role-played as stone age people from each era. In science children have also enjoyed a visit from Unit 3 to extend their learning in 'forces' and finally, Class 3 have written non-chronological reports based on their class reader, 'Wolf Brother'.



Bridge Building

All of Key Stage 2 enjoyed a bridge building DT project that lasted the entire afternoon. Children were tasked with designing and building a bridge that could hold 1kg of weight. They researched different types of bridge, chose from a variety of materials, designed a structure, built the bridge across a gap and tested it with weights. The bridges were very successful and, through teamwork and persistence, some were able to far exceed the design brief.



Hot Chocolate Friday

HCF was a roaring success with every single child in school achieving 10 independent reads. Well done everyone!

The next HCF will be on Friday 28th February for the whole-school, giving everyone three whole weeks to get those reads in. Keep up the good work.

Parent Questionnaire – You have Spoken, We Have Listened

I would like to take this opportunity to again, thank all parents and carers who found the time to fill in and return their parent questionnaires. It was wonderful to see all of the positives we are doing as a school but also fantastic that you were open and honest about areas we could improve. We have discussed the responses and are planning on putting several things into action to improve the school and meet your expectations.

We are aiming to improve communication through introducing an online communication app for school and parents to connect through as well as improving information shared at handover times.

We are also aiming to invite parents and carers into school more often so that you are more a part of your children's school life and you can see all of the wonderful learning that takes place in and around school.

As well as this we are going to map out homework expectations for each half-term including topic work that can be completed as a family.

These actions will be rolled out over the coming weeks and months and more information will follow on each as and when it is appropriate.

Headlice and Nits

We have had a number of cases of headlice and nits at school recently. Attached you will find a handy information leaflet from the NHS, outlining what to look for and how to treat them. Thank you for your support with this.



Attendance

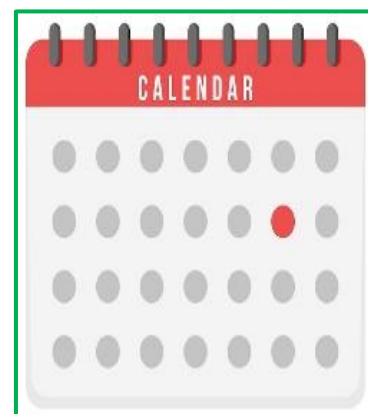
I just wanted to say a huge thank you for continuing to support with school attendance. Our whole-school attendance is currently above national average but is slightly below our whole-school attendance target of 96%. I appreciate that there have been a number of illnesses and bugs going around this winter so hopefully, if we work together, we can get it back above 96% in the second half of the year. Every day in school is 5 sessions of learning so it is vitally important that your children attend when they can.

An attendance update for your information is attached.

Dates for Your Diary

Details will follow closer to each date if necessary

- Monday 24th February – Return to School
- Wednesday 12th March – Parent and Carer Evening
- Monday 31st March to Thursday 3rd April – Class 3 Cycle Wise – Mornings only
- Thursday 3rd April – Class 2 Cycle Wise – Afternoon only
- Friday 4th April – Easter Celebrations:
 - 11 a.m. service at St. Anne's
 - 12 p.m. tea party at school for parents and carers
 - 1 p.m. children finish early for Easter break.



Thank You

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

