

Thwaites School – Half-Termly Newsletter - Spring

An Introduction

Hello and welcome to the fourth edition of the Thwaites School half-termly newsletter. Can you believe it is the end of the spring term? How time flies. This half-term has been amazing. The children have had a brilliant time enjoying fantastic learning opportunities and have produced some great work. And, the end of this half-term means that I have been the headteacher of Thwaites for a full academic year, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and kindness and for welcoming me into the Thwaites School community.



Class One

In Class One the children have been enjoying the theme of 'Plants and Flowers'. In science they have been investigating a variety of seeds and fruits as well as growing their own bean plant and in art they have created beautiful pieces of flower art in the style of Georgia O'Keefe. In Maths, children have been learning all about money and in Computing the children have begun coding using the app 'Scratch Jr'. The class have also been learning about significant people, within which they have been researching Florence Nightingale and even had a go at giving first-aid to a teddy bear who had hurt his leg climbing on a mountain. In R.E. they have been exploring the Easter story and were able to re-enact the story with hand-painted characters created by Mrs. Huddleston.



Class Two

The children in Class Two have had a wonderful half-term continuing the theme of 'Ancient Egypt'. Mrs. Ross is super proud of the effort and dedication from all of her pupils in all subject areas. In English the children have been enjoying writing non-chronological reports based on the class book, 'Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx'. The topic in science has been 'Plants' and the children have enjoyed learning about photosynthesis and pollination and have made some incredible information booklets. They also planted 'Super Giant Sunflower Seeds' and the children are looking forward to taking them home. In design and technology, the children created innovative irrigation systems. They also enjoyed a morning of learning about river pollution and how to prevent it, delivered by the Rivers Trust, followed by an afternoon of river studies at Black Beck river where children used water testing kits to identify levels of bacteria. In RE, they have learnt about Good Friday and what it means to Christians.



Brass Workshop with the Royal Northern College of Music

Class Two children also enjoyed a morning of music at a special event hosted by Haverigg School. Students from the Royal Northern College of Music delivered an assembly to the children to introduce them to each of the instruments that they played and treated them to a wonderful live performance that included music from Indiana Jones, Star Wars and Mario.

The children then enjoyed a brass workshop where they learnt how to play a few notes and took part in a 'call and response' activity. They all had a great morning and impressed the students with how quickly they were able to pick it up.



Class Three

In Class Three this half-term the children have been enjoying the theme 'Space'. The class have been fascinated by their 'Earth and Space' science lessons, in which they have learned about time zones, phases of the moon (using Oreos) and the movement of the planets. The class have written informal emails and detailed itineraries for a school trip, linked to their class book, 'Cosmic'. In design and technology, the children created very successful space capsules for eggstronauts, which they independently designed and built. The class had an official 'launch-day' to test their designs before evaluating their performance. To end their PE topic on orienteering the children ran a course set up across Ulverston. The children demonstrated excellent map-reading skills and thoroughly enjoyed the morning. The children also had the opportunity to deliver presentations in French to their classmates and Mr. Redhead about ways they can help the planet. Finally, the class created a vocal composition in music, based on colours, linked to the Holi festival. The class then presented what they had learnt about the Holi Festival, also known as the festival of colour, and performed their composition to the school in a special assembly before enjoying the 'Thwaites School Festival of Colour' on the school field.





Wildlife Corner

The Millom Without Environment Group recently installed a wildlife camera in the school grounds and we have had our first visitor. This friendly little owl visited school at 2 a.m. to swoop down and catch its supper.

Curriculum Afternoon/Evening

The Curriculum Afternoon was a great success. The hall was filled with the wonderful work the children produce in Class One, Class Two and Class Three, as well as photos, videos and radio recordings of the learning experiences the children have taken part in since the new curriculum launched in September. Parents, carers, wider family, members of the community, governors, staff and the mayor of Millom visited the school to enjoy the exhibit and were taken on a tour through the curriculum whilst enjoying a hot cup of tea and a biscuit. Those that attended were very impressed with the quality of the curriculum on offer and the work produced by the children. The curriculum afternoon will become part of the academic calendar and will take place annually so that we can continue to showcase the fantastic learning opportunities on offer at Thwaites School. We would like to extend a warm thank you to all those who could attend and we hope to see even more at the next one.



City Visit and Residential Trip

Just a reminder that Class Two and Class Three have their overnight residential trip and city visit in summer term. Mrs Bawden has set up payment options on the School Money system under 'shop'. Payments can be made in increments of £10 or £20 with the option to pay in full. These trips are carefully chosen and are intrinsically linked to the wider curriculum delivered in school and children will experience and learn a great deal on them.

Class Two's trip to Low Bank Ground takes place on the 02/05/2024 to the 03/05/2024 and costs £100 per child. This should be paid in full by the time the children return to school after the Easter break.

Class Three's trip to London takes place on the 10/06/24 to the 12/06/2024 and costs £150 with an additional £100 spending money for meals and attractions.

We will be sending out further information and holding a parent/carer meeting before we go to ensure you are fully informed. In the meantime, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call the school. We appreciate that this is a difficult time for a lot of families and we will do our utmost to support any families that need it.

Morning Club/Breakfast Club

We have decided to continue with breakfast club in the mornings. This means that children can be booked in for morning club for a cost of £1 or breakfast club for a cost of £2. The club will still run from 8:00 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. but children who are booked in for breakfast will be able to choose between cereal or toast and will have a drink to enjoy it with. You will be able to book your preferred option on School Money.

If you are able to do so, please book breakfast club before 3:00 p.m. the previous day as Mrs. Bawden checks before she finishes at the end of the day to see if anyone is booked in for a breakfast. If booking after this time is unavoidable, please tell the person running the club in the morning that you have booked your child in for breakfast to ensure your child is given something to eat and drink. Thank you.



British Science Week

To celebrate British Science Week, the wonderful Unit 3 set up a whole host of fantastic scientific equipment in the Thwaites School hall. Children from Nursery to Year Six spent a day of fun and wonder learning together and were given the opportunity to create GIANT bubbles, make gooey coloured slime, fire rockets across the room, light a bulb using pedal power, make balloon hovercraft and study fossils using powerful electronic microscopes.

Unit 3 then returned for a second day to deliver a robotics workshop to Year Five and Six who programmed robots using coding to travel around a course set up in the school hall.

We would like to say a huge thank you to George, Tony, Mike and Jack from Unit 3 for making our British Science Week so amazing.



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

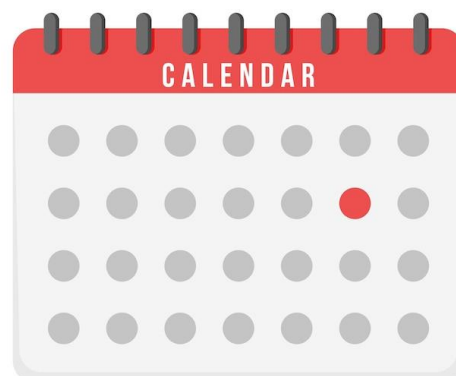
Eggs-ellent Attendance

Well done to all of our children who have achieved 96% attendance and above. This is a fantastic achievement rewarded today in a special assembly with a chocolate bunny for all children with 96% or above and an Easter egg for children with an awesome 100% attendance. Since sending out attendance letters at the beginning of the spring term our whole-school attendance currently stands at 94.3%. We really appreciate your support with this. We are aiming for 96% whole-school attendance so your continued support is very much appreciated. Final, end-of-year attendance letters will be sent home towards the end of the summer term. The children then had a visit from the Easter bunny himself before enjoying an Easter egg hunt in the school play area. A fantastic way to end the term.



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

- Tuesday 16th April – Back to school after the Easter break
- Thursday 2nd May – Friday 3rd May – Class Two go to Low Bank Ground
- Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May – SATs week
- Wednesday 22nd May – Thwaites Village Duck Race
- Friday 24th May – Break up for half-term
- Monday 3rd June – Back to school after half-term break
- Monday 10th June – Wednesday 12th June – Class Three go to London
- Monday 17th June – Friday 28th June – Class Three go swimming
- Friday 28th June – End of year reports go out
- Friday 5th July – Sports Day
- Friday 12th July – End of year awards ceremony at the Village Hall
- Thursday 18th July – Summer Fete
- Friday 19th July – Break up for summer break



Thank You

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