

Thwaites School – Half-Termly Newsletter - Spring

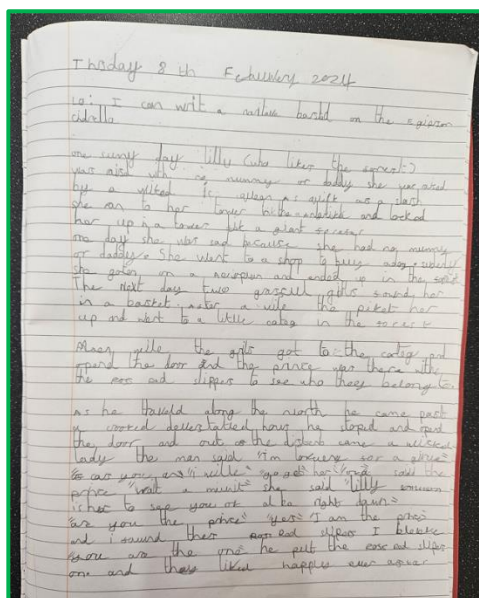
An Introduction

Hello and welcome to the third edition of the Thwaites School half-termly newsletter. It hardly seems like five minutes ago since we were coming back to school after the Christmas holidays and its already half-term. We've had a busy first half of the Spring term and children right across the school have had a very exciting time learning in their classrooms, outside and on trips and visits. You can read all about what we've been up to below. Enjoy!



Class One

The theme in Class One this half term has been 'Weather and the Seasons'. They have been learning all about the changing seasons we experience, what happens at these times of the year and why. They have also been measuring rainfall by collecting rainwater in measuring cylinders and recording their findings. As you can imagine, some days they collected quite a lot! Nursery and Reception made some beautiful 3D art based on the weather which they proudly displayed in the classroom. The children were given the chance to be weather reporters, presenting a weather forecast using green screen technology to look just like the weather reports on the television. Class One have also made wonderful windchimes in design and technology, PowerPoint presentations (with a little help from Class Three) in computing and learnt all about habitats around the world in Geography as well as researching and writing an information text about frogs based on the book they have been reading, 'Tad' about a tadpole who turns into a frog. To top it all off they have enjoyed an exciting day of outdoor adventure at Keppleway. You can read more about that later on.



Class Two

In Class Two, the theme for this term has been 'Ancient Egypt'. The children have learnt how to write formal letters to characters in their class book, 'The Egyptian Cinderella'. They have been learning lots of fascinating things about Ancient Egypt in history and used what they learnt, and inspiration from the famous Mexican artist, Sergio Bustamante, to design and make stunning papier mâché Egyptian death masks such as the one worn by Tutankhamun. In science they have been learning about forces and magnets through experimentation and exploration and in PE they have enjoyed playing hockey and creating gymnastic routines around balances and shape. Class Two ended the half-term creating an Egyptian museum display of their wonderful artwork.

Class Three

The theme in Class Three this half-term has been 'Radio Thwaites' and the children have had a great time recording their own radio shows using the computer programme 'Audacity' with the help of Unit 3 STEM ambassadors who taught them all about sound and how to edit radio interviews. The children conducted their own interviews about 'A Day in the Life at Thwaites School'. In music they have been learning about 'looping' and dance music as they have created a remix of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' using percussion instruments. In geography the children have been learning about biomes linked to their science work on animals, including humans. The class have also created amazing family portraits inspired by Pablo Picasso and written fantastic non-chronological reports about lizards linked to their class book, 'Holes'. For 'Safer Internet Day', the children took part in a quiz, learnt about their digital footprint and how to ensure that theirs is positive, and discussed the dangers of scam adverts. They also discussed the importance of thinking before they click.



Kepplewray Visit

As part of our exciting PE curriculum, Class One have been challenging themselves with some outdoor and adventurous learning at Kepplewray. The children thoroughly enjoyed a full day of excitement and fun as they learnt important life-skills such as teamwork, cooperation and determination. They built and climbed tall towers of crates during their 'crate-stacking challenge' and enjoyed delicious marshmallows, toasted on an open campfire whilst learning all about outdoor and fire safety. Everyone returned to school with muddy knees and big smiles on their faces. Class Two will be going on their trip next, they will be staying over at Low Bank Ground in May.





Curriculum Afternoon/Evening

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Thwaites School will be holding a 'curriculum afternoon/evening' next half term on Tuesday 21st March. This is a fantastic opportunity to come into school and see for yourself all the amazing learning that takes place in our school. We have made a huge effort in putting together an exciting and engaging curriculum for your children in response to our latest Ofsted report and we are very keen to share all of the incredible things we do in school every day. We are going to work hard to make this event really special and would really appreciate your attendance at this event. We will send out further information closer to the time and we can't wait to see you all there.

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.

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 change morning club into a breakfast club at school. The club will still run from 8:00 until 8:45 but will now have the option of breakfast. Children will be able to choose between cereal or toast and will have a drink to enjoy it with. Morning club will continue to cost £1 and breakfast club will cost £2. You will be able to book your preferred option on School Money.

The breakfast club will run for next half-term as a trial. If enough children attend to cover the cost we will make it a permanent feature.

Parents/Carers Evening

Just a reminder that we will be holding a parent/carer meeting on Wednesday 28th February. This is an excellent opportunity for you to discuss your children's learning with their teacher to find out how well your children are doing in school. I will also be asking for parent feedback on how well you think the school is doing and what we could be doing better. This will take the form of a very simple questionnaire. We had a number of responses at the previous meeting and they were very informative. A letter to book your appointment will be going out shortly after we return from half-term.



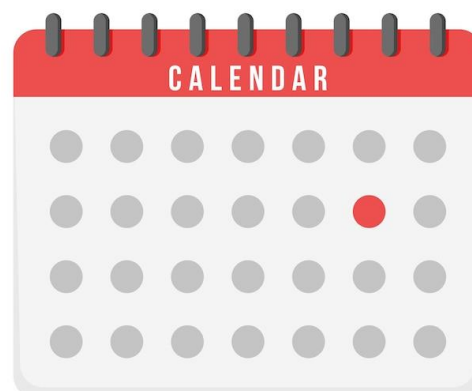
Thwaites School Values Shop

We are very pleased to announce a new initiative in school that we hope will promote and celebrate our school values. Our 'Thwaites School Values Shop' will be opening shortly after our return to school. The 'Values Shop' will be stocked with a wide selection of stationery, games and toys, chosen by the school children, and will be open during the school day for children to buy from. We have developed our own currency, the 'rainbow note' that children can earn by displaying our school values of kindness, honesty, inclusivity, empathy, enthusiasm, resilience and aspiration. They can then choose to spend their rainbow notes on low-value items or save up for more expensive items, teaching children important money-sense skills. The school council had a great morning visiting 'Smyths' to buy the stock ready for the grand opening. We will keep you up to date on the opening of the shop and how well it is going.



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

- Friday 9th February – Break up for half-term
- Monday 19th February – Back to school after the half-term break
- Wednesday 28th February – Parents and carers evening
- Thursday 21st March – Curriculum afternoon/evening
- Thursday 28th March – End of the spring term
- 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
- 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 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.

