

# **Thorney Tribune**

## **Thorney Island CP School**

### **Newsletter No 1**

#### **September 2025**

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Dear Parents, Governors and Friends

Welcome to the new school year and to the first newsletter of the Autumn Term. I hope you all had a relaxing summer holiday. I would like to give a very warm welcome to the many new children who have joined our school, as well as to their parents. I am really looking forward to the exciting and fresh challenges that lay ahead of us and in helping all our learners to achieve their potential.

#### **STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS**

<b>12 September</b>			<b>18 September</b>		
Owl Class	-	Elsie Woosey	Owl Class	-	Percy Hircock
Osprey Class	-	Arlo Davey	Osprey Class	-	Emily Le Poidevin
Falcon Class	-	Arthur Hircock	Falcon Class	-	Lilly Howarth
Kestrel Class	-	Esene Akplu	Kestrel Class	-	Kenny Attfield
Merlin Class	-	Violet Shawashi	Merlin Class	-	Tristan Gurung
Hawk Class	-	Florence Pollitt	Hawk Class	-	Dakota Paddon-Budd
Eagle Class		Tia Richards	Eagle Class	-	Keira Bowley

#### **Gifts and Cards - Last Term**

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank all of those who sent in presents and cards at the end of last term. The messages written in the cards were especially welcomed by staff and your acknowledgement of their hard work and dedication much appreciated.

#### **Harvest Festival**

This year's Harvest Festival assemblies will take place on Thursday 16 October at 9.15am for Owl, Osprey, Falcon & Kestrel Classes and 2.20pm for Merlin, Hawk & Eagle Classes. This year our Harvest will be supporting Chichester District Foodbank who provide food for families in our local area who are struggling.

The Foodbank are in urgent need of the following items:

Tinned fruit, rice pudding, custard, sponge pudding  
Tinned meat, fish, vegetables, soup  
Biscuits, snack bars, muesli bars  
Readymade sauce (jars)

Shampoo, conditioner, shaving gel  
UHT milk, fruit juice, squash  
Toilet roll, kitchen roll  
Baby toiletries, baby food (not milk)

All donations should be brought into school on the day of the Harvest.

## Armed Forces Families Fund

I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust for their continued support of the children at our school. This funding allows the school to provide additional emotional support for children as well as supporting other curriculum initiatives. This year we will continue to work with other local schools to ensure they can provide the support for service families and children that we do. This bid was all about working more closely with locality schools and sharing our expertise. The schools we will be working with are Southbourne Junior School, Southbourne Infant School and Chidham Parochial Primary School.

The second successful bid, which will run for two years, aims to provide more support in school for all children but especially those that have additional needs.



## Class Meetings + Class Curriculum Letters

I would like to thank parents for attending this term's Class Meetings; the turnout was exceptionally good. These meetings enable teachers to explain class routines etc. and it gives parents an opportunity to put a teachers face to a name. I know working parents may find it difficult to attend these events at the start of each year and this is why we produce Class Curriculum Letters each Half Term; the link to these can be found here: <http://www.thorneyislandcps.org.uk/Curriculum%20Letters.html>

The relationship between school and parents is a vital one and any feedback on how we could improve these meetings would be welcome.

## School Improvement Priorities

- Priority 1: To improve writing outcomes across the school by identifying barriers to progress in pupil writing and aligning curriculum and teaching practices to the 2025 DfE Writing Framework.
- Priority 2: To increase attainment within reading, spelling, grammar and mathematics by improving the use of all available assessment information.
- Priority 3: To improve children's long-term retention and understanding of key curriculum knowledge and vocabulary by embedding high-quality retrieval practice and dual coding strategies consistently across all subjects and year groups.

Alongside the School Improvement Priorities each subject has a range of priorities to achieve. Our main focus this year it is to embed the children' use of subject specific vocabulary.

## Cycle Helmets

If children have these, please can they be encouraged to wear them when cycling to school. This would be much appreciated.

## Water Bottles

We have noticed that the water bottles children are bringing into school are getting bigger and bigger. Having access to drinking water is vital to help keep children hydrated, something that is key to supporting concentration. We encourage all children to bring a water bottle into school and ask that it holds no more than 500mls of water and has either a 'sports top' or attached flip-lid to stop work being damaged should it be knocked over. Water bottles can be topped up in school throughout the day. We do ask that fashion bottles, e.g. Stanley Cups or Air Up Bottles are not brought into school.



Examples of suitable water bottles

Your co-operation in this matter would be much appreciated.

## Health and Safety - Nut Products

We request that peanuts or products that may contain peanuts are not brought into school as we have children who **will** suffer severe allergic reactions if they come into contact with them. This has happened once in my time at Thorney and although we have Epi-pens in school and staff are trained to use them, it is not an experience I would like to repeat.

## Medicines in School

With the exception of paracetamol and antihistamine, any medicines brought into school for your child to take during the school day, **must be prescribed by a doctor, in the original packaging and with your child's name clearly marked on it. Medicine should be handed into the school office by a parent/carer**, where it will be kept in a locked cabinet/fridge. If you would like a member of staff to administer a prescribed medicine to your child, you must complete a Consent Form that is available from the school office. The school **cannot** accept a verbal instruction or instruction from a child to administer medicine. **Only medication that has to be administered more than 3 times a day should be brought into school** (exemptions apply, see Medicines in School Policy for further information).

## Book Bags, Reading Books & PE Kits

Book Bags should be brought to school every day. Remember we can only do so much in school; your support is vital if your child is going to make expected progress.

Please can you ensure that your child brings their PE Kit to school every Monday, they will then bring it home on Friday to be washed. (Year 6 have different arrangements for P.E. Kit)

## Sickness Absence

If your child is ill and unable to come to school, please telephone the office before 9.30am. If you do not inform us of the reason why your child is absent from school, they will receive an unauthorised absence mark in the Register. Please inform us of any medical/dental appointments before they are due. If possible, these should be made outside of school hours.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild illnesses. These would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. We have been asked by the Chief Medical Officer to share the following document with you that has been produced by the NHS. [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#)

## Behaviour Policy

Please note that this Policy can be found on the school's website. The government has requested that we send an annual reminder to parents about this. The Policy clearly sets out our expectations and the actions we will take if children do not behave as expected. The behaviour of the vast majority of children at our school is outstanding. Unfortunately, on occasion, a few children do not behave as expected but they are soon helped to achieve our expectations by both staff and their peers. Your support with promoting outstanding behaviour at school is always much appreciated.

## Free School Meals Eligibility

Free School Meals (FSM) in all West Sussex maintained schools are available to pupils whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190)

Registering for FSM could also raise an extra **£1,515** for our school.

This applies to all children, including children in Years R - 2 who automatically receive Universal Infant Free School Meals.

### Applying for Free School Meals

All FSM applications must be in electronic format. All information and the new form is available by clicking this link [Free School Meals](#) If you require any further information, please contact either Mrs McCrossan at the school or email the FSM team at [fsm@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:fsm@westsussex.gov.uk)

## School Uniform

I would like to say a big thank you to all parents for their effort in adhering to school uniform rules. The children look very smart and are a credit to you. New parents visiting the school, as well as staff, have commented on this. However, **please remember to name everything**. You would be surprised at how many children who have lost a jumper, when asked if it had their name in say, **"No but its RED!"**

**Please can you also check that your child brings their own jumper home.** Mistakes are easily made and children often arrive at school without a jumper but end up taking a friend's home by accident; after a hard day's work this is easily done. If you do get the wrong jumper brought home, please return it as soon as possible - your child's jumper will most probably be in lost property or a friend will be wearing it! With your help we can soon sort this out.

## Pedestrian Crossings Near School

Please do not park on the Zig Zag lines near the two pedestrian crossings by the school. We have already had one near miss due to parents parking illegally! Anyone parking illegally will be reported to the Guard Room.

### **MCaS (My Child at School)**

Communicating with parents is an important part of what we do, making sure you get the correct information about school news, activities and things that really matter is something we care about. We use MCaS to send out our newsletter, information about trips, visits & events and notify parents about exceptional events, i.e. emergency school closure.

Registering with MCaS is very easy; just look out for an activation email inviting you to set up a password; it really is as simple as that. Once registered we recommend you download the My Child at School app via the App Store.

### **Attendance and Term Time Holidays**

For some time now, Headteachers have not been able to grant authorised leave for children to take time off school for term time holidays other than in exceptional circumstances. In August 2025 the Department for Education issued new guidance regarding attendance and changes to education-related Penalty Notices for unauthorised attendance. The new guidance can be found on our school website.

Any parent wishing to request leave for their child/children should complete a 'Removal from Learning' form available from the School Office.

### **INSET Days 2025/2026**

The INSET Days for 2025/2026 are:

Friday 24 October 2025  
Monday 03 November 2025  
Monday 23 February 2026  
Friday 22 May 2026  
Monday 22 June 2026

Please make a note of these dates as children DO NOT attend school on these days.

### **School Photographer**

The school photographer will be in school on Thursday 25 September. All children will be photographed individually, with their siblings and in class groups.

### **Dates for your Diary - Please see attached sheet**

Yours sincerely

Dean Clegg  
Headteacher

## DIARY DATES

22 September	Eagle Class Bikeability all week
24 September	Osprey Class - Teddy Bears Picnic - please bring a teddy to school
25 September	School Photographer
01 October	Osprey Class - Fairy Tale Reading with Parents, 2.30pm
02 October	Merlin Class to Marwell Zoo
06 October	Flu vaccination/nasal spray - whole school - consent forms sent out
06 October	Football Tournament @ Bourne Community College (after school)
09 October	Owl, Osprey and Falcon Classes 'Book at Bedtime' - 4.00pm-5.00pm
14 October	Eagle Class to Fort Nelson
13 October	Football Tournament @ Bourne Community College (after school)
16 October	Harvest Festival - 9.15am - Owl, Osprey, Falcon and Kestrel Classes Harvest Festival - 2.20pm - Merlin, Hawk, and Eagle Classes
20 October	Netball Tournament @ Bourne Community College (after school)
21 October	Merlin Class - Wear it Wild Day
22 October	Parents Evening - more details to follow
23 October	Parents Evening - more details to follow
23 October	Kestrel Class Superhero Dress-up Day
23 October	Eagle Class - Roman Banquet
24 October	INSET Day - children do not attend school on this day
27 - 31 October	Half Term
03 November	INSET Day - children do not attend school on this day

## Term Dates 2025/2026

03 September 2025	Start of Autumn Term
27-31 October 2025	Half Term
19 December 2025	End of Autumn Term - Break up for Christmas Holiday
05 January 2026	Start of Spring Term
16-20 February 2026	Half Term
27 March 2026	End of Spring Term - Break up for Easter Holiday
13 April 2026	Start of Summer Term
25-29 May 2026	Half Term
22 July 2026	End of Summer Term - Break up for Summer Holiday

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