



Newsletter No. 1

9th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

An excellent start to the year! You will be just as jubilant as we were to hear the news about our tree, Oakley, being saved! Not only will Oakley not be chopped down, but LV will pay for the work to protect our tree and the gardens. Last week I talked to the children in assembly about using their voice for good and this is such a wonderful example of this. Simon English our wonderful Chair of Governors did just that on Facebook and set off a chain of events which led to our tree being saved. You will notice that two of our other trees have been moved from the front playground, where we now have a super year round surface for the children to play on, to a mini forest we are creating behind little Footprints' buildings.

We were delighted to welcome our EYFS children for their initial sessions in small groups last week and excited to see them all for a short time this morning.

Welcome to all our new families, children and parents. Thank you for preparing them so well for coming in or returning to school. We do not take your support for granted and really appreciate you helping them to 'be the best they can be'. Just a reminder that school begins for all children (EYFS once they are in full time) at 8.45am. It is really important that children are in at that time as learning starts then.

As a staff, we are determined to ensure we continue to improve what we provide our children. We want all children to succeed and our aim is to nurture their own individual talents and interests because we believe that if a child identifies something they really enjoy and are good at, it helps them to believe in themselves across the whole curriculum. Our top priorities for improvement this year are:-

- To improve children's Oracy - speaking and listening - the children look super in their Wow word gear today which is a super way to kick this priority off.

- To improve outcomes in writing, especially for the boys.
- Ensure every child is a reader by continuing to improve our teaching of early reading.
- Improve children's reasoning skills and Multiplication recall.
- Continue to work on our Big question Curriculum - our priority subjects this year are Science, History, Computing and Art.

With this newsletter, you will also receive the bulk of the dates for the year ahead. You told us in your survey that you would like to have more advanced warning of events so that is another priority for us this year. There will be dates added throughout the year for individual class trips and termly parental involvement afternoons, but we will always aim to give you at least 3 weeks' notice of these, especially where payments are due. Our aim is to have an in school event or trip out for each year group each term to bring part of the curriculum alive.

Our swimming pool is up and running this week, which we are just so lucky to have. Many schools in the area would kill to have their own pool. However, I am disappointed that so few children, especially in the upper school are swimming. At the end of this season, we will make a decision as to whether we stop swimming for classes in the upper school and offer the pool out to other schools in the area so that it can break even. Please reconsider your decision on swimming and let us know if you would like your child to swim. We do not want to lose this amazing resource.

On 6th November 2024, we have exciting news for Year 6 children! It has long been my dream to take children to see a show in the West End for a hugely reduced price. This year, thanks to an amazingly generous donation from Mrs Lake one of our mums who is Customer Service Director at Highview and is sponsoring the event, our PTA and Nicola Haynes of Theatre Trips Essex, Year 6 from across the whole ROBUS Trust will be going to see The Lion

King! Our aim is that this will eventually be a yearly Year 5 trip in the Spring term. Year 6 parents will have a separate letter about this trip in the coming days. If you know of any the businesses who can also sponsor this event, please let me know.

An exciting year ahead - staff and children are raring to go, so I know it is going to be another amazing year! As always, if you have any concerns about your child's education or wellbeing, please talk to us at the earliest opportunity. Members of the senior team are on the gate each morning, teachers are available at the beginning and end of the day and the lovely ladies in the office are there to help. Do not let your child go home unhappy.

Have a great week!

Miss E. Dawson
Headteacher

Attendance changes

You may have heard in the media that the government made some key changes to Statutory Attendance guidance which started during the summer and these are summarised in the attached document. Put simply, attendance has decreased everywhere since the pandemic and the government wants to crack down on this. The guidance is clear that schools must play a supportive role as well as issue fines for the absences which are not authorised, which has always been the policy across ROBUS. We do not receive the funds from the fines, the local authority does and there is a huge amount of administration involved, so it will always be the last resort for us, with the exception of holidays, which are not authorised absences, except in exceptional cases (1 or 2 per year).

We need your help!

Do you have a couple of hours a week you can spare? Do you love the thought of making a difference? If you answer yes to either of these questions, please come and speak to us about being a volunteer reader. We have a small, but wonderful, band of





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parents and grandparents who come in each week to help us so that our children can be the best readers they can be but we really need more. It is tremendously rewarding and really makes a difference to children's reading. If you can help, please email the office FAO Mrs Marlow. We will organise the DBS check if you have not already done this. We also need help from parents to be spotters for swimming lessons. If you are available to do this, please contact Miss Dawson.

Secondary School Admissions

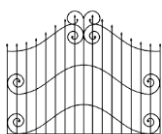
Please note that if your child is currently in Year 6, you will need to apply online for a Secondary School place (applications open from 12th September 2024) by 31st October 2024. To register your choice please visit:-

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>

School Nurse Coffee Morning Drop In

Hannah Kemp, our School Nurse is going to hold a drop in coffee morning session for parents on Tuesday, 8th October 2024 at 9am. If you would like to pop along to see Hannah, please call into the main school office to sign in first before going to the Nurture Room.

School Gate Opening/Closing Times



Please note that the school gate will be opened at 8.40am. Children must be in class for an 8.45am start.

Gates will be closed at 8.50am. Children arriving after this time must be signed in late at the main office. The gate will be opened again at 3.05pm ready for EYFS/KS1 children to be collected at 3.10pm and KS2 children to be collected at 3.15pm. For the safety of all our children we ask that everyone leave the school site promptly. Thank you.

School Office Hours

Open at 7.30am (for phone calls)



Open at 8.40am (front desk for enquiries)

Closes at:-

5.00pm Mondays
4.30pm Tuesdays & Thursdays
4.15pm Wednesdays & Fridays

Polite Reminders

Absence

If your child is unwell or not in school for any reason, please contact the main School Office on 01268 793251 before 9.15am to advise staff. Please then kindly confirm in writing or by email (admin@thundersley.essex.sch.uk) why your child was absent. Thank you.

Leave of Absence

All 'Leave of absence' requests in term time will be unauthorised unless there are exceptional circumstances and will be at the discretion of Miss Dawson. Please complete a 'Leave of Absence' form which you can obtain from the main School Office and provide an accompanying letter with an explanation as to why you are taking your child out of school during term time. Please give as much notice as possible. Thank you.

Visitors

Please note that all visitors must sign in at the main School Office. Please do not enter the buildings without signing in first and receiving a 'visitor's sticker'. Thank you.

Peanut Butter/Nutella/Nut Products

We would like to remind you that your child must not bring peanut butter, Nutella or any nut products into school as we have children with severe nut allergies. Thank you.

Water Bottles

Please ensure your child has a named bottle of water in school at all times in

order to keep hydrated throughout the day. Thank you.

Asthma Pumps

If your child requires an asthma pump, please ensure that your child has one in the main School Office and one in their classroom. Please also check that the pumps are in date. Thank you.

Labels

Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's full name in order that they can be returned if found. Thank you.

Bikes/Scooters

Please note that bikes/scooters must not be ridden in the playground. Please ensure your child dismounts and walks their bike/scooter on the school premises to avoid any accidents. Thank you.

Medication

Please note that staff are not able to administer medication unless your child has a Care Plan for an ongoing medical condition. Thank you.

Honesty is the best policy!

We would like to congratulate the following for handing in money they found recently.

Ayah Pounds - Otters

Well done - you should be very proud of yourself!

We would like to advise that a total of **£65.89** was found by the children during the last academic year and handed in to the office. This was donated to the fund for Eva-Mei's new wheelchair.

eSchools App

We kindly ask that you to download the





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eSchools and eSchools Lite apps (free of charge), in order that any messages we send you are not charged to the school and you will be able to access the calendar, newsletter and website easily

Twitter

Please keep checking our Twitter feed for various updates/messages:-

@Thundersley_P_S

Breakfast Club & Treetops After School Club

We offer a Breakfast Club (7.45am to the start of school) and an After School Club called Treetops (3.15pm to 6.00pm) each day. If you are interested in a place for your child and would like more information, please speak to Mrs. Hayward in the main School Office.

Uniform Shops

We would like to advise that we now have two uniform shops as follows:-

Penn UK,
15-17 Kents Hill Road,
South Benfleet,
Essex, SS7 5PN.

Telephone:- 01268 751724

www.pennuk.com

Danielle's Uniform,
Claydons Lane,
Rayleigh,
Essex, SS6 7UP.

Telephone 01268 967542

www.daniellesshop.co.uk

Community News

Waves Youth Choir

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Inklings After School Art Club

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

ACL Family Learning

Please find attached information in respect of the above.

School Calendar - Dates

<https://www.thundersleyprimary.co.uk/web/home/86964>

or eSchools app Lite

Future Term Dates

28/10/24 to 01/11/24 - Half Term
23/12/24 to 03/01/25 Christmas Break
06/01/25 - Start of the Spring Term
17/02/25 to 21/02/25 - Half Term
07/04/25 to 21/04/25 - Easter Break
22/04/25 - Start of the Summer Term
05/05/25 - Bank Holiday
26/05/25 to 30/05/25 - Half Term
18/07/25 - Last day of Term

******NON PUPIL DAYS******

25/11/24
14/02/25
21/07/25
22/07/25

