THURGOLAND
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Talk for life and learning!

Attached with this newsletter is all of the key words we will be seeing, saying, learning and using in class. It would be great, if you could use these words at home.

Here are a few key words to get you started:

1. celebrate
2. gathered
3. belonged
4. repeat
5. past

Class R's Autumn 2 Newsletter

We are the 'Brilliant Blue Whales.'

A very warm welcome to this half-term's newsletter.

Class Attendance Update

Each half term, we will update you on how our class attendance is looking compared to the other classes in school. As a school we are aiming high for 98% attendance this year and we have a saying in school, ***'The best ability is availability**.'*

Class R's attendance: 92.4% School attendance: 97.3%



"Children at Thurgoland CE Primary are encouraged to see that everyone is special and unique and, in this way, gain a sense of ourselves as a unique individual – that true self, or best self, God has created us to be."

Class Specific Events and Information

Below is a list of events and important information specific to our class. For a comprehensive view of whole school events, please refer to the school's website or Mr. Jordan's weekly newsletter.

Upcoming Class Events-PLEASE NOTE-Nothing personal to our class this half term. These are whole school exciting events:

- Monday 9th November 2026 – Diwali themed lunch
- Wednesday 11th November 2026 – Remembrance Service in School
- Monday 16th November 2026 – Road Safety Day
- Tuesday 17th November 2026 – Be bright be seen walk to school event
- Friday 20th November 2026 – Children in Need
- Friday 27th November 2026 – Village Christmas lights switch on
- Friday 4th December 2026 – Christmas Fayre
- Friday 11th December 2026 – Whole School Cinema Visit and Christmas party afternoon
- Tuesday 15th December and Wednesday 16th December 2026 – Nativity performances in Church.
- Thursday 17th December 2026 – Singing Santa Stroll at 8:30am, Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch.
- Friday 18th December-finish for the Christmas holiday. **Pupil collection is at 1.30pm**

Important Information

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) highlights that homework can have a positive impact on pupils' learning when it is purposeful and linked to what they are learning in school. Regular practice helps children consolidate key knowledge and skills, which is why it is important that we communicate clear expectations to families and follow these up consistently.

By working and playing together we can love, learn and respect.

"It has been said beautifully and profoundly, that our God in his most inner mystery is not solitude, but a family." John Paul II

In Brilliant Blue Whales, homework will be assigned every Friday on DOJO from this half term. A little and often is the best approach. 5 -10 minutes daily ideally.

Reading is the priority along with talking together to develop vocabulary and sentence structure.
* We ask that families upload to Class Dojo a 2-minute recording (video/audio) of their child reading once per week and record any reading in your child's reading diaries. *

Phonics will continue to be sent to embed learning to blend. Please practise recognising and saying the letter sounds with your child a few minutes daily. This will make such a big impact on how he/she retains the sounds, particularly as each day we learn a new sound and it can become trickier to remember all of the sounds at any one time.

We will begin handwriting following Kinetic letters. Please also support your child to form these letters starting in the correct position, as shown on the handwriting sheets that come home in your child's bag on a Friday, these will help consolidate forming the letters we have learned that week.

We make learning fun and memorable by baking, using manipulatives (such as playdough) and love nothing more than getting stuck in with our hands in 'messy play', such as cornflour. As you can appreciate, all these resources incur a cost so we are hugely grateful for any donations made half-termly. We ask for a voluntary contribution of £5.00 per half term that can be put into the purple piggy bank on the window sill by the classroom door. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR LAST HALF-TERM'S DONATIONS.**

For any questions or additional details, please feel free to reach out to the Mrs Matthews, who will be on the door every morning or email your enquiry to office@thurgolandprimary.org and we will get back to you within 48 hours. Anything urgent please phone or catch us face to face. We look forward to an exciting and productive half term!

As educators we are all passionate about the way children are formed by the environment in which they grow. To become our best self, we will need the environment that enables this.

What are we learning about this half term?

This half term, the children will enjoy a range of exciting learning opportunities, both inside and outside. They will continue to have lots of fun whilst reading, writing and investigating mathematical concepts, through child-initiated learning and focus activities. They have loved Welly Wednesdays so far, exploring the world around them, and we will continue to embrace our wonderful environment for scientific exploration and geography seasonal changes learning.

This half term's themes are **'Toys and Celebrations'**

Writing
We will begin daily discrete handwriting sessions and then use our phonics and handwriting together to spell simple words in dictated sentences. The children will also write to the 'famous man in red'.
Our focus will be on developing self confidence to form letters and connect letter sounds (phoneme) to their shape (grapheme).

Mathematics
Our mathematics curriculum will cover foundational concepts, including:
Numbers 4 and 5-representing, composition of and comparing ; one more than ; one less than ; shapes with 4 sides; time-night and day; consolidation of numbers 1-5; comparing quantities of non-identical objects; number bonds to 5 and subitising up to 5

Understanding the world
In science, we will focus on light-where does it come from in the day? At night? We will use torches-link with learning about Hanukah.
Geography learning will be observing seasonal changes in the school garden and the weather.
In history, we will identify and talk about similarities and differences between toys now and toys in the past.

At Thurgoland CE Primary School, everyone is inspired to reach their full potential and become their best self, to make the world a better place.

Physical Education
We will learn to perform a seated balance and tuck and star shapes on the floor and apparatus (benches).

PHSE/RSE
We will learn about the festival Diwali and the Nativity story celebrating Jesus' birthday.
We will continue to develop awareness of personal emotions and needs and learn to identify the emotions of others can be affected by words and/actions we say.

Art / DT
Making sandwiches -know how to spread using a knife.
Making gifts and cards-to talk about ideas with a friend or an adult.
Diwali lamps -to know how to mould clay and create a thumb hole.
To name the primary colours.
To hold a paintbrush with a firm grip using the 3 friends hold correct grip.
Jackson Pollock-large scale collaborative art piece.

Music -Celebration music
Learning about the music from a range of cultural and religious celebrations, including Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas.

This half term promises to be another enriching and enjoyable experience for all students in Class R. We look forward to a season filled with learning, growth, and fun!

You can find more detailed information about the knowledge and skills your child will be learning in our curriculum documents, which can be found on the school website: https://thurgolandprimary.org/curriculum-statement/

Please encourage your child to complete their homework weekly on Class Dojo's.