



Therfield First School Weekly Newsletter

Week Commencing Monday 9th November 2015 – Newsletter 9

Weekly Value: Remembrance

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

I am guessing that everybody has noticed the newly painted outside area! We are very pleased with the transformation - it also made page 2 of *The Royston Crow*! A big thank you goes to the Tesco Extra management team who worked like troopers throughout Monday afternoon (as did I making 15 cups of tea/coffee at a time!) As always, when a particular area is developed, it highlights other areas that could also do with a little spruce. You will notice that there are some other nearby wooden areas that would benefit from a similar coating of paint and we still have some of the paint used on Monday left over. It would be great to organise a 'painting party' to paint these final areas. Could you help with this at all? If so, please let myself or the office know any dates/times that are best for you and we will see if we can arrange something. Yay!

This week our Year 4 pupils took part in the annual Youth Speaks event, alongside pupils from six other local schools. Small groups of children talk on an area of their choice to an audience and judging panel. This is not a competition but children are provided with feedback on their performance. Events such as these provide children with an amazing opportunity to practice a life skill that can often be deemed scary by adults. Mrs O'Brien said that our pupils were superstars; delivering clear and confident speeches on a range of exciting areas including A very big well done to Sam, Ben, Freddie, Callum, Izzy, Sasha, Natasha, Eva, Kia and Isabella.

On Wednesday morning the whole school walked down to the church to attend an Armistice/ Remembrance service led by Richard Morgan. This year we collected the pre-school children en route and both groups of children made a poppy wreath which was laid in church. Our children's behaviour on the walk down and in the church was excellent and everybody observed the full 2 minutes of silence in a very respectful manner. The teachers and I were very proud.

Today we held a governors' morning in school where a number of our governors spent time in each classroom, talked to children and looked at learning in books. Our focus was ... active participation within lessons, progress within lessons and progress over time. Feedback from the governors was very positive especially about the clear progress that was observed in books since September.

Yesterday the Friends committee had their annual AGM. I continue to be overwhelmed by the amount of support the school receives from our parents. Last year the school benefited hugely from the contribution from the Friends. Thank you to everyone involved. At the meeting Sarah Ellis and Jo Hardman stepped down from their role as Joint Chair. A very big thank you to you both for your dedication and support to the school last year and a big red carpet welcome to Sarah Temple who has been passed the baton! Watch this space for the next meeting date.

Get cozy this weekend because it's due to be a cold one! Mrs McGovern

Quote of the Week

When I asked El today why she thought her daddy was in school (Dan Jones - Chair of Governors), she replied "MRS MCGOVERN! You should know already!!!" Hilarious!

Notices and Reminders

Children in Need:

Thank you for your support for Children in Need today. We raised a total of £59 from children wearing their own clothes. If you have not yet handed your donation into school, please pop it in to the school office.

Still no boots please!

Some children are still wearing boots in school. Please ensure that children have smart black shoes to wear in school daily.

Reading at Home:

The expectation at Therfield School for reading at home is daily (at least 5 times per week). Regular reading at home is essential for children to develop their decoding and fluency skills. The more children read, the more they enjoy reading (books become longer with more exciting story structures). The more children read, the greater their vocabulary becomes. The more children read, the better their writing becomes etc. etc. Teachers are noticing that some children appear rarely to be heard to read at home. Teachers in class will be using age appropriate reading texts and it is important that, where possible, children are able to access this independently. In school to promote regular reading for enjoyment earlier this week we introduced daily ERIC (Everybody Reading in Class). Between 10:45 and 11:00am every child across the school is reading in class. During this time the class teacher will hear individual readers so that everyone is heard by the end of the week. During the last week of every half term, children will be able to bring in their own reading material as ERIC will be free reading during this time.

Computers:

Computers are used across the school (and in life!) as a writing tool. It can be frustrating for children to spend long periods of time trying to locate the correct keys to write their words and sentences. My top tip for increasing keyboard familiarity is to get your child practicing typing the alphabet. With practice, children will quickly become faster at doing this. This in turn will have a significant impact when your child uses the computer as a writing tool. Why not time yourself doing this to give your child a sense of how speedy it can become with practice. When your child can navigate the keyboard confidently they might like to type up pages from their favourite books. Can they change the font size, style or colour for effect? Can they find a picture on the internet which matches the text? Please have a try - it really works!

Celebration Awards

Lunchtime Legends:

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|-----------|----------------|
| Monday | Charlie B (DP) |
| Tuesday | Juliette (HP) |
| Wednesday | Eva (RN) |
| Thursday | Harry (HP) |
| Friday | Sam (RN) |

Achievement Awards:

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|------------|--------|
| Honeypot | Harry |
| Duckpuddle | Clover |
| Rooks Nest | Kia |

Headteacher's Awards:

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|------------|---------|
| Honeypot | Spencer |
| Duckpuddle | Josh |
| Rooks Nest | Callum |

Birthday's:

Abigail turned five on the 9th November and today Ben A turned seven. Happy birthday to you both!

Important Dates for the Autumn Term

| <u>Date:</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|----------------------------|---|
| Fri 20 th Nov | 2:40pm - Celebration assembly - all welcome |
| Fri 27 th Nov | No Celebration assembly (whole school decorations day) |
| Mon 30 th Nov | Postbox out for Christmas cards |
| Thurs 3 rd Dec | Mini Christmas fete (more information to follow) |
| Fri 4 th Dec | 2:40pm - Celebration assembly - all welcome |
| Tues 8 th Dec | 1:00pm - Nativity dress rehearsal - performance for those wishing to bring young siblings (more information to follow) |
| Wed 9 th Dec | 6:00pm - Nativity main performance - no young siblings for this performance please (more information to follow) |
| Fri 11 th Dec | 1:00 onwards - Whole school at Tesco's singing and fundraising (more information to follow) No Celebration assembly |
| Wed 16 th Dec | 1:45pm - Talent Show - all welcome (more information to follow) PE kits sent home |
| Thurs 17 th Dec | 1:30 - Cinderella Pantomime in school for all pupils |
| Fri 18 th Dec | Games Day 1:15 - Christmas Carole Concert to parents - all welcome 2:00 - School finishes for Christmas holidays (all medicines home) |
| Tues 5 th Jan | Return to school. PE kits back in school. Medicines returned to school. |