

# Newsletter

## Half Term 6

Dear Parents and Pupils,

The weather has been fantastic recently and hopefully we will have many more warm, sunny days this term! Summer term is really exciting at Thorney Close, so please keep your eyes open for letters in pockets and school bags giving more information about some of the trips, activities and events described throughout this newsletter.

As you are aware we do not have a great deal of shade on the playground and as the warmer weather approaches, I would be grateful if you could ensure your child has a sunhat to wear outside. In the summer term, it is also important that all children come to school dressed appropriately. We do encourage a summer uniform so children stay nice and cool (blue and white checked school dresses for girls and grey school shorts for boys).

Year 2 and 6 children have completed their Sats and their effort was superb. Other classes apart from year 2 and year 6 will also be doing their optional assessments in the last week of June. It would be really helpful if you could help ensure your child has a good night's sleep by encouraging them to have some early nights so they can do their best in their assessments.

A big thank you to everyone who have been sending in Sainsbury's, Tesco and Asda vouchers. Please can you send your remaining vouchers into school as soon as possible so that we can send them away to get some wonderful equipment for the school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. C Jones  
Headteacher

## Dates for your Dairy

### June

12 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery - Teddy Bears picnic
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 visit to Nenthead Mines
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception visit to Hall Hill Farm, Lanchester
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Bowling with Gentoo
17 <sup>th</sup> June (evening)	Open night for parents of children attending Sandhill View School in September
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 1 visit to Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 visit to Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports day

### July

1 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 6 Olympics at Sandhill View
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 3 visit to Wallington Hall, Northumberland
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Swimming Gala (year 5 and 6 swimming team)
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Nursery Visit to Roker Park and beach
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Music for a Summer Evening at St Mary s and St Peters Church
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports distributed to parents
8 <sup>th</sup> July (evening)	Sports presentation evening and display of photos from London trip
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 visit to Fountains Abbey, Ripon
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer fair
10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Children will meet their new teacher
14 <sup>th</sup> July	M&M production of The Railway Children
15 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> July (evening)	Wizard of Oz performances
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 4 visit to Washington Wildfowl and Wetlands Park
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers Assembly
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term

### September

1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	School closed for staff training
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	School reopens for the new term

Please look out for further information regarding events taking place in school and consent forms for trips. The remaining term dates for this year and the term dates for the forthcoming academic year can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the newsletter.

# SCHOOL TERM DATES 2007/8

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Shaded areas are school holidays

## SCHOOL TERM DATES 2008/9

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Shaded areas are school holidays

Please note there will be staff training days throughout the year but the dates have yet to be finalised.

## Sporting Success

The year 6 football team have just completed another successful season in which they became League B 11-a-side winners for the first time in many years. The team lost the first league game that they played together back in September but then went from strength to strength and won every league game that they played from that point in the season. As league winners, the children qualified for the Ron Gormley Trophy final in which they faced a very tough Mill Hill Primary School side. In what was a very hard fought final, Mill Hill eventually ran out as 4-0 winners but this was only after a very brave defensive display from Thorney Close which kept Mill Hill at bay until deep into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

On behalf of the children I would like to thank everyone who made the effort to turn up and support the children at Hasting Hill Primary for the final. It was nice to see so many Thorney Close parents and children at the game and I know that the team really appreciated it. The children are now looking forward to their football presentation which will be held in school on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. To give parents the opportunity of attending, the presentation will begin at 5pm and is a reward for the children's achievements this season. I would like to thank the children for the effort, enthusiasm and behaviour when representing the school this season. They have been a credit to the school and I have been proud of every one of them.

Year 6 football captain Josh Perry has represented Sunderland Schoolboys this season. Josh is the first Thorney Close Primary School pupil to represent Sunderland for many years and has been a regular in the team throughout the season. The side has had a very successful season, winning the League and the Harrison Cup. Josh has played a big part in these successes and again has been a credit to the school. Well done Josh!

Year 6 Football team



## London

The school trip to London was a great success everyone had a fabulous time. The children conducted themselves well and were a real credit to their parents and school. We would like to invite parents and children to see a display of photos and work on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 4.30pm.



London visit –  
Children with our  
local MP Chris  
Mullin

## Wizard of OZ



Mrs Cadwallender is directing our summer show The wizard of Oz. The performances will take place on the evening of Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Auditions have already taken place and children have been given their scripts. It all looks very exciting!

Details of the performances including ticket information will be sent out shortly.

## Music for a Summer Evening

I am pleased to inform you that our superb key stage 1 choir will be performing in the 'Music for a Summer Evening' concert at St Mary's and St Peter's Church on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July. The concert starts at 6.30pm.



The choir will sing a range of songs that they have been learning in their after school club. The Salvation Army will also be performing at the concert.

Everyone is welcome to attend what will be an enjoyable summer evening of music!

## Nursery

This half term our topics in nursery are 'summer' and 'growing'.

In Communication, Language and Literacy we will be sharing both fiction and non-fiction books about the summer season, how plants grow, and the life cycle of a butterfly.

To encourage imaginative play, our role-play area will be transformed into 'Thorney Close Garden Centre', where your child can buy and sell plants, seeds and gardening equipment for their own 'garden' or relax in the garden centre coffee shop!

We will be growing our own sunflower plants in nursery and talking about what they need to grow. As the plants grow we will be making observations and comparisons. We will be sequencing pictures of seeds, seedlings and plants, and using collage materials and paint to create our own sunflowers.

Our caterpillars will be arriving in nursery shortly, and we will be observing and talking about the changes that are taking place as the caterpillars change and then emerge into butterflies. We will be using a variety of materials and media to make caterpillars and butterflies, as well as learning to sing new songs.

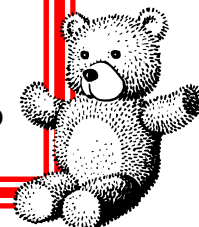
We will be using ICT to 'paint' summer flowers and to explore interactive programs based on our topics. You can help your child at home by planting your own seeds. Sunflowers, beans, cress and lettuce grow very quickly. Encourage your child to take an interest in their own garden or a nearby park - go on a minibeast hunt! Talk to your child about your own memories of summer, such as visits to the beach or park, or holidays.

We are planning to take all of the children in nursery on a day trip this term, and would like every child to bring a parent or carer with them. More information will follow shortly! In the meantime we will be having a Teddy Bears Picnic at nursery, to conclude our 'Storybears' topic. We would appreciate it if your child could bring a small, healthy snack into school, and their favourite teddy bear to share it with. We will provide a drink for each child.

To everyone in our nursery!

You are invited to a Teddy Bear's Picnic at school, on  
Thursday 12th June.

Please bring your favourite teddy bear and a snack to  
eat



Mrs Ferguson, Mrs Carrick, Mrs Chambers

## **Reception**

In reception this half term we are continuing our topic 'animals of the world'. We will be focusing on farm animals and safari - looking at animals in Africa and comparing Sunderland to Africa.

We will be visiting Hall Hill farm as part of our farm topic where the children get first hand experience at feeding animals and handling small pets. The children will be using information books to find out about different farm animals and will be using their knowledge of their letter sounds to write about their visit to the farm.

We will be looking at instructions in literacy and following instructions to make butter and milkshakes.

We will be exploring clay and salt dough to make a variety of farm animals to paint and display. We will also be exploring shape and pattern looking closely at different animal prints.

In numeracy we will be focusing on calculating completing simple addition and subtraction problems using farm animals and using the terms more and less to compare quantities.

We will be using the outdoor environment to practise a variety of basic skills e.g. throwing and catching, skipping, using bats and balls.

Please help your child at home by hearing your child read their reading book and words and signing their reading record.

Thank you for your continued support

**Mrs Chard, Miss Wharton, Mrs Patterson and Mrs Hill**

## **Year 1**

In Year 1 we will be continuing our Buckets and Spades topic for the remainder of the school year. This half term we will develop our geographical skills by learning about the physical and human features of the seaside and will be using ICT software to create pictures and texts about the seaside.

In literacy our reading and writing will be based on texts with a seaside theme, with a focus on non-fiction. We will also continue to develop our singing in music through songs with a seaside theme.

In numeracy we will be developing our problem-solving skills involving money, measures and time. We will be learning how to use number skills such as addition and subtraction, doubling, halving and quartering to solve such problems.

In Science we will be learning about a variety of sounds and their sources, how sound travels and how we hear. In P.E. we will take advantage of the summer months by participating in athletics activities such as running, jumping and throwing activities. We will take part in simple challenges and competitions to develop traveling, throwing, jumping, speed and distance. P.E. continues to be on Monday and Friday every week.

In Design and Technology we will continue to learn about framework structures and how to make them stable and our artwork will focus on sculpture with links to our R.E. topic of Buddhism.

**Miss Hoey and Ms Steward**

## **Year 2**

In Y2 during the last part of the summer term, we will be looking at story writing and explanations. The story writing will help to develop and refine our basic skills in forming sentences, handwriting and the process of planning and editing our work.

In Design and Technology we will be making and designing a wind up mechanism. In our science lessons we will be furthering our understanding of the variation of life around us.

In geography, Barnaby Bear will be continuing his travels up to the Isle of Struay to visit the story character Katie Morag. Through his travels we will be making comparisons between island life and that in our local area.

In numeracy we will continue to develop our understanding of maths and use what we have learnt to develop our skills in problem solving. As part of our numeracy we will be using ICT to present our data handling information in graphs. We will also be polishing up on our mental maths targets.

Our PE this term is both games and athletics to prepare the children for our sports day. Please ensure that your child has both an indoor and an outdoor kit for PE including shorts, T-shirt, leggings, sweatshirt, sandshoes and/or trainers. If your child does not have the appropriate footwear it may prevent them from fully taking part on these sessions.

Spellings, maths and English homework will still be provided on Fridays to be returned no later than the following Wednesday. Home reading books will be changed as often as possible but only when signed by an adult to ensure that the child is reading at home - 10 minutes reading gives your child an excellent boost to help improve their overall reading skills.

**Ms Dixon, Mrs Hounsell and Miss Fagan**



Year 3 display on The Aztecs

### Year 3

In Literacy this half term the children are looking at the work and writing styles of authors Roald Dahl and Dick King Smith. They will be looking at and reviewing work by both authors and writing letters to each author or a character from one of the author's books. They will also be looking at information texts and will write an information text of their own.

In Numeracy the children will be working on developing and securing number facts and also understanding shape. They will also be developing their data handling skills and their understanding of measures in a variety of contexts. They will continue to develop their mental maths skills and written methods in preparation for their optional SATS which will take place during the next few weeks.

In Science the children are learning about magnets and springs. Swimming will continue to take place every Friday until further notice and PE will continue to take place on a Wednesday so I would like to remind all parents that PE kits need to be in school on this day as a number of children are regularly forgetting to bring kit to school. We will be learning about traditional outdoor games in PE and the children will also be taking part in athletics activities.

The curriculum focus this half term is Sunderland and the children will be learning about Sunderland past and present.

**Mr Lindstedt and Miss Rose**



Year 4 display on The Vikings in Britain

## Year 4

During this half-term, year 4 will be continuing our learning within the topic The Environment. We will be taking a closer look into the Amazon rainforest and exploring the wildlife and villages in and around this area.

The children will be continuing their project in Design and Technology to create a storybook with pop-up mechanisms within their chosen area of interest in the Rainforest/Environment theme.

In ICT the children will be using spreadsheets to create questionnaires and record information. They will be evaluating the effectiveness of using ICT for this purpose.

Our English unit will investigate different methods of persuasion in different forms of media e.g. paper advertisements, electronic advertisements and newspaper/magazine articles as well as continuing our focus on vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation (VCOP).

Our Science topic will investigate the force of friction and will allow pupils to plan and carry out fair test investigations, make and test predictions and use graphs and charts to present information.

We will be continuing with our focus on the times tables in Maths and using this knowledge to assist work on division and problem solving.

**Miss McVey and Mrs Chapman**

## Year 5

This half-term, Year 5 are continuing their 'COOL PLANET' theme.

To start the half-term off, we will be revising for Optional SATs during the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> June. This is a really important time for Y5 as the children prepare for Y6, demonstrating how far they have progressed since September.

After that week, having studied about Rwanda, China and Peru, we'll be moving onto Germany looking at issues, geography and ways of life. Following on from that we shall be investigating human rights further by having a United Nations week, shadowing the work of the UN security force in Darfur, Sudan...Ms Cadwallender's uncle no less! To round off the work on countries around the globe we'll be having an Olympics week, tying in our PE topic - athletics.

Our trip this term is to support the work in Literacy about the Secret Garden and we'll be visiting Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire, doing artwork, descriptive writing and drama.

**Ms Cadwallender and Miss Bellis**

## Year 6

Well Y6 are now in their final half term at primary school and they are looking forward to their next big adventure into secondary school. This term has a program of buddy days and transition activities introducing them to their new schools (see timetable of events). Meanwhile, even though Sats are over, the learning continues here in Y6.

The children have begun this half term with a maths challenge to design and develop a theme park within a budget, to work out their running costs and their profit and loss, and we have discovered a few budding entrepreneurs! They will continue with more maths investigations and transition work. English will be a transition unit based on the Michael Morpurgo novel, Kensuke's Kingdom.

The curriculum topic this half term is about Nenthead Lead mine and is mainly geography based but covers many areas of the curriculum including geology, history and RE. Athletics and games are the PE units.

Together with other schools in the Sandhill cluster, we are involved in Sing up, a national singing project. Shelley Ambry, from the Sage, Gateshead, is visiting the school to give singing tuition to Y6. The children will be composing their own song and the project will culminate in a concert, Sun, Samba and Song at Sandhill View School on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

So a very full and busy half term is ahead of us.

**Ms Diggle, Mrs Buckle and Mrs Langley**

Thank you for your support over this period and I wish you all a lovely summer term!