

Rawmarsh Thorogate School

Respect, Responsibility & Fun: whilst In Pursuit of Excellence

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Newsletter

Christmas

Our Christmas celebrations and break seem to come round very quickly. Please remember to look at the calendar on the school website for up to date information:

- 14:15 Monday 5th December 2016: Nativity Dress rehearsal (we ask parents to bring babies / toddlers to this performance)
- 14:15 Tuesday 6th December 2016: Nativity
- 14:15 Wednesday 7th December 2016: Nativity
- Thursday 8th December 2016: School Christmas Dinner
- 10:00 Friday 16th December 2016: Christmas Service and Carols at St Mary's Church, Rawmarsh.



As per last year, people need to book their seats for the Nativity. This will be opened to parents with pupils in FS2, Y1 and Y2 first, then to all parents. Please look out for text messages.

Christmas Dinner

Our annual whole school Christmas Dinner is on Thursday 8th December. This is a very special time in school and we encourage as many children as possible to join us for this. There is a family style service of a traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. The dinner is served in the main hall with a member of staff on each table. There is no cost to FS2, Y1 & Y2 or to anyone on free school meals. To everyone else the cost is £2.05 and should be paid by Monday 5th December via your ParentPay account. Please be aware that this is the only meal choice on this date. **If your child does not like Christmas dinner you will need to provide them with a packed lunch on this day, irrespective of whether they are entitled to free meals or not.**

Stand Up to Cancer

Our non-uniform day on Friday 21st October raised £195 for Cancer Research. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Children in Need

The school council has opted to support Children in Need this year. Children can come in their pyjamas or non-uniform, on Friday 18th November, for a donation of £1 to Children in Need. They will also be running competitions on the day. A letter, with more information, will be sent out shortly by the School Council.

Christmas Jumpers

On Friday 16th December, children will be able to come to school wearing a Christmas themed jumper (you do not need to buy a new jumper for this; an old jumper trimmed up will be fine).

INSET days

School will be closed on Monday 27th February and Tuesday 28th February 2017 for staff training.

Staff changes

As you are aware, Ms Reynolds will be leaving us at the end of this term. Mr Roebuck will be moving to Year 6 in January and we will be having a new teacher in Year 5 for the remainder of the academic year. More information will be given when we have it.

JMAT (James Montgomery Academy Trust)

Thorogate School continues to foster a relationship with JMAT with the view of joining their academy. It is the 'back office' that is of particular interest: centrally negotiated contracts that bring savings to Thorogate School. In a time of increasing financial pressure, such savings can ensure we do not have to reduce our spending on other resources.

Sports / active life styles

So far this year we have continued to provide a range of sporting opportunities at Thorogate School which has included our Conker Championship! We are in the process of setting up a directory to signpost parents and pupils towards different sporting opportunities outside of school to help you find the activity that sparks your child's interest. If you are involved in a sport and would like us to include the details in our directory, please get in contact with the school office.

Public Health England is increasingly concerned about childhood obesity. The current statistics include:

- 1 in 10 children start primary school obese
- 1 in 5 children leave Year 6 obese
- 1 in 3 children aged 2 – 15 are obese



It is very easy to dismiss these figures because you disagree with how obesity is defined, or by saying that your child will grow out of it. My own child was very close to being described as obese at the end of Year 6, despite him being a very active sportsman. It is difficult enough to address my own weight issues. Fizzy drinks, rich food: so much temptation. But we must address the issue for our children. As a school, we will be contacting Health to see how they can provide support.

Illness / Absence

Juggling work and childcare arrangements is difficult. Having another day off because your child is ill can cause raised eyebrows. I know as an employer, I have not always got it right. If your child has been sick / has had diarrhoea, they should not attend school for 24 hours. But please: do not ask your child to say that they haven't been sick during the night. The same applies for days out / holidays. They will tell us by accident and then feel guilty. If your child is going to be absent, please use the answer machine option when phoning school or the absence notification using the Schudio App.

ParentPay

ParentPay has been a real success at Thorogate School. It has made payments far more efficient and we do not have the issue of lost money. Yes – we have had individual issues. It has required people to change their routines and we have had a few parents resisting. But considering the issues we have had with cash; at this stage we would not consider going back.

After School Clubs

All after school clubs will finish week ending the 2nd December 2016. They will start back during the second week back in January, week commencing the 9th January 2017. We will contact you with confirmation of places.

