

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Thorpe. I trust you all enjoyed a restful Christmas / holiday break and had the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends. It is fantastic to have the children back in school. As we begin this new term, I am looking forward to the exciting opportunities ahead. We have a range of enriching activities planned and many opportunities for excellent learning in the classroom. Working together, let us make this a successful and rewarding term for everyone.

Census Day – Thursday 15th January

Thursday 15th January is the school census day, which is an important date for all schools. Attendance on this day is vital as it directly impacts the funding our school receives to support your child's education. Every pupil counted as attending on this day makes a difference in ensuring we have the resources needed for high-quality learning and opportunities.

There is a special school lunch being put on this day and we would love for all the children to try it, especially in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (as the lunches are free for these year groups).

Parent Evenings

The dates for the next parent evenings this term have been confirmed and will take place on **Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th March** between **3.40pm and 6.30pm**. More information will come soon, but I wanted to ensure you had the dates in good time.

Spring Term Class Assemblies

Class assemblies will begin again soon. Please see the timetable below for the Spring Term. They start at 2.50pm and finish at 3.15pm on the designated day (always a Thursday). If you can make it, please come along.

Thursday 29th January	Year 4 (both classes)
Thursday 12th February	Year 2 (both classes)
Thursday 5th March	Year 5 (5 Walliams & 5 Strong)
Thursday 26th March	Year 3 (both classes)

Arrival To & Departure From School

Our senior leaders and pastoral team love to be on the gates each day, to welcome children and parents into school and wave them off in the afternoons. We enjoy the smiles and chats. The staff are often chatting to families, answering questions or giving out bagels, so we cannot guarantee that they will notice all children arriving and leaving, or always be stood next to the gate. We'd like to remind parents and carers that they remain responsible for their children until they arrive in their classroom in the mornings, and after they leave the classroom in the afternoon. In order to ensure that every child is safe, we ask that parents take note of the following:

Mornings:

- Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 must always be brought to the classroom and collected by a parent / carer. We also request that you do this for children in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6). We have noticed that some families arrange for older siblings, often of secondary school age, to drop-off or collect children from school.

Afternoons:

- All children from Reception to Year 4 must be collected from the classroom by an adult. If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6 and you wish for them to walk home independently, we must receive a written request, so that we can share this with their class teacher.

Social Media

We're excited to let you know that our official Facebook page is now live again, and we've also launched a brand-new Instagram account. These platforms will be a great way to keep you updated with important information, school news, and upcoming events. You'll also get a glimpse of the fantastic learning and activities happening across the school.

Please follow us on both platforms to stay connected and see what's going on at Thorpe.

Instagram: thorpeprimaryacademy

Facebook: Thorpe Primary Academy and Nursery

Medical Tracker

Over the next week, we will be moving our recording of first aid incidents onto Medical Tracker, a secure digital system. This means that children will no longer bring home a paper note after receiving first aid. Instead, you will receive an email notification with the details and this will often occur in real time.

To ensure you receive these updates, please check that we have your correct email address on file. If you are unsure, contact the school office as soon as possible.

As always, for any head injuries or more serious incidents, we will continue to call you directly.

PE Kits

I have noticed a few PE kits that don't quite meet the uniform expectations. Please ensure that your child wears a white T-shirt or navy-blue sweatshirt and navy-blue shorts or joggers. Please see below for the full list of PE kit your child should be wearing on PE days.

PE Kit					
	School Logo White T-Shirt Or Plain White T-Shirt	Required	Yes, but unbranded is acceptable	Total Clothing or Supermarket	£7.75
	Navy Blue Shorts or Joggers	Required	No branding required	Supermarket	N/A
	Navy Blue Sweatshirt	Required in colder months	No branding required	Supermarket	N/A
	Black or White Plain Trainers / Pumps / Plimsolls	Required	No branding required	Supermarket	N/A

Internet Safety - Roblox Information for Primary School Parents

Following a recent ITV investigation (see link below) which raised concerns about content on Roblox, we wanted to share some important information to help parents understand the platform and how to keep children safe.

Roblox is an online gaming platform made up of many different games, most of which are created by users. Children can play games made by others or create their own. It is free to download and can be used on a range of devices, although there are optional in-game purchases.

Because so much of the content on Roblox is created by other users, not all games are suitable for younger children, which is why parental supervision and settings are essential.

Roblox has a PEGI “Parental Guidance” rating. This means it may contain content that parents should review before allowing their child to play.

To view the content from ITV, please click on this link - please note this news article demonstrates how extremist content has been promoted on Roblox: [ITV News](#)

What should parents be aware of?

Game content

- Games on Roblox are created by users, so the themes and ideas can vary widely.
- Roblox uses content labels rather than age ratings: Minimal, Mild, Moderate and Restricted.
- Even popular games may not always be suitable for younger children. Such as chat and communication.
- Roblox allows players to chat with others.
- Children under 13 have restrictions, but parents can turn chat off completely or limit communication to friends only.

In-game spending

- Roblox uses a virtual currency called Roblox, which can be bought with real money.
- Parents can set spending limits or block purchases through parental controls.

Reporting and blocking

- If your child comes across something worrying, Roblox allows users to report content and block other players. Guidance can be found here: [How to report issues on Roblox](#)

How can parents help keep children safe?

- Talk regularly with your child about what games they are playing and who they are talking to online.
- Remind your child that they should tell you, or another trusted adult, if anything online makes them feel upset, confused, or worried.
- Make sure parental controls are switched on and checked regularly.
- Further support for parents is available here: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/roblox>

Key Dates Coming Up:

Date	Event
Monday 12th January	Clubs start this week
Thursday 15th January	School Census Day
Thursday 29th January	Year 4 class assembly

Reminders:

Parent Shout Outs

If your child's teacher or another member of staff has gone above and beyond, I would love to hear from you. Please click here: <https://forms.office.com/e/6r5w1yxP8F>

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mr J Parkhouse
Headteacher