

March 2022 Newsletter



This month's Christian value is **Truthfulness** which is linked to the 'Hackthorn Way' value of **Honesty**.
'Tell the truth to each other.'
Zechariah 8.16



Dear Parents & Friends

Most of you will be aware that the past three weeks have been a real challenge for the school as we, like many other schools in the country, have encountered high numbers of positive COVID cases. Initially, the majority of pupils were affected but then most of the staff tested positive (at the same time!) Finding supply cover was so difficult that we had to close the school for three days. We are grateful to all of the school community for their understanding during these challenging times and for their well wishes. Hopefully, the weeks ahead will be much healthier and it will be 'business as usual'.

Prior to our COVID outbreak, we had been enjoying resumption of some of our Hackthorn 'traditions'...

One of the highlights was our World Book Day event. As usual, Hackthorn school embraced the opportunity to enjoy books. Staff had planned eight exciting book-related activities and pupils worked in mixed aged groups all day. It was wonderful to see the older pupils working alongside KS1 pupils and there was such a lovely atmosphere. Once again, Mrs Woods had tired fingers as she typed up each group's ideas for the whole school story. When questioned about their favourite activity, pupils were divided...the scavenger hunt was popular as were the Story Soup and Story Sacks activities. The younger children loved the Mr Men activity and the 'Where's Wally?' hunt. Making bookmarks was also a hit. All pupils and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters and enjoyed the activity relating to their character. There was a very large T-Rex onsite for the day!

KS2 pupils thoroughly enjoyed the visit from the Young Shakespeare Company who performed 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. COVID restrictions meant that the pupils could not act amongst the company this year, but it did not damper their enthusiasm or enjoyment of the performance.

KS2 have also been enjoying their Gymnastics session at Witham Hill. Meanwhile KS1 pupils have been practising their dances from around the world. Videos of some of these dances have been shared at Good works assemblies and have certainly entertained the parents.

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils were delighted that the Rand Farm residential was able to go ahead, thanks to Mr Gibbs stepping in. They were blessed with glorious weather and had a fantastic time participating in all of the wonderful activities...even completing their animal chores enthusiastically! They returned home tired and also extremely full, due to the wonderful hospitality.

Over the next two weeks, we will be practising for our end of term Easter service in the church. We hope you will be able to join us. Wishing you all a Happy (and hopefully healthy) Easter!

Mrs K Appleby, Headteacher

Staffing update

After almost 15 years of service, Miss Ranyard has decided that it is time for a new adventure. After Easter she will be starting a new position with the NHS. Miss Ranyard has worked in many capacities in the school, predominantly supporting children in the KS2 class in small groups, as a 1:1 or leading intervention programmes. She has supported the KS1 pupils every Thursday afternoon when Mrs Hartley has been on PPA. Miss Ranyard has also played a significant part in looking after the school's environment and nurturing a love of gardening amongst the pupils.

We will be sad to see her go but we also wish her every success in her new venture.

The front office is having a collection for her. If you would like to contribute, please send in your donations in a sealed envelope addressed as 'Contribution' no later than Tuesday 29th March.



Pre-School Easter Activity Afternoon - Tuesday 29 March

There will be an activity afternoon open to all pre-schoolers on Tuesday 29 March 1:30 until 2:30pm. Please pass on the message to anyone you know who may have a child of pre-school age. Please phone the school office to book a place.

Easter Service - Thursday 31 March

The Easter Service will take place at 2.00pm on Thursday 31 March in the village church. Parents may take their children home after the service if they wish. The remaining children will go home from school in the usual way at 3.30pm.



Parent/Teacher Interviews

Unfortunately COVID prevented us from holding our March parent/teacher interviews. These will now be held on Tues 19th, Wed 20th and Thurs 21st April. The office will send links for booking appointments shortly.

Wear a Hat with Flowers to School - Friday 25 March

This is a reminder that children (and staff!) are encouraged to wear a hat with flowers and bring in a donation (preferably in an envelope addressed to the school office please), in a bid to raise funds and awareness for Brain Tumour Research.



Forthcoming Events

We are hoping that the recently relaxed COVID rules will enable us to invite more visitors onsite when we hold events. We are planning to combine our May day dancing with a celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the afternoon of the 26th May. We still have to finalise plans but wanted to give you advance notice of this event.

We are also hoping that we will be able to hold an event in September/October to FINALLY celebrate the school's 150th (+2 years) anniversary. We intend to re-form a working party to organise this. More anon.

Topics to be covered - Summer term

KS1

Science:	Living things and their habitats, Life cycles
History:	Local study
Geography:	Aerial photos, Around our school
Craft & Design:	Construction sets, Mechanisms, Pop-up books
RE:	Places of worship
Music:	Singing and using percussion
PE:	Athletics, Swimming, Outdoor challenges
Art:	Observational drawing (minibeasts)
SEAL:	Change
Computing:	Multi-media

KS2

Science:	Living things in their environment
History:	Local Study
Craft & Design:	Textiles (Y3/4) Bags, (Y5/6) Hats
PE:	Athletics, Swimming, Outdoor challenges
Computing:	Data collection and interrogation
RE:	Expressing beliefs through Arts
Music:	Ukulele, Young Voices
Art:	Observational drawing, Study of a contemporary artist
SEAL:	Change

Dates to Remember

Fri 25 Mar	Final KS2 Gymnastics at Witham Hill
Mon 28 Mar	Decorate an Egg (FOHS fundraiser)
Tues 29 Mar	Pre-School Easter Activity Afternoon
Thur 31 Mar	Last Day of Spring Term Easter Service in Church
Tues 19 Apr	First Day of Summer Term

19—21 Apr	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Wed 27 Apr	KS2 attending Young Voices
Fri 29 Apr	First swimming session
Mon 9 May	SATs week
Thurs 26 May	May Day / Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
Mon 30th May	Start of Half-term