Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to tell you that we are continuing our exciting Thurrock Trailblazers project this year. We are truly privileged to be able to offer this as part of our curriculum and welcome the opportunities it provides children to develop their knowledge, skills and experiences, in a wide range of arts and culture. Our Cultural Champion, Miss Moorcraft, will be sending out further information shortly.

Have an enjoyable weekend.
Mrs S Walker, Headteacher

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS – Y6 PUPILS

If your child was born between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007, you must apply for a secondary school place for September 2018. The deadline for on-line applications is Monday 31st October 2017. To apply online: https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/school-admissions

ATTENDANCE

Each week the school has an attendance league.
This is a whole class competition and the winning classes with the best attendance for week commencing 4th September 2017 were:
Gold – Year 5 – 100%
Silver – Year 2 – 98.28%
Bronze – Rec- 96.15%
Whole school attendance –94.63%
11th September 2017

Gold – Year 4 – 100%
Silver – Rec – 99.31%
Bronze – Year 2- 97.96%
Whole school attendance –96.85%
Whole school target-96%

LEARNER OF THE WEEK

W/C -4/9/2017
Y1-Archie M
Y2- Aaron T
Y3-Trey P
Y4- Jack C
Y5-Bree S
Y6- Mia S

W/C- 11/9/2017
R-Angel P
Y1- Caiden G
Y2-Indi L
Y3-Isabella T
Y4-Maria J
Y5-Freddie K
Y6-Tanzima A

TUCK

Wraps – Ham,Cheese or Tuna Mayo – 50p
½ Buttered Bagel – 50p
Box of Rasins – 30p
Buttered cracker – 30p
Fruit pots – Melon, Strawberry or Pineapple – 50p
Bottle water – 70p
Milkshake – 60p

From Monday, we will be trialling the offer of VIVA strawberry or banana milkshake as part of our Tuck offer. It is made from 94% semi skimmed milk and has 1% sugar; please enquire at the school office it you would like further product information. If it proves to be popular it will become a regular feature. Please do complete a comment card, available in our school Reception, should you have strong views either way with regards to this.

Thank you

REMINDER

Could you please ensure that the Data collection sheet and Home school agreement are returned to school by the 29th September.
Thank you.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS BRIEFING SESSION

If your child was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 you must apply for a primary school place for September 2018. The main round for Primary school entry applications for September 2018 opens on the 1st November and closes on 15th January 2018.

To help with the admission process there are two briefing sessions being held on Thursday 12th October 2017 Civic Hall.Blackshots Lane, Grays, RM15 2JU
4.00-5.30pm or 7.00-8.30pm.
**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 3rd October</td>
<td>Harvest festival service at St Nicholas Y2,4,5 – 9.30-10.30 &amp; Y1,3,6 – 11.00-12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 5th October</td>
<td>Individual Pupil Photographer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13th October</td>
<td>Year 5 sharing assembly 2.50-3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 20th-27th October</td>
<td>Half Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 30th October</td>
<td>Children return to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 10th November</td>
<td>Year 4 sharing assembly 2.50-3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13th November</td>
<td>Happy School bag collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17th November</td>
<td>Y2 sharing assembly 2.50-3.15pm (Please note change of date)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24th November</td>
<td>Year 1 sharing assembly 2.50-3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 14th December</td>
<td>Christmas Service at St Nicholas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 20th-1st Jan</td>
<td>Christmas Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 2nd Jan</td>
<td>Spring term begins - Children return to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 26th January</td>
<td>Year 6 sharing assembly 2.50-3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 2nd February</td>
<td>Year 3 sharing assembly 2.50-3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 9th Feb-16th Feb</td>
<td>Half Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 19th Feb</td>
<td>Children return to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 9th March</td>
<td>Year 2 sharing assembly 2.50-3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 23rd March</td>
<td>Year 5 sharing assembly 2.50-3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 29th March-13th April</td>
<td>Easter Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 16th April</td>
<td>Summer Term - Children return to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 4th May</td>
<td>Year 4 sharing assembly 2.50-3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 18th May</td>
<td>Year 1 sharing assembly 2.50-3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 22nd June</td>
<td>Reception class sharing assembly 2.50-3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 6th July</td>
<td>Year 3 sharing assembly 2.50-3.15pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TASTER DAY**

On Thursday 5th October 201, is our Pizza and Pasta theme day. We would like all children to have a school dinner so please encourage your child(ren) to at least try one. They can of course still bring in their packed lunch so that if they really don’t like the meal they have chosen then they can eat their own. Remember all KS1 children can have a school meal for free, therefore there is no extra cost to parents/carers for the children to at least try our delicious freshly prepared meals.

**DISCUSSION TOPIC OF THE WEEK**

Which is your favourite Season and why?

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**MENU FOR MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Grab a Bag Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Organic Pork Sausages Served with Gravy</td>
<td>Homemade Braised Chicken with Jollof Rice</td>
<td>Roast Chicken with Yorkshire Pudding</td>
<td>Homemade Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza</td>
<td>Birds Eye Fish Fingers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Homemade Southern Coated Salmon Fillet</td>
<td>Cheesy Vegetable Wrap Stack</td>
<td>Quorn Fillet</td>
<td>Homemade Spanish Omelette</td>
<td>Homemade Tomato &amp; Basil Pasta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Homemade Macaroni Cheese</td>
<td>Jacket Potato with Beans</td>
<td>Cheese Roll</td>
<td>Jacket Potato with Cheese</td>
<td>Tuna Mayo Wrap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Jacket Potato with Cheese and Beans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jacket Potato with Beans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MENU FOR MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Grab a Bag Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Organic Beef Burger in a Bun</td>
<td>BBQ Chicken</td>
<td>Honey Glazed Gammon with Yorkshire Pudding</td>
<td>BBQ Chicken Pizza</td>
<td>Harry Ramsden’s Battered Fish Fillet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>Jacket Potato with Cheese</td>
<td>Lemon &amp; Pepper Salmon Fillet</td>
<td>Rosemary &amp; Red Onion Sausages</td>
<td>Cheese and Tomato Pizza</td>
<td>Homemade Vegetarian Meatball &amp; Pasta Bake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Cheese &amp; Spinach Tortellini in Homemade Tomato Sauce</td>
<td>Cheese &amp; Cucumber Sandwich</td>
<td>Tuna Mayo Wrap</td>
<td>Vegetable Pasta Bake</td>
<td>Cheese Sandwich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Many of our families are entitled to register their children for free school meals but choose not to, especially as they move into Nursery or key stage 2, as their children don’t have a school meal. PLEASE, if you are entitled to register do so as soon as possible. By registering, the government allocate additional Pupil Premium Funding to help schools improve educational opportunities and outcomes. It can be as much as £1300 per child per year.

Without the extra funding many schools, including Benyon Primary, cannot employ teaching assistants, run after school clubs, provide additional tuition or provide enrichment activities and resources.

The online process only takes a few minutes and applications can be made by visiting: https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/school-meals/free-school-meals If you are able to provide your national insurance number you will receive an extremely prompt reply to inform you of the outcome. Please be aware that the date of application is the date that the funding would begin.

As a reminder the criterion for being registered as entitled to Free School Meals are listed below.

- Income Support (IS) Income-based
- Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 The guaranteed element of State Pension
- Credit Child Tax Credit, with no Working Tax Credit, and with an annual income of no more than £16,190 Universal Credit

Should you have any questions, would like further information, or would like support in completing the application, please contact Mrs Chivers who will be pleased to help.

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

Should you have any queries or concerns, in the first instance please ensure you speak with your child’s class teacher as soon as possible.

If after speaking with the class teacher you are unhappy with the response received, please follow the escalation procedure below:

- Class Teacher
  - Mrs Vale; Inclusion Lead (if relating to a learning or medical need)
- Mrs Chivers; Pastoral Lead (if relating to a behaviour concern or family support is required)
  - Deputy Headteacher; Miss Moorcroft (by appointment)
  - Headteacher; Mrs Walker (by appointment)

We endeavour to accommodate all meeting requests but please respect that staff may not be readily available due to prior commitments and so may have to arrange an appointment at the earliest possible convenient time. Requests for an appointment can be made via the school office.

REPORTING ILLNESS

If your child is ill and unable to come to school, please leave a message on our absence line no later than 9.10am. Thank you.

COFFEE MORNING READING/LEARNING LOG CLUB

Drop in club for parents and children in Reception, Y1, Y2 & Y3 8.15 - 8.45am

POLITE REMINDER

Please DO NOT bring any products into school that contain NUTS, as we have pupils with severe life threatening allergic reactions to these.

This includes most brands of chocolate spread. Thank you.
ATTENDANCE

Well done to two of our classes who have got off to a super start with 100% attendance this year. We recognise that many of our family’s value education and so endeavour to ensure their children are in school every day; when well, and as such give their children the best educational opportunities. I would like to acknowledge and thank those families for their support on behalf of your children and congratulate our families for improving our overall attendance by 1% last year.

It is, however, regrettable that some families do not appear to value education and last year felt unable to support the school celebrating pupil’s good attendance. In response, we have amended our rewards policy. Pupils with high attendance will still be celebrated but through in-school reward activities that pupils with low attendance will not take part in. If you would like a copy of our rewards for good attendance, please enquire at the school office. They have been shared with the pupils.

May this serve as a reminder that parents who adversely affect their child’s education by protesting and not bringing their children to school, and those that remove their children from education during term time for family holidays, are breaking the law and will be reported to the Education Welfare Service.

ABSENT/MISSING CHILDREN

A polite reminder

Schools have a statutory safeguarding duty to know the whereabouts of all pupils on the school roll during term time.

Please be aware that if we have not been informed as to why your child is absent we are advised to telephone all those on the child’s contact list to establish their whereabouts and safety. If, after phoning all contacts, we are still unable to establish the safety of your child a home visit will be made.

If these actions fail to establish the location of a missing child external agencies will become involved. In order to avoid these actions, please let the school office know as soon as possible if your child is going to be/is absent (01708 853200). We ask that all parents/carers ensure that their contact details are up to date and correct.

PARKING

Please be considerate to our neighbours when parking at drop off and pick up time.

We ask that you do not park in the approach road to the school or in resident’s car parking spaces. Please use the main car park on West Road. Thank you for your co-operation.

THURROCK EDUCATION AWARDS 2017

We are pleased to support the fourth annual Thurrock Education Awards 2017. These awards are a great way to celebrate the talented and hardworking people in education. We are keen for colleagues, parents, carers and pupils to submit nominations for teaching and support staff who have gone the extra mile. For more information on the categories and to submit nominations, please go to [www.thurrock.gov.uk/education-awards](http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/education-awards). Closing date extended to the 28th September 2017.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harvest Festival services are taking place at St Nicholas Church on Tuesday 3rd October:

Years 2, 4 & 5 9:30-10:30
Years 1, 3 & 6 11:00-12:00

Parents and carers are welcome to join us at the church.

As part of our Harvest Festival we are collecting items of food which will be donated to Thurrock Foodbank. Any of the following items would be greatly received. We will put a collection box in the main reception area.

- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Sugar (500g or 1kg bags)
- Fruit Juice (long-life only)
- Soup
- Pasta Sauces
- Tinned sponge pudding
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Cereals
- Tinned Rice
- Pudding
- Tea Bags/Instant Coffee
- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned Fruit
- Jam
- Biscuits
- Potato
- Instant Mash
- Tea Bags
- Coffee