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Welcome to our second issue of ‘The Federation Flyer’. It has been a super start to the new term at both schools. This term see some new developments that we hope will further improve provision for all.

We have made a commitment to achieve ARTSMARK status over the next year. This recognises the importance of learning across all areas of the curriculum through the Arts (Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Media). All the classes will be visiting Manchester in the coming weeks for Arts based experiences and we have plans for a whole Federation visit to the coast for a Nature Art Project too.

Before the next Flyer we should have a new Federation Website and a Parent App too. This should make it quicker and easier for home–school communication as the App will have all the key information and updates available in a really user-friendly form and all available from your smart phone. Once it is all set up and tested, we will let you know how to access the new features.

Both schools have achieved Activemark Gold Award for PE provision. Children from both schools attended an Awards evening in Buxton yesterday evening to receive their awards. This recognises, amongst other aspects, a commitment to:

* providing more than two hours weekly of high quality PE
* attending PE festivals, events and competitions
* promoting the older children as play leaders during lunchtimes
* teaching good attitudes to being healthy and promoting well-being
* delivering a wide range of PE opportunities – for example, Fencing lessons and Cheerleading sessions started at both schools this week.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

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**Federation News**

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The Federation Flyer MARCH 2019

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This term has started certainly started brightly with children already enjoying new activities. We would also like to welcome Nancy, who has joined Newtown this week.

Here is a quick rundown of what is approaching over the next few weeks:

FEBRUARY & MARCH

Wider Opportunities Brass Lessons will continue with Class Three every Thursday and will start again **next week** (7th March) – don’t forget your instruments each week!

Forest Schools started back on Tuesday 26th for our Reception children – please keep an eye on the weather and ensure they have suitable clothing: coats, wellies, warm gloves and hats **or** sunglasses, sunhats and sun cream!

Class 3 and Mersey Class have a trip next Wednesday 6th March to the Imperial War Museum and the Lowry Theatre – permission slips please!

Various sporting events take place on most Wednesdays. Please keep an eye out for information in book bags and ensure consent forms are returned to school promptly.

We have arranged for some Fencing sessions in school for Class Two. These will be every Wednesday for the next four weeks. Please ensure your child has their trainers/pumps to change into.

World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March – we’re looking forward to seeing your fantastic costumes.

Class 2 have a trip next Friday 8th March to Stockport Air Raid Shelter – remember they can come dressed as an evacuee and if they are purchasing items from the gift shop the monies need to be in a named envelope with the order form.

Comic Relief is on Friday 15th March. We have asked the children to bring in a donation of £1.00 and wear as many red items as possible for this – there may even be a little something for the most creative!

We are really pleased with the progress we have made with improving the outdoor space outside of Class One – if you can offer any help with removing unwanted materials this would be much appreciated. Please let Mrs Holt or Mrs Barlow know if you can help.

Class photos have been arranged for the morning of Tuesday April 2nd.

The last PAS session for this term is Monday 8th April.

**Newtown News**

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A few Housekeeping requests:

We would like to raise the importance of ensuring robust measures have been put in place at home to ensure children are accessing media content safely. Recently, we have needed to discuss with children:

* watching age inappropriate films
* accessing on-line games with inappropriate content
* accessing YouTube and this leading to viewing unsuitable content
* uploading and sharing inappropriate images

Although most of these incidents were not through the child’s choice, all had occurred without parental knowledge. It is vital that safety features and filters have been set up to keep the children safe and that you are aware of what your child is accessing when unsupervised. Attached is an online safety help sheet that might be useful.

A quick reminder about always trying to look smart in school - the very large majority of the children have appropriate uniform at all times and we want our children to develop good habits of always wearing their school uniform. Please help by making sure your child is in the correct school uniform.

Dinner Money notifications have already been sent out. We still have some parents who are not paying in advance. As a reminder, dinner money needs to be paid at the latest on the Monday prior to meals being taken. Also, flexible dining is offered for the same pattern each week during a half term. Weekly changes cannot be accommodated.

Also, as I’m sure you are aware – our school car park is small! We need parents to avoid using it unless absolutely necessary. We do require parents to park in an alternative place during our key drop-off and pick-up times, as staff are unable to get in or out making them late for appointments.

Please continue to check your T2P messages, along with the school website and for other updates and information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Parry and the Newtown Team.

**Newtown News**

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Our new term has started with lots of sunshine and lots of exciting new activities and trips for the children too. We would also like to welcome Ava and Alice who have joined Thornsett this week.

Here is a quick rundown of what is approaching over the next few weeks:

FEBRUARY & MARCH

Wider Opportunities Brass Lessons will be with Mersey Class every Thursday and will start again **next week** (7th March) – don’t forget your instruments each week!

Children are back to Swimming on Monday 4th March.

Forest Schools started back on Tuesday 26th for our Reception children – please keep an eye on the weather and ensure they have suitable clothing: coats, wellies, warm gloves and hats **or** sunglasses, sunhats and sun cream!

Mersey and Class 3 have a trip next Wednesday 6th March to the Imperial War Museum and the Lowry Theatre – permission slips please!

School of Military are with us every Tuesday morning and sessions will be held at the school field, unless we notify you of any different arrangements. Mersey Class need to meet at the field at 8.45am and come in PE kit with at least 2 drinks. Don’t forget to bring uniforms with you to change into afterwards.

Toast will start back this Friday playtime – £1.20 will take you to Easter break or 20p per week if you prefer! If you are paying in full, please drop this in with Mrs Tinker in the office in an envelope clearly marked with your child’s name.

Dinner Money up to Easter break will be £69.30. Please pay the full amount or pay £10.50 per week – which must be paid in advance. Either way can be paid by cash or cheque (payable to DCC) directly to the office or online by our School Money system.

Various sporting events take place on most Wednesdays. Please keep an eye out for information in book bags and ensure consent forms are returned to school promptly.

We have arranged for some Fencing sessions in school for Goyt class. These will be every Wednesday for the next four weeks. Please ensure your child has their trainers/pumps to change into.

Mersey class will start their PE sessions every FRIDAY down at the School Field. Please go straight there for 8.45am wearing PE kit and remember lots to drink. Don’t forget to bring uniforms to change into afterwards.

World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March. A separate letter has already gone out with further details.

Class photos have been arranged for the morning of Tuesday April 2nd.

**Thornsett News**

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Comic Relief is on Friday 15th March. We have asked the children to bring in a donation of £1.00 and wear as many red items as possible for this – there may even be a little something for the most creative!

Fire Safety Talks will take place on Monday 4th March for our Year 2 and Year 6 during the morning.

The PTA have booked a Bags2School collection for Tuesday 26th March. The bags, and information on what can be placed in them, will go out 7-10 days before. Please do not bring your filled bags into school before the 26th, as school has nowhere to store them!

We are hoping to start Gardening Club again straight after the Easter break. Details to follow!

We have included an Internet Safety Leaflet as the issues around keeping children safe online are becoming ever more of a challenge.

A few Housekeeping requests:

Please remember to drive **to the end** of Aspenshaw Road to turn round when dropping or collecting your children. Please do not use the lay by. The wall is very dangerous, as it has been damaged on numerous occasions.

Although we are always happy to talk to parents about their children, staff are at their busiest first thing in the morning before school drop off as they are organising the day’s learning. If you have any urgent issues or questions, please call into see Mrs Tinker in the office who may be able to help you or can pass a message on. Alternatively, she can arrange for the class teacher to contact you, or see you at another time.

To help the children settle quickly in the mornings, please use the front red door if you need to call in to see Mrs Tinker in the office. This will avoid coming through Goyt class, which could disrupt the children.

A quick reminder about always trying to look smart in school - The very large majority of the children have appropriate uniform at all times and we want our children to develop good habits of always wearing their school uniform. Please help by making sure your child is in the correct school uniform.

Please continue to check your T2P messages, along with the school website and for other updates and information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Parry and the Thornsett Team.

**Thornsett News**

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We held our AGM on Monday – thanks to those parents who came along. It was brilliant to review all the events and extra resources the PTA had funded recently and we have agreed to:

* Pay coach costs for the school trips for the rest of the school year
* Provide funding towards the replacement of Reading Scheme books
* Fund additional Accelerated Reader books
* Contribute to laptop / tablet provision

We also raise funds through a School Lottery and it is only £1/week to join. Follow the link below to sign up:

https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/thornsett-primary-school

We have set dates for several forthcoming events. Please put them in your diaries and come along - it is the income from these events that is spent directly on improving provision for the children.

26.3 Bags2school 29.4 PTA Meeting at The Printers (7.30pm) 19.5 Sponsored Fun Run 23.5 Film Night 8.6 New Mills Carnival 23.6 (provisional) New Mills Duck Race TBA Summer Fair

Also, if you’ve not already done so, sign up to become a Co-op member (it costs only £1) and choose Thornsett School Field as the charity you wish to support.

**Thornsett PTA News**

Next event - Spring Fair Saturday 6th April 12pm-2pm

All Welcome

If anyone is interested in getting involved, or having a stall at the fair, please let any member of the P.F.A. or school know.

We are currently collecting raffle prizes - if anyone is able to make a donation they are gratefully received.

Non-uniform days

Friday 29th March- bring a bottle and wear your school uniform back to front

Friday 5th April- bring sweets or chocolate and wear your own clothes

For more information ask on Facebook, or talk to:

Amy (Ben and Toby’s mum)

Cassie (Martha and Stan’s mum)

Emma (Ellie and Evie’s mum)

Jodie (George’s mum)

Rachel (gene and Cary’s mum)

Children have experienced the benefit of trips and visits recently and have many more planned for the coming weeks. The PFA have provided contributions to keep costs down for parents and their support is much appreciated.

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**Newtown PFA News**