



# SCHOOL PROSPECTUS FOR PARENTS

## 2018 – 2019

Thornhill Primary School, Grove Road, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, LU5 5PE  
Tel/Fax: 01582 863516

Website: [www.thornhill-primary.co.uk](http://www.thornhill-primary.co.uk)

Email: [thornhill@cbc.beds.sch.uk](mailto:thornhill@cbc.beds.sch.uk)

## OFSTED 2016

"The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education since the last inspection. Consistently good teaching ensures that pupils develop positive attitudes to learning at the school."

"Pupils' current work shows that they are responding well to the additional challenges provided. They leave school in Year 6 with a secure understanding of the skills required to do well in subjects including science, history, geography and art."

"Teachers prepare a range of interesting activities that engage pupils effectively. They make the focus of lessons clear so that pupils understand what they are expected to achieve."

## WELCOME TO THORNHILL

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for choosing Thornhill Primary School for your child's start to his/her education.

I hope that the information in this Brochure will be helpful and will give you an insight into our school and its aims and achievements. We look forward to welcoming your child into our school and are confident that she/he will flourish here in a happy, secure and closely-knit community.

We work together to create the best possible ethos. The short Ofsted inspection in March 2016 confirmed that we have maintained the high standards that were reported in our full inspection in 2011. The full report can be found on the Ofsted website [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

We have a truly 'open door' policy at our school and look forward to working with you as your child starts out on his/her school career. We hope your partnership with us will be fulfilling and rewarding.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Julia Lawson  
Head teacher

## SCHOOL AIMS AND VISION: 2018

**Every child is unique and at the heart of everything we do.**

Through an outstanding provision we aim to teach all children how to become life-long learners and to be responsible, self-confident and to believe in themselves in an environment which is stimulating, exciting and rich in opportunities.

### **WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY:**

- Providing a safe and secure environment where all children can reach their full potential in all areas of their development
- Providing a positive 'can do' culture where praise, respect and encouragement prevail and where self - esteem is high
- Continuing to focus on improving standards of attainment and well-being for all children by developing a sense of enquiry and curiosity
- Recognising and celebrating all achievement and success
- Embedding a culture of self-respect and self-discipline in work and behaviour so that children are happy and caring to one another
- Providing high quality planning, teaching, assessment and targeted intervention from committed and passionate staff
- Listening to our children, parents and school community valuing their views and reflecting and acting on what they say
- Working in partnership with parents, communities and other professionals so that we can develop and improve our practice

## THORNHILL SCHOOL STAFF: SEPTEMBER 2018

Head Teacher	Mrs Julia Lawson
Deputy Head Teacher	Mr Christopher Gunning
Assistant Head Teacher	Mrs Patricia Kuevi
Year 6 (Jaguars Class) Class Teacher	Mrs Leonie Gordon and Miss Rebecca Terry
Year 5 (Lynx Class) Class Teacher	Mr Christopher Gunning
Year 4 (Panthers Class) Class Teacher	Mrs Patricia Kuevi
Year 3 (Tigers Class) Class Teacher	Miss Charleen O'Neill
Year 2 (Leopards Class) Class Teacher	Miss Nicola Morris
Year 1 (Lions Class) Class Teacher	Miss Emma Nolan
Reception (Bobcats) Class Teacher	Mrs Ami Henkes and Mrs Sallie Evans
Nursery (Cubs) Teachers	Miss Sabriya Mistry
Special Needs Co-Ordinator	Miss Laura Phillips
Higher Level Teaching Assistant	Mrs Debra Candler
Teaching Assistant Support	Mrs Shelley Robson Miss Emily Flannery Miss Charlie Gow Miss Dorothy Breheny Mrs Ewelina Baczkowska Miss Anita Taylor Miss Elisa McConnell Mrs Caroline Luff (PT) Mrs Jodie Thomson (PT) Mrs Sally Evans Mrs Zoe Hall (PT)
Business Manager	Mrs Carole Gleghorn
Office Manager	Miss Suzanne Peak

## SCHOOL STAFF CONTINUED

Site Agent	Mr Michael Rowe
Cleaners	Miss Mechelle Woolf, Mrs Jacqueline Woolf Mrs Wendy Yoxall Miss Tyana Crawford
Senior Lunchtime Supervisor	Mrs Zoe Hall
Lunchtime Supervisor	Mrs Sharon Winch Mrs Debbie Papworth Mrs Jodie Thomson Miss Elisa McConnell Miss Michelle Tonks Mrs Ewelina Baczkowska Miss Emma McGonigle
Breakfast Club	Miss Mechelle Woolf
After School Club	Miss Mechelle Woolf and Mrs Carly Walsh

## THORNHILL SCHOOL GOVERNORS: September 2017

Local Authority		Mr Tony Swain
Teaching Staff	Head Teacher	Mrs Julia Lawson Mr Christopher Gunning
Parents		Mr Mick Hankin Vacancy
Co-Opted		Vacancy Mr Mick Dillon Miss Claire McDonald
Clerk		Mrs Debra Candler
Associate Advisor		Mrs Denise Bond

"Governors have increased their expertise and efficiency since the last inspection. Additional training in skills such as analysis, staff recruitment and safeguarding has enabled governors to provide additional support. Their strategic approach to the school's improvement is well informed by regular visits and comprehensive feedback provided by staff". Ofsted 2016

We are currently looking to appoint new Governors for September 2018. If you are interested please contact the School Office or Mrs Lawson for further information.

## OUR SCHOOL

Thornhill Primary School is on the northern edge of Houghton Regis and occupies an attractive and spacious site next to open farm land.

The grounds include:

- 😊 two playgrounds, well equipped with play facilities and seating
- 😊 a large field for games
- 😊 a pond area with wildlife garden
- 😊 separate play areas for nursery and reception children
- 😊 plenty of quiet spaces and seating for children
- 😊 sensory garden and investigative areas

Our school building is bright and stimulating with spacious classrooms, we have a well-equipped library and all younger classes have direct access to an outdoor area. There is also a 'before and after' school club. In addition, we have a newly installed wooden cabin which we call our "Hub" and is used for individual and group support.

## ORGANISATION

Thornhill is a County Primary School with a Nursery. Our age range has been extended to admit children from the age of 2 years to 11 years. Our classes are single age groups and are carefully organised to ensure that the learning needs of all children can be met. We try to keep class sizes as small as possible and all classes in reception and years 1 and 2 have additional adult support.

Children in their reception year benefit from a large extended classroom which allows them to be taught together. The school has been refurbished throughout and we have improved our grounds so that children can use the outdoors in their learning. Every class has an interactive whiteboard and new furniture which the school is gradually updating on a rolling programme.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

As a school we are committed to Equal Opportunities and ensure that no-one is denied access to any activity on grounds of gender, ability, race, colour, culture, religion, personality or lifestyle.

## **THE SCHOOL DAY**

### **MORNING SESSION:**

8.45am - 12.00 (Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1)

8.45am - 12.30 (Key Stage 2)

### **AFTERNOON SESSION:**

1.00pm - 3.30pm (Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1)

1.15pm - 3.30pm (Key Stage 2)

### **Assembly:**

Monday: 9am Whole School Assembly

Tuesday: 9am Singing Assembly

Thursday: Class Assembly

Friday: 9.00am – 9.20am: Celebration Assembly – parents welcome to attend.

### **Morning Playtime:**

KS1: 10.45 – 11.00am

KS2: 11.00 – 11.15am

### **Afternoon Playtime** (Key Stage 1 only)

2:30 - 2.45pm

Celebration Assembly is held every Friday morning and all parents/carers, family and friends are invited. In this Assembly children will be awarded for working hard, for following our school values and for good attendance. Each class takes turns to lead this Assembly.

## ADMISSIONS

Central Bedfordshire Education Authority will apply the following criteria to decide the order in which places will be allocated when there are more requests from parents than the number of places available:

1. All 'looked after' children or children who were previously 'looked after'
2. Children living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
3. Children living in the catchment area
4. Other children with siblings in school
5. Children who have attended Thornhill nursery
6. Children who live nearest to the school determined by straight line distance from the school site to the child's home address

We encourage parents to visit the school and to look around before making an application. Please call to make an appointment.

Children can join our nursery at the beginning of the term following their third birthday. We are now admitting two year olds into nursery. Before they are due to start at nursery, children and parents are usually visited at home by the nursery staff. We invite new children to come on a series of visits before starting so that they feel more confident in these new surroundings. Children attend nursery for five half day sessions each week.

In the September following their fourth birthday, children move into our reception class. They start on a part-time basis, building up to full-time within a couple of weeks. We have found that this gradual approach benefits children; they gain confidence and feel more secure in the school environment.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Each child's progress is carefully monitored throughout the time he/she spends in the school. If a teacher feels that a child may need extra help with any aspect of their development parents will be informed and the Special Needs Co-ordinator will be consulted. We will aim to provide whatever help is necessary - this may be extra help from within school or support from outside agencies. In school we have a teacher who is responsible for Special Educational Needs and several teaching assistants who also provide extra help. If necessary, a special learning plan geared to the child's individual needs is drawn up. The parents will always be consulted and kept fully informed. If the child's needs are very great the school will help the parents to apply for extra help for their child.

We also believe that it is just as important to consider and make provision for the individual needs of our most able pupils as it is for any other group of pupils. We provide a range of opportunities for extension and enrichment within the classroom by ensuring a careful match of task to ability and through challenging and extending learning. Within the wider context of the school we provide clubs and opportunities to perform and outside school there are competitions and festivals for children to take part in.

## BEHAVIOUR

"Pupils conduct themselves responsibly in lessons and around the school. They are enthusiastic learners who respond well to questions and challenges. Any behaviour that does not meet your expectations is dealt with firmly. Pupils feel that behaviour is managed fairly" Ofsted 2016

### **Good behaviour is essential to successful teaching and learning.**

If children make the wrong choice they not only disrupt their own learning but affect the education of the children around them.

Our vision for Thornhill is 'To be the very best we can' and we are committed to providing a happy, friendly, safe and encouraging place where everyone feels welcomed and valued.

Our school is a place where every child is encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and actions; high standards of both, achievement and behaviour are expected.

At Thornhill Primary School we have identified 10 core values (principles that guide our thinking and behaviour) to underpin all that we do. We expect everyone who is a part of our school community to adhere to our chosen values.

- Determination
- Friendship
- Hope
- Consideration
- Love
- Equality
- Self-belief
- Pride
- Peace
- Courage
- Confidence
- Kindness
- Positivity
- Compassion
- Tolerance

#### General School Rules

1. To do our best
2. To treat everyone with respect
3. To show good manners
4. To follow instructions of all school staff
5. To take care of all property
6. To play kindly

How we encourage and reward good behaviour?

It is important to us that as part of the process of maintaining a positive environment within our school, children's good behaviour is acknowledged and rewarded. Positive reinforcement is extremely important because it allows us to reward and shape children's behaviour rather than constantly remind them of their negative behaviour.

Our positive reinforcement techniques include:

- Verbal praise
- Stickers
- House points
- Workers of the week certificates
- Special person certificates
- Celebration assemblies
- Praise Postcards
- Positive visits to SLT members
- Positive calls/emails to parents/carers
- Gold cards

'Gold Cards' are issued by class teachers to children who consistently make the right behaviour choices. These cards, which can be taken home, can be saved up and exchanged for gifts at the Thornhill Prize Centre.

Please refer to our Behaviour Policy for further information.

## HEALTH

### Medicals

We work closely with the school nursing team who come in and check vision and hearing for Reception pupils and also carry out height and weight checks with Reception and Year 6 pupils. Parents will always be informed of these checks.

### Illness

It is very important that the school is aware of any condition which your child suffers from, e.g. asthma or allergies, so that we can make sure we are taking the proper action to protect and care for your child.

If children are hurt or become ill in school it is important that we are able to contact a parent or responsible adult in case they need to be taken home. Please keep us up to date with changes in home or workplace phone numbers and/or emergency contact arrangements.

### Medicines

Sometimes children are prescribed medicines which need to be taken in school. If this happens please bring the medicine to the school office. It must be clearly marked with the

child's name and written instructions. It will be stored safely and you will be asked to sign a form giving permission for the medicine to be given by a member of staff. Children must never keep their medicines in the classroom and we ask that you do not give children tablets or cough sweets to keep in their school bag "just in case". Please note we can only administer prescribed medicine that needs to be taken 4 or more times per day.

## SCHOOL MEALS

A cooked meal is provided by Aspens Services and is cooked in school at a cost of £2.00 per day. For Children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are not entitled to free school meals and pay for their meal, please ensure dinner money for the week is placed in a sealed, named envelope and handed into the school office. Please make sure that this money is secure. If you feel your child may be entitled to free school meals please call **0300 300 8306**

**Universal Free School Meals** – Is available for all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

**Free School Meals** – If you are in receipt of certain benefits your child may be entitled to free school meals. You can check which benefits qualify on the website below

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If your child is within the year group which automatically get Universal Free School Meals and believe you qualify for Free School Meals, please contact 0300 300 8306. This also entitles your child to:

- Discounted Trips

School meals are very good quality, they are well balanced and varied and children have a choice of dishes. Children are encouraged to try out new things and ask for a small portion if they are unsure. Good table manners are taught and expected. Menus are sent home for information and are updated termly.

The cook prepares meals for children who are expected for lunch and who are in school before 9.30am. Payment for school meals should be made on a Monday morning for the week.

Children may bring a healthy packed lunch if you prefer. Please make sure that lunch boxes and drink containers are named, unbreakable and leak proof - no glass bottles please. Sweets and fizzy drinks are not allowed. **We do not allow crisps or chocolate except on Fridays!**

Please bear in mind the effect that sticky drinks and sweet things can have on teeth, particularly when it is not practical to brush teeth straight after a meal. We do not allow peanuts or peanut butter due to allergies.

## PLAYTIME SNACKS

We provide a range of snacks for children in our Reception and Nursery classes. This may be cereal, fruit, yoghurts or toasted muffins. We ask parents to pay £3.00 per half term this is 10p per day to cover this cost.

**As part of the schools' commitment to healthy foods we provide fresh fruit for all children at playtimes.**

## ATTENDANCE

Parents are required by law to send their children to school on 5 full days per week from the beginning of the term following their 5th birthday. Even before this time it is very important that children get into good habits of coming to school regularly. Irregular patterns of attendance will disrupt the child's learning and affect their progress.

It is important that you inform us on the first day of absence if your child is too ill to come to school, or is absent for any other reason. Please also send a note as soon as your child returns to school. Reasons must be given for every absence. The school's registers are inspected by the Education Welfare Officer who will investigate if children are not attending school regularly.

Children are not allowed to take family holidays during school time unless there are exceptional circumstances, this must be authorised by the head teacher beforehand. In the event that it is not authorised a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued by the local authority.

We follow a Traffic Light System. This is a system approved by the local authority and used by many other schools to improve their attendance.

- **Red Zone: Under 90%**

This percentage range is a serious cause for concern. This is also known as the persistent absentee zone. Pupils who have such a low attendance figure are at risk of intervention by the Education Welfare Officer and can result in parents being issued with a penalty notice. Medical evidence will be required for any absences, failure to do so will result in an unauthorised register mark.

- **Amber Zone: 91% - 96%**

This percentage range indicates that improvement is needed so that your child can get the most of his/her education. If your child is in the amber zone we will send a warning letter informing you that this needs to be improved. A pre-referral meeting may be arranged with the Head Teacher and Education Welfare Officer. Medical evidence will be required for any absences, failure to do so will result in an unauthorised register mark.

- **Green Zone: 96% - 100%**

This percentage range is what we expect of all pupils to have throughout their education. They have the best chance of success in their education. Pupils will be rewarded for their good attendance.

Our whole school attendance target for 2017/18 is **96%**.

The school is obliged by law to differentiate between authorised and unauthorised absence.

A letter or telephone call from the parent/carer does not, in itself, authorise an absence. Only if the Head Teacher is satisfied with the reason given will the absence be authorised.

**Absence is authorised if:**

- The pupil is ill (medical evidence may be required).
- The pupil has an emergency dental or medical appointment (these should be kept to a minimum and preferably out of school hours).
- Leave of absence from school. A form is to be completed and agreed by the Head Teacher in exceptional circumstances only.
- Religious observance.
- There is a bereavement to a close family member.

#### **Absence is unauthorised if:**

- No explanation is received by the school for the absence.
- Holidays not authorised by the Head Teacher.
- Birthdays.
- Parent/Carer is ill.
- The school is dissatisfied with the explanations given.
- Persistent lateness.
- **A FIXED PENALTY NOTICE WILL BE ISSUED IF 10 SESSIONS OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IS RECORDED IN A PERIOD OF 12 SCHOOL WEEKS.**

The school takes attendance very seriously. We celebrate classes with the best attendance weekly and monitor and investigate all absences very thoroughly.

#### **SAFE GUARDING CHILDREN**

One of our main concerns is to promote the welfare, health and safety of every child. The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher are responsible within the school for taking action to support any child who causes concern and for liaising with other agencies.

All staff have undertaken training about safeguarding and any concerns are reported immediately. There are clear procedures that must be followed when concerns are suspected and all members of staff are vigilant in being alert to signs and symptoms of abuse. We use the curriculum to raise children's awareness and build confidence so that children have a range of contacts and strategies to ensure their own protection and understand the protection of others.

"The school's safeguarding policies and procedures meet all statutory requirements. Thornhill ensure that staff and governors are well trained and well informed about child protection. The school has a clear expectation of pupils' behaviour and swift action to deal with any forms of bullying or discrimination. In class, opportunities to teach pupils about keeping safe are used effectively." Ofsted 2016

#### **TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL**

We have two secondary schools in our area; Houghton Regis Academy and All Saints Academy. We work with both schools very closely to ensure a smooth transition into Year 7.

## **CHARGING POLICY**

Activities such as trips to places of interest and visiting performers to the school are an important way of bringing learning alive and make the children's learning exciting. Of course these activities usually cost money and sometimes we need to ask parents to make a contribution towards this cost. No child will be left out of such activities if the parents feels that they cannot afford to make these contributions. Unfortunately, if not enough parents feel they can help towards the cost then the activity may have to be cancelled. Most of our fund raising activities go towards these activities so that the contribution we ask for is reduced.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

We like all our children to wear school uniform. It gives children a sense of belonging and makes them proud of their school. You can buy our uniform from BEST LOOK, High Street North, Dunstable, 01582 603 603. Our uniform is as follows:

- Purple sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- Grey trousers or skirt (pinafore if preferred)
- White polo shirt (school logo) for Years R - 4
- In summer the girls can wear a purple and white checked dress:
- Book bag: this is compulsory for all children from Years R – 4. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 may bring in a small suitable school bag that fits into our lockers. Large bags will not be permitted as space is restricted.
- White Shirt and tie (Years 5 and 6 only)

PE Uniform is as follows:

- Black shorts (can be purchased anywhere)
- White crew neck t-shirt
- Plimsolls
- PE bag

All children require sensible black shoes for school so that they can run around and play during break times. **Children are not allowed to wear heeled shoes, trainers, boots or open toed sandals.**

**Please make sure that all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name.**

## JEWELLERY / MAKE UP / NAIL POLISH

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery of any description (except for ear studs). All earrings must be removed for PE. Many serious accidents happen during P.E. or playtime as a result of children wearing jewellery, especially earrings. Children are not permitted to have any other body piercings.

Watches may be worn, but the school cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage.

Nail polish and make up is not allowed.

## LOST PROPERTY

This is kept in the Lost Property Box in the first aid room. Please let us know if something is missing and we will check the box. We encourage children to be responsible for their own belongings, but this is made much easier for them if items are named clearly.

## PARENTS

Your child's education is shared between home and school. You are your child's first and main teacher and you know far more about your child than we ever shall. That is why we need to work in close partnership with you. If children see us talking and co-operating together it helps them to settle into school more quickly.

What you do with your child at home has an important effect on how well they do at school.

- Children who are praised and encouraged in what they do, feel self- confident and are prepared to try out new things.
- Children who are read to regularly, enjoy books at home and are encouraged to 'have a go' at reading and writing are known to do better at school.
- Children who are willing to take risks and do not mind getting things wrong are much more likely to succeed in all areas of their learning.
- Children who feel that their parents and school are working together to help them learn how to behave, look after themselves and to read, feel more secure and confident.

You are important members of our school. We want you to feel welcome to come and talk to us about any queries or concerns you may have. Most problems can be solved by a quick chat - please don't allow little issues to become big ones by putting off coming to talk them over. Teachers' first priority in the mornings however, must be to settle the children and to start the day, so we ask that, as far as possible, you try to see your child's teacher after school. If you feel that a longer discussion is needed please ring to make an appointment. The Headteacher is available throughout the day and will always be happy to meet with you. We, like you, want the best for your children and we are always willing to help.

Please ensure that you keep the school office informed of any changes to your contact details.

### **PARENTS IN SCHOOL**

We are always pleased to be able to involve parents in school activities. Several parents offer their services on a regular basis by helping with all kinds of activities both in the classroom (e.g. helping children with reading, art and craft work, cooking etc.) and out of the classroom (e.g. covering books, helping in the library etc.)

We also have a small, but keen and dedicated group of parents who are part of our PTA. They help us to organise a range of fund raising and fun activities for the children. We are always looking for new parents to join so please let me know if you would like to help.....we need you!

If you have any spare time, special talents or interests which you would be willing to share with us, please let us know - we have a never ending need for extra help!

### **HOME SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP**

Please make sure that you sign our Home School Agreement before your child starts school. This ensures that we all understand our roles and the expectations of the school are made clear.

## CURRICULUM

In 2014 the government introduced a new National Curriculum.

More information on the curriculum can be found on the Department for Education website [education.gov.uk](http://education.gov.uk)

Subject	What's new?
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stronger emphasis on <b>vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling</b> (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1)</li> <li>• <b>Handwriting</b> – not currently assessed under the national curriculum – is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy</li> <li>• <b>Spoken English</b> has a greater emphasis, with children to be taught debating and presenting skills</li> </ul>
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Five-year-olds will be expected to learn to count up to 100</b> (compared to 20 under the current curriculum) and learn <b>number bonds to 20</b> (currently up to 10)</li> <li>• <b>Simple fractions (1/4 and 1/2) will be taught from KS1</b>, and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (e.g. <math>0.375 = 3/8</math>)</li> <li>• By the age of nine, children will be expected to know <b>times tables up to 12x12</b> (currently 10x10 by the end of primary school)</li> <li>• Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2, to encourage mental arithmetic</li> </ul>
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong <b>focus on scientific knowledge and language</b>, rather than understanding the nature and methods of science in abstract terms</li> <li>• <b>Evolution</b> will be taught in primary schools for the first time</li> <li>• Non-core subjects like caring for animals will be replaced by topics like the human circulatory system</li> </ul>
Design & technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afforded <b>greater importance under the new curriculum</b>, setting children on the path to becoming the designers and engineers of the future</li> <li>• More sophisticated <b>use of design equipment</b> such as electronics and robotics</li> <li>• In KS2, children will learn about how key events and individuals in design and technology have shaped the world</li> </ul>
ICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computing replaces Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with a <b>greater focus on programming rather than on operating programs</b></li> <li>• From age five, children will learn to write and test simple programs and to organise, store and retrieve data.</li> <li>• From seven, they will be taught to understand computer networks, including the internet</li> <li>• Internet safety – currently only taught from 11-16 – will be taught in primary schools</li> </ul>
Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently not statutory, a modern foreign language or ancient language (Latin or Greek) will be mandatory in KS2.</li> <li>• Children will be expected to master basic grammar and accurate pronunciation and to converse, present, read and write in the language</li> </ul>

The years which children spend at school are divided into four 'Key Stages'. At Thornhill we are concerned with, Foundation Stage; *Nursery and reception*, Key Stage 1: *5-7years* and Key Stage 2: *7-11 Years*. We assess children on entry into nursery and into reception and test children in all classes throughout the year. We use the information from these tests to monitor children's learning and progress and to compare our standards of attainment and progress with other schools both within Central Bedfordshire and across the country. This helps us to see how well our children are doing compared to other schools. We assess all of

our children regularly so that we can monitor their progress and make sure that they are learning as well as they can.

During the year we hold three open evenings and send home interim reports so that we can keep you fully up to date with your child's progress. We also provide a written report at the end of the school year.

### **AN EXCITING CURRICULUM FOR THORNHILL is .....**

1. underpinned by our aims, values and purposes
2. broad, balanced and based on prior learning
3. developing the whole child; knowledge, skills and attitudes
4. encourages higher order thinking, is probing, questioning and engaging
5. is developing life skills and has an eye on the future
6. is interactive and has a wealth of first hand experiences
7. responds to the needs and interests of our children; is inclusive
8. encourages independence, collaboration and risk taking
9. takes into account local, national and international dimensions
10. makes meaningful links across the curriculum

Our curriculum is interesting and exciting and provides for the full range of pupils' abilities. We use topics to interest children and we have found that they particularly like having visitors and going on visits.

### **"School Readiness" – Key Messages for Parents**

Children need to be able to:

- Speak to an adult and know when to ask for help
- Understand the word 'stop' and that this might be used to prevent danger
- Understand the word 'no' and the boundaries it sets
- Recognise their own name including familiar signs and logos
- Talk in full sentences and have a good, detailed vocabulary
- Be aware of other children – play and form friendships
- Sit still and listen when asked and also be able to take turns and share
- Be toilet trained and able to visit the toilet unaided
- Put on and take off coat and shoes. Dress and undress for PE with minimal adult support
- Open and enjoy a book both independently and with an adult
- Recognise numbers and take part in counting games
- Hold a pencil properly to make marks and begin to draw
- Eat a meal or snack unaided, identify and enjoy a range of healthy foods.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Please refer to our website: [www.thornhill-primary.co.uk](http://www.thornhill-primary.co.uk) for up-to-date newsletters and for all our school policies.

