

# Thomas Ashton School Newsletter

Welcome to the Summer Issue, we would like to thank you for your continued support!

## Summer Coffee Morning

Thank you to all those that contributed or attended our last coffee morning of this academic year. As usual it was a memorable event with lots of fun, stalls selling gifts and crafts, games to take part in, refreshments, cakes and bacon butties.

A fantastic total of £335 was raised with a contribution being given to Reuben's Retreat. Well done all!



Please note:

School re-opens on Tuesday 3rd September 2019

School meals increase to £2.30 per day, £11.50 per week.

Online banking payments can now be made—please ask at the office for our bank details.

## End of Year Fun and Reward Trips

All the children have enjoyed their trips to celebrate the end of the year and rewards. Trips have taken place to Crocky Trail in Chester, Gulliver's World in Warrington, the Water Adventure Centre in Droylsden and Diggerland in Yorkshire.

It has been good for the children to be able to enjoy the outdoors and we have done well with the weather for most of the trips.

Pupils have also enjoyed a production of Quasimodo by M&M Productions who came into school, during the last week.



# Summer Term 2019

The summer has arrived! For some of us, that means a chance to re-charge our batteries before we go again in September, but I am mindful that the baton of responsibility is passed back to you for six weeks, so I hope the weather is kind to us all, the children enjoy their time out of school and you are able to survive until the start of school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September!



We would usually take two training days at the start of term, but circumstances mean we are taking just the one this time, with the second and third INSET days wrapped around October half term. This is the best use of this time for staff training purposes, so I hope you can support us with the change.

We have three staff leaving at the end of term. Elizabeth Southall, teacher, joined us in 2008 and was with us when we moved into the new school. Elizabeth is choosing to retire this summer, and we wish her all the best. Millie Hill joined us as a TA1 in September 2018, and she is now looking to have a career within Mental Health with the National Health Service, and I know she will be brilliant in this work. And finally, Farhana Begum starts her teacher training in September which will launch her on her chosen career as a teacher. We wish her the best of luck and we hope she keeps in touch with us.

We welcome Jennie Price, a teacher who joins us from Manor Green Primary Academy. Amongst many things, Jennie is a qualified Forest School instructor, so we will be finding ways to make use of her skills in the future.

There is a wind of change around the special school and resource provision in Tameside (SEND) as we all continue to respond to the impact of the budget cuts imposed by the government over the last ten years or so. Thomas Ashton School continues to struggle to balance its budget, so hopefully we will have a fantastic opportunity to re-think our business of working to support and educate children (and their families) with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH).

Whilst change can create some anxiety, I want to reassure you that at Thomas Ashton School we welcome this chance to secure and embed the great work that we do, in a way that helps more children, more families and more colleagues in mainstream, and gives us the financial sustainability that we need. We have a strong and fantastic team who are experienced at managing change, and I have every confidence in them. So much confidence, in fact, that I want to let you know that I will be stepping aside at Christmas 2019. After completing 36 years in teaching, and 18 of those as Headteacher at Thomas Ashton School, 2020 will be a time for fresh energy to help drive the school forward.

But that is in the future, so for now, have a great and safe summer!

## School Dates

Finish	Friday 19th July 2019 @ 1.30pm
Re-open	Tuesday 3rd September 2019
Finish	Thursday 24th October at 2.45pm
Re-open	Tuesday 5th November (STAFF INSET DAY 4th NOV)
Finish	Friday 20th December @ 1.30pm