



English & Mathematics at Thorndown Primary School

English

World Book Day

Thank you to everyone who took part in the World Book Day 'riddle' competitions this term. A fantastic array of clues was brought into school and some very creative riddles were created in all year groups. Many of the children presented their riddles to each other and we had great fun trying to work out the character or the book that had inspired it.

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success this year, raising a lot of money, which will allow us to invest in more books for the school. Thank you to everyone who purchased any books. Your support is invaluable in helping us to further promote a love of learning around the school.

Writers' Day

On the 5th March, following Geography skills week, the whole school took part in a 'Writing Day' with a focus on persuasive writing. Initially, the children participated in lots of talking and acting based activities to help prepare them for their writing tasks later in the day. They then produced lots of exciting, high quality pieces of work covering a range of themes. Some of the older children imagined that they were an item of stationery and wrote letters to persuade their owners to treat them better, while younger children used their persuasive writing skills to try get themselves a new pet! There will be another whole school writing day after Easter so stay tuned for more news about what the focus will be.

Maths

Rainbow Recall

We have now been running our new Rainbow Recall fluency programme in Key Stage 2 for nearly two terms, and it is proving to be very popular. The addition and subtraction practice cards have now been joined by 'Rainbow Recall X Factor', which covers multiplication and division. The children have said that it is really helping them to become more confident and fluent in recalling key facts. Teachers have also reported that the children are getting better at applying what they know to harder arithmetical calculations.

Each colour band of Rainbow Recall covers a different set of facts. When we introduced the programme, we aimed that children would work on each colour for one or two weeks. As we have been using it, however, we have found that sometimes the children have needed a bit longer to become really secure in their new learning. At the beginning of a new colour band, children are given a copy to bring home (although, that these haven't always reached home, and we are working towards making sure that none remain in children's trays!). We send these home so that you are aware of what we're working on and so that children can practise these at home if they wish.

At the end of each half term, we award specially designed Rainbow Recall prizes to three children in each class in recognition of effort, progress and achievement. The pencils are proving to be particularly popular! Well done to all our winners this term!

We are now working on a KS1 Rainbow Recall programme, which we hope to be able to start next term. If you have any questions about Rainbow Recall or how you can help your child at home, please contact Mrs Gerrard through the school office.



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Please take a look on the school's website for various handouts for English.

A detailed presentation from the parent grammar session held earlier in the year is now available, providing a comprehensive guide to complicated grammar terms being taught in all years.

Skoolbo

We are really sorry that Skoolbo have stated to charge parents for children to play this at home. Children are still able to access some challenges at home each day, but we are aware that some children are finding these difficult. I am currently in contact with Skoolbo to see if we can improve this and will let you know. I am also looking into other online learning platforms to see if there is a free alternative to Skoolbo, which offers a better experience. Thank you for your patience, which we sort this out.

Parent Workshops

Thank you to everyone who attended our Open Classrooms and workshops this term. We will soon be publishing a questionnaire on Survey Monkey, so that you can tell us what you would like to learn about next!