

Thorndown Newsletter

Number:54

Welcome back to a new academic year at Thorndown Primary School. I hope you and your families have enjoyed the summer holidays and your children are ready to learn again. Our teachers and staff are rested and ready to go too!

We welcome four new teachers and four new TAs working with the youngest pupils in our school. Mr Brook is in Year 6, Miss Sibanda is in Year 4, Miss Goulding is teaching Year 1 and Miss Silvester in our Foundation Stage. Mrs Wells, Mrs Mahmood, Mrs Dabbs and Mrs Anderson have joined our TA team.

We also welcome 80 new pupils into our Foundation Stage, who have started part-time and 10 other new pupils who are dotted all over the school.

We are all looking forward to a really hard-working year and I hope to see many of you at our events throughout the term and year ahead.

Parent Help

You may have read in the papers, or heard on the television, that school budgets are incredibly stretched at the moment and this is very much the case at Thorndown. This year, we are only able to use our Teaching Assistants to support pupils with 1:1 needs or to run set interventions, and we are not able to offer as much in-class support as we have done in previous years. **So, we need your help!**

If you could spare the time to listen to readers or play some educational games, or help teachers with photocopying or laminating resources, we would love to hear from you. Perhaps you could spare 15 minutes (or a little longer!) a few times a week, when you drop your children off in the morning. Perhaps you could spare a few minutes every day, or a morning once a week. We would welcome your help throughout the school from Year 6 to the Foundation Stage at a time that is convenient to you.

If you have the time to volunteer, then please contact Helen Cooper through the office for a

volunteer pack and to start your DBS. Miss Godbold, Mrs Gerrard or Mrs Fox are always around in the mornings, if you have any questions.

Every hour you can offer will be much appreciated. Thank you.

History Week Reminder

On Monday 25th September, we are going to start our History Week with a bang by holding a dress-up day. Children will travel back in time by dressing up in the era their classes will be studying.

Year 1&2 - The 1960s to the 1990s.

Year 3&4 – The Romans

Year 5&6 – The 1600s and the Civil War.

We are all looking forward to seeing your brilliant costumes!

School Uniform

I'd like to thank every parent and carer for having such smartly dressed children on their start back at school. They look wonderful!

Can you please, please, please label all items of clothing as we are finding that lots of very expensive uniform is ending up in our lost property bins as we are not able to return to its rightful owner. Thank you

Harvest Festival



The school is having a Harvest Festival assembly on Friday 29th September. This year, as last, we are taking all the food donated to the St Ives Foodbank, who works with local St Ives families. The Foodbank is in need of good quality dry/canned foods such as tuna, custard, rice pudding, pasta, rice, tea bags, coffee, drinking chocolate, sugar, juice and squash, and jams. Please don't send in cereals.

The children can bring their food donations into assembly on the day to help celebrate Harvest. Thank you for your help.

French Language Celebrations



At the end of last term, KS2 sang some very catchy French songs and showcased the French language vocabulary they had been practising all year. It was wonderful to see how much they had been learning every week in such a fun way! Merci Mme Millard.



The award above is now on our headed writing paper because, during the summer term, Thorndown School Council entered The House Of Commons 'Speaker's School Council Awards'. We had to describe how our school council had become involved in a school project and its impact on the school. We described how we had created the 'Marvellous Manners Award' to make our dining room a more pleasant place to be. We were awarded 'Highly Commended' in the 8-11 year group category. This year we will attempt to win!

Mrs Fox

Packed Lunches



As a mum myself, I have been trying to find new and interesting ways to pack a lunch. I have found this website really good and have borrowed a few ideas from it already for my own lunch, as well my family's!

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

Walk to School Wednesdays



A LIVING STREETS CAMPAIGN

For the third year running, we are taking part in Living Streets' Walk to School Wednesdays. Every Wednesday, each pupil will use our interactive travel tracker on the classroom board to self-register how they got to school. If a pupil has walked, ridden on a scooter or bike, roller skated or been on a bus or in taxi with others every Wednesday in a month, they will receive a Walk to School badge. This will be awarded on the last Wednesday of each month. There are different badges from last year and they are definitely worth collecting. Happy walking!

Parent Forum

This half term's Parent Forum is being held on Monday 9th October at 7.15pm and it is open to all parents. We use the classroom downstairs, between Mr Sweeney's room and the Year 5/6 stairs. On the agenda this time is a question and answer session with me about Thorndown's areas for development for this academic year. There will also be a chance to raise whole school issues under any other business. Please talk to class teachers or myself before the meeting about any personal issues you may have. I look forward to seeing you there.

Growth Mindset

After listening to James Dyson on the radio last week talking about how he invents through constantly failing and learning from it, I was reminded of his famous Growth Mindset quote: *Enjoy failure and learn from it. You can never learn from success.* James Dyson

At Thorndown, we follow the Growth Mindset ethos of learning through mistakes. I have found a great parent Growth Mindset explanation page, which I have listed below. This is just another way of explaining our policy (which can be found on our website with a handy parent guide)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-try-new-things>