

Thorndown Newsletter

Number: 61

DNA

I think we had the best science lesson ever! On Thursday 4th January, Leopard Class and Hyena Class had the honour of being able to see a real abstract of DNA! First we learned about what DNA really is. DNA is what makes you - what you are. So if we didn't have DNA we would all be the same. And I mean how boring would that be.

So we started off by making our very own model of DNA in groups of three.

We used:

sticky tape

pipe cleaners

First, cut about 60-70 cm of tape sticky side up. Then stick the tape down on the table. After that, we cut the pipe cleaners into quarters. Next we stuck the quarters on the sticky tape. Then we got another 60-70 cm piece of tape and stuck over the top of the pipe cleaners we originally started with. Finally, we pressed down super hard on the second bit of tape. You have learned how to make your very own model of DNA!

Then we learned how to take abstracts of DNA out of a strawberry. That was also really fun and educational. It was a great experience and I am sure that we, as Hyenas and Leopards, would all like to do this again. It was such a lovely little lesson.

By Josh and Lily Year 5

Reading Buddies

Reading Buddies is all about reading with children of different ages and abilities from different year groups. We helped some of the younger children in Year 3 to read some difficult words and talk about what they meant and we talked about the story with them. I think it really benefits everyone reading with someone we don't know to look at, learn and talk about different books for different children and I enjoy being helpful with it.



Introducing Mrs Harris – our new Pastoral Child and Family Worker



1. What are the 3 most important things about your job?

- i. Having patience and being understanding.
- ii. Learning new things every day.
- iii. Always giving the best of myself to the children and my colleagues.

2. Why do you think Thorndown school is the best or what made you want to work here?

I wanted a change of direction, having worked with adults, families and the elderly. The children here are polite and helpful.

3. Is there anything that you would like us to know about you?

- i. I like baking cakes.
- ii. I love dogs, cats and horses.
- iii. I don't like flying.
- iv. I'm really looking forward to working with the children at Thorndown.

4. What is your favourite subject at school?

French and Sport

5. If you could invite your hero to school for the day, who would it be and why?

I would invite Nick Skelton (a former equestrian who competed in show jumping) and his horse, Big Star. He is passionate, committed and

courageous.

6. What are you reading at the moment?

I can't remember the name of the book, but it is a comedy about a chef.

Interviewed by:

Madeline & Seren, Thorndown School Council

Our Photographic Competition Winners



Our winners' pictures are now ready and are hung all over the school. Please look out for them on your next visit into school.

Free course for parents – foster a love of stories and reading

The Library Development Team in Huntingdonshire has announced its FREE course for parents and carers of children aged from 3 to 7 years – 'Falling in Love with Reading'. This short (3 week) course will explore the importance of letting children select their own books, learning through play and stories which reflect shared culture & tradition.

'Falling in Love with Reading' will run from February 2018 at Cambridge Central, Huntingdon, Ely and March Libraries. More locations will follow throughout 2018.

The sessions will be delivered by fully trained library staff with special book collections, carefully curated by our colleagues in Adult Learning and Skills, which participants will be able to borrow and take home. You can sign up for this FREE course now by dropping into one of the pilot libraries, or contacting the organisers on 0345 045 5225.

Future events for you diary

Geography Week- This runs from Monday 26th February –Thursday 1st March. We have linked with National Geography Week and their topic of Fair Trade. Your child will be taking part in workshops throughout the week, culminating in a Fair Trade café and exhibition on Thursday 1st

March. The Café will be open from 2-3pm for all KS1 parents to look at the exhibition and have a Fair Trade cuppa. Year 6 pupils will be manning and running the cafe. The café will close at 3pm but the Exhibition will still be open for parents after school in the small hall. More details will follow soon.

Book Day - This will be held on March 2nd to coincide with our Book Fair. We would like to celebrate by encouraging the children to '**Bring a story clue to school**' along with the book so that the children can share these with their class. More detailed information will follow.

A mermaid visits!



This week, the Reception children were lucky enough to be visited by a mermaid! Mermaid Pearl had been kidnapped by an evil octopus and held captive in a dark cave. The children made magic potions and wrote spells to help her escape. She came all the way to Thorndown to thank them for setting her free!

We are incredibly grateful to Limelight Entertainment who donated their time for free to make our children's learning magical. They usually run birthday parties, meet and greets and makeovers for little superheroes and princesses, but today they joined our classroom and captivated our Robins, Otters and Ladybirds.

You can find out more about their wonderful services at www.limelightentertainmentuk.com