

Thorndown Newsletter

Number: 67



I'd like to wish you all a happy half term. What a busy one we have had, especially with the SATs in Year 6 and 2, as well all the other exciting topic visits and events, and lots of class assemblies.

We break up on Thursday 24th May and I look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 4th June. Relax and enjoy the start of summer. The weather is looking hopeful!

Vicci Godbold

Staff news

We are delighted to tell you that Mrs Lally safely gave birth at the start of this term. She had a baby girl called Martha. We are sending lots of love to her growing family.

In September, Miss Sabanda and Mrs King will be having their babies and Miss Buckby returns from her maternity leave. There's lots of wonderful baby news at Thorndown! 😊

Miss Gray will be leaving us in July as she moves out of Cambridgeshire. We wish all our leavers lots of love and luck at this exciting time in their lives and look forward to welcoming some them back later on in the academic year.

We will be welcoming Miss Paterson, Miss Haque and Miss Broadhurst who will be joining our teaching team in September. We'll be sending more information about the classes they will be teaching soon.

Hair

I'd like to request that all long hair is tied up away from the face. Thank you.

Water bottles

Please could all children have a water bottle in school filled with **water only**? These can be re-filled from our water fountains during the day. Thank you.

FOTS' Fete

Just a note to ask you to save the date for this year's FOTS' Fete. It will be held after school on **Friday 22nd June**. This year's theme is *people who inspire you* and so the children will be asked to wear their costumes all day in preparation for the fun after school.

As always, FOTS is only able to run thanks to volunteers, so if you can spare some time, please contact FOTS at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsofThorndownSchool>

Rotary Celebration Event



On Friday 18th May, two Year 5 children, Mrs Murphy and I attended the Rotary Festival of Youth celebration. This was a chance to celebrate all the work the school has done in partnership with the Rotary Club this year. This included their generous funding the Life Bus, the Year 6 quiz and a special Year 5 event in December, when children presented their World Wars topic to Rotary Club members.

Thank you to the Rotary Club for their support during this academic year and I look forward running more events with you next year.

Board game request

Our pupils have been wondering if they could have some more board games throughout the school for wet playtimes. If your child/ren have outgrown a board game and you would like to donate it to us, please give it to your child's class teacher. Please make sure it contains all the pieces! Thank you

Year 5 Maths Challenge 2018

On Tuesday 22nd May, four of our Year 5s took part in our local heat of the Cambridgeshire

Maths Challenge for 2018. The competition was held at Westfield Junior School in St Ives. The team had to complete several, very challenging, question rounds and were tested on fractions, multiplication, addition, subtraction, estimating and problem solving.



The team came joint first and will now be competing in the final at Duxford Air Museum in July. This is a great achievement and it is the second year that Thorndown have won our local heat.

Well done to you all and good luck in the next final.

Netball



When a group of netballers from Year 5 arrived at the tournament, we had a quick snack, then we trained.

Our first opponent was Swavesey. We didn't win but we were great in defence. We all tried really hard and scored once.

Overall we came fourth in the Tournament. We all really enjoyed it.

By Kacper

Uniform

It is that time of year when children seem to grow out of everything and I'd like to remind you of our school uniform policy.

Pupils should wear a red or blue sweatshirt. This could be one with a Thorndown logo or a plain one. The pupils can wear grey or black skirts, pinafores, trousers or shorts. The polo shirts can be white, blue or red. The standard school summer dresses are also permitted.

The PE kit consists of a plain white T-shirt with sleeves, navy or black shorts and something to keep them warm in the winter, e.g. tracksuit. Children are also allowed to wear a plain T-shirt in the colour of their 'house' team.

We would prefer all hijabs and headscarves to be plain and reflect the colours of the school uniform please, e.g. blue, black or red.

All school shoes should be black or of a dark colour.

Thank you for your help.

Our Writing Day



On Monday 21st May 2018, Thorndown held its termly 'Writers' Day', where the whole school immerses itself in writing. The theme for this term was 'mystery' and we all had an amazing day!

The children began the day with a stimulus of some kind, leading into discussions and role-play activities, followed by writing directly linked to the stimulus.

EYFS - Children in Reception had a visitor (the parent of a teacher!) and she brought with her an old record player. The children tried to guess what it was, held lots of discussions about it and even listened to some music from the 1960s! They are currently in the process of writing their own pieces of music and poetry based around what they listened to.

Year 1 - Currently studying 'Jack and the Beanstalk', the children in Year 1 were amazed to discover some giant footprints leading into their classroom! There were also some other mysterious objects found, including a spoon, a golden feather and a giant key. After exploring and discussing their findings, the children wrote a report about their day, discussing what happened, their feelings and their thoughts.

Year 2 - After looking at the book 'Shackleton's Journey', Year 2 imagined that he had lost the war medal he had earned in the story. The children then wrote a letter to the king, discussing whether Ernest Shackleton deserved to have the medal he had lost returned to him.

Year 3 - A bag of items was found, belonging to a vagrant (homeless person) and the children discussed what the items were, what they were used for and how the owner might feel about them. These included a dirty bar of soap, a newspaper and picture of his wife. The children commented how he might have wanted to try and keep clean and keep up to date with what was happening in the world, as well as remembering his wife. They then wrote a character study of the owner, detailing their interpretations of the contents of the bag.

Year 4 - The children were informed that a secret doorway had been found in the forest area of the school field. They all went outside and searched and searched until it was found. The tiny doorway was carefully hidden amongst trees and bushes and was surrounded in mystery. The children then planned out who may live inside it and wrote a diary entry about their discovery, sharing these ideas about the possible owner. Some children suggested it belonged to a fairy, an animal and even a tiny human!

Years 5&6 - The children in Years 5&6 all became detectives for the day and were immediately tasked with a challenging and mysterious case. The children were trained up, briefed and then went to the crime scene to investigate and search for clues. These included an audio clip, CCTV footage, letters and evidence hidden around the room. Some children suggested that the prime suspect was trying to sell the victim's jewellery to pay off debts or to fund a trip to space, and the children's ideas for the suspects and their motives changed drastically as more clues were revealed. The children wrote a character profile of the suspect in the style of a wanted poster; then after more clues were revealed, the children wrote a setting description of the crime. They finished off with a piece of writing about the whole day.

The feedback from teachers and children has been very positive and the quality of the writing produced has been fantastic. Well done to all our amazing writers!

Mr Peel

Mini Red Tennis Competition



On Tuesday 22nd May, a group of Year 4 pupils went to play Mini Red tennis at the Huntingdon Tennis Club.

Once we arrived, we settled in and had our lunch. We became two teams, A and B, and then went to play four matches each. Some of us played in the Bubble Dome, but it was really, really hot!

When all the matches were finished we got back together and found out who had won. The B team came second and will now be in the Cambridgeshire School Games in late June.

By Ruby and Olivia Year 4

And finally....

On Thursday 24th May, the violin and viola after school club, "Overture", run by Margaret Scourse from Cambridgeshire Music, played in our whole school assembly.



They played a variety of musical pieces which showed off their new skills. This ten week course will be repeated next year. Margaret also teaches violin every Monday morning at Thorndown.

Well done to everyone involved. You wowed us!