

Thorndown Newsletter

Number: 75

Rugby News

At the end of the last half term, three teams of Year 5 and 6 children from Thorndown went to a tag rugby tournament. To prepare, they had training almost every day; it was very good fun. The B team came joint first with Westfield C team! That was our first metal trophy in a long time. The B team had great sportsmanship and played amazingly. Also, the A team came 4th out of 27 teams. They all played with great determination. Thank you to the parent helpers who came to the tournament.

By Ollie Circuit



E-safety

We have found this brief YouTube clip and think you should see it. It really makes us think about who our children may be talking to online through their tablets, phones and games consoles. Please take a look; it really is worth 2 minutes of your time.
<https://youtu.be/wxcwn5x-jE4>

Do you know what is on your child's phone?

I wonder if you know what apps your child has on their phone, or whom they text regularly. Parents often feel that a child's phone is private and that only their child should look at it. However, a phone is often a place where children can experience cyber-bullying.

By not looking at your child's phone regularly, you will be unable to spot if your child is getting e-mails or texts from unknown people, putting photos of themselves online, watching

unsuitable YouTube content, or being cyberbullied. You have the right to keep them safe and monitor their phone use.

A phone can give children huge independence, but can also make them vulnerable to the outside world, even within the confines of their own home.

Reading at Home



We are very often asked how parents can help their children at home. We are more than happy to give you suggestions, but one of the best ways to support your child is to hear them read and for you to read to them, no matter what their age.

When your child reads, ask them to tell you about the book (or comic/magazine). If they are reading a story, ask about the characters and what's happened. If it's an information text, have your child explain what it was about and what they have learned. Reading involves not just sounding out words, but thinking about and remembering ideas and events.

I know everyone says this, but it really is a good idea if you read to your child. Reading a book or story to a child is a great, easy way to advance literacy skills. Reading to children exposes them to richer vocabulary than they usually hear from any adults who speak to them, and can have positive impacts on their language, intelligence and later achievement. What should you read to them? There are so many wonderful children's books. Visit your local library and you can get an armful of adventure!



These pictures are from our Reading Buddy sessions, where the older pupils read with our younger pupils.

St Ives Library Homework Club

Cambridgeshire Libraries are now offering term time after school weekly Homework Clubs in St Ives and Huntingdon. These clubs are open to all children, but are specifically aimed at primary school children.

The clubs offer:

- free use of the computers and online encyclopaedias
- access to books on hundreds of different topics
- a Homework Helper to help children to find the information they need
- free photocopies/print-outs
- space to do homework
- sessions that are free with no need to book. Stay as long as you like (whilst the library is open!)

Please ask in the library to find out when their club is held. Of course, their resources are available any time the library is open, but attending the club means that someone will definitely be on hand to help with a homework enquiry. (Please be aware that parents and carers are asked to stay with children under 11.)

Growth Mindset

As you know, we have been thinking about growth mindset. We watched the last in a series of videos about a character called Mojo, who learns about the importance of not giving up. He learned that instead of saying that we can't do something, we should say that we just can't do it YET! We also learned about how our brain is like a muscle and that

challenges and making mistakes help to grow new neurons, which make us smarter! The children loved watching the videos, which you can find at:

<https://ideas.classdojo.com/b/growth-mindset>



We hope that you will be able to reinforce these important growth mindset messages too.

Maths Challenges in Year 6



Last year, over 20 of our Year 6 pupils entered the Maths Association Primary Maths Challenge. This is a very difficult national maths competition and three of our pupils managed to score so highly that they got through to the second round of the competition.

We are entering the competition again this year. The first round will take place in school on Monday 12th November and we have nearly 30 children who want to take part, which is fabulous. If you would like to see the types of questions that the children will be answering, you can find past papers at <http://www.primarymathschallenge.org.uk/downloads>

Good luck Year 6! We'll let you know how they get on.

More Baby News!

We are delighted to tell you that Mrs King safely gave birth just before half term. She had a baby boy called Aiden. We are sending lots of love to her family.