

# Thorndown Newsletter

Number: 78

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

Happy New Year and welcome back to another busy and hardworking term at Thorndown. I hope you had a great break and have recharged your batteries.

We have started back with a focus on a 'Wow' starter to begin our topics. These have included a dragon's egg being discovered in school, using art to explore the fins, wings and parts of insects and animals and even finding a buried box with interesting objects inside, which included a piece of cheese!

This term, we will continue to have more class topic celebration events, at which we would love to see you, as well as open classrooms, parent workshops and our parents' evenings in March. Dates for these events will be put on our Thorndown Lowdown over the next few weeks and there will be separate letters regarding the parent workshops, so please look out for these.

I look forward to working with you again this term.

*Vicci Godbold*

## Pre-School Christmas Sing-a-long



*In December, the children in Pre-School held a Christmas concert for their parents. The children dressed up in clothing from the*

*Nativity and sang Christmas carols, many of which included Makaton signs. At the end of the concert we asked the parents to sing 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' to the children. They got a huge round of applause— although we think our children's singing was better! Thank you to everyone who came and supported us.*

Mrs Hamilton

## Vocabulary

*"The limits of my language are the limits of my universe." – Goethe*

Although we have always promoted the development of pupils' vocabulary throughout their years at school, more and more research is showing that a large vocabulary opens doors for children and is essential as they progress through their primary education and beyond.

Vocabulary is developed through reading and talk. We have already run a workshop for parents on how to help your child read at home and we will be running vocabulary workshops this term. These workshops will show you what we are doing but also how you can help at home. If you can think of other ways we can help you develop the vocabulary of your child in your home, please don't hesitate to contact me through the school office.

If you don't have a new year's resolution, maybe reading to and with your child every night could be one to think of? As a parent, you can make a phenomenal difference to your child's vocabulary and life chances.

## Photograph competition winners

Thank you for all the wonderful entries we had this year from all age groups, including Pre-School. The standard was so high again that I had to have help from staff, pupils and many visitors who come into school, which resulted in a very wide judging panel!

The winners are:

Head teachers' choice:	Nina
Year 5&6:	Amber
Year 3&4:	Edith
Year 1&2:	Emilio
EYFS:	Sienna

The winners have had their pictures printed onto canvases, which will be displayed in key places throughout the school.



Well done to all who entered and to the winners. We will be running the photograph competition again in the Autumn Term, 2019. The Student Council have decided on the theme of Water Wonder, so keep your eye out for good photograph opportunities.

#### **The Year 5 War Museum**

*At the end of last term, on Friday 14th December 2018, the whole of Year 5 hosted a war museum for some war veterans and some RAF Wyton staff and cadets. It was a special chance for Year 5 to show our wonderful work.*



*There was a variety of items, ranging from symbolic paintings to persuasive leaflets. We also held an exhibition in our classes so our parents and carers could come in and see our work.*



*Everyone enjoyed it; we had so much fun. I hope we do it again.*

By Maja Year 5

#### **Anglo-Saxon Day!**

*At the end of last term, on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, the Year Six classes, Leopards and Toucans, went to have masses of fun in the activities they participated in. With our warrior leader, Beowulf, by our side, we also learnt the commands and games of the olden days. As well, we found out about the interesting diet of the Saxons! All of the students were able to hold some of the incredible weaponry that the actual Anglo-Saxons used. These were weapons like: axes, swords, seaxes (knives mainly used for display of wealth but were lethal) and even a giant axe that can kill up to four men with one swipe.*

*There were many incredible things like animal skins and shields. As well as holding a chainmail t-shirt, which was heavier than a dumbbell, we also had a go at the hardships of life, things like grinding the grains which was a daily routine that had to be done. It would take at least 2 hours a day and the youngest child would have to do it as the parents would be working and the older children would be training to be a warrior or cooking.*

*In a nutshell, I would recommend this event to anyone as it is thrilling and unlike any lesson ever seen before. It makes the ideas of fun and lessons come together as one and were an exciting and amazing adventure. All that can be said is: thank you to the school for organizing this and thank you to Beowulf for giving us this outstanding experience.*

By Rebecca and Summer