

Thorndown Newsletter

Number: 79

An Author's visit



On Tuesday 15th January, Thorndown welcomed children's author, Eamonn Reilly, who delivered an assembly to showcase several of his books. The assembly was filled with interest, laughter, ideas and activities the children could try out themselves. Eamonn was thrilled with the reception he received and by the behaviour and enthusiasm of the children. It was a very positive atmosphere and the children were hooked for the duration of the visit.

Leo in Year 4 said, "We met an author who is on tour and he showed us the following books: *The Lookout*, *Tall Tales* and *Rashnu*, which was about the world's richest boy. I really enjoyed them and there were lots of funny bits - I recommend him. The ideas will help me with my writing and his books have helped with my interest in reading."

Mr Peel, English Lead

Being a Foster Carer

Have you ever considered becoming a foster carer? If so, now is a great time to start your fostering journey as Cambridgeshire County Council's fostering service is currently recruiting carers to a wide range of rewarding roles. They are particularly keen to hear from anyone who could provide a home to a teenager in care and offer them the help and support they need. To find out more about how you can make a difference, call today on 0800 052 0078 or visit: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering

Book Day Heads Up!



A friendly heads up to all parents/carers that World Book Day is approaching. On Thursday 7th March 2019, we will all be dressing up as an animal character, so start thinking about costume ideas!
Mr Peel

School Funding

Since 2010, schools' income has not kept pace with the rise in costs. As a consequence, Thorndown and other schools around the country have many difficult choices to make regarding how to spend the limited funding we receive.

Following the Government's advice on how to save money, such as renegotiating contracts, the Governors and I have to think of more and more imaginative ways to "make ends meet". However, this is becoming increasingly difficult and is verging on almost impossible.

If you have a moment, please could you fill in the petition below to urge the Government to increase school funding, which we desperately need. Thank you.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/232220>

Year 1 Visitors

In Year 1 this half term, we have been exploring our topic 'Wings, Fins, Feathers and Tails'. It has been a great opportunity to invite some local visitors in to work with the children. Firstly, on Monday 21st January, Professor Sulley visited us all to discuss his job as a Geologist and shared with us some of the fossils he had found. He also taught us lots about dinosaurs which really helped us when we were writing our non-chronological reports. The following week, on Monday 28th January, our local animal sanctuary, Wood Green, visited to share with us some key points about dog safety. We learnt to follow P.A.W. I wonder if the children in Year 1 can remember what each letter stands for?

Open Classrooms



Over the last few weeks, we have welcomed around 100 parents and carers into school for our Open Classrooms. The focus of Reception's morning was early number sense. Our visitors learned about how we develop the children's understanding of key concepts and we shared ideas for how to help at home. They then joined lessons and had a great time taking part in a range of activities and games.



Year 3 & 4 welcomed parents and carers into classrooms to see how we teach multiplication and division. During the workshop, parents learned about key vocabulary, such as multiplicand and quotient, and had fun playing games with Numberlink Boards. In classrooms, parents saw a range of lessons showing multiplication and division learning in action! Bar modelling was the focus of the Year 5 & 6 Open Classroom. Parents learned how bar models can be used to support children in solving some very tricky word problems. Parents and children definitely had a brain workout! Thank you to everyone who attended and we look forward to Year 1 & 2's Open Classroom soon.

Crafting through the ages



On Wednesday 30th January, some visitors from Field Lodge in St Ives joined our craft club for a

couple of hours crafting together. They made very intricate dragonfly greetings cards.



Thank you to Susan Simpson from Craftyduckydoodah, Field Lodge and of course our children for such a wonderful afternoon.

Marvellous Maths Day

Last Monday, we enjoyed our first Marvellous Maths Day of 2019. In classes around the school, children were solving mathematical challenges and puzzles. Some cracked codes to rescue kidnapped pets or to find the location of a dinosaur egg. Some children embarked on top secret missions, whilst others solved clues to make cutlery for giants and some built their own Escape Rooms.



We did lots of maths challenges to release Logan the Lemur. We had to discover the thief, which was the number 78! 78 has lots of disguises, so we made a 'Wanted Poster' to find him. If we solve the clues, we'll get to rescue Logan!

Lemur Class, Year 2

Not only did children learn lots of maths, they also learned about themselves and the importance of resilience and team work.

I was nervous coming into school because I am not so confident at maths. Today I felt so proud because I believed in myself and got so much done. I really help my team. Evie, Year 5

More information and photos of our Marvellous Maths Day adventures can be found in our forthcoming English and Maths newsletter due out soon!