



# English & Maths at Thorndown Primary School

## English

### Handwriting

Last half term, we reintroduced our handwriting scheme to all of the children at Thorndown. All children are encouraged to develop a cursive handwriting style which is clear, joined and fluid. Inevitably, some will be neater than others, but each child can acquire a consistent and fluent style. Cursive style letters start from the line and are taught in families. You can find more information on our website.

In Key Stage Two, pen licences are on offer for children who meet the cursive requirements. Here are just a few of our Year 3 children who have received their pen licences this half term:



## Maths



### Meet Mrs Zhu and Miss Chen

Following Mrs Gerrard's very successful trip to Shanghai with 70 other teachers from across the country in November (see our last whole school Newsletter - Issue 43), we are looking forward to welcoming our two Chinese partners to Thorndown after the Christmas holiday. They will be arriving in school on January 9th and will be working with Leopard and Bat classes for two weeks. Mrs Zhu and Miss Chen are highly qualified maths teachers, who undertook a rigorous selection process to be able to participate in the programme. It was a real pleasure to see them deliver amazing lessons with their own classes in China and it's a great privilege for Thorndown to have been selected to host them. There will be over 100 teachers from across Cambridgeshire and beyond who will be visiting us over the fortnight to learn from their practice and we will keep you updated with news about their visit.

### Skoolbo and TT Rockstars

We are continuing to make successful use of online resources to help develop children's fluency in number and calculation. TTRockstars is used to develop multiplication and division skills, while Skoolbo provides practice of a range of maths skills, as well as reading and spelling. Every Friday in our celebration assembly, we present trophies for the classes who have earned the most points and there is a special treat for the individual child who has worked the hardest. This week, Lewis in Year 2 reached the top of our leaderboard with almost 6000 points. His sister said that he was 'determined' to win our Maths Monkey, who will now spend the week in Bat Class helping the children with their work! Chameleon Class have also made the news! They wrote a wonderful letter to Skoolbo and were featured in the recent Skoolbo blog, which you can view [here](#).

We are very proud of the efforts and resilience that our pupils show and the positive impact this has on their learning and progress. Your support and encouragement has a tremendous effect too!

If you would like support or advice about how to use these programs at home, or if your child has lost their password, please contact your class teacher.



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### Reading Tip 2!

#### Making Choices

It's important to still visit book shops, libraries and places where your child can browse and chat with you about their interests. They'll start to prefer certain authors or series, or types of reading such as comics, magazines or websites, and with your encouragement, they can learn to make choices for themselves too.

#### Useful Websites:

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk/](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/)

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk/](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/)

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/)

[www.readingrevolution.co.uk/](http://www.readingrevolution.co.uk/)

[www.compare4kids.co.uk/  
literacy.php](http://www.compare4kids.co.uk/literacy.php)

Let us know about your favourite websites!