



# Thorndown Primary School Newsletter



Hello,

It was great to welcome the children back this week following their half term break.

We have an incredibly busy half term ahead of us with visitors, new play equipment, residential visits and (if it isn't too early to mention the word) Christmas plays all on the horizon over the coming weeks.

Our whole school attendance last half term was 96.3% which is above both regional and national figures. We are always looking for ways to improve and boost attendance and punctuality and working with parents to support this. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's attendance please to speak to me about how we may be able to support you.

Take care  
Mr Snape

## Term Dates

Children return - 30th October  
Final day of Autumn term - 20th December  
4th/5th January 2024 - Training Days  
8th January 2024—First day of Spring term  
19th-23rd February - Half Term  
28th March - Last day of Spring

## Diary Dates

Wk beg 30th October - Reception Balance Bike Training  
31st October - Y5/6 Rugby Tournament  
1st November - Toddler Group 9.15-10.15 in Kingfisher Club  
1st/2nd November - Parents Evening  
3rd/8th/15th November - Year 6 Local Heritage Project Days  
6th November - Y6 Hilltop Meeting

## Children In Need

On Friday 17th November, we will be holding a non-uniform day for Children In Need. Children will be able to come into school in their own clothes and we invite them to make a donation to Children In Need on the day. Please note, if your child has P.E. on this day they will need to be in appropriate clothing for this lesson.

## Paralympic Visitor!

Before half term, we had an amazing visitor – Sean Rose a double Paralympian. He encouraged and motivated us to complete a variety of exercises; the hall was full of active, happy children. At the end of all classes having their session with Sean, we gathered together for an assembly. Sean spoke to us about his life. What an inspiration! He spoke about his sporting successes and his accident that left him paralysed from the waist down. He then went on to explain about his positive outlook and resilience and the incredible things he has since achieved. This message was very powerful and I'm so pleased we invited him to visit to explain about choices that everyone of us can make in life when met with challenges.

## Pre-School

This week, the children have been exploring pumpkins. Inside the Curiosity Cube, we have added pumpkins of different shapes and colours. Our story of the week is Pumpkin Soup and the children have loved meeting all the characters. The children have enjoyed making their own pumpkins out of orange play dough, making pumpkin soup in the coloured water, and exploring real pumpkins in the tuff tray. They have scooped all the insides out and using their own ideas added it too the pumpkin soup they have been making in the water tray.

If you have been carving pumpkins at home, it would be lovely if you could bring in a picture so we can share these with the children.

Becky Smith

## Lunchtimes

As we move toward introducing OPaL within our school for playtimes we have started to make some adjustments to our provision.

This will steadily grow over time and we will be looking for donations of all different kinds to support our children's play. Keep a look out in this newsletter for items we may be looking for.

To being with, if you have any old fancy dress costumes that could be appropriate for our Imagination Zone, please speak to Mr Snape or Miss Sibanda.



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### Mindful Monday on 13th November

As part of Anti-Bullying Week we will be holding our first 'Mindful Monday'. There will be a number of events throughout the day such as:

- Children wearing Odd Socks to celebrate differences
- The Mental Health and Support Team will be running a coffee morning for parents from 9.00-9.50am. Further information to follow
  - They will then present an assembly for the children
- KS2 will get the chance to explore the huge benefits of exercise during a bounce trampoline activity.
- Classes will also be generating activities for 'Mindful Minutes' to be used throughout the year to support Mindfulness within school.

### Grandparents Gardening Morning

Last half term, we were very lucky to get some fantastic volunteers to support us with the school garden. Mr Lemmon and all the volunteers worked incredibly hard to get the garden ready for winter. A huge thank you to all those who gave their time and efforts supporting us with this.

If you would be interested in supporting the school with the garden in the future please do see Mr Snape or Mrs Mills to express your interest.

