



Thorndown Primary School Newsletter



Hello,

It is great to be able to welcome you all back to school for another year. The children were all very excited to start in their new classes with their new teachers—and the sun even managed to make an appearance!

We already have some exciting things lined up for this year and you will see information in this newsletter about new assessment systems, FOTS committees and exciting plans for playtime coming up this term.

FOTS play an incredibly important role in school life and we are looking for a new committee for this year - please find details in this newsletter on how you can get involved.

Take care,
Mr Snape

Term Dates

Last day of Half Term - 20th
October

Half term - 23rd-27th October

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

Diary Dates

7th September - New to Year 1 Parents
Meeting

11th September - FOTS AGM

19th September Meerkats to Meadow
Lodge Farm

22nd September - Lemur Class to Meadow
Lodge Farm

26th September - Jellyfish class to
Meadow Lodge Farm

28th September—Burwell Parents
Meeting

Vision and Values

As a school we have begun to consider our vision and values going forward. This has involved working with staff and children to find out what makes Thorndown the school it is and what values we want to be the foundation of all we do here. Getting parents views on this is an essential piece of the puzzle. This can be done [here](#) and we look forward to hearing your opinions.

Water Bottles

As the weather is due to be hot over the next week or so please can you ensure your child has a water bottle in school. Please can we also remind you that the children should only have water to drink in school. There are also water fountains on both floors should water bottles need refilling throughout the day.

Pre-School

We are looking forward to welcoming the new and existing children back to Pre-School, we have lots of fun and exciting settling in games planned and have set up the garden ready for the children to explore and enjoy the current lovely weather.

Just a reminder to please remember to name all your child's belongings and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on 11th September.

Becky Smith

Assessment

As a school we have been reviewing our assessment procedures to ensure we are best able to support the children in making progress with their learning. As a result we have decided to move to PiXL .

As PiXL works by identifying gaps in children's learning - and supports teachers to identify and teach to these gaps - children in years 2-6 will be taking assessments this half term in place of the assessments we used to do at the end of term.

If you have any questions regarding this please speak to Mr Snape or Miss Broadhurst.



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F.O.T.S

On **Monday 11th September** our F.O.T.S - our Parent Association - will be holding their AGM in Owl Classroom at **3.30pm**.

A new committee is needed and will be elected at this meeting. F.O.T.S is a fantastic organization that contributes so much to Thorndown and we are always keen for new members to get involved.

Please do attend if you are at all interested to learn more about the role.

OPaL

Later this term, we will be launching OPaL at Thorndown Primary School. OPaL (Outdoor Play and Learning) is committed to ensuring playtimes are an important and invigorating part of a child's school day and support play for the whole school.

This will be an exciting journey and we would like a parent to join our OPaL council to support the school in implementing OPaL within the school. This will involve working with staff and OPaL representatives to improve the provision of play offered at Thorndown Primary School. If you would more information about OPaL and what the role would entail please speak to Mr Snape or Miss Sibanda.

Videos on the impact OPaL has had at other schools can be found [here](#).

Online Safety

Social media can sometimes make us and our children feel anxious, sad or overwhelmed. The Childline website has a fantastic page full of resources aimed at supporting children to feel good on social media and advice to help them stay in control. They have top tips including the following ideas for if your child is not feeling good on a social media platform.

- Get help if you see something upsetting
- Follow someone new
- Remember that what you see isn't always real
- Forget about 'likes'
- Be nice to other people
- Decide when you want notifications
- Stop scrolling and do something else for a while

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/feeling-good-on-social-media/>