



Thorndown Primary School Newsletter



Hello,

Well, Christmas is certainly underway at Thorndown Primary School!

We have had some fantastic performances from our Year 1 and 2 children this week. Thank you so much to all the parents who came along and a special thank you to all the adults in school who made this play possible. The children worked so hard and performed brilliantly.

We also have some very festive things occurring next week with the Reception Christmas performances and our Christmas dinner day on 14th December. Children are also able to wear a festive jumper on this day should they wish to.

We are also looking forward to the Pantomime coming to school on the 15th December to give two performances to allow the whole school to see the show.

Thank you to all the families who have donated resources for our OPaL launch at lunchtimes which will be coming after the holidays. We are very excited to continue developing our provision at lunchtime.

I hope you all have a great week,

Mr Snape

Term Dates

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 Term

Diary Dates

11th/12th December - Reception Performance

12th December - Year 6 Cooking Workshop

14th December - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

15th December - Pantomime

19th December - Pre-School Christmas Sing-a-long



Are you having a pre-Christmas clear out? Maybe you're sorting through those old toys trying to clear some space? Have you got toys that are gathering dust and no longer played with?

If that sounds like you, then please let Thorndown be your first thought! We are still trying to build a bank of toys that can enhance our play provision. Play makes up such a huge portion of school life. All children have the right to play and, as a school, we are striving to give all children the best play opportunities that we can. This is just the beginning!

Thank you so much to the families that have already donated. We are still asking for further donations of: trains and train tracks, small cars/vehicles, dolls houses and other small world toys, Duplo, Lego and anything else you can think of! Please come and ask (or email) Miss Sibanda if you have any questions about this. She loves to talk anything 'PLAY'!

Pre-School

This week the children have started the celebrations for Christmas, they have been busy practising for the upcoming sing along and been very creative making Christmas baubles at the art table. Our lovely story of the week is "It was the Night Before Christmas". In the cube, is the Pre-School elf who will be staying with us all through December and hopefully not causing to much mischief. The children have loved seeing him.

Becky Smith



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Writers of the Week

Congratulations to our winners Hugo and Laila for 24.11.23

When the toys were wrong, they were brought to the Unstitcher. When Princess Flo came to Fluffley's Fine Toys she was excited.

By Hugo (Year 2)

Hugo wrote some great sentences using conjunctions. He used a subordinating conjunction at the beginning of a sentence.

The potential housecarl strode into the room nervously, but with delight he stated his name and gracefully bowed before naming his talents. The impressed earl slowly raised his hand. He signalled his future protective to start another wonderful speech. The applicant got his words ready and started speaking clearly with passion and pride.

The lords and ladies gazed at the future housecarl with amazement as he carried on with his speech.

With confidence, he slowly came to the end of his speech. His last word echoing in the ballroom. The earl thought his skills were impressive and smiled.

The lords and ladies looked shocked as if they'd never seen someone with so much confidence and talent before.

They showed the applicant out and exclaimed that the answers would be told tomorrow.

By Laila (Year 5)

Laila had previously written a speech in role as a housecarl, about why they should be a member of Harold's household. Using that piece of writing she has used indirect speech.



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EAL at Thorndown

As mentioned previously there are 33 languages spoken at Thorndown School! We are continually developing our curriculum to ensure that we provide children with opportunities to learn about lots of different places in our world. How good is your child's knowledge of countries and capitals cities? What about flags of the world?

Your child might enjoy one of these quizzes:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/top-class-flags-of-the-world-1>

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Y6 trip to Ivolution

Our year 6 children had the wonderful opportunity to go to St Ivo Secondary school this week to watch a fantastic show put on by pupils there - many of whom were Thorndown alumni!

" We all went to Ivolution and there were so many of us we took up one thirds of the entire hall. The show had dancing and there was people who did solos, flips and loads of acrobatic moves. We really the fact we got to go into the Ivo and see what it was like as we may be going there next year. A big thank you to all the adults who took us - it was a great experience!"

Bernie and Hannah from Toucans.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

DISNEY+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

**LESS SUITABLE
CONTENT**

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience; these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package - Disney+ Standard with Ads - which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 8+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.

ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutcliffe is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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