

Thorndown Newsletter

Number: 104

Allotment and Pond



Just before half term, our caretaker, Mr Barnard, and his wife Jackie were joined by two dedicated grandparents to help get our pond and allotment ready for the winter.



They all did an amazing job; I can only say thank you for the help they have given us all. The beds are ready for next year's growing season.



Remembrance pebbles

Some classes in Year 3 and Year 4 had the privilege of creating some remembrance stones that will be shared in the local area. We considered what remembrance means and who we remember every year on November 11th. It was lovely to reflect, discuss and be thankful for those who have sacrificed so much for us. The pebbles look amazing; please keep an eye out for them over the next couple of weeks!

Mr Sweeney

Snapshots of learning...Pre-school

Pre-school have been talking about Remembrance Day and the significance of poppies. They had a mini Remembrance service.



Christmas Shoeboxes

It has been a difficult year and trying to adapt to new ways of doing things in a Covid safe manner has proved challenging for everyone.

Over the last few years, Thorndown children and families have responded overwhelmingly to the request to support the Christmas Shoebox Appeal that St Ives Rotary Club co-ordinate in this area for a small charity CR2EE.

Previously, we have collected individual items and created fabulous gift boxes, working with St Ivo Sixth Formers. This year, to continue to provide boxes of joy for children in Moldova, who would otherwise be going without gifts at Christmas, we needed to adapt. We asked for boxes to arrive in school already filled with wonderful gifts.

It was emotional to see the support and generosity of the Thorndown community.



56 boxes from Thorndown have now begun their journey to Moldova! Thanks to the kindness and generosity of Thorndown children.

They will be distributed to users of the charity CR2EE soup kitchens, putting a big smile on the faces of many.



On behalf of the recipients of the gifts, a huge thank you and a wish for you all to have a very

happy Christmas and a safe 2021! And a very big thank you from Thorndown and the St Ives Rotary Club.
Mrs Bralee

Snapshot of learning...Year 5

An excellent afternoon of TAG rugby was held as part of the Year 5 interhouse competition this week. The children played many games including rugby skills. One particularly entertaining game was named "Eggs in the nest". Each house had a nest of cones and they had to take rugby balls from other nests until the time stopped. This involved exercise, teamwork and plenty of giggles for all!



Meanwhile, each Year 5 class fielded a team that played against each other in a mini competition. After all the games were played, Jaguars were the overall winners with marvellous skills shown by Harry V and Felix. Summer too needs a special mention for ensuring all her team were involved. She also scored a stunning try... which was disallowed, but despite this she held her head up and continued to play on.

Mrs Burke

Children in Need 2020



What a wonderful chance Children in Need was to raise money for such a good cause and to also say thank you to all of the NHS workers we have connections to the school and within our community. Thank you from all of us here in Thorndown for all the work you have been doing and also for what you will be doing as we work through this pandemic.



Staff news

Just before half term Mrs Lawrence, who had been a TA at Thorndown for a few years, left us to try something new. We hope she is enjoying her new role.

Miss Sibanda is expecting her third baby in the early spring and I am sure we all send her and her family many congratulations.

Get on your bike...or scooter

Cycling, scooting and walking to school are the best ways to reduce congestion and pollution outside school, while increasing safety and the improving physical and mental well-being of your family during lockdown.

We are still being asked to practise physical distancing when outside our homes, and the government has stressed the importance of this happening during school drop-off and pick-up times

If you cannot walk, scoot or cycle all the way to school, it's still possible to travel actively by parking a short way from school and walking or scooting for 5 minutes or so. The Outdoor Centre car park is a great place from which to do this.

It's a great way to get some exercise as well as being fun, for children and adults. You also see so much more when walking or scooting, and it's a lovely special time to chat with children and get out into the fresh air and see the changing seasons.



Reading Resources to Support for Parents and Carers

The Open University and Macmillan Children's Books have produced a resource to help parents and carers support their children's reading at home. The resource comprises three short films and materials to help families read books conversationally and creatively to children. You can find more information at <https://researchrichpedagogies.org/research/supporting-rah>