



# Thorndown Primary School Newsletter



Hello,

What a fantastic week we have already been having at Thorndown already.

Yesterday, all of our children took part in our first ever Mindful Monday where they learned about how to look after their own mental health. There were bubble discos, bounce sessions and more - look out for pictures in the Newsletter next week.

We have also begun our OPaL journey and you will find more information here about how you can help support the school in developing an enriching play environment for the children at lunchtimes. Thank you to all those who took part in the parent survey for this, the information gathered was valuable for our action planning.

It was also great to see so many parents at our coffee mornings led by Charlotte Dean and the Mental Health Support Team - we will be looking to put more sessions like this so please keep a look out for details!

Take care,

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

15th November - Year 6 Local Heritage Project Days

16th November— Girls Football Friendly Match

17th November - Walters Cup Football Match

21st-24th November - Y6 to Hilltop

21st November - Henson Cup Football Match



## OPaL (Outdoor Play and Learning) – Donations

As many of you know, we have begun our very exciting OPaL journey! Play makes up 20% of school life and here at Thorndown, we recognise the importance of play and aim to provide a stimulating and varied environment that will enrich our children's play experiences. In order to make some quick additions to our play environment, we are asking for donations of:

- Lego/Duplo/construction bricks
- Small world toys (dinosaurs, animals, figures etc.)
- Cars
- Trains and train tracks
- Small world play mats (roads, tracks etc.)

Please drop any donations off in the large, yellow bin outside the office. It is labelled 'OPaL donations'.

Thank you!

Miss Sibanda

## Pre-School

This week the children have been learning about Diwali.

Rama and Sita have been in our Curiosity Cube and our story of the week is all about Diwali.

The children have loved dressing up, making lots of Rangoli patterns, using different types of paint, chalk, and glitter and watching a story all about Rama and Sita. At the end of the week we will be learning all about Children In Need.

Becky Smith



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## EAL at Thorndown

A great way for you to broaden your child's experience of multilingualism is to share books which provide plenty of opportunities for discussion.

Books which feature stories, characters and cultures from different parts of the world can broaden children's understanding of what life is like for others.

Here are a few great reads which we highly recommend if you'd like to bring diversity to your bookshelf:

Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne (Preschool/Reception)

The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi

(Reading age 3-7 years)

Abuela by Arthur Dorros

(Reading age 3-7 years)

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale by John Steptoe

(Reading age 6-9 years)

Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah (Reading age 8-11 years)

If you have any favourite stories that you highly recommend, please share them with your class teacher.

