



Thorndown Primary School Newsletter



Hello,

What an incredibly busy and fun-packed term we have had!

There has been a fantastic amount of exciting activity in school this term, from residential in year 6 and year 4 along with many other trips and visitors who enriched the curriculum and engaged the children.

The children had a wonderful time on Friday when the pantomime came to Thorndown with a performance of Red Riding Hood. This was the second great performance we had last week following on from the Reception Christmas play which was fantastic.

We have been getting into the Christmas spirit here at Thorndown - Father Christmas paid a visit to us today to gift each class a book and the staff treated the children to a unique rendition of '12 Days of Christmas' in assembly.

I hope you are all able to have a rest this holiday and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year,

I shall see you in 2024!

Mr Snape

Pre-School

This week we have continued our theme Christmas at Pre-School, our lovely story of the week is Oh, no Mr Snowman.

The children have been busy making lots of Christmasy crafts that will be coming home this week. They have also been exploring sound in words by clapping out the number of syllables during our phonic sessions.

We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas Break and look forward to seeing the children again in January.

Becky Smith

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

20th December - Final day of
term

4th/5th January - Training Day

8th January - Children return to
school

15th-18th January - Year 6 Bikeability

29th January - Y5 visited by Cambridge Astronomy Institute

30th January - Young Voices



The children have had their first 'Play Assembly' with Miss Sibanda that gave them the exciting news that OPaL playtimes will begin after the Christmas holidays with the launch of our Small World Zones.

If you have any Small World items such as lego, cars, train tracks or anything else you are looking to clear out of your house, please speak to Miss Sibanda or put it in the yellow trolley in the reception area.

Welcome to New Staff

We will have number of new staff joining us in
January.

Mrs Comish will be joining the team in Pre-School along with Miss Sodeux after the Christmas break.

Mrs Antony and Miss Rust will be joining the team in Reception. We are all looking forward to welcoming them to the team and they are looking forward to helping and supporting the children in those classes.



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EAL at Thorndown

This special Christmas addition of the EAL newsletter was created with Tymofii, Ihor and Danyil who are some of the Ukrainian children from Thorndown Primary School.

The children shared a curious tradition whereby children wake up on Christmas morning and look under their pillows. If they have been 'good' that year they are greeted with chocolate and a small toy. If they haven't they're greeted with a stick!

The boys spoke fondly about their grandmothers baking sweet treats around Christmas time. Danyil mentioned chicken served in jelly being popular and also shared photos on the iPad of Olivier Salad.

This salad is made from diced boiled potatoes, carrots and brined dill pickles (or cucumber), together with optional vegetable or fruit ingredients such as green peas, eggs, celeriac, onions and apples. All of the ingredients are mixed together with mayonnaise. Danyil spoke about the version his family enjoy containing chicken but the salad can include any meat.

If you'd like to try it, you can find the recipe here:

<https://www.chefspencil.com/recipe-olivier-salad/> This version contains ham but you could substitute this with another protein.



Choir

The choir have been on tour! They performed at the opening of the new Bandstand in St Ives, the St Ives Choral Society Concert and for customers at St Ives Dementia café. They all performed fantastically and represented the school brilliantly. A huge thank you to Mrs Peach and all the adults who have supported and helped with these performances. They shall now be focussing on getting ready for the Young Voices concert!



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Reading Raffle Winners!

Here we have the winners from this term's reading raffle! These children have been reading 5 times a week. Congratulations to all our winners for this term. The children were all awarded a token to choose a book from the school book shop. Remember you've got to be in it to win it, so log those reading sessions on Boomreader to be in the chance to win!



Sport @ Thorndown

On Thursday 14th December, some boys from Year 6 went to the Outdoor Centre to play Hemingford Grey Primary in the Dickenson Cup. We managed to take the early lead from a bottom corner shot from Zach followed by a poacher's goal from Henry. Despite conceding early in the second half, we came back with a two long shots from Ronnie and Zach ending in a 4-1 victory. All the boys played really well and we are glad to be through to the next round of the cup.

Written by Harvey T and Ryan

It was on 12th December when we played the futsal matches at One Leisure, St Ives against lots of other primary schools. We weren't on first so we had a quick warm up and practised our positions. Then we were on and we (Thorndown) won our first match 3-1! It was a friendly but competitive tournament that was girls only. We managed to come third overall after all of our games and we were extremely proud of ourselves.

Written by Willow and Lauren.



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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.