

Thorndown Newsletter

Number: 84



Welcome back after a lovely Easter holiday. Your children have been telling us about all the adventures they had. It's great to be able to enjoy the spring weather with our lunchtimes back on the field again.

This term is a very busy one, with SATs for Year 2 and Year 6, Sports Days, reports, open days, many school trips and our Summer Fete. Keep an eye out on our Thorndown Lowdown for these dates for diaries.

There is a lot to look forward to and we will enjoy sharing it all with you and your family.

Vicci Godbold

School Funding

Did you know that if we were a school in Birmingham, we would receive in our budget £5,152 per pupil? If this school were in Luton, we would have £4,835 and in Bristol we would receive £4,682 per pupil. At Thorndown, we receive just £4,311 per pupil (before Local Authority SEN top slicing which means we actually receive half of this amount per pupil). If we all lived in the Bristol area, the school would have an extra £205,150 to spend on your children. Imagine what we could do with that amount of money! Our budget is incredible tight and we believe that this discrepancy in the finding we receive is not 'Fair Funding' at all! Please write to your local MP so he can tell Parliament what an injustice school funding currently is!

jonathan.djanogly.mp@parliament.uk

Parking before and after school

Can I please remind all parents and carers to think about our residents when they are parking? Please give room for residents to leave and return to their houses, as well as space for other cars to move freely down the street.

The Outdoor Centre is a great place to park, which is only a few minutes' walk down California Road to the school gates.

Flag Fen Fun



On Friday 26th April 2019, all of Year Three visited Flag Fen near Peterborough. First we went back in time using a human timeline to help us to understand just how long ago the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Ages were. Harry said, "I enjoyed the timeline because it showed me different periods of time." Next we saw a real long boat that was discovered in the local area. We even got to play in a replica boat. "It was really muddy; I actually felt like I was in the river," said Olly. Another highlight of our trip was a visit inside a roundhouse. Theo described it as, "dark with a real fire and it was scary!" We all had a great day and learnt even more about the past. Mrs Murphy. Year 3 Class teacher

Year 5 Topic Starter



On the 1st May, all of Year 5 dressed up as a character from the book, *Breadwinner*. In the morning, we played fun cricket but with the resources Afghan people used when they might play in the street, e.g. a stack of shoes or books for the stumps. After that, in Mrs Patrick's room, we made mini kites with card and

string. In Afghanistan, people would play kite fighting. That was when two people try to cut their opponent's string with the string from their kite. After break, we went into Flamingo class to taste some Afghan foods. There was Naan bread, pomegranate, raisins, dried fruits and balani. It was very tasty. In the afternoon, we went onto the field to fly our kites and it was so much fun.

Overall, I think this day has taught a lot of us how the life of Afghan people is lived. Honestly, it was life changing. Jale. Year 5

Year 1 Mexican Adventure

On Thursday, just before Easter, we went to Chiquitos. We went on a huge colourful coach and it took us about 15 minutes to get there because it is just in Huntingdon.



As we got there, it was quite noisy because we were all very excited. We sat in our small groups and at our tables we all found a sombrero to wear. While we were waiting, we tried nachos and dips; they were delicious! Next, the kind and helpful ladies brought out our tortillas, chicken and rice so that we could make our own mini wraps. For pudding, we could choose from fruit salad and ice-cream or chocolate brownie and ice-cream. I had chocolate brownie and ice-cream and it was the best pudding ever! Sadly, after such a great time at Chiquitos, it was time to return to school.

Year 1 Teaching Team

Attendance

I'd like to thank all parents and carers who ensure their children are in school as much as possible. When analysing each child's progress every half term, it is really noticeable when a child has low attendance. Low attendance can have huge effects on the children's ability to progress in their work at the same rate as other pupils in their class, and they can often fall behind.

The Local Authority and the DfE insist that I inform all parents when their child's attendance

is below 95%. Although we use a standard letter format developed with the Local Authority Educational Welfare Officer, our Parent Forum have agreed slight amendments to make this a Thorndown letter!

We remain strongly committed to working in partnership with all our families and are very grateful for the support our parents and carers give in ensuring their children's good attendance. Thank you.

Our allotment

This summer term, with help from some gardening governors and staff, we will be working with groups of pupils from the Pre-school up to Year 6 in our allotment at the back of the school. This is following on from the great work started by Mr Vyas last year.

We hope that each child in every class will have a chance to work in the allotment throughout the summer and autumn terms.

During the growing session, the pupils will be growing from seed a variety of crops and we will be eating them during the day, as well as selling them to you when they are ready.

We still need some volunteers to help gardening with the schools governors and staff. If you would like to join us on most Tuesdays and Fridays, please contact me via the school office or on the playground in the mornings or after school.

Tennis



We have been very lucky to have Michael, a coach from Huntingdon Tennis Centre, to work with us at Thorndown. He has led sessions with pre-school and reception, including games and races to develop the children's ball and racket skills. The children had excellent fun and staff were really impressed with how hard they worked to improve. More lessons are scheduled for Year 4 and Year 1. Huntingdon Tennis Centre is running an Open day for Families on May 19th which Thorndown children will be very welcome at.

Mrs Burke