

# Thorndown Newsletter

Number: 90

I can't believe it is half term already. Where have seven weeks gone? Everyone at Thorndown has worked very hard, as you will see when you visit us for parents' evening after half term.

We all hope you have a much needed half term break and we look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October, ready for the journey to Christmas!

Miss Godbold

## Allotment News



We have wonderful sunflowers growing in our allotment, which were planted by our current Year 1 children last summer. Bumblebee Class were measuring themselves against a sunflower. It's great to see maths in the outdoors!



Monty and some other Foundation Stage pupils helped dig up all the carrots. The carrots were enjoyed by the children with their roast school lunch the next day.

## A wonderful toy visitor for Year 1

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September, Mrs Kirk came into Camel Class to talk about her toys from the past. She showed us a wind up Jack in the box and a kaleidoscope which had pretty patterns inside.

*Out of her bag, she got a very shy and old teddy. It had no fur because it had been cuddled so much. It was stuffed with straw and it felt hard. She showed us some very old books that were quite fragile. Did you know that at Christmas in the past children did not have a Santa sack but used a pillow case instead?*

*Thank you to Mrs Kirk and to all the other visitors we are having during our Toy topic.*

By Rafa and Nathan

## Photographic Competition 2019

Just to remind you all about a letter I sent home last week about this year's photographic completion. The theme this year is **water wonder**, which was chosen by our student council.

The winners of each year group category will have their pictures mounted and hung up all over school. The four age ranges are:

- Pre-school and Reception
- Years 1 and 2
- Years 3 and 4
- Years 5 and 6

Please ensure your child's name, class and the title of the photo is clearly written on the back of each entry. I will announce the winners in the next newsletter following judging.

The closing date is just after half term on the 28<sup>th</sup> October - a half term activity perhaps?

## Christmas Cards

The last day to pay for your Christmas cards online is the **28<sup>th</sup> October**. After this date, we cannot accept any payments.

After you have paid for your child's card design, the pictures must be returned to school for us to send it to the printers. I will be sending the pictures off on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October in the morning post.

As last year, the money raised from the card sales will pay for Christmas treats for the children. We hope to provide a pantomime for pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 during the last week of this term

and for Father Christmas to visit with a small present for the smaller members of the school.

### **Inspire your inner archaeologist!**

On Saturday, 19 October there is an annual Prehistory and Archaeology Day, run as part of the University of Cambridge's Festival of Ideas. Prehistory and Archaeology Day is a fun and educational day out for the whole family with plenty of hands-on activities: rock art, spear throwing, archery, metal smelting, pottery making, excavating etc. You can even bake bread the prehistoric way!

The event is free for all and there is no need to book in advance. The event is held from 10:30am – 4:00pm at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, 34 A&B Storey's Way, Cambridge CB3 0DT.

You can find out further details online here:

<https://www.festivalofideas.cam.ac.uk/events/prehistory-and-archaeology-day>

### **The police hunt for the porridge thief**

Foundation Stage have discovered that someone has been taking breakfast cereal from the Three Bears Cottage in their joint classroom area.

The Three Bears Cottage was broken into and there was a huge mess. They found some clues: porridge on the floor, some golden hair and a red ribbon. We thought these clues indicated that the culprit might be Goldilocks!

Foundation Stage then received a letter from the police letting the classes know that they are aware of our crime and asking for their help.

So, on October 10<sup>th</sup>, PC Bacon came to talk to Foundation Stage about the crime and his role as a police officer. They learnt that one of the main roles of a police officer is to help people. They also learnt that, if we ever get lost, the police can help us. He showed them some of his equipment including: notepad and pen, walkie-talkie and baton. He also bought his police van; they went inside and even tried out the sirens!



Thank you for your visit.

### **Toy hand-me-downs**

There comes a time when children grow out of their books, toys and games and there is no one to hand them down to. If you have any toys and

books, which are in good condition, that you would like to donate, School and Pre-school would love to receive them. Your child's toys and books will continue to be enjoyed by many more children. Please drop them into the main school office or in at the Pre-school door by the front entrance. Thank you.

### **Harvest Festival**

Thank you to the families who donated to this year's Harvest Festival celebrations at the start of October. All the food items were gratefully received by St Ives' Foodbank, which will help support families within our own community.

### **Maths Online**

TTRockstars is an amazing resource which our children in Years 4-6 are currently using to develop their multiplication and division skills. Regular practice using its games can really improve children's confidence and speed when recalling key facts. Each week we award certificates for their efforts. Well done to Logan, who is currently our TTRockstars champion. He has now been the school's top scorer for seven weeks in a row!



Our Numbots trial is also up and running which helps children to develop their counting, addition and subtraction skills. All children in Years 1-3 should have their login details and other year groups can access this using their TTRockstars usernames. The free trial will last until 11<sup>th</sup> November and we will then vote for whether we prefer Numbots or Skoolbo. It would be great if you could take a look over half term as we would love to know what parents think too. If you have any views, please tell Mrs Gerrard!

