

Thorndown Newsletter

Number: 95

Reading and Reading for Pleasure



After reading the statistic below in the summer holidays, Mrs Browne and I have been looking at ways in which we can increase the reading for pleasure that our children do throughout the school.

“ The difference in reading ability between a child who reads for pleasure for 30 minutes a day and one who never reads was more than a year” OECD report ‘Reading for Change’.

The Team Leaders and their year group colleagues have created a reading list of books that they’d like pupils to have read by the time they leave their year group. The selection of these books is based on pupils’ interests, year group topics and reading ability. The school, with financial support, has bought these books for each classroom. Teachers will be encouraging pupils to read these books in school and at our weekly Reading Club, and we will be using these books as whole class readers.

I have attached the book list to this newsletter, which is already on our website, in case you are interested in reading these books at home too.



We will continue to promote reading for pleasure at different times this year, including

World Book day activities in March. Look out for more details coming soon.



Long Serving Staff

Did you know that Mrs Norman and Mrs Allen have been at Thorndown 30 and 31 years respectively?

We are delighted they still want to work with us and we really value their experience and knowledge. Congratulations and thank you to them both.

Hairbands

Lots of ‘weekend’ hairbands, such as unicorn horns, false hair and animal ears are creeping into the school. Can I please ask that children wear plain hairbands without added extras. Enjoy these fun bands at the weekends and discos instead. Thank you

Year 6 are First Aid ready



On Tuesday 14th January, all three Year Six classes had first aid training for future occurrences. We learned how to put people into the recovery position, how to do CPR and we even got to look at a defibrillator. We also

learned about the different equipment needed in a first aid kit and in what incidents we would need to use each item for. It was really fun and interesting to find out about how we may help save someone's life; Year 6 feel much more prepared now.

By Charles and Ruby

Our Cow Update

After receiving a coat of blue paint recently, we have been busy painting the animals designed by the winners of our cow design competition.



The cow has been designed to show the challenges that the environment faces at the moment and our concerns about animals becoming endangered by human activity. Our cow, Captain Moovel, has been designed to tell humankind to mooove over and let animals have space in the world too.

Around her middle, the cow is decorated with endangered species of the world and then, using our fingers, Year 1s, with Year 6 help, have been adding bees to the top.



Bees are becoming an endangered species in our own gardens.



We will be finishing off the cow over the next few weeks, so she is ready to join the other cows at a cow launch in Cambridge in March.

FOTS play equipment update

Over February half term, phase one of our new play equipment plan will come into view. This part has been planned since October and we have had to wait for the builders to have a space in their schedule for us.

The new equipment is designed to be used throughout the whole year. Part of it will back on the KS1 playground and will be used by them. The other half is joined to the field and can be easily accessed by pupils enjoying the field from March until October.



Phase Two now urgently needs to be fundraised for. This phase is the replacement of the really old play equipment on the main playground that moved from the old school five years ago. It is now showing great signs of wear and how much it has been loved.

We desperately need volunteers to ensure the funds keep coming in. You don't have to sign up to do everything. Would helping for two hours at an event be too much? How about helping to set up for a disco for an hour after school? Your children can help too. If you can't leave home in the evenings, how about filling bags or researching new events? Any hour you can give would be very helpful. If you think you can spare a few hours, please email FOTS at the email below:

fotssecretary@gmail.com.

We have a plan for the phase two now we need the funds!