

# Thorndown Primary School

## Newsletter

Hello,

What a scientific week it has been at Thorndown.

The children have all thoroughly enjoyed their Science Week activities. This has included dressing up as scientists, parents coming to talk to us about how their job involves science and lots of exciting experiments and assemblies. A huge thank you to Mrs Emberton and Mr Peel for creating a fantastic week.

Thank you all those who attended our Parent Consultations this week - it was great to be able to share the progress your children have been making.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Snape



### School Dates

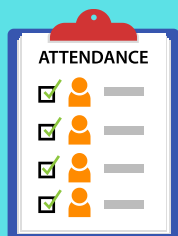


- 16<sup>th</sup> March - English Challenge Final - Over
- 16<sup>th</sup> March - Year 2 Great Fire of London Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> March - Giraffe Class Assembly
- 20<sup>th</sup> March - Comic Relief
- 20<sup>th</sup> March - FOTs Easter Disco
- 24<sup>th</sup> March - Chameleon Class Assembly
- 27<sup>th</sup> March - Genr8 Assembly
- 27<sup>th</sup> March - Parent Play Afternoon
- 27<sup>th</sup> March - Final Day of Term
- 13<sup>th</sup> April - Children return to school

### Attendance

Our whole school attendance for this year is 95.5%

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**



This week, the class winning our attendance trophy for best attendance was Meerkats with 99.1%

### Breaktime Snacks

We have begun to see a number of unhealthy snacks creep back into playtimes recently. We would like to remind you that children in KS2 should bring a healthy snack to eat at playtime. Below is a suggested list that has been sent previously.

The best snacks for break time are finger foods that can be eaten outside. Below are some examples of snacks that can be eaten which provide long-lasting energy:

- Breadsticks, crackers and plain rice cakes
- Any choice of fruit
- Yoghurt tubes and pouches
- Vegetable sticks, such as carrot, cucumber, and peppers or any other vegetables your child enjoys.
- A hardboiled egg
- Malt loaf

EYFS and KS1 children are provided fruit by the school for their playtime snack.

Thank you for supporting us with this.

### Reading Book Plea

We have noticed that our reading colour book stock is looking depleted.

Please can we ask that you have a hunt at home for any books that haven't been returned to school?

Thank you for your support with this,

The Key Stage One team.

# Achievement



## Oracy Assembly

This week at Thorndown, we celebrated British Science Week. The whole school dressed as a scientist of their choice for a day, whether that was a famous scientist, a scientist they know or a science field they enjoy. Costumes ranged from biologists, doctors, sports scientists, zookeepers, vets, chemists and many more!

The children also explored many areas of interest relating to various scientists, science careers and jobs as well as shared information about people they know who work in a science-based job. On Wednesday morning, the children shared their outfits and witnessed Mrs Emberton create 'Elephant's toothpaste' using a variety of household items and the result was incredible!



## Writers of the Week!

This weeks writers of the week are...

Elephant - Maya  
Orca - Zachary  
Otter - Effelia  
Camel - Lyra  
Kangaroo - Shannon  
Owl - Hazel  
Bat - Harry C  
Turtle - Otis  
Puffin - Jenson  
Meerkat - Iris  
Lemur - Charlie  
Giraffe - Dylan P  
Chameleon - Beau  
Penguin - Molly B  
Lion - Charlie  
Toucan - Izzy  
Panther - Brodie  
Jaguar - Jack R

## Pre-School

This week the children have been busy continuing to learn all about "Under the Sea" and Mother's Day.

They have enjoyed planting sunflower seeds, spending time outside in the lovely weather we have had, and listening to some wonderful stories all about sea life.

Next week we will be reading the story Rainbow Fish and exploring different science experiments as part of Science Week.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend!

# Well-Being

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026

## EXPLORING THE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI



FEB 2026

### TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

This Safer Internet Day we are starting a conversation about smart technology and making safe choices. With many children and young people hearing about and using AI online, it's important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology.

#### AGE GUIDANCE



**ChatGPT** - 13+

**My AI** (Snapchat) - 13+

**Google Gemini** - Under 13: Available via *Family Link* with parental controls.

13+: Standard version.

**Microsoft Copilot** - 13+

**Character AI** - 13+. Some chat features have been restricted following safety concerns.

**Replika** - 18+ only. Not appropriate for children due to intimate and emotional chat features.

**Perplexity AI** - 13+. Younger users require parental permission.



**⚠️ Age limits exist to protect children.**

Even when apps are technically accessible, they may not be developmentally appropriate. ⚠️

**CAUTION**



#### TALK



The internet is amazing and can help us all to access information and entertainment. Explore it with your child, discuss its positives and negatives, use news for conversations, and ensure they feel safe sharing their online experiences with you.



#### Where to get help

AI tools can sometimes generate harmful or illegal content. If you see inappropriate or concerning AI-generated material, report it using the platform's reporting tools or to the [Internet Watch Foundation](#).

If someone creates or shares AI images of you or your child without permission, these can also be reported to the platform and through services such as [Report Remove](#) or [Take It Down](#).

*Remember, if you or anyone else is in immediate danger, call 999 immediately.*

#### REMEMBER

**AI can make some tasks simpler but may also collect data about you and your family, or share unreliable information, so consider how to use it safely and responsibly.**



<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>



# Opportunity



## Football Fun

On March 12th, 10 students from Year 5 went to a football tournament at Westfield School. First, we learnt our formation, then we played our first game and won 2-0. The next two games we played, we won 2-0 and unfortunately lost 1-0. Our final game we won 2-0 and so we got 9 or 10 overall points, and we might make it to the next round.

By Theo L, Lions class

## Science Visitors for Science Week

Anna P (Pola's mum) came to talk to year 2 about her job as a cell biologist. Reception also had an ex-Thorndown pupil, Janine McMahan, come to talk to them about her role as an ecologist. Both did a fantastic job letting the children know how they apply science to their roles. A big thank you to both visitors for coming.

# SPONSORED SKY DIVE

**Taking the Leap** for Mental Health support in our local schools



**MAYOR KERR**

How to donate to this great cause:  
[www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk/pay/](http://www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk/pay/)  
Ref: Skydive and surname



**COUNCILLOR BURKE**

Please sponsor this crazy pair!

**Saturday 14th March 2026**

# DON'T MISS OUT ON DLA!

Did you know you can get DLA,  
the main benefit for disabled  
children even if:

- Your child doesn't have a diagnosis.
- You have a job or savings.
- You get other benefits.

**ONLY 1 THING  
MATTERS:**

Your child has a disability, illness  
or health condition and needs  
more care or watching over than  
other children their age.

Visit [www.contact.org.uk/dla](http://www.contact.org.uk/dla) to find out more

**contact** For families  
with disabled children

SUPPORTED BY  
**MAYOR OF LONDON**

