

Thorndown Primary School

Newsletter

Hello,

We have had another action packed week here at Thorndown.

We had another set of fantastic Open Classrooms in Year 2 - it was brilliant to see parents and carers engaging with their children's learning and the children themselves enjoyed this also.

Thank you to all those who attended our Phonics Screening Check information session. We hope this information will further help you in supporting your children's phonic learning at home.

We also had our class photos taken which will be available to parents soon.

Have a great weekend and a wonderful half term,

Mr Snape

School Dates



- 17th - 23rd February - Half Term
- 26th February - Y6 SATs Meeting (Online)
- 27th Feb - Y6 St Ives Rotary Club Quiz
- 4th March - Buddhist Visitor for yr 4/5
- 5th March - World Book Day Book Sale
- 6th March - World Book Day
- 18th/20th March - Parents Evening
- 18th March - Y1 Science Visitor
- 20th March - Y6 Humanist Workshop
- 21st March - Y6 Local MP Visit
- 24th-26th March - Y4 Burwell Trip
- 28th March - Y1 Tennis Taster Sessions
- 28th March - Y4/5 Astronomy Visitor
- 28th March - FOTS Easter Disco
- 31st March - Y2 Great Fire of London Day
- 31st March - Author Visit

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for this year is 95.8% which is above the national average of 94.5%. This means we are in the top 20% of schools nationally for attendance. Well done Thorndown!

This week, the class winning our attendance trophy for best attendance was Elephants with 99%.



Parking

We continue to have issues at the start and end of the school day in the school car park. **Please do not enter the car park at these times unless you have prior agreement from the school to do this.** We have a lot children and parents moving around the site at these times and we need to keep the number of vehicles moving around the car park to a minimum at these times.

Before School

We have noticed that a number of children are beginning to arrive, unsupervised, in the school playground very early.

The school playground is not supervised by any adults before the school doors open at 8.40am. Whilst it is fantastic that children are so keen to get to school, please can you ensure they do not arrive much earlier than 8.40am, in the interests of health and safety.

Thank you.

Healthy Snacks

As a school we regularly promote a healthy lifestyle, including a balanced and varied diet. KS1 children are able to access fruit for their snack but we have noticed an increase in unhealthy snacks around the school day. Please can we ask that parents support us in our work in promoting a healthy lifestyle by avoiding chocolate, sweets or other such snacks during school time.

Achievement



Pre-School

The children have had a wonderful week celebrating Valentine's Day! They loved listening to the story of the week, "Guess How Much I Love You," and had fun making Valentine's cakes with playdough. They also worked on their pencil control by completing Valentine-themed mazes.

In the tuff tray, the children explored cause and effect. They started by playing with marshmallow oobleck made from shaving foam and cornflour, and then added frozen hearts made of oobleck and bicarbonate of soda. Using pipettes, they added vinegar to see what would happen. The children had a fantastic time, and some of their quotes were, "It's like a volcano," "It's all bubbles," and "It's so soft and bubbly."

We hope you all have a lovely half-term and look forward to seeing you soon!
Becky Smith
Preschool Manager



Writers of the Week

Each week, in Celebration Assembly, we congratulate those children that have been working particularly hard with their writing. Children from each class have the opportunity to display their work in the hall and receive a certificate. Well done to the children below for receiving 'Writer of the Week' this week:

Badger - Bruno
Hedgehog - Henry
Otter - Jasper
Kangaroo - Charlie V
Owl - Mia
Elephant - Noah
Bat - Thomas
Puffin - Noah
Giraffe - Sami
Meerkat - Hannah
Chameleon - Grayson
Lion - Florence C
Orca - Grace
Penguin - Katie
Panther - Elena
Toucan - Evelyn
Lemur - Alix
Jaguar - Jerome



Oracy Assembly



Valentine's Day



In this week's Oracy assembly we discussed a brief history of Valentine's day. We talked about how we show that we care about someone and how we celebrate Valentine's day.

In KS1 we discussed how we show that we care about someone, using the instigate and build talk tactic. Then we talked about how we celebrate Valentine's day and how we can show we care about someone without giving gifts.

We discussed the following questions:

- How do you show that you care about someone?
- How do we celebrate Valentine's Day?
- You don't have to buy gifts to show that you care. What will you do this Valentine's Day to show that you care?

Perhaps you could continue this discussion at home; thinking of thoughtful things you could do to show that you care.



I would like to start by saying...
I think...

Building on _____ idea,
I think...



In KS2 we discussed a brief history of Valentine's day. We talked about how we show that we care about someone, using the instigate, build and summarise talk tactic. Then we discussed how we celebrate Valentine's Day and how we can show someone that we care without giving gifts. Next, we talked about if we would rather have a gift or something thoughtful from someone we care about, using the instigate and challenge talk tactic.

The questions we discussed were:

- How do you show that you care about someone?
- How do we celebrate Valentine's Day?
- You don't have to buy gifts to show that you care. What will you do this Valentine's Day to show that you care?
- Would you rather that someone you cared about did something thoughtful for you or gave you gift?

I agree because...

I disagree because...



Well-Being



Wake Up Wednesday.

ONLINE HABITS

Everyone has so much going on in their lives, and that includes children: from exams and deadlines to anxiety and mental health struggles. It's quite easy to send memes, make jokes and vent online about the things that irritate us, but when was the last time you – or your child – took a moment to share something kind or positive instead? In fact, when did you last stop and think about your family's online activities? To help keep them safe and teach them healthy online habits, we need to develop our children's digital resilience. There are lots of ways that children can become more digitally resilient, and we've pulled together some popular strategies here –

WHAT IS DIGITAL RESILIENCE?

Resilience doesn't mean being so tough that nothing gets to you, and it's not about "putting up with things" either. Instead, it's the ability to recover from setbacks. Everyone feels sad, worried, scared or upset at times: it's how we respond and adapt to those situations which is important. Digital resilience is about making choices that keep us safe and happy online, even when we're exposed to something negative or upsetting. Building your child's digital resilience will help reduce the impact of potential risks as they engage with and navigate around the online world.

REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT

- If you have a problem online, don't be afraid reach out to specialist people or organisations that could help.
- Follow people on socials who have the same values and morals as you.
- You could always talk to a friend, or a trusted adult like a teacher or family member for some advice.

MAKE POSITIVE LIFESTYLE CHOICES

- Make time for the people and things that make you happy.
- Monitor your screen time and stick to your limits.
- On social media, follow people that make you feel good about yourself – and unfollow the ones who don't.
- Spread some positivity: post good reviews, leave encouraging comments and share good news.

KEEP YOUR HEALTH IN MIND

- Try to factor in regular breaks offline and away from your screen – ideally, outdoors for some revitalising fresh air.
- Exercise is a brilliant stress-buster: even a walk around the block, a bike ride or a stroll to your local shop can really work wonders.
- Be strict with yourself about putting devices away in plenty of time before bed: they can interfere with a good night's sleep, which is essential for staying healthy.

PUT SAFETY FIRST

- If you see something online that upsets or worries you, tell a trusted adult about it as soon as possible.
- You could also report the content that's making you feel uncomfortable to the site or app that you saw it on, so they can look into it.
- Another option is to block the person or the account that's causing you a problem – or you could go one step further by totally deleting the app you were using.

GET THINGS CLEAR IN YOUR HEAD

- Ask yourself what kindness online actually looks like. Can you remember the last time someone was kind or supportive towards you online? What did they do?
- Think about how it makes you feel when someone sends you a positive or funny message online.
- What about the opposite: has someone ever been deliberately unkind to you online? What did they do and how did it make you feel?
- If someone's behaviour online is causing you stress, try to remind yourself of all the steps you can take if a person's being unkind online.

More Wake Up Wednesdays can be accessed through the schools National College membership. Parents can sign up to this using [this link](#)



SCHOOLS Ticket Voucher 2024/25

APPLICABLE FIXTURES



12:30
25 JANUARY
2025



15:00
1 FEBRUARY
2025



12:30
15 FEBRUARY
2025



15:00
22 FEBRUARY
2025



15:00
29 MARCH
2025

ADULT & U18 FOR £12!



THIS CODE ENTITLES YOU TO 1X U18 SEATED IN THE MEAD PLANT & GRAB FAMILY SOUTH STAND FOR £12. CODE CAN BE REDEEMED FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE APPLICABLE FIXTURES VIA CUFCTICKETS.COM

ALL FIXTURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE GO TO WWW.CAMBRIDGEUNITED.COM FOR LATEST INFORMATION.

Opportunity



100 day party!

On Thursday 13th February, Year 1 celebrated being at school for 100 days, we have been counting each and every day since the beginning of the school year. We have added a counter each day to represent the concept of 'one more'. We have shared full sentences using the stem sentence "One more than... is ...". Year 1 threw a huge party to celebrate this number and the children had a wonderful afternoon sharing their favourite memories of year 1 so far, decorating numbers up to 100 and (of course) boogying the afternoon away. We have loved counting to 100 every day, let the counting beyond 100 continue.



Year 2 Seamstress Visit

On Thursday, Mrs Laurence came in to speak to Year 2 about her job as a seamstress. Year 2 are currently creating bunting as part of their DT topic and this was a lovely opportunity to see how this skill of sewing links to a range of professions. Mrs Laurence talked about her love of sewing at school and how this inspired her to follow this as a career. We loved seeing how her sewing machine worked, and she showed us how to make a simple bag. Thank you to Mrs Laurence for coming in to speak to the children, we really enjoyed it!

