

# Thorndown Primary School Newsletter

Hello,

It has been a lovely week here at Thorndown.

We had our Reception Phonics Cafe and Open Classroom as well as an Open Classroom in Year 4/5 this week. It was great to see so many parents attend these events and see their children learning.

We were also delighted to have won 2 Amazon Kindles from Katie Poole Estate Agents this week. A huge thank you to Mrs Ford for nominating us in this competition.

Whilst the weather has been kinder to us this week, please do ensure your children have a coat with them each day in school. This means we are able to keep the children outside playing even in the most changeable of weathers.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend,

Take care,  
Mr Snape

## School Dates

21st October - FOTS Trick or  
Treat Bags

22nd October - Y4/5 Girls  
Football

23rd October - Y4/5 trip to St  
Ives Mosque

28th Oct - 1st Nov - Half Term  
Holiday

19th-22nd November - Y6  
Hilltop

20th November & 4th  
December - Flu Vaccinations  
(Year 6 children who will be at Hilltop  
will have their vaccinations on 4th  
December)

26th/28th November - Parents'  
Evening

29th November - Training Day  
(school closed to children)

## FOTS



**FOTS**  
Friends Of Thorndown Schools

### TRICK OR TREAT BAG

A pumpkin bag with a spooky craft and ghoully sweet treat!

Just £2 per bag, delivered to your child's classroom before Half Term!

Scan the QR code to order ->

\* RAISING MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL

The advertisement features a central image of a 'Trick or Treat Bag' which includes a pumpkin-shaped bag, a 'Happy Halloween' sticker, and a 'Happy Halloween' card. The background is decorated with autumn leaves and pumpkins.

# Achievement



## 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:

Elephant - Niall  
Kangaroo - Trixie  
Owl - Ethan  
Bat - Amelia  
Puffin - Helena  
Giraffe - Valentyna  
Meerkat - Safa  
Chameleon - Jasmine  
Lion - Malcolm  
Orca - James  
Panther - Rebecca  
Penguin - Evie  
Jaguar - Isaac  
Lemur - Pearl Annalise  
Toucan - Dylan

## EAL

Our first Language of the month of this academic year Bengali. Did you know that Bengali, also known as Bangla, is spoken predominantly in Bangladesh but also in the Indian states of West Bengal and Tripura. It has approximately 200 million native speakers and is among the top 10 most spoken languages in the world!

Thank you to Sakeena from Giraffe class for being a super contributor to our language learning!

Here are some words in Bengali which have been written down phonetically to enable you to practise saying them:

Good morning/Good afternoon:  
Assalaamalaikum.

How are you? - Afna bala asonee?  
Good- Bala

Not good- Bala Nai  
Ok- Teek aseh

Goodbye- Zayramgi

Thank you- Dhonnobad



## Pre-School

What a busy week we've had at preschool! Our story of the week was 'Elmer', and the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring different colours from the story. From a colour hunt around the school, to observing the colorful trees and leaves on our listening walk - the activities have been enjoyed by all.

During carpet time, the children shared their 'Elmer' pictures that they made at home and at preschool, which are now proudly displayed in our curiosity corner. A reminder that you are welcome to come into preschool next week at the end of the day to see all the wonderful work the children have done this half term.

Wishing you a lovely weekend!



## Oracy Assembly - KS1 & KS2

This week, we practised our talk tactic challenge in assembly. During our assembly, we discussed three 'Would you rather?' questions in our talk trios. Where we instigated our opinion and then we respectfully challenged when we disagreed using the stem sentence:

I appreciated your opinion but...

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed hearing each others reasoning to support their opinions and respectfully challenging each other.

### **Why not try discussing these three 'Would you rather?' questions at home?**

1. Would you rather be an ant sized monster or a monster sized ant?
2. Would you rather fly or be invisible?
3. Would you rather be a bird or a horse?
4. Would you rather be a famous actor or a famous singer?



# Well-Being



## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screentime. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

### 1 WORK TOGETHER

Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.

### 2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES

Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online. If they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins: does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.

### 3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY

Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.

### 4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE

To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices – especially smartphones – are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.

### 5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY

Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family; discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key – so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.

### 6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any information they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.

### 7 BE RESPECTFUL

Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online – such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lend themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.

### 8 "NO TECH" ZONES

Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example: bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.

### 9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES

As a family, discuss why the rules are important: to balance their screentime, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.

### 10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS

To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.



# Opportunity



## Black History Month

In assemblies this month we have been celebrating Black History Month. We have been learning about figures such as Betty Campbell, Matthew Henson and Katherine Johnson.

If you or your children would like to learn more about Black History Month, or find out more about different people from the past, they can do so on on this [link](#).



## Open Classrooms

It has been fantastic to see so many of you at our Open Classrooms this week. It was great see so many parents joining in with their children's learning and seeing how they learn during the school day.

Below is some wonderful feedback we received from parents:

*I love to see in person what my child is doing at school and what subjects they are enjoying the most.*

*The session gave me a great insight into how science is taught and the vocabulary they use.*

*The session before gave us a good understanding what the children had been learning so far.*

Next week, we have Open Classrooms on:

Monday - Y2 at 9am (please use the door next to the year 1 outdoor area)

Wednesday - Y6 at 9am - (please use the fruit door opposite the office)

Wednesday Y3 at 2:15pm - (please use the fruit door opposite the office)