

# Thorndown Primary School

## Newsletter

Hello,

The sun has finally started shining as we come to the end of another week here at Thorndown.

This week we have had the Year 6 Rotary Club quiz. It was fantastic to see so many of our children attend this and the enjoyment they got out of it. They ended up finishing 5th which is a great achievement. A huge thank you to the Rotary Club of St Ives for organising this.

Next week we have lots happening at Thorndown with visitors to a number of year groups and our World Book Day celebrations. More information of what we will be doing to mark this can be found in this newsletter.

A big thank you to those parents who are supporting us with parking and use of the school car park at the start and end of the day. We will continue to monitor this closely in conjunction with local PCSOs

Have a fantastic weekend

Mr Snape

### Attendance

Our whole school attendance for this year is 95.7% 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!

MOMENTS  
MATTER.  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.

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



### School Dates



- 3rd March - Y3 Hindu Visitor
- 4th March - Buddhist Visitor for yr 4/5
- 5th March - World Book Day Book Sale
- 6th March - World Book Day
- 12th March - Y4 Burwell Parents Information Evening
- 18th/20th March - Parents Evening
- 18th March - Y1 Science Visitor
- 20th March - Y6 Humanist Workshop
- 21st March - Y6 Local MP Visit
- 21st March - Comic Relief
- 24th-26th March - Y4 Burwell Trip
- 25th March - Drumming Assembly
- 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

# Achievement



## Pre-School

We've had a great week continuing our healthy living theme! This week, we've been diving into the story Kitchen Disco and learning about all sorts of different fruits. The fruit tasting was a hit, with the children trying out a variety of fruits and discovering what they liked (and didn't like!). In our tuff tray, we created a lovely garden scene where the children got to plant and dig up real vegetables. This activity sparked lots of curiosity about gardening and planting, and everyone had a great time.

Next week, we're excited to try pancakes, explore more healthy foods, and head over to the bigger children's playground. There, the children will get a chance to try out the wooden trim trail. We hope you have a lovely weekend.



## 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 - Cara  
Hedgehog - Alexander  
Otter - Lyra  
Kangaroo - River  
Owl - Noah R  
Elephant - Molly H  
Bat - Mina  
Puffin - Teddy  
Giraffe - Evalyn  
Meerkat - Mali  
Chameleon - Murad  
Lion - Fabian  
Orca - Maisie  
Penguin - Evie  
Panther - Sam  
Toucan - Maria  
Lemur - Flo  
Jaguar - Isla



## Oracy Assembly



Random Acts of kindness

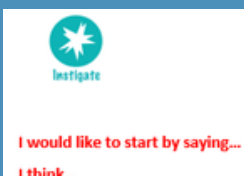


This week Year 1/2 and Year 5/6 discussed Random Acts of Kindness Day. It is a day dedicated to encouraging people to perform acts of kindness for others, without expecting anything in return. The day serves as a reminder that even small gestures of goodwill can have a significant impact on someone's day, and even as a community as a whole. Kindness has been shown to reduce stress, improve mood and even strengthen relationships.

In KS1 we discussed what a random act of kindness is and thought of examples of it. We thought of something kind to say to the people in our trios and a random act of kindness we could perform today.

In KS2 we discussed the purpose of Random Acts of Kindness Day and the meaning of empathy. We talked about what random acts of kindness might look like and chose something kind to say to the members of our trios. Then we discussed a random act of kindness that we could perform during the course of the day.

Perhaps you might like to explore this further at home and talk about random acts of kindness that you can perform.



# Well-Being



## Picture News Assembly

In Thursday's assembly we discussed a campaign which started in a school in York called 'Girls can have short hair- Get over it!'

This campaign started because some 11 year old female footballers were playing in a girl's team football match when they were asked to stop playing by parents from the opposition's team. These people said they should not be allowed to play because they were boys.

We talked about the reasons why some people might judge others, how judging someone because of their appearance might make that person feel and what we could do, if we notice someone behaving in this way



## TAG Bikes

TAG Bikes is part of Cambridgeshire County Council's supporting into work programme based at Huntingdon Community Centre. TAG Bikes supports adults with disabilities to build employment skills and self-esteem in a team-based workshop for future working careers.

The TAG Bike programme offers training on how to repair, refurbish and service second-hand bikes and aims to help learners develop a wide range of employability, social and life skills whilst improving their confidence and independence.

They also provide free bikes for under 7s and homeless people and are completely reliant on the support they receive from the community.

You can support TAG bikes by....

- Donations of unwanted bicycles. All shapes and sizes welcome. All they ask is that the bicycle is in reasonable condition, and they will do everything they can to find their bicycle a new, loving home
- Go and see them if your bicycle needs a serve/repair, or if you are looking for a second-hand bicycle.
- Offering work-based opportunities for their team member.

Call 01480 377697 or email [robert.bierton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:robert.bierton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) for for information.

# Opportunity



## A love of reading at Thorndown

Next week it is World Book Day on Thursday 6th March 2025. We have lots of exciting things happening throughout the day. We will be looking back at 'Our Top Picks', sharing some of the wonderful books we have in our reading areas/nooks, looking at our class focus poets, and we will have the opportunity to take part in a reading quiz that the Reading Champions have organised. Below you can see some of 'Our Top Picks.' These are a list of books that we'd like children to have read by the time they leave their year group. The selection is based on pupils' interests, year group topics and reading ability. Each classroom has a selection of these books for children to access. These can be found on our school website on the English - Reading tab.

### Thorndown's Book Shop

On Wednesday 5th March the Thorndown Book Shop will be open at 3.15pm in the main school hall. We hope to see you there at the end of the school day. All books range from 50p £1, £2 or £3 - a bargain for all!



### Sharing your love of books with Blue Peter

Blue Peter has been running for decades and is one of the longest-running children's TV shows, known for its engagement with young audiences through book recommendations, activities, and competitions. A Blue Peter Book Badge is an award given to children who share a love of books. You can apply for your badge online on the Blue Peter website. To receive the badge tell Blue Peter about a book you have read and what you think about it. Upload your illustration of a character or a scene from the story. Let Blue Peter know what other books and authors you have enjoyed reading and why. Follow the link to apply: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge> Once received, the badge can be used to get into a wide range of attractions, museums and places to visit around the U.K.



### World Book Day Tokens

World Book Day is the official reading for fun charity. Each year they offer £1 book tokens to all children in the UK to be exchanged for one of the official World Book Day books. Thanks to WHSmith in Huntingdon, we have a collection of these books arriving in March. All children at Thorndown have voted for the book they would like, please look out for these free books in your child's school bag on World Book Day!

# Opportunity



## KICK: Mental Health Workshop

Every Wednesday, this half term, we have had a Mental Health Workshop where we learnt about how to look after our Mental Health. We learnt about the 5 ways of wellbeing: connect, learn, give, take notice and be active. In all the other sessions, we were always kept busy with 5-6 different activities. These are some of the things we got up to in each session:

- 'Connect' - we were in groups of 5 and we collaborated to make elephants out of toilet paper - it was lots of fun!
- 'Learn' - we did quizzes and learnt new skills we might want to continue.
- 'Take notice' - we used our senses of smell, taste, sight, hear and touch and had to take notice of different things.
- 'Be active' - we had a go at darts, hula hooping, large connect 4/jenga, limbo and testing our reaction time.
- 'Give' - we spoke about giving not just to others but ourselves too.

These activities all helped our mental health and learning how we can manage it. We began each session in our wellbeing buddies where we played a game and checked in with each other by asking how we was feeling, what was our favourite thing about last week and what we were looking forward to doing this week.

## Police Visit: Online Safety

On Thursday 13th February, a Police Officer came to visit Year 6. He spoke to us about online safety and how to stay safe online. All of the things he mentioned to us are can happen on any online platform. He explained to us about how we shouldn't share our personal details online and that we shouldn't believe everything we see online including: fake news and how AI can trick you. AI and fake news can make something look very believable/realistic so when we come across something online we should always fact check. He also mentioned that we should avoid seeing and partaking in dangerous online trends we might see videoed online - they are not as fun as they look and can be very dangerous!

Additionally, he also spoke to us about the difference between friends and online friends. We should only be playing online with people that we know since some people online can pretend to be anyone and that is dangerous. Whenever you see something or find something unusual that you don't trust, you should tell a trusted adult (someone at home or a teacher in school). We also learnt about the importance of coming forward if we notice anything unkind happening online and it is our duty we are safe online but to also report anything that is unkind.

At the end, there was time for some questions and we all enjoyed finding out more about the Police.