

Thorndown Primary School

Newsletter

Hello,

It has been another exciting week here at Thorndown.

Our Year 4 children had a fantastic time during their residential trip to Burwell House. I'm sure they were all tired but they represented the school well and enjoyed their residential trip.

We have had some new learners in our Reception as our Duck Eggs hatched! All the children have loved watching them grow and they will now go and live on a local farm.

Have a good weekend,

Mr Snape

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for this year is 96.1% which is above the national average of 94.6%. This means we are in the top 20% of schools nationally for attendance. Well done Thorndown!

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

This week, the class winning our attendance trophy for best attendance was Kangaroo with 100%.



School Dates



- 31st March - Y2 Great Fire of London Day
- 31st March - Author Visit
- 1st April - Cross-Country Championships
- 2nd April - Year 6 English Challenge Final
- 2nd April - Second-Hand uniform sale
- 4th April - Last Day of Term
- 22nd April - Training Day
- 23rd April - First day of term
- 24th April - Zoolab visit to Reception
- 29th and 30th April - Yr4/5 West Stow Trip
- 6th-8th May - KS2 Chef Visits

Achievement



Pre-School

This week has been so much fun as we've explored some fantastic stories with the children! They've loved listening to The Gingerbread Man, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and

The Three Little Pigs. In the tuff tray, they've been busy building the pigs' houses using hay, bricks, and twigs. Over at the playdough table, they've been shaping their own gingerbread men, and using stick puppets to bring Goldilocks and the Three Bears to life in the reading area. It's been such an enjoyable week!

A big thank you to all the parents who have helped their child create something related to these stories at home. There's still time for your child to bring in their creations, and we'd love to share them during our Show and Tell time.

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend! Next week, we're excited to shift our focus to Easter, and we'll be sharing the story We're Going on an Egg Hunt. We can't wait to dive into more fun learning and activities with the children!

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 - Teddy

Hedgehog - Teddy

Otter - Reenie

Kangaroo - Parker

Owl - Theo

Elephant - Newton

Bat - Ava

Puffin - Parker

Giraffe - James S

Meerkat - Luke

Chameleon - Archie

Lion - Molly S

Orca - Jack

Penguin - Jessica

Panther - Janelle

Toucan - Aayra

Lemur - Faye

Jaguar - Matilda



Oracy Assembly

Mother's Day

In this week's assembly we talked about Mother's Day. We looked at a brief history of the day; how in the 17th century many people worked in domestic service. Young children also worked as servants during this time and worked and lived away from home. Mothering Sunday was one of the few days off that servants got. Today Mother's Day is an opportunity to thank all the amazing women in our lives for all that they do for us. Whether it's our grandmothers, auntie, sister, mother or guardian.

In KS1 and KS2 we talked about what is special about our mothers or guardians. We discussed all the things that our mums/guardians do for us and what we would like to thank them for. We talked about all the different ways that people celebrate Mother's Day: by going out for a special meal, buying chocolates, flowers and cards. Then we talked about how we can show our gratitude with thoughtful actions rather than buying gifts.



We talked about these questions:

- What is special about your mum/guardian?
- What would you like to thank your mum/guardian for?
- How can we show we are thankful without buying gifts?



Perhaps at home you could talk about all the things that your mum does for you and what particularly, you are thankful for. You could talk about thoughtful things you could do to show how grateful you are and how much you care.

Well-Being



Discover Your Next Favourite Read!

At Thorndown, we are passionate about helping our young readers uncover new children's books and authors that we think they will absolutely love! The world of literature is brimming with hidden gems just waiting to be explored, and we are here to guide the way. The Books for Topics Branching Out booklists are thoughtfully designed to assist children in finding their next favourite read once they've finished a beloved series or book. Whether they adored fantastical adventures, enchanting tales, or captivating mysteries, we have a curated selection that caters to every taste. Encouraging a love for reading is at the heart of what we do, so we invite all our families to check out these posters, spark conversations about stories, and enjoy the joy of reading together. These books can be borrowed from St. Ives Library or Mrs Browne can source these within school for lending. You'll find her on the door in Owl class of a morning.



Opportunity



Netball



On the 25th March, two teams of Year 5 and 6 children went to a netball tournament. We were named Thorndown Thunder and Thorndown Thistles and we were against eight other schools. Sadly, we lost our first match but we were resilient and then went on to win other matches. In the last match, Sonny was our saviour scoring two goals leaving us 2-0 ahead. Even though, none of us were in the final we came third out of the eight schools! Overall, everyone was very well behaved! Written by Imogen and Olivia.

KS1 Tennis Taster Session

Key Stage One had some brilliant tennis taster sessions led by Huntingdon Tennis Club today. Jasmine, the coach who came to work with the children taught them some lively and engaging warm up games and the children then had a go at some accuracy exercises using a tennis racquet. The children had to use the racquet to direct the ball to either a rubber spot on the playground or over the net to their partner.

For more information about Easter camps at the Huntingdon Tennis Club or about their classes please visit www.clubsmart.lta.org.uk/huntingdowntennisclub



School Attendance Information for Parents/Carers



MISS SCHOOL – MISS OUT
Don't let your child be the one to miss out!



www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

What can you do to help?

- Establish good bedtime and morning routines.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time. This encourages habits of punctuality and lessens any possible classroom disruption. If your child arrives after the attendance register has closed without a good reason, this will be recorded as an 'unauthorised' absence for that session.
- All absences must be reported to the school office for each day of absence (your child's school will have an Attendance Policy explaining the school's expectations and procedures).
- If you know or think that your child is having difficulties attending school, you should contact the school. It is better to speak to them sooner rather than later, as most problems can be dealt with very quickly.
- *Always ask for help from the school to support you and your child's attendance.*

Authorised and Unauthorised Absence

Schools can only authorise absences for a limited range of exceptional circumstances. These are typically absences that are completely unavoidable. Absences that will not be agreed might include:

- Arrival after registers have closed.
- Absences that are not properly explained by parents or child.
- Day trips and Term Time Leave
- Leaving the school without school's authorisation.

Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether to keep your child off school if when they are unwell.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Term Time Leave

The Government has removed the discretion for head teachers to agree term time leave requests. Due to the disruptive effect on a child's education, you are strongly urged to avoid booking a family holiday during term-time.

Exceptional circumstances have not been dictated by the Government. Individual head teachers will make the final decision to authorise the leave

The Law

By law, all children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16 yrs.) must receive a suitable, full-time education suitable for the age and ability of the young person.

Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child receives an education suitable to his/her age, ability and aptitude and any special needs. Most parents fulfill this obligation by registering their child in a school.

Compulsory school age:

From: 1 September, 1 January, 1 April following the child's fifth birthday
To: the last Friday in June in the school year in which the child is sixteen (1 September to 31 August)

Receiving a good **full-time education** will give your child the best possible start in life and best possible outcomes.

Attending school regularly and punctually is essential if children are to make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Government research suggests that 17 missed school days a year = 1 GCSE grade DROP in achievement.

Attendance during one school year

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent number of missed:		
	Days	Weeks	Average lessons
95%	9	2	54
90%	19	4	114
85%	29	6	174
80%	38	8	228
75%	48	10	288
70%	57	11.5	342
65%	67	13.5	402

of absence based on information provided and the absence cannot be authorised retrospectively. The need or desire for recreation downtime is not considered exceptional.

Unauthorised leave of absence could result in a Penalty Notice fine being issued.

Local Authority Education Attendance Service

It is the responsibility of the school to have their own arrangements in place to manage poor attendance by offering appropriate support to parents and children.

It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure regular school attendance.

If your child's attendance is unsatisfactory and failing to improve despite support from the school, the school will make a referral to the Local Authority.

Should it be considered that as a parent you are unwilling to ensure your child attends school regularly without good reason, you could be:

- parents may be subject to a Penalty fine of £160 (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days). Non-payment of this fine will result in case being listed for prosecution in the Magistrate Court, without further warning being issued.
- prosecuted in a Magistrates Court and fined up to £2,500 and/or imprisoned for up to 3 months in accordance with the Education Act 1996 Section 444.
- made the subject of a Parenting Order.
- your child may be made the subject of an Education Supervision Order in the Family Court.

September 2024

For further information about school attendance, please see our website.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/education-your-rights-and-responsibilities/school-attendance

[Non-attendance at school and the law - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

[SEND Information Hub \(Local Offer\) \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](#)

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/parenting-and-family-support/accessing-support-for-your-family

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2022/12/aaa-guide-for-parents-on-school-attendance.pdf>