

Thorndown Primary School

Newsletter

Hello,

It has been a wonderful week here at Thorndown Primary School.

Our Year 6 children have continued to have their sessions with the Kick Youth Health Project which have been thoroughly enjoyed by all the children.

We have also had the first of our Open Classrooms this week which have been very well attended. It has been fantastic to see how well attended these are and how much children and parents enjoyed working alongside each other.

Next week our choir will be attending the 02 to take part in the Young Voices event and we continue to have our Open Classroom events across other year groups.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Snape

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 Panther Class with 99.6%.

Well done Panthers!

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

School Dates



4th February - Young Voices

4th February - Year 1 Open Classroom

4th February - Connecting Together Coffee Morning

5th February - Year 4/5 Open Classroom

6th February - Year 6 Open Classroom

10th Feb - Y2 St Ives Mosque trip

10th February - Safer Internet Day

11th February - Class Photos

11th February - Phonics Screen Check Information Session

11th February - Y2 Open Classroom

17th - 23rd February - Half Term

26th February - Y6 SATs Meeting (Online)

27th Feb - Y6 St Ives Rotary Club Quiz

28th February - FOTS Silent Disco

Parking

Unfortunately, we are continuing to have issues with parking both around the school and in the school car park. We continue to work closely with local PCSOs and they will be doing periodic patrols around the school to check people are parking legally and considerately.

Whilst some families are able to use the school car park at the start and end of the day to support for access reasons, we have had a number of people 'tailgating' into the car park. With very few visitor parking spaces, this makes it very difficult for those with genuine need to use car park and access it safely. Please do not access the car park at these times unless you have spoken to the school. There are lots of parking spaces at the outdoor centre which is a short 5 minute walk from the school.

Achievement



Pre-School

This week, we celebrated Chinese New Year with the children! We read two wonderful stories, The Big Race and Maisy's Chinese New Year, both of which the children really enjoyed. For snack time, we had a fun food tasting session where the children tried rice, noodles, vegetable spring rolls, and prawn crackers. At the art table, we also explored Chinese symbol writing, which the children found fascinating. To wrap up the week, we created a Chinese dragon, and the children had lots of fun listening to music, playing instruments, and doing a mini parade. It was a week filled with lots of learning and fun!



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 - Annabelle
Hedgehog - Charlotte
Otter - Oliver
Kangaroo - Bakhita
Owl - Noah T
Elephant - Zach
Bat - Jorgia
Puffin - Darcey
Giraffe - Zaneta
Meerkat - Aleena
Chameleon - Frankie
Lion - Libby
Orca - Chloe
Penguin - Lily
Panther - Harry Y
Toucan - Alan
Lemur - Stanley
Jaguar - Lilly-Anne
Jaguar - Izzy



Oracy Assembly

National Story Telling Week

This year's theme for National Story Telling week is 'reimagine your world'. In this week's Oracy assembly we discussed the tradition of oral story telling. We thought about the history of oral stories and their purposes.

In KS1 we discussed what our favourite stories are and why, using the instigate and challenge talk tactic. We talked in trios about what we thought makes an interesting story and why we thought stories and storytelling was important; using the instigate and build talk tactic.

The questions we focussed on were:



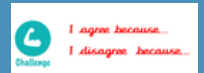
- What is your favourite story and why?
- Are all stories written down?
- What makes an interesting story?
- Why are stories and storytelling important?

Voice:
• Are you speaking clearly, with expression?
• Are you adapting the tone, pace and volume of your voice for different situations?

You might like to explore these questions further at home, using the instigate, build and challenge talk tactic. Perhaps you could continue this at home, by discovering more about the tradition of oral story telling. You could tell stories about your family and friends or create your own stories together, using the instigate and build talk tactic.

In KS2 we watched a short oral story by Michael Rosen, 'Chocolate cake', where we focussed on the physical aspect of the Oracy framework. Then in trios we discussed how the speaker used their voice and what we noticed about how they told the story, using the instigate and build talk tactic. Then in trios, we created our own short oral story, with the story starter, 'on my way to school'.

Perhaps you might like to continue the discussion about oral stories at home or share stories about your family and friends. You might like to listen to your child's short story they created in our Oracy assembly.



EAL @ Thorndown

Our language of the month this month is Italian.

Giancarlo did a fantastic job teaching the children some Italian words and sharing some facts about Italy.

Hi!- Ciao.

Good morning- Buongiorno

Good afternoon- Buonasera

How are you?- Come stai?

Good- Bene

Goodbye- Ciao/Arrivederci

Thank you- Grazie



Well-Being



Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

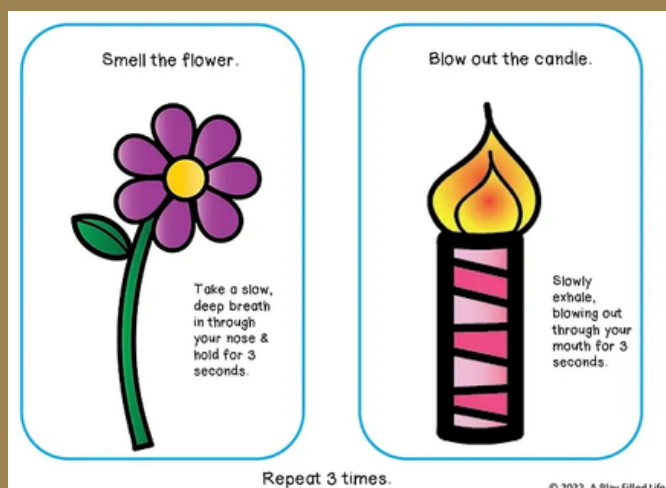


Next week is Children's Mental Health Week, with the theme, Know Yourself, Grow Yourself. The aim of the week is for children to explore the importance of self-awareness and expressing emotions. Using the characters from the Disney film Inside Out, they are hoping children discover how getting to know who they are can help them build resilience, grow and develop. At school we will be thinking about the things that make us feel differing emotions and learning tips for how we can self regulate.

For further information and for more resources visit;
<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/resources/#families>



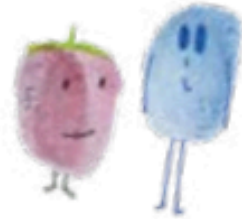
Give these breathing techniques a go...





The Anna Freud, National Centre for Children and Families have released a document called 'You're never too young to talk mental health,' in which they have given tips for talking with your child.

1 Make conversations about mental health a normal part of life: Anywhere is a good place to talk; in the car, walking the dog or cooking together. Model everyday talk about feelings such as by talking about a TV character's feelings.



2 Give your full attention: We all know it's horrible to be half listened to. Keep eye contact, focus on the child and ignore distractions.

3 Check your body language: Try to keep it open and relaxed and make sure you come down to the child's level.

4 Take it seriously: Don't downplay what the child is saying or tell them they're "just being silly". Resist the urge to reassure them that everything is fine.

5 Ask open questions: Such as "How did your day go today?" This will help to extend the conversation.



6 Calmly stay with the feelings that arise: It can be our automatic reaction to steer away from difficult emotions.

7 Offer empathy rather than solutions: Show that you accept what they are telling you but don't try to solve the problem.

8 Remember we are all different: Respect and value the child's feelings, even though they may be different to yours.

9 Look for clues about feelings: Listen to the child's words, tone of voice and body language.

10 Some ways to start a conversation about feelings might be:

- "How are you feeling at the moment?"
- "You don't seem your usual self. Do you want to talk about it?"
- "Do you fancy a chat?"
- "I'm happy to listen if you need a chat."



Opportunity



Open Classrooms

A huge thank you to all those parents who attended our Open Classroom sessions this week. Here is just some of the great feedback we have received so far...

"Great to see the progression of work across lots of subjects."

"The information given was simple and easy to understand. It is useful to see in practice and the theory behind it."

"The advice given on the powerpoint was all very useful!"

"The session was very engaging and well managed. It was good to understand the links to other subjects."

Year 1 Birdwatch Week

This week in Year 1 we have been taking part in the RSPB Bird Watch. The children have been immersed in a range of activities. Using the story 'Blackbird, Blackbird What do you do?' the children have been learning lots of facts about birds that they may see on the school site or near their homes. They've been practising their non-fiction writing using their non negotiables. They have made bird feeders, used oil pastels to create a modern piece of art work and they even had the opportunity to use the VR headsets to get up close to a bald eagle. The language that the children were using whilst wearing the headsets was incredible! They've certainly had lots of fun!



Theo - "I've just been in the tree with the eagle."

Frankie - "This is beautiful. I am so high!"

Harry - "Honestly, that was fun!"

