

Thorndown Primary School

Newsletter

Hello,

What a magical week it has been at Thorndown.

It was fantastic to see the children (and many staff) dressed up as their favourite book characters yesterday for World Book Day. You can read more about what the children got up to in this newsletter. A big thank you to Mrs Browne who put so much work into organising a fantastic day - even the traitors made an appearance in assembly!

Next week we have our parent consultation evenings on Tuesday and Thursday and we will also be celebrating Science Week with our 'Dress as a Scientist Day' on Wednesday!

Have a great weekend,

Mr Snape

School Dates



9th March - British Science Week

9th March - Y4/Y5 Gym Session

10th March - Netball Tournament

10/12th March - Parent Consultations

10th March - Safer Internet Day

11th March - Dress as a Scientist Day

13th March - Reception Mothers Day Tea Party

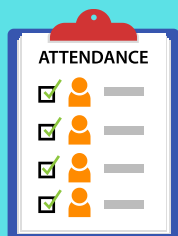
16th March - English Challenge Final - Over

16th March - Year 2 Great Fire of London Day

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for this year is 95.25%

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



This week, the classes winning our attendance trophy for best attendance were Otters, Owls and Elephants with 100%!

Arbor App - Please Make Sure You're Signed Up

We'd like to remind all parents and carers to sign up to the Arbor App and check it regularly. Almost all school messages are now sent as in-app notifications.

Please also ensure your push notifications are activated in the app settings.

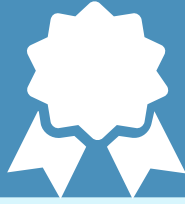
If you are not using the app or do not check it often, your messages are automatically converted to SMS, which can take up to 48 hours to arrive. This delay is the reason some parents have reported receiving messages late.

Using the Arbor App is the quickest and most reliable way to stay up to date with school information.

Safeguarding Reminder

We would like to remind all parents and carers that they **must not** use their phones to film or take pictures on the school premises, even if this is their own child. This includes the use of Facetime or any other video calls.

Achievement



Oracy Assembly

During this week's Oracy assembly, we explored Random Acts of Kindness Day, which was celebrated nationwide on 17th February. We learned that the purpose of this day is to encourage people to carry out thoughtful acts of kindness for others, without expecting anything in return. It serves as a powerful reminder that even the smallest gestures of goodwill can have a meaningful and positive impact –not only on an individual's day, but on the wider community as well.



We also spent time discussing how we can spread kindness both at home and in school. We hope you'll begin to notice some of these kind acts being put into practice very soon!

Writers of the Week!

This weeks writers of the week are...

Elephant - Lana
Orca - Ava
Otter - Agnus
Camel - Phillipa
Kangaroo - Luca
Owl - Ismaeel
Bat - Charlie W
Turtle - Ben
Puffin - Pippa
Meerkat - Jorgia
Lemur - Thomas
Giraffe - Alanya
Chameleon - Hannah
Penguin - Aanayah
Lion - Isaac
Toucan - Lucas
Panther - Malcolm
Jaguar - Frank B

Pre-School

This week the children have been busy looking for the first signs of Spring. They've enjoyed seeing how many ladybirds they can spot, searched for Spring flowers in our wonderful woods and some children even dug up some really big worms! The children learned how to care for the mini beasts, ensuring that they didn't get hurt.

Inside, the children have spent time exploring the world under the sea, with jelly bag in the tuff tray and stories linked to sea creatures.

Have an amazing weekend!

The Preschool Team

Well-Being

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026 EXPLORING THE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI



FEB 2026

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

This Safer Internet Day we are starting a conversation about smart technology and making safe choices. With many children and young people hearing about and using AI online, it's important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology.

AGE GUIDANCE



ChatGPT - 13+

My AI (Snapchat) - 13+

Google Gemini - Under 13: Available via *Family Link* with parental controls.

13+: Standard version.

Microsoft Copilot - 13+

Character AI - 13+. Some chat features have been restricted following safety concerns.

Replika - 18+ only. Not appropriate for children due to intimate and emotional chat features.

Perplexity AI - 13+. Younger users require parental permission.

⚠️ **Age limits exist to protect children.** Even when apps are technically accessible, they may not be developmentally appropriate. ⚠️

CAUTION



TALK



The internet is amazing and can help us all to access information and entertainment. Explore it with your child, discuss its positives and negatives, use news for conversations, and ensure they feel safe sharing their online experiences with you.



Where to get help

AI tools can sometimes generate harmful or illegal content. If you see inappropriate or concerning AI-generated material, report it using the platform's reporting tools or to the [Internet Watch Foundation](#).

If someone creates or shares AI images of you or your child without permission, these can also be reported to the platform and through services such as [Report Remove](#) or [Take It Down](#).

Remember, if you or anyone else is in immediate danger, call 999 immediately.

REMEMBER

AI can make some tasks simpler but may also collect data about you and your family, or share unreliable information, so consider how to use it safely and responsibly.

Well-Being

OPaL

We are delighted to share the success of introducing wheeled play as part of our OPaL programme. Thanks to the fantastic support from our families during the recent bingo challenge, we now have enough resources for children across the whole school – from our youngest to our oldest – to enjoy this exciting addition to playtime.

A huge well done to Otter Class, who were our winning class after managing to tick off every single item on the bingo card! What an incredible effort! Many other classes also did brilliantly with most earning themselves some extra playtime for bringing in the golden items.

Thank you to all families who supported this – it has made a real difference to the play opportunities we can offer the children.

Reminder: Our Family Play Afternoon will take place on Friday 27th March. More details will be sent out next week – we hope to see lots of you there!



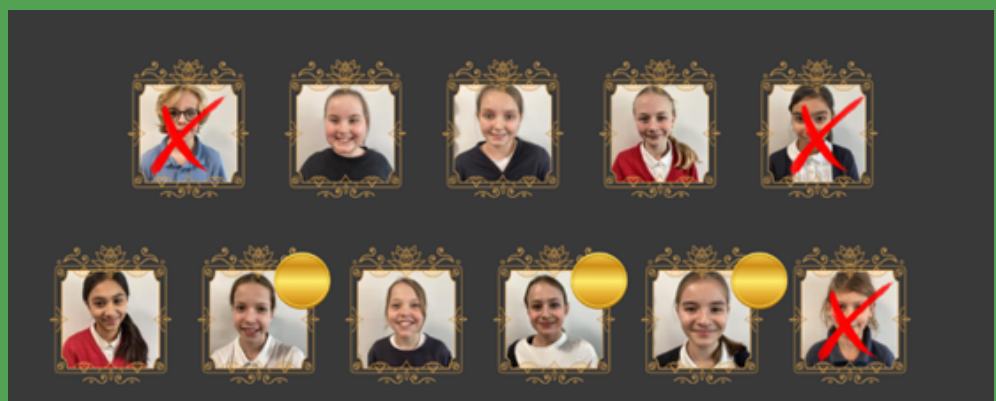
Opportunity



World Book Day at Thorndown

What an incredible World Book Day we had! A huge thank you to all the parents for the amazing costumes that brought our characters to life. Our book shop saw a fantastic turnout, and we're delighted to keep our books at reasonable prices for all families.

The day kicked off with a fun-packed assembly titled "The Book Traitors." Our story world took a thrilling twist, where most characters were Book Heroes, but three sneaky Book Traitors tried to mix up our beloved tales. The challenge was on to spot them! Each player on stage provided short answers, while the audience kept a keen eye out for confusing responses and overconfident mistakes. While the school slept, the story twisted... as our Book Heroes were banished to the Discovery Suite. We discovered Frankie, Hillary and Florence were our Book Traitors. Lots of fun was had! Remember great readers don't just read words – they read people, clues and stories! A special thank you to our wonderful Reading Champions for their participation!



Opportunity



Here are just some of the other activities we got up to throughout the day.

Reception enjoyed moments of music with Mrs Howell's horn blowing skills, announcing "Stop, Drop and Read" sessions throughout the day.



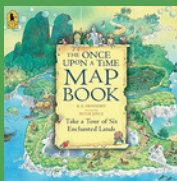
Year 1 made delightful paper plate characters inspired by The Grafflo, Giraffes Can't Dance and The Rainbow Fish.



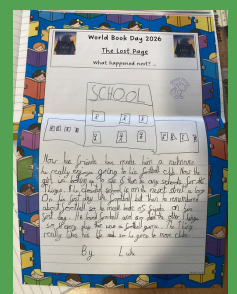
Year 2 explored a text by Nick Sharratt and used this as inspiration to write and make their own class book.



Year 3 shared 'Once Upon a Map', and made their own story lands.



Year 4 recreated the lost pages from some exciting picture books suitable for Key Stage 2.



Year 5 took part in Reading Buddies and read with the Year 1 children.



Year 6 crafted some fantastic story stones for our younger children and discovered their origami book making skills.



Opportunity



Football Fun!

On the 26th February a team of Year 6's went to Westfield for a football tournament. In the first game, we were against Sawtry and we drew. Next, we played Wheatfields and sadly we lost 1-0. Then, we played Huntingdon and we drew. Finally, we played Westfield and they managed to score which meant that we lost.

But we all had lots of fun!

Archie J



SPONSORED SKY DIVE

Taking the Leap for Mental Health support in our local schools



MAYOR KERR

How to donate to this great cause:
www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk/pay/
Ref: Skydive and surname



**COUNCILLOR
BURKE**

Please sponsor
this crazy pair!

Saturday 14th March 2026

DON'T MISS OUT ON DLA!

Did you know you can get DLA,
the main benefit for disabled
children even if:

- Your child doesn't have a diagnosis.
- You have a job or savings.
- You get other benefits.

**ONLY 1 THING
MATTERS:**

Your child has a disability, illness
or health condition and needs
more care or watching over than
other children their age.

Visit www.contact.org.uk/dla to find out more

contact For families
with disabled children

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON

