

Thorndown Primary School

Newsletter

Hello,

It has been a busy week at Thorndown. Our choir went to the O2 to participate in the Young Voices concert. The children did a fantastic job and were exemplary in their behaviour whilst taking part in the very special event. A huge thanks to all the parents who supported with this trip.

We also held our latest Open Classrooms for some year groups which were enjoyed by parents and children. We have also been marking Children's Mental Health Week. All classes have been participating in a number of different activities across the week to support them with their own mental health.

Please remember that children who are being collected should always be supervised on the school site.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Snape

School Dates



10th Feb - Y2 St Ives Mosque trip

11th 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

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 Lemur Class with 99%

Well done !

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Governing Body News

Unfortunately, Frank Newton has chosen to step down from his position on the Governing Body.

Frank has been a huge part of Thorndown Primary School and has served on the governing body of this school, and the preceding Infant and Junior schools, for over 50 years. This included being Chair for many years.

His commitment, dedication and support to the school has been greatly beneficial over all these years and I am sure you will want to join me in thanking him for his many years of service.

Achievement



Pre-School

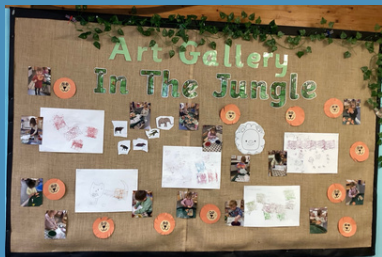
This week, we continued our theme of Jungle Animals. The children have really enjoyed our story of the week, Rumble in the Jungle. We explored different patterns on the animals and created some lovely artwork at the art table using pattern stamps. They also practiced their cutting skills by making lion faces and cutting around different animals, which we've proudly displayed on our art gallery wall.

We also explored The Colour Monster story for Children's Mental Health Week, talking about all the different feelings represented by the colour monsters. The children had fun using the puppets to act out the different emotions.

Next week, we'll be celebrating Valentine's Day with the story Guess How Much I Love You.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Becky Smith
Preschool Manager



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 - Mia
Otter - Rowan
Kangaroo - Trixie
Owl - Harry C & Ripley
Elephant - Joanna
Bat - Freddie
Puffin - Elias
Giraffe - Skylah
Meerkat - Carys
Chameleon - Tim
Lion - Frank
Orca - Daniel
Penguin - Emily S
Panther - Imaan
Toucan - Maria
Lemur - Hashir
Jaguar - Theo



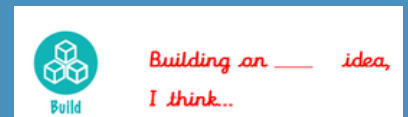
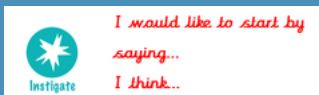
Oracy Assembly

In this week's Oracy assembly we discussed mental health; with the theme being 'know yourself, grow yourself'. The aim this year is to equip and empower all children across the UK to embrace self-awareness and express their emotions.

In KS1 we talked about what mental health and self-awareness means, using the instigate and build talk tactic. Then we discussed the things that we can do well and the things that we would like to do better.

The questions we discussed were:

- What is mental health?
- What is self-awareness?
- Think of things you can do well.
- Think of things you would like to do better.



Perhaps you could continue this discussion on mental health and self-awareness at home, using the instigate and build talk tactic.

In KS2 we discussed what mental health means, using the instigate, build and summarise talk tactic. We talked about self-awareness and the things we can do well and the things we would like to do better, using the instigate and build talk tactic. Afterwards, we discussed the steps we could take to help achieve this.

We talked about:

- Things you can do well.
- Things you would like to do better.
- What small, achievable steps could you take to help achieve this?

Perhaps you could continue this discussion about mental health at home, discussing what small, achievable steps you could take to achieve your goal.



Well-Being



Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

We have had a wonderful week exploring and taking part in 'Children's Mental Health Week'. The theme this year was 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. Cuckoo Bridge Nursery in Somersham kindly donated an abundance of plants for us to grow – a perfect task to support our wellbeing! As you can see the children thoroughly enjoyed this and are budding little gardeners! A huge 'thank you' to Cuckoo Bridge for such a kind donation and for giving our children yet another opportunity to develop their wellbeing.

In Year 1, we also looked at our mental health superpowers, read the books from the 'Bright Ideas' collection by Tom Percival and created breathing wands and pocket worry stones. Lots of fun had by all!



Opportunity



Yr 4 Football

Yesterday, twenty-four Year 4 children went to go to a football tournament. We went on a coach, we were very excited and also it was very comfy. When we got there, we put on our boots and started to train. After that, we talked about our formation and plans for the matches. We started well and Riley was good on the wing and Max was good in CM. We finished 1-1 with an assist from Max so that Riley scored. When we came off the pitch, Mrs Burke was really impressed with us. The other team, Thorndown Thunder then won 4-1. On our second match we won 2-0 with help from our great defenders. Our last match we won 4-0 with an amazing two goals by Max. We came off the pitch very proud of our performance. Some children from Thorndown were awarded valuable player awards in front of all the other schools. Written by Max and Riley.



Year 4/5 Anglo Saxon Invasion!

Last week, Year 4 / 5 took part in an exciting role play on the field. Each class took the part of a kingdom who wanted to invade Briton in 700. Lions were Picts, Orcas were Saxons, Chameleons were Angles, Panthers were Jutes and Penguins were Scots. They created shields to represent their kingdom (thanks for the donations of cardboard from parents) and set about creating a strategy to invade. Much of the fun and learning took place before the event where "scouts" tried to find out the plans of the other classes. Some classes wrote to others suggesting they formed alliances (although this was treated cautiously in case they were bluffing)! On the day, all the classes stood in their "kingdoms" on the field whilst riches, slaves, monasteries with gold were placed on the small football field (Briton). Eventually after a wedding to ally the Angles and Saxons, the invasions began. Children moved in army groups to try to reach Briton without being tagged and sent back. Great fun and learning was had by all.



Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter February 2025

A Message From Me

Welcome to our February's newsletter from the Education Inclusion Family Advisor team. If you would like to speak to a member of the team please use the below QR code or link to access our consent form and a member of the team will be in touch:



<https://forms.office.com/e/B5c8PGZG64>

Activity Idea – Fizzy Lava Lamp

While we're stuck indoors due to the poor weather, this is a fun science-based activity you can try.

You will need:

-An empty jar, sunflower oil, water, food colouring, bicarbonate of soda & a torch.

Instructions:

1. Add the sunflower oil to the halfway point of the jar.
2. Add some drops of food colouring too.
3. Top up the rest of the jar with water.
4. Switch on your torch & rest it so it is shining through the jar.
5. Put in a spoonful of bicarbonate of soda and quickly screw on the lid.
6. Watch the 'lava' fizz and bubble around inside the jar.
7. Next you can try using different jar & bottle shapes as well as different food colours to create a whole set.



Parenting Top Tip - Anxiety

Anxiety is an unpleasant feeling of fear, panic or worry. So how can you help your child with managing their anxiety?

Worry time – Having specific time set aside to worry can help with clearing thoughts.

Worry box/monster – Use a box or toy monster to add any worries to. This is especially helpful if your child is a nighttime worrier.

Worry balloon – Blow a balloon up, put all your worries in and let it go.

Find positives – If a child worries about something try to think and find the positives.

Problem solving – Think about all the solutions to the worry and then break down the steps.

Feelings diary - Record or draw things that have worried you during the day and add at the end: "How I managed it" & "What helped me."

If you'd like more information about these ideas, keep an eye out for our Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry online workshop we run regularly.



Another Resource

Have a look at this NHS webpage which looks into understanding anxiety in further detail:

[Anxiety - Every Mind Matters - NHS](#)

Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? Pinpoint (www.pinpoint-camb.org.uk) have lots of information, advice and tips. For Cambridgeshire's Local Offer go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer