

Thorndown Newsletter

Number: 108

Welcome to the summer term back at Thorndown School and Pre-school. It has been so good to see everyone again.

Although we are still working within strict Covid rules and bubbles, we continue to put the children's learning at the heart of this term's work. We are still thinking creatively as we look at ways for children to meet their new teachers and classes as the term progresses, and a perhaps have a Year 6 leavers' assembly. It can't be the same as "always", so please bear with us. Fingers crossed September may bring more freedom. Watch this space!

Miss Godbold

Staff news

Miss Goulding is expecting her first baby in early September. She will remain the Camels' class teacher until the end of this academic year.

Mrs Dunsdon is expecting her second baby in late October, and will be continue to teach with us until October half term. We wish both teachers and their families great happiness as they get ready for their new additions.

Mrs Murphy, who currently teaches Badger Class in Year 4, will be leaving us this summer too as she moves on to teaching abroad from September. I know you will be missed by us all, Mrs M!

We have appointed three new teachers to start in September: Mrs Brace, who will be our new Early Years' Team leader, Mrs Jones and Miss Strachan. There will be many opportunities to meet these new faces later in the term, as we assign the teachers and children their new classes.

Year 2 Great Fire of London Day

As part of our Year 2 topic from last term, we enjoyed a fantastic few days' learning about the Great Fire of London. We learnt about different trades, the clothes that Tudors wore and day to day life in London in 1666. We practised leather tapping, writing with a quill, candle making, bread kneading and sewing, and we even re-enacted putting the great fire out!



It was a lovely day and all in Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank you to all the parents for providing the costumes; the children all looked fantastic.

Miss Wilson

Year 6 - Black History Studies

It is important to celebrate people equally based on their achievements, no matter their background, race, gender, ability or sexuality.

Written by Year 6s, Thorndown

One of our aims for the children of Thorndown is to have a broad and balanced curriculum, which is rich and diverse. To support these aims, Year 6 annually spend some time celebrating Black History. Despite being referred to as 'Black History', it is actually a very current issue and our Year 6 children demonstrated just how important equality is to them throughout our fortnight project.

We used the 'Little Leaders' books written by Vashti Harrison as a stimulus to educate children about some well-known people (Rosa Parks & Harriet Tubman), and also as a stimulus to introduce the children to some not so well-known people (Frederick Douglass & Louis Armstrong) who have all made a powerful difference to the world. We recognised and celebrated the individuals and events that have shaped the black generation, including people from the past and also those who contribute to, and help, our society today.

Throughout the fortnight, our Year 6 children demonstrated maturity, understanding, empathy and compassion.

Miss Broadhurst Year 5 & 6 Team Leader



Lockdown Impact on Young Children's Language Skills

Evidence has shown within school and in the wider world that the National Lockdowns have had an impact on young children's language skills. The link below is for a two minute BBC clip about how you can very simply help your child's language skills at home.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/education-56765177>

We have already planned to spend some of our catch-up funding on taking part in an oracy project from September, through which we will be teaching 'talk through talk' across the school. We will be updating you, as parents, as we dive into the project in the next academic year.

Cows about Cambridge

I hope many of you can remember our Minimoo, called Captain Moovel, who was ready to be part of the Cambridge cow trail with 40 other cows just as we went into our first lockdown last summer. Unfortunately, the trail was abandoned.

She was designed and decorated by our pupils to show the challenges that the environment currently faces and our concerns about animals becoming endangered as a result of human activity. Our cow, Captain Moovel, has been designed to tell humankind to moove over and let animals have space in the world too.



I am delighted to inform you that she will be on public view in the Cow Trail around Cambridge from 28th June for 10 weeks. Our Mini Moo is going to be situated in the Grand Arcade in the middle of Cambridge; when I know exactly where she is, I will update you so you will be able to visit her.

Maths Champions!

Both Numbots and TTRockstars are great online platforms, funded by the school, which children can play at home to develop their maths skills. Both programs support their work in class and, with regular use, the children become much more confident mathematicians. Each week, we award certificates for the top scorers. Giancarlo is proving very hard to beat at the moment, and has been Numbots Champion for many weeks. Well done, Giancarlo! He has been joined by Maimoona and Sienna, who achieved the silver and bronze awards for the second week running.



We'd love it if more children could have a go at using Numbots and TTRockstars. If you can't find your child's login details, or have any questions, please contact your class teacher or Mrs Gerrard.

Safe Place

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, you can seek support by ringing the national domestic abuse helpline on 0808 2000 247 or, if an emergency, please dial 999.

Our school is a safe place and so, if you feel unsafe and it would help, please come in and speak to us, and stay as long as you need to.

NSPCC Website

The NSPCC have launched a new dedicated, confidential helpline – Report Abuse in Education - which is available to current or past victims as well as parents, carers or professionals with concerns. The helpline will be open for 6 months and the number is 0800 136 663. It is free and anonymous and will be open Monday to Friday 8am – 10pm and Saturday to Sunday 9am – 6pm.