

Thorndown Newsletter

Number: 110

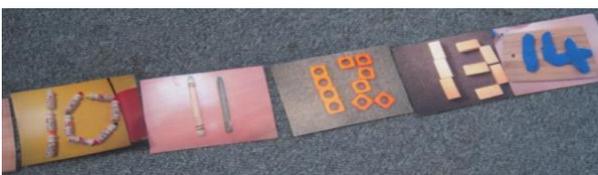
As we enjoy a long weekend and look forward to our last half term of this academic year, I wanted to thank your children and the staff for such a hard working term; we are all trying to catch up and build on learning. Everything they are doing is paying off now and will provide firm foundations as the children move into their new classes next year.

I'd also like to thank all of you at home who are hearing readers, supporting homework and following our Covid restrictions around the school grounds. Everyone is doing their bit to ensure that the children are able to keep learning in school for as much as possible. Have a lovely half term with your family and we look forward to seeing you when the school opens up again on Monday 7th June.

Miss Godbold

Marvellous Maths Day

On Monday 10th May, we celebrated our first Marvellous Maths Day of 2021! This time, our theme was Maths in Art, which provided great opportunities to learn about a range of key concepts such as symmetry, pattern, and tessellation. We explored the work of artists through history, such as the Celts in Britain and Sona art from Africa, and created lots of our own mathematical art.



In Reception, children created number lines using resources around them to make the digits, and also explored patterns and shapes to create some amazing pictures.



Children in KS1 had great fun using pattern blocks. They completed symmetrical pictures the teachers had made and then created their own.

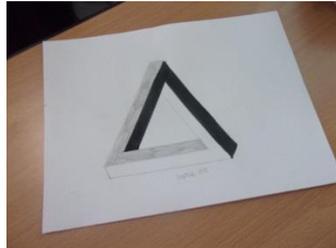


Classes in Year 3 have been studying the Rickshaw Girl, which is a great book set in Bangladesh. In the story, the main character creates traditional symmetrical designs in front of her house called Alpana patterns. The children used Marvellous Maths Day to bring their own Alpana patterns to life, using curved lines and shapes.





Some of the other KS2 classes created very complicated mathematical art, making great use of their measuring skills. Here are some examples from Years 4, 5 and 6.

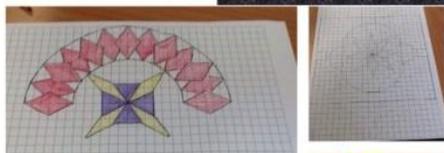


Not only was the day filled with mathematical learning, the children learned lots about themselves and the importance having a growth mindset - not giving up when things are challenging.

"I really enjoyed today, especially doing the lines of symmetry, which was hard when you started, but got easier when you went on." Ivy, Year 4

"Today, we had to be specific, patient, precise and neat, especially with our measurement. We also had to be resilient because lots of mistakes were made." Toucan Class

What great learning!



Reading, Reading, Reading



Do you want your child to do better at school than you did? **Research says that good readers do well at school and poor readers do not!** So if you want to help them to achieve their best, **read, read, read!** Listen to them read, read to them yourself and, with our younger children, practise any phonics that are sent home. All this makes such a difference to your child's life chances as they go through their years of schooling and beyond.

Reading books where children need to decode words and use their phonics is important and they need to re-read books so they develop a bank of words that they can read automatically. This may be boring for you, but it is vitally important to your child.

Please talk to your child's class teacher or look on our website for support about working with your child. We love to help!

Gaming Fundraising



To support FOTS achieve their goal of raising enough money to replace the play equipment in the large front playground, our children did their bit by dressing up in the clothes they play games in, or as characters from games, and donated £1 towards the cause.

Thank you everyone who donated £1 or more. We raised over £400 towards their total.

Can I also thank families who have donated via FOTS' Justgiving webpage or have donated individual cheques. Thank you so much for supporting our pupils to have fun, learn to climb and balance, work together and have the opportunity to make friends on the outside equipment.



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 from 8am – 10pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 9am – 6pm.