



Literacy & Mathematics at Thorndown Primary School

Literacy

World Book Day and The Book Fair

On Friday 6th March, we celebrated World Book Day. Each class had the opportunity to read a collection of picture books, chosen for the 'Read It Again' library competition, and we voted for our favourite. All children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the busy day! Please take a look at some of the photographs which will be posted on the school's website.

Thank you to all parents, grandparents and friends for purchasing so many books from the Scholastic Book Fair. The sales' total was £1,200 raising £780 for the school to purchase books to enhance lessons and motivate pupils.

Thorndown's Sponsored Read

To encourage a life-long love of reading at home and school, over the Easter holidays we are hoping to launch a sponsored read to all children at Thorndown. The project is being organised by Mrs Browne and all the money raised will go towards brand new books for our school. Please help us to enhance our reading resources for pupils by encouraging your child to take part in this exciting opportunity! A letter will be sent out nearer the time to explain all of the details along with sponsorship forms and reading logs.

Mathematics

Natural Mathematical Powers - Little Miss Wise and Friends!

In school, we use research and specialist advice to develop best practice in our maths teaching. John Mason, a maths professor at the open university who has published research about problem solving and mathematical thinking, identified that humans possess natural abilities which can significantly support and develop learning in mathematics. These 'natural powers', which support children in making sense of the world and learning mathematics, are:

- Conjecturing and convincing
- Organising and classifying
- Specialising and generalising
- Imagining and expressing

To help our children to understand and remember these powers, we are using Mr Men and Little Miss characters. Last year, we introduced '**conjecturing and convincing**', represented by **Little Miss Wise**. When conjecturing, pupils formulate a mathematical idea, for example, all multiples of 5 end in 5 or 0. To convince others, children need to explain their reasoning in a way that can be easily understood. They practise using mathematical vocabulary, and can draw pictures and use apparatus to help them to 'convince' others that they are right.

We have now introduced our second power, '**organising and classifying**', which is represented by **Little Miss Tidy**. In the earliest stages, children recognise similarities and differences around them and will naturally start to sort and classify. For example, when playing with toy cars, they might sort them and say, 'These cars are red and these are blue.' Later, children will use diagrams and tables to organise other things, for example, shapes and numbers in maths, materials in science, as well as many other things.

We are building a range of activities into lessons to help our children develop these skills and will be introducing the remaining two powers during the summer term.



Marvellous Maths Day Returns!

Last half term, we held our first ever Marvellous Maths Day, which proved to be a real hit with both children and staff. Children loved the mathematical activities planned, which involved many problem solving skills, and were really keen to share what they had learnt. It was such a success that we have decided to hold a Marvellous Maths Day every half term and will share pictures of our second marvellous day of maths on the website and in the next newsletter.

Spring Term 2

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Skoolbo - A new online resource for KS1

'Skoolbo' is a new online resource, similar to Mathletics, which we are about to trial with our KS1 and Reception pupils. This site will enable children to use PCs, Macs, iPads and Android tablets to practise maths and literacy skills at home. We will register the children at school and will then send home further information and details about how to access the program.

We'd be really interested to see what you and the children think of this site, particularly if you have KS2 children, who already

Help Wanted!

Following the request on the last Literacy and Maths Newsletter, we received many clear plastic tubs with lids to store resources in. Thank you. Please keep sending them in.

We are now looking for volunteers who are able to give up a few hours of their time to help us make some maths resources for the classroom. This will involve photocopying, laminating and strimming, and you will receive comprehensive training if needed! If you would like to help out, please contact Mrs Gerrard. Any help will be very gratefully received!