



English & Mathematics at Thorndown Primary School

English

Book Swap at the Summer Fete

On Friday 24 June, we will be holding a Thorndown Book Swap at the Summer Fete. If you wish your child to take part, all you have to do is to sort through your children's book collection and choose a maximum of five, good quality books, suitable for children aged 5-11 years. Please bring these into school by Tuesday 21 June. On Thursday, 23 June your child will receive a special raffle ticket which will entitle him/her to exchange it for different books. Happy swapping!

'Stick Man' at The Burgess Hall

Scamp Theatre's delightful adaptation of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's hugely popular children's book 'Stick Man' is going to the Burgess Hall! Touching, funny and utterly original, this award-winning production features a trio of top actors and is packed full of puppetry, songs, live music and funky moves. There will be two shows (1.30pm & 4.30pm) on Friday 30th September. Tickets are £11 for children and £13 for adults and they are available from One Leisure, St. Ives on 01480 388500.

James Campbell—Author Writing Workshop

On Thursday 28th July at the St. Ives Corn Exchange, James Campbell is offering a writing workshop to all children aged 8–11. He is the pioneer of stand-up comedy for kids, writer of the 'Boyface' series and an expert in guiding children's creative writing. This workshop is for children who really want to write, love to write; maybe they want to be authors when they grow up. This is a master class in writing from a real-life author who has spent the past 20 years successfully inspiring children. Numbers are strictly limited to make sure everyone gets plenty of individual guidance from James. Places cost £29 per child. At the end of the day your child will have a story to bring home, which truly shows their talent and hard work.

Mathematics

Number Sense in Key Stage 1

As you may already be aware, we are currently taking part in an exciting research project with Hertfordshire Maths Advisory Service. We are looking at ways to help children develop their number sense in KS1 which is their ability to understand and work with numbers in a meaningful and efficient way. We recently held workshops for parents, when we shared the main findings of the project so far. There are three key factors in children's development which have been found to indicate future success in maths. These are:

1. Ability to subitise (know how many are in a small group of objects without counting)
2. Sense of number magnitude (understanding the relative size of numbers and where they fit in to our number system).
3. Ability to invent strategies

At school, we have been trying out a range of activities to help children develop these skills and parents who attended the workshop were given a guide to games that can be played at home. The games and presentation slides can be found on our website in the 'News and Events' section. As parents found the workshop very useful, we will be running this again in the new academic year.

Summer Term 1

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Please take a look on the school's website for various handouts for English.

We have recently placed new handouts on there regarding spelling, reading and writing. These guides give you helpful hints and tips to support your child at home.

TT Rockstars - a new online resource for Years 5 & 6

To help children learn times tables and division facts, we have subscribed to a new online resource called TTRockstars. We are trialling this currently with Years 5 & 6. Children have been given a username and password, which can be found in their Home/School book and have all created their own rockstar avatar. They can use this at school and home by logging on to ttrackstars.com. Have a go and let us know what you think!

Mastery Workshop

On Thursday 16th June at 9am, we will be holding a parents' information session about our new Mastery curriculum. This will be a repeat of the presentation given at the recent Parent Forum meeting. All are welcome!