



English & Mathematics at Thorndown Primary School

English

Handwriting Workshop

A big thank you to all of the parents and carers who came to the workshop. We hope you found it interesting and useful! If you couldn't attend please do not worry, you can access the hand-outs on the school website or '[click here](#)'.

SPaG

SPaG is an abbreviation for spelling, punctuation and grammar. Children have always been taught how to use punctuation and how to spell but, with the implementation of the new primary curriculum, children are now expected to learn grammar to a fairly high level. Year Six pupils already take SPaG SATs tests, and from May 2016, Year two will also take a SPaG test as part of their SATs. In order for your child to reach the required level of knowledge, we teach SPaG through English lessons and also as short 'mini-lessons' throughout the week.

Talk 4 Writing

'Talk 4 Writing' is an approach to writing, developed by Pie Corbett, the UK's leading literacy expert, which we have adopted at Thorndown. Throughout the school, we use storytelling to help the children in many ways. The children **imitate** texts, **innovate** them and then **invent** their own. We help them at every stage, stepping back when it is appropriate to do so, which allows the children to apply what they have learnt. We also produce text maps to help us. They use colour, encourage lots of talk and require actions to be performed. Writers are thieves! We all do lots of 'magpie-ing'. This is where we identify words, phrases, skills or techniques that we like and then play around with them, before using them in our own story and text making. We look at the structure of stories and other texts, and identify the ingredients (language features) that could be included, which we use to guide our own writing. Talk 4 Writing is an inspiring and engaging approach to writing and we have already noticed a real improvement in our non-fiction writing!

Mathematics

Marvellous Maths Day meets Mr Daydream!

On Monday of this week, we held our second Marvellous Maths day of this term. The focus of our day was 'Imagining and Expressing', represented by Mr Daydream, which is one of our natural maths powers! We work to develop the children's understanding of our 'natural powers', because of the research of educational maths expert, John Mason. He found that developing their ability to **conjecture and convince, organise and classify, generalise and specialise, and imagine and express** can help improve our children's confidence in maths, as well as their ability to reason and solve problems. We have produced a guide to these powers, which can be found on our website.



I can imagine things in my head and then show or tell you how they look.

Imagining, and then expressing, maths concepts and facts can help children to remember them in a meaningful way. Children can express maths ideas using words and songs, pictures, practical resources and even movement. Some of our Year 3&4 pupils did some wonderful work expressing Roman numerals in gymnastics, which really helped them to explore and remember how they were constructed. Keep your eyes peeled for photos in Miss Godbold's next newsletter.

Autumn Term 2

Issue 10

27.11.15

Useful SPaG Websites

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/punctuation>

<http://www.compare4kids.co.uk/spag.php>

Skoolbo - Thorndown is famous!

Thorndown has caught the attention of Skoolbo! Staff there have been so impressed with the effort and enthusiasm of our children, with classes and individual pupils regularly hitting top spots on the Skoolbo leaderboards, that they have written a blog about us! They are also holding a worldwide competition, the Skoolbo World Cup, and have asked us to be their Team GB Ambassadors. The World Cup takes place between 2nd - 8th December and we aim to help Great Britain to conquer the world! To view the blog, [click here](#).

