Literacy & Mathematics
at Thorndown Primary School

Literacy

Thorndown's Writing Hut

The writing hut is finally here! It is packed full of different writing resources and materials for the children to use at lunchtimes. The Year 6s are kindly monitoring it and the children are extremely excited to have something different to play with after having their lunch.

Thank you to FOTS

A huge thank you to FOTs for giving us £5,000 to spend on books. Each year group has benefited from this and we are extremely grateful. Early Years bought some beautiful story sacks and books to match their new topics and Year 1&2 have bought some phonics resources and guided reading sets. Individual reading books have been topped up in Years 3 and 4, while Years 5 and 6 bought sets of Anthony Horowitz - an author by whom the children seem to be inspired! We also used some money to purchase books for the Discovery Suite. A big thank you again!

Reading and Writing Workshops

In the second half of the Summer Term, we will be running some workshops. A letter will be sent out soon with more information.
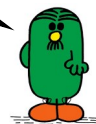
Mathematics

Natural Mathematical Powers
Little Miss Wise and Friends!

> I can tell you what will usually happen (generalising) and give you a perfect example that explains why (specialising).

This half term, we have used Mr Fussy to launch the third of our maths powers, **'specialising and generalising'**. Generalising is all about looking for patterns and relationships. From a very young age, children make sense of the world by making generalisations about what they experience around them. For example, they often notice that the small people they know (themselves and their friends) are young and tall people are older. They will also 'specialise' and find examples to show their ideas are true (or not!). In school, we encourage children to spot patterns and rules and frequently ask the question, 'What do you notice?' A hundred square is a great tool to inspire some specialising and generalising. Children might spot that the number underneath 35 is 45 and that 35 + 10 is 45. This is an example of specialising. They can then generalise that when we look down the columns on a hundred square, 10 is added each time. Alternatively, they might start with a generalisation that when we move from left to right along the rows, 1 is added. To specialise, an example of this is that 23 + 1 = 24, which is the number to the right of 23.

Maths Sessions for Parents

Just a reminder that we are holding more presentations for parents this term and the remaining dates for these are as follows:

Multiplication and Division - Wednesday 10th June - 7.00pm

Fractions – Wednesday 8th July - 9.05am in the hall - followed by an opportunity to see fractions in action in your child's classroom.

Please book your place by logging on to https://thorndown.parentseveningsystem.co.uk

Due to lack of take up, we have cancelled the calculation workshops which were due to take place during the day. We will offer these again in the Autumn Term.

Skoolbo

We have now introduced this new app to Reception and KS1 children. They all had the opportunity to practise logging on in school and there was much excitement when they were able to make their own avatars. They also enjoyed playing a few maths and literacy games. If you would like to download the app so your child can play at home, please go to skoolbo.co.uk . Our recent letter also has information to help you get started.

Mathletics

We have continued our subscription with Mathletics this term for KS2 pupils. It is a wonderful online resource and we would like to encourage the children to use this at home to practise their maths skills . We have found that regular use of this app has a real impact on children's progress and confidence. On Friday, we awarded new gold medals to pupils who had gained a gold Mathletics award, which is a great accomplishment. Well done!

Help Still Wanted!

Thank you very much to the parents who have helped make maths resources for the classroom. We really appreciate your support. If anyone else has a few hours to spare, even if you cannot make a regular commitment, please contact Mrs Gerrard. Any help will be very gratefully received!