



Literacy & Mathematics at Thorndown Primary School

Literacy

We'd like to say a huge 'thank you' to those parents who came to the Junior Librarian workshop. We hope that you all found it useful and informative. If you were unable to make it, please see the leaflet attached.

Newspaper Sales - Writing Shed

Last year, we published our very first edition of the school newspaper and would like to thank everyone who purchased a copy. We made an astonishing amount of money, which has been used to purchase a writing shed inspired by Roald Dahl's writing shed. Now that we have a playground, it is on its way! Watch this space!

Target Cards

Every child should now have a reading and writing target card. The reading target cards can be found in the children's school diaries. The writing cards are kept in school as the children use them on a daily basis.

Superhero Week

The week commencing 6th January sees the start of our "Writing Like a Hero Week" when we will be introducing a number of exciting and fun activities to raise the children's interest in writing and inspire them to write non-fiction texts. We will re-introduce our four superheroes who are important tools for writing! You will receive a leaflet at the end of the special week outlining who these characters are and how we use them in school. For a sneaky peak, please take a look at our website!

Mathematics

Mistakes help us learn and make our brain grow!

Your children may have come home talking about the 'star challenges' we have introduced this term across the whole school. During lessons, work is differentiated to meet the wide range of learning needs within our classes and the children are encouraged to challenge themselves, rather than tackling work that is easy for them. This can be risky as, in doing so, they often make mistakes. However, there has been much research into the importance of making mistakes in brain development. When we make mistakes and then work hard to correct them, new neurons and connections between neurons are created and our brain 'grows'. It is for this reason that we value mistakes and aim for the children to do so too. It has been really wonderful to see our children embracing challenge, and happily discussing their errors and what they have learned as a result.

Maths Eyes

Maths Eyes is going from strength to strength. The children are asking some excellent questions and our weekly pictures are proving to be a wonderful stimulus for problem solving activities generated by the children themselves. It is also having a positive impact on the children's understanding and use of mathematical vocabulary, and on their reasoning skills. The news is also spreading! We have had a few other schools visit to see what we're doing and several visiting maths advisers have also been very impressed. Check out our new Maths Eyes page on the website!

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Booktrust and Save the Children have teamed up to launch a new campaign called 'Read On. Get On'. The campaign's mission is to ensure, that by 2025, every child is a confident reader by the age of 11.

Take a look at the website to get tips, quizzes and join the book club. There's something fun for children of all ages - and for adults too!

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/read-on-get-on/reading-pack/>

Maths Apps

Here are a few maths apps which you may find helpful. You should be able to locate these through the Apple App Store or through Google Play for Android users. (Please note, there is a small cost for some of these apps.)

'First Count'

'Number Lines'

'Pizza Fractions 1'

'Squeebles Times Tables'

'Let's do Mental Maths' from Andrew Brodie

'Mathletics'

If you have any favourite apps, we'd love to hear about them.
