

A Day in the Life of Thornford School

After lunch there is more time to play outside in our lovely grounds until 1.10pm. If it is dry children use the grass areas for football, cricket and running. They can chat quietly in Josie's Garden or play on the climbing equipment.

Lastly, the whole school gather for Collective Worship. This may be led by the head teacher, a teacher, a class of children or a visitor. We believe it is an important part of the day as it helps us share common values, reflection or worship. As a Church School our Collective Worship is broadly Christian.



School finishes at then 3.30pm. On most days a school club will take place straight after school, these cover a wide spread of the curriculum including the creative arts, humanities and P.E. Clubs change each term and a variety of pupils can access various clubs. Please see our web-site for more details and an up to date timetable.

Children are collected from the playground at 3:30pm by a known adult (Thornford is a SAFEGUARDING school). Older pupils are allowed to walk home on their own if written consent is given via communication to the Headteacher.

Starting Thornford Primary School

Starting school can seem a huge step into the unknown for both parents and children. We try to make this change as smooth as possible by arranging for the Early Years Teacher to visit the children in Playgroup before they start school. The pre-school children are invited on several introductory sessions with the Reception/Year 1 class to help familiarise them with their new class.

It is very helpful if children can be ready to be independent as possible by the time they start school. Simple routines like getting changed for PE, going to the toilet, putting their coats and shoes on for themselves can be quite a challenge to a four year old, so anything parents can do to help children be ready for this would be greatly appreciated. There are also introductory meetings for new parents before the start of term and a few weeks after pupils start school, where the school routine, approach to teaching reading and many other issues can be shared and parents can raise their questions.

Pre-school Links

Thornford village has an excellent pre-school located within the large and safe Village Hall. Please contact the School Office for contact details and further information.

Admission Policy

Children living in the Parish of Thornford and Beer Hackett, known as Thornhackett, are in the catchment area of Thornford School. The planned admission limit for our school each year is about 15 pupils. Any family not living in the catchment area wishing to apply to the school should do so by first visiting the school and then applying to:

The Admission Officer, Education Offices, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ

www.dorsetforyou.com/schooladmissions

Admission to School

Since September 1997 there has been one admission date when children come to school. Children aged 5 between 1st September and the following August all start in September. All children will attend 3 days a week for the first month (September) and then full time from October onwards (if appropriate). Children will attend full time, according to their birth date, and in discussion with the Headteacher and parents/carer.

Transfer to Secondary School - The Gryphon School - Sherborne

Thornford School is one of eight primary schools feeding into the Gryphon School in Sherborne. The Gryphon School is an established comprehensive, business enterprise, school and pupils move there at 11 years of age at the start of Year 7

School Uniform

Girls: grey skirt, pinafore dress or trousers, white polo shirt or blouse, Thornford School maroon cardigan, socks or tights, school shoes
(No open toed sandals - for health & safety reasons)
Summer uniform: red and white checked summer dress.

Boys: grey shorts or long trousers, white polo shirt or long sleeved shirt, Thornford Church School sweat shirt, dark socks, school shoes (No trainers).

P.E: Thornford Church School maroon P.E. tee shirt. black or navy P.E. shorts, socks, daps/P.E shoes (with Velcro for the youngest children) with a drawstring P.E bag to store it all in on a peg.



All clothing should be clearly named in a permanent way. No jewellery is permitted in school apart from stud earrings for those with pierced ears. Long hair should be tied back for P.E and lunch times. Uniform items with the school logo on are currently available from Sporting Classics in Sherborne. The shop also stocks Thornford Church School reading bags which the children carry their reading books in. The shop also stocks Thornford Church School reading bags in which children can carry their reading books and some communication letters

Curriculum Statement

Our curriculum is delivered from the National Curriculum 2014

The school and governors meet their legal requirements to teach the National Curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2, religious education and provide a daily act of collective worship.

They provide a written statement on Sex and Relationships. Parents can choose to withdraw their children from all or part of sex education. All National Curriculum subjects provide opportunities to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Explicit opportunities to promote pupils' development in these areas are provided in religious education and the non-statutory framework for personal, social and health education (PSHCE) and citizenship at key stages 1 and 2. At both Key Stages 1 and 2 the pupils learn practice, combine, develop and refine a wide range of skills in their work across the National Curriculum.

These key skills include:

- Communication
- Application of number
- Information technology
- Working with others
- Improving own learning and performance
- Problem solving

The school aims to honour the three principles that are essential to a more inclusive curriculum:

- Setting suitable learning challenges
- Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

The school makes specialist support and provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND). Programmes of study also meet the requirements of the Foundation Stage. The governors have established procedures for dealing with complaints.

The governors exercise their duty to report the outcomes of the National Assessment and Testing Frameworks at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 and provide a combination of 'report cards', 'Parental Information Evenings' and 'annual reports' to parents/carers within all classes.

Curriculum Statement

The programmes of study are designed to match the pupil's abilities, to further their progress and to be relevant to their needs and interests. The school curriculum is broad and introduces every pupil to a wide range of experiences.

The lessons are planned from a skills based 'creative curriculum' which are revised through a cyclic programme. They embrace activities which promote the intellectual, personal, social, emotional, spiritual, moral and healthy well-being of the pupils.

The curriculum is designed to focus on the challenges found in the local community and upon national and international issues. Central to all activities are the core values of spiritual development and care and concern for each other which permeate adult as well as child relationships within the school.

The school seeks to develop in every pupil a sense of self-worth. It provides access to understanding, knowledge and skills and lays the foundation for a life-long enjoyment of learning. It supports pupils in their efforts to make the most of their abilities and encourages them to develop an enquiring attitude and confident and creative approach to life. The school values pupils' initiative, self-discipline and sense of responsibility. The school actively encourages co-operation between learners.



Curriculum Statement

Throughout their time at school pupils acquire skills to enable life-long learning, this includes using their own assessment of themselves to promote learning; Assessment for Learning (Afl). The principles of Afl are embedded throughout our school and used in a variety of forms to enable pupils to fully understand their own, individual abilities. These skills involve self-assessment, peer marking, talking with peers to find ways forward and modeling excellent work to achieve.

Through the careful construction of the curriculum, pupils are made aware of their responsibility towards each other, the contribution which they can make to the school society, the local community and the wider world.

Teachers have the responsibility to make each child aware of the objectives they are working towards and to self-assess their own progress. This encourages them to set their own targets and to be motivated to enhance their own rate of learning.

Complaints against the Curriculum / General Complaints

Should you have any concerns about the National Curriculum / general complaints, please feel free to discuss them with your child's teacher or make an appointment with the Headteacher. As mentioned above, it is helpful if you can make a brief outline of your concerns when you make the appointment, in order to prepare any relevant material.

If you continue to be concerned and either the staff or governors are unable to help there is a procedure to follow, the details of which can be obtained from:

The Education Office, County Hall Dorchester

Our Creative Curriculum

The curriculum is the total range of all the work that children learn and experience at school. It covers the vital skills of literacy and numeracy, science and technology, and the enriching experiences of the creative and expressive arts. All of these subjects and skills involved are integrated for a life-long enjoyment of independent learning

Literacy / English

To be able to use language as a powerful means of communicating thoughts, plans and decisions, and to become an enthusiastic and fluent reader and writer.



Numeracy / Maths

To be able to use mathematics as a way of studying pattern, number and space, and as a way of ordering and understanding our complex world.



Science

To think creatively and to try to explain how living and non-living things work and to establish links between cause and effect.



Art & Design

To become visually aware of colour, pattern, line, texture and form, and to have the confidence and skills to explore and express own ideas.



Our Creative Curriculum

Design & Technology

To be able to explore, plan, design and test ideas for making things that will meet a specific design challenge.



Computing - Computing Science

To be able to create programs, use coding and systems with a range of content.
Investigate the future workplace'



Geography

To be able to make sense of the environment and the wider world through the study of formation of landscape, places and man's effect on the environment.



History

To develop a sense of the past, sequencing of events, changes and their causes, and to be able to find information through stories, artefacts, places of interest and other historical sources.

Music

To develop an interest and enthusiasm for music that involves listening, appreciating, participating and composing through singing, percussion and instrumental music.



Our Creative Curriculum



Physical Education (PE)

To develop a positive attitude to health and fitness and to acquire the physical skills necessary to participate in and enjoy a range of sports.

PSHCE

To enable children to learn about themselves as individuals and members of their communities, both local and global. To discuss individual and group feelings and emotions. Coping with a variety of social situations.



RE

To encourage children to be reflective, sensitive and thoughtful; to consider the beliefs of the Christian faith and other world faiths; to be considerate of the beliefs of others and to develop spiritual and ethical awareness.



Collective Worship

A daily act of worship is held. It is a time to focus the children's mind on God, to explore the meaning of worship and experience time of reflection and prayer. It is an important time of sharing for the school and helps to bind the school together for the community, giving the children a greater sense of identity. It gives an opportunity to celebrate the children's achievements and share them with the rest of the school, parents and carers

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, our worship is in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

Our school has good links with the Parish Church in Thornford and we are glad to have the rector to lead our collective worship on a regular basis.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Acts of collective worship.



SEND & Inclusion

At Thornford Church School, we are committed to offering an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all our pupils, whatever their needs or abilities. Children may have a wide variety of needs, for example, in Literacy, Numeracy, perception, motor skills, sight, hearing or behaviour.

We aim

- To identify students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and ensure that their needs are met
- To ensure that students with special educational needs and disabilities join in with all activities of the school.
- To ensure that all learners make the best possible progress
- To ensure parents are informed of their child's special needs and that there is effective communication between parents and school
- To ensure that learners express their views and are fully involved in decisions which affect their education
- To promote effective partnership and involve outside agencies when appropriate

Thornford Church School is committed to providing personalised learning for all pupils through assessment for learning, target setting, differentiated work, individual and group support from teaching assistants. If children fail to make expected progress after extra intervention within school, external agencies such as a Dyslexia tutor, Educational Psychologist, Outreach worker, Speech and Language therapist or Behaviour Support Service may be asked for advice. In this case the child will have an Individual Educational Plan (I.E.P) which is prepared by the class teacher and SENCO and shared with parents every 6 months. This outlines targets and support provision for individual children.
(For further details, see SEND Policy).

Thornford Church School have an Accessibility Action Plan to view on request.

Able pupils

Through assessment and tracking we also identify children who are particularly able in a whole range of subjects- including science, design, ICT, art, sport and music. These children are offered enrichment activities such as extra coaching, workshops and residential visits. Recent examples have been an Art weekend at Leeson House, a maths day, athletics coaching at Gryphon school and a poetry workshop. Able children are stretched and stimulated by meeting other able children from local primary schools.

Assessment - 'Painting a Picture of your child'

To create an accurate picture of your child, Thornford Church School, assesses your child's progress in a number of ways. You are welcome to discuss your child's progress at any stage with your child's class teacher.

At the end of each term every child reflects on the work they have undertaken within their class and then individual targets are set for future progress. Throughout the school pupils, alongside their teacher, select work to form a portfolio of achievement. This can take the form of paper and electronic evidence.

Formal assessment is kept by the child's class teacher and is available for discussion upon request. Teacher / Teaching Assistant Consultation evenings take place in the Autumn and Spring Terms. Parents receive a short written 'Report Card' at the end of the Autumn Term and then a longer, more detailed report at the end of the Summer Term.

EYFS (Reception Year) - pupils are assessed on entry and as they progress across their first year in school via the Early Years Foundation Profile (EYFS). This journey is recorded in their Learning Journals.

Year 1 pupils participate in the 'National Phonics Assessment Tests', in line with government policy.

Year 2 children complete formal Teacher Assessed activities, which are externally moderated, as they complete Key Stage One of the National Curriculum.

Year 6 children complete Standard Assessment Tests (SATs), which are externally assessed, as they complete Key Stage 2 of the National Curriculum.

Many other forms of assessment are undertaken on your child to help your child progress at their individual level. If you have questions concerning any of the assessments undertaken at the school, please contact your child's teacher or the Headteacher; with an appointment via the office.

Equal Opportunities

Thornford Church School is committed to the fundamental principles of equality of access and opportunity, unbiased treatment and equal value of all individuals. This commitment is reflected in our policy documents.

Equal opportunities is about girls and boys fulfilling their potential and making choices in their daily lives, unhampered by expectations that are based on gender; ethnic or national origin, intelligence or physical capacity, age, social or religious background.

We have specific facilities, such as a wheelchair ramp and soundproofing in our hall, for disabled people, the School benefits greatly from being on one level and we are committed to providing a full range of opportunities for all of our children.

Full Core Child Care

Thornford Primary School offers a wide range of child care and amenities for pupils and parents/carers. The school was awarded 'Full Core Status' by the local authority and the government for its commitment to all round child care. This ranges from our 'breakfast' and 'after school clubs' (child care from 8:00am - 5:30pm) and signposting parents to extra advice, to linking with other agencies, such as Healthcare.

We hope that you will utilise some or all of the facilities available. We are always pleased to receive any comments concerning our commitment to your child. Please contact a member of the governing body (list available within this document) or the school office.

Thornford Breakfast Club

This service is available from 8:00am in the morning five mornings a week (Mon-Fri). You may either pre-book your child's place or just use our drop-in facilities (particularly useful at times). For a small daily charge your child will be given breakfast and then supervised during a host of activities, ready for the school day. Look out for special events throughout the year. For example, we celebrated 'American Independence Day' - waffles and syrup! Please contact the school office for further details



Thornford School Meals Club

For over 30 years Thornford School has provided hot school meals for its pupils. This service is available for all our children, including the new Reception pupils after the first half-term during the Autumn Term. The meals are freshly cooked on the premises and subsidised by the extremely hardworking Thornford School Meals Club (who fund raise during the year to keep the costs of meals to a minimum). All food complies with the appropriate health guidelines and at times includes produce grown within our school garden! A small number of pupils bring a packed lunch instead. Some parents may be eligible for free school meals and a claim form can be obtained from the school office.



Full Core Child Care

Thornford After-School Care - via Lower Covey After-School Club - Yetminster

After school, Thornford Church School, hosts a variety of fun activities for pupils. However, the school has linked with Lower Covey after-school club / nursery to provide child care from 3:30pm until 5:30pm, if required. A mini-bus arrives at Thornford School and transports the pupils to nearby Lower Covey, Yetminster. Please contact the school office for further details.

Other Outside Agencies

The school regularly liaises with other outside agencies for the welfare and education of all our pupils. For example, the 'Life Education Van' provides health, drugs and social education for the pupils. All are welcome to drop-in sessions with our School Nurse, who regular health checks for certain year groups. The school can easily help you contact a range of outside agencies, health advice, religious instruction, social care and child development.



Friends of Thornford School (FTS)

The school has an exceptionally strong PTA, which is very pro-active throughout the year. They kindly arrange a multitude of events including, carol singing around the village, a Christmas fair, a summer fete and many other exciting activities. Using funds from their events they help support the school in many ways, including transport for school trips, visiting drama groups and a whole host of equipment for the school. If you wish to be a part of this socially active group, please contact the school office for details.

Our School - Cluster - Pyramid

Cluster (Four small schools)

Thornford (VA) Church of England Primary School is part of a cluster of small schools in this area of rural Dorset. The other members are:

All Saints Church of England (VC) Primary School, Bishops Caundle
Saint Mary Church of England (VC) Primary School, Bradford Abbas
Buckland Newton Church of England (VC) Primary School, Buckland Newton
Trent Young Endowed Church of England (VA) Primary School, Trent

These schools work together very closely to provide:

- i) an enhanced curriculum for the children
- ii) shared expertise between the staff
- iii) opportunities for peer groups to work together in large numbers
- iv) professional support for all staff
- v) all church schools supported by Dorset County Council and the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education

It is expected that all children at the school will at some stage take part in a residential visit with the Cluster group.

This year's activities:

Year group 2

Ryewater Nursery - Bishop's Down
Exploring an amazing sculptured garden

Year group 3

Carymoor
To experience Celtic crafts

Year group 4

Lesson House - Purbeck
Environmental day including mapping skills

Year group 5

Residential trip to Hooke Court, near Maiden Newton
3 day residential including many outdoor skills

Year group 6

Residential trip to Weymouth including a hotel and the Weymouth 5 day residential including outdoor & adventurous PE - kayaking, canoeing, sailing & abseiling

Our School - Cluster - Pyramid

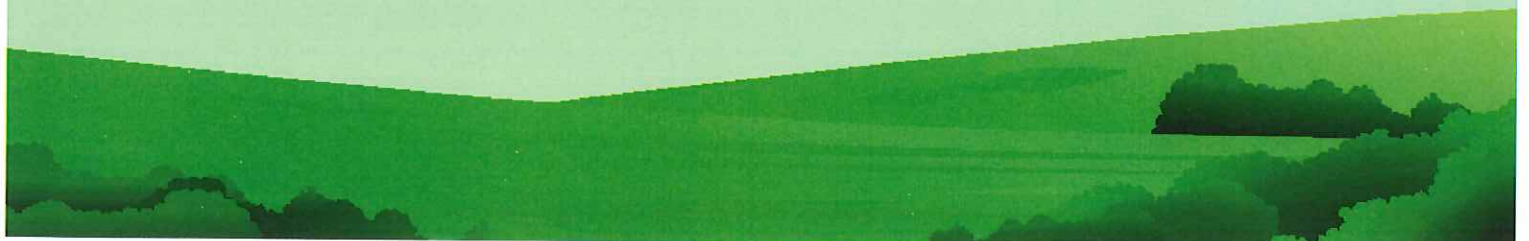
Pyramid (Eight schools feeding The Gryphon Secondary School - Sherborne)

Thornford Church School is also part of a wider network of eight pyramid schools which benefit from the points noted above as well as the following:

- a) Smooth transition through liaison to secondary school
- b) Gifted & Talented workshops hosted by various schools and the secondary feeder
- c) An excellent PE & Sport link with other local schools & the Gryphon which networks for sporting competitions and sporting progression
- d) A network for 'pupil voice' with a 'Partnership Council' linked to each School's Council.

The Pyramid includes all of the 'Cluster Schools' above as well as:

Sherborne Abbey (CE VC) School, Sherborne County Primary School,
Yetminster (CE VC) Primary School and Trent Young Endowed School (CE VA).



Clubs & Extra-Curricular Activities

The school believes in giving all children an opportunity to take part in and enjoy a broad range of extra-curricular activities. These include sporting, musical, artistic, religious, technological and fun opportunities.

Sport

Thornford Church School is well resourced for a wide range of sporting activities. A secure large grassed field area is within the boundary of the school grounds and is used for invasion games, such as football and tag rugby, as well as summer sports such as athletics, rounders and cricket.

The play areas are also appropriate for the size of the school with a netball court and specialised Foundation Stage play area. Our sporting equipment is conveniently kept within a storage shed on the edge of the playground. A beautifully designed outdoor classroom - pavilion and a canopy pavilion are also available for summer shade and shelter for a watching sporting 'crowd'.

Our comprehensive sporting programme encompasses full access to the PE National Curriculum as well as inter-school sport, intra-school events and opportunities for all.



Sporting Clubs

'A range of clubs are available to pupils at different, yet appropriate levels. These include many FREE lunchtime & after-school activities e.g. Netball, Football, Multi-skills etc. For a small fee pupils can also access 'Team Theme', 'Pass & Move Football Company' and other additional activities.

There is also a whole host of inter-school competitions, matches & tournaments at various levels throughout the year'.

Clubs & Extra-Curricular Activities

Netball Club takes place throughout the Autumn & Spring Terms and allows the upper school to practice skills in preparation for many competitions such as area and district competitions and festivals.

Rounders Club / Cricket Club / Athletics Club all operate during the Summer Term and are great fun for all. They can also lead the pupils in training for tournaments and competition.



Additional festivals and opportunities are added to our curriculum and extra-curricular programme depending on opportunities. For example, this year a Dance Workshop was available to the pupils throughout KS1 & KS2. The school offers a full range of competitive sport including boys and girls, football and netball, tag rugby, swimming, athletics, Cricket, rounders, cross-country and a Key Stage 1 festival of sport.



Music

The school enables pupils to broaden their musical experiences in a range of areas. Thornford Church School has its own Brass Band and a second 'School Band', available for any child who can 'make music'.



Further opportunities include individual tuition in woodwind, beginner and more advanced recorder playing, as well as many strong connections with local organisations.

Every child in KS2 has, at some point, the opportunity to play a brass instrument and learn the rudiments of percussive playing. The pupils have the opportunity to perform on occasions, including for parents and in church recitals, local concerts and full scale massed bands with the Dorset Music Service.



Clubs & Extra-Curricular Activities

Gardening Club

Thornford Primary Gardening Club is a very special club which has achieved amazing success over the last few years. The club is organised by Mrs Jo Newton and Mrs Zoe Hallett .

The club has helped the school achieve national awards, including 'Young Gardener Initiative of the Year 2008', 'Award Winner - Dorset Wildlife Gardens Competition - 2011' and part of a Gold Award at the Royal Chelsea Flower show for Dorset Cereals Edible Gardens.

Alongside these incredible results, the club also grows produce for the pupils' lunches and gives great pleasure to all pupils, staff and parents.



Other extra-curricular opportunities

Art & Design Club - KS1 & KS2 - This includes art & craft and other organised activities

Chess Club - Teaching the excellent strategic game of chess and developing thinking skills

Eco Club - This club encompasses many eco-activities as part of our 'Eco-Award Scheme', including bird watching, energy conservation and nature awareness

The school would like to thank the multitude of parents and governor who kindly organise or help with our curricular and extra-curricular activities

School Council

Thornford School is very proud of its pro-active School Council which includes pupils from Year 1 to Year 6. Their activities include weekly meetings alongside senior teachers to discuss and help organise the days' management of the school. They also independently organise charitable fund raising events and listen to their peers and friends to relate pupils views on a host of topics.

Each member of the Council is voted into their position, with a new Council membership every term.



Roll of Honour & Achievements



Award 2009

National Eco-Schools
Green Flag Award



Outstanding Ofsted Award
May 2013



Healthy Schools

National Healthy Schools Award



National Activemark Award



Outstanding Ofsted Award
May 2007



UNICEF
'Rights Respecting Schools Award'

Sporting Roll of Honour

- Years 5 & 6 Football Area Champions - 2014/15
- Years 5 & 6 Area Basketball Champions - 2014/15
- Year 5 & 6 Indoor Football Runners-up - 2014/15
- Girls Football Area Runners-up - 2014/15
- Girls Area Netball Plate Winners - 2014/15
- Years 3 & 4 Area Netball Runners-up - 2014/15
- Girls Football Area Champions - 2013/14

Academic Roll of Honour

- 100% - Level 4+ - Year 6 SATS - 2014 in ALL SUBJECTS
- Thornford School in Top 150 Schools in the country academically (league tables)
- + top 3 in Dorset
- + top 5% in country
- Progress across the school WELL ABOVE National Average

Other Awards

- Part of 'Gold Award Garden' - Royal Chelsea Flower Show
- National 'Church School of the Year' finalists - 2010/11
- Award Winner - 'Dorset Wildlife Trust Gardens Competition'
- Sherborne Area Chess Champions - 2014/15 (3 years running)
- National Artsmark Gold Award
- National Eco-Schools Green Flag x 3
- Sherborne Area Chess Champions - 2013/14
- Church Inspection (SIAS) - Outstanding - July 2012
- Outstanding Ofsted (May 2014)