

**Thornford CE Primary School  
NEWSLETTER – December 2023**



*Goodwill toward all beings is the true religion; cherish in your hearts  
boundless goodwill to all that lives.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas has arrived at Thornford- with snow and everything! This is my favourite time in primary school: Nativity performance; Carol service; Christmas fair, Christmas lunch and parties. Amongst all the jollity, I would like to introduce The Zones of Regulation over the next couple of weeks (and next term). **The Zones of Regulation** is a framework for teaching regulation strategies for managing feelings and sensory needs to children, ages 4+. Rooted in cognitive behavioural therapy, the framework uses four colours (Blue, Green, Yellow and Red) to help individuals identify how they are feeling in the moment given their energy, feelings, and level of alertness. By understanding how to read their bodies, detect triggers, think about the social context, and consider their reactions, individuals learn a system for how to increase their ability to regulate their feelings, manage their sensory needs, and become more self-aware and skillful problem solvers. More information to follow soon.

### **ZigZag Lines**

For the safety of the children entering and exiting the school, please do not park on the zigzag lines outside of the school entrance.

### **Running to raise money for Children in Need**

One of our KS1 pupils Callum will be taking part in the Communifit 5k run in Sherborne on the 17th of December with his mum to raise money for Children in Need. We wish Callum the best of luck, if you would like to donate to his just giving page, please click on the link below:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/c-hunter-1701001663278?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2Fc-hunter-1701001663278&utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/c-hunter-1701001663278?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fc-hunter-1701001663278&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)

### **Starting Reception in 2024**

If you have a child starting Reception in 2024, please don't forget to apply for their school place by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

Link for families who live in Dorset: [Starting school for the first time - Dorset Council](#)

Link for families who live in Somerset: [Apply to start school for the first time \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Save the Children – Christmas Jumper Day**

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December we have a non-uniform day and we ask that everyone wears a Christmas jumper. We appreciate that it is an expensive time of year, but if you can donate to Save the Children, please do so via our Just Giving link: [Thornford CE Primary School is fundraising for Save the Children \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/thornford-ce-primary-school)

### **Reminder – Times Table Rockstars and Numbots**

Please can parents encourage children to use TT Rockstars and Numbots at home as this will help increase their number fluency/accuracy and recall for their times tables. Class teachers can remind children of their logins.

### **Girls Football Festival**

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November our year 5/6 girls take part in the School Games Football festival at The Gryphon. The afternoon comprised of a range of football based activities followed by some matches which our girls thoroughly enjoyed.



### **Davison Cup Girls Football**

Taking the enthusiasm gained from their football festival, our year 5/6 girls kicked off our matches for this season with their first-round game of The Davison Cup. The match saw us host All Saints Bishops Caundle. Both teams played very well, and the final score was 3-1 which saw us through to the next round.

### **Remembrance – Oak Class**

We are delighted to have been able to send the Oak Class Remembrance pictures to France. The posters have been fixed to the fencing on the Hawthorn Crater on the Somme. Please click on the link below to see a short clip from the Remembrance Service at the Hawthorn Crater.

[Oak Class Remembrance link with the Somme | Thornford CE Primary School](#)

### **Diwali**

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November, the whole school enjoyed celebrating Diwali with a Bollywood dance workshop.



### **Dodgeball Tournament**

This week we participated in the Sherborne Area Dodgeball tournament hosted at The Gryphon. Six schools took part in the fast paced, quick thinking, highly competitive afternoon and we finished a very respectable 2nd overall.



### **Children in Need**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November we raised money for Children in Need by having a non-uniform day and a cake sale. Thank you to everyone who baked cakes, ate cakes and wore spotty clothes, we raised a fantastic £301.



### **M&M Theatre Production**

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November the whole school watched a fantastic theatre production of Beauty and the Beast. Thank you to the FTS for contributing towards the cost of the performance.

### **Football vs Leweston**

Our year 5/6 boys have kicked off their football session now and have played some great football as they learn to gel as a new team. Their first game against Leweston was very evenly matched and the second half was very goal heavy for both teams. Thank you for having us Leweston - we had a great afternoon.

### **Indoor Football**

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November our year 6s took part in the indoor 5 a-side tournament at the Gryphon. Some very fast football played by all teams and we came away with extremely well-deserved silver medals.



### **Football & Netball vs Sherborne Primary**

A frosty netball match and snowy football match were played at Sherborne Primary on Thursday. All pupils played very well, despite the cold and although they didn't win, both teams showed team spirit and determination. Well done Thornford!

### **FTS Update**

A big thank you to everyone who gave up their time to help with Christmas Crafts in school - the children have made some beautiful decorations! These will all be available to buy at the fayre. The Christmas fayre will be on Weds 6th December - if you are available to help in any way (setting up, running a stall, baking cakes) that would be amazing - please contact Caitlin. Please return raffle tickets asap and by Tues 5th Dec if possible. The FTS will be serving refreshments at the Christmas play on 11th Dec at both performances.

### **The Children's Commissioner**

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel De Souza, has launched The Big Ambition survey to understand what children want ahead of the next General Election. Please share this link or QR code with young people so they can have their say: <https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition>.



### **School Nurse**

The School Nursing Team have a text messaging service 'ParentLine 5-19' that can be accessed during school term time between 9am and 4pm. [\*\*ParentLine 5-19 \(Text messaging service\) 07312263131. Text for advice from a member of the School Nursing team.\*\*](#)

### **Wraparound Care**

#### **Lower Covey**

Lower Covey offer daily after school childcare at their site in Yetminster. Please contact them directly to book a space.

#### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club starts at 8am every school day and is booked via ParentPay. Please book by 12 noon on the Friday the week before a space is required.

#### **Clothes Recycling Bin**

The FTS are paid for the collections from the clothes recycling bin by weight. All money raised goes to school. Please donate:

- All men's ladies' and children's clothing including school uniform\*, paired shoes, handbags, bags, ties and belts, bedclothes, towels and soft toys. Anything that is not good enough to sell is used to make cleaning materials and insulation.

**Please note, they cannot accept:**

- Duvets – both synthetic and feathered, pillows and cushions, carpets and rugs, soiled or wet clothing, workwear, shredded or mutilated textile material, textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material.

*\*Please try to sell uniform via the FTS facebook page or pass to Laura Daniells before putting in the recycle bin. Thank you.*

**Thornford Kitchen – Recipe of the Month!**

**Gingerbread Biscuit**

350g plain flour  
125g butter  
1tsp bicarbonate of soda  
2tsp ginger  
1tsp cinnamon  
175g brown sugar  
4 tbsp golden syrup  
1 egg



- Rub flour and butter until breadcrumbs, add bicarbonate of soda, spices and sugar and mix in.
- Add egg and syrup and make into a dough.
- Chill in the fridge wrapped for one hour.
- Roll out and cut into desired shape and cook for approximately 12 minutes at 170°C.

| Dates for the Autumn Term                                               |                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>                                   | FTS home clothes day for a tombola prize<br>KS2 Parents Assembly                                                                                   |
| <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>                                   | Last Kickboxing Session at lunchtime                                                                                                               |
| <b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>                                  | Year 5/6 Small Schools Football Tournament at the Gryphon                                                                                          |
| <b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>                                | FTS Christmas Fair                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>                                 | Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day (home clothes)<br>Oak Class Carol Singing at the Hayes Nursing Home                                         |
| <b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>                                   | Strictly Sparkly Day – Ballroom dancing for all classes (non-uniform – sparkly if you wish!)<br>Parents Assembly 2:45pm                            |
| <b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>                                  | KS1 Nativity AM & PM performance                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>                                 | Whole School Christmas Lunch (please book school meal via ParentPay).                                                                              |
| <b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>                               | Oak Class Carol Singing at Thornford Community Hub                                                                                                 |
| <b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>                                  | Christmas Service Thornford Church – all welcome<br>Party food at lunchtime (please book school meal via ParentPay)<br>Last day of the Autumn term |
| <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b> | CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY                                                                                                                                  |

|                                                                               |                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>                                         | INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED                                    |
| <b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>                                       | First day of the Spring term                                 |
| <b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>                                       | Year 5/6 Hockey Tournament                                   |
| <b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>                                      | Year 5 Leeson House parents information evening 5pm New Hall |
| <b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February to<br/>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b> | HALF TERM                                                    |
| <b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>                                        | INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED                                    |

As always, if you have any issue to discuss, please contact me or my staff at the school.

[Neela Brooking](#)

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