



Thornford CE Primary School NEWSLETTER – March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We welcome Mel Lane from the charity Space Youth Project, to Thornford on Tuesday 12th March. This charity educates pupils about LGBT awareness in an age-appropriate way. Ofsted will inspect schools on how leaders and governors promote all forms of equality and foster greater understanding of and respect for people of all faiths (and those of no faith), races, genders, ages, disability and sexual orientations through their words, actions and influence within the school and more widely in the community. We strongly believe that the ethos and culture of Thornford school must prevent any form of direct or indirect discriminatory behaviour. Here is a link to Mel's website outlining the lessons the children will be receiving: <https://www.diversitymel.com/student-workshops>

After School Childcare

Just to update you on where we are with childcare provision: I met with Laura and Fiona from Lower Covey last week. We discussed the results of our questionnaire (7 replies) and compared this with the information, which Lower Covey had gathered from their Thornford parents. They say that currently their numbers are working well and they don't have any children from our school currently on a waiting list. They feel that the parents who asked for after school care at Thornford are mainly the same as the ones who attend Lower Covey, currently. It appeared that there was a possibly 2 other families who required after-school care. Lower Covey felt that providing staff to run after school care at Thornford would not be feasible for only 2 extra children, however Laura said that she could look into transporting the extra children over to Yetminster, if needed. Therefore, I believe the next step should be to ask for the names of people who need school care and I will arrange a meeting so that parents can let me know their needs.

Leeson House

Year 5 had a fantastic residential in the week before half term, they joined year 5 pupils from Buckland Newton Primary and St Mary's Bradford Abbas for an overnight stay at Leeson House. The group enjoyed a walk in Studland and learnt about coastal erosion, recreating a sand model of Old Harry Rocks. This was followed by some great classroom work on the geology of the area, with fun team games. Although the weather was not on their side, they still managed to thoroughly enjoy the night orienteering in the grounds of Leeson House. Other activities included starting fires using a flint and steel, pond dipping and team challenges.

This overnight stay is great preparation for their longer residential in year 6.



Bath Rugby Coaching for KS2

We are delighted that Bath Rugby coach Lia Gingell is teaching both Elm and Oak Class this term as part of the Bath Rugby Schools Partnership Programme.



NSPCC – Number Day

We raised a fantastic £122 for the NSPCC on number day, thank you to everyone for donating and dressing for digits!



Beech Class Indoor Tennis

Jon Rolnik an LTA Tennis Coach from Sherborne Tennis Club has been teaching some keen tennis players from Beech Class in the afterschool club. We hope that their enthusiasm for tennis will continue into KS2 and beyond!

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.

School Nurse



Wraparound Care

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

Diary Dates	
Friday 1st March	Year 3/4 Hockey Festival Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament KS1 Parents' Assembly
Thursday 7th March	Year 5/6 SAST Netball Tournament at Sherborne Abbey
Friday 8th March	World Book Day – Dance day : story book –inspired musicals Dance Showing Parents' Assembly
Tuesday 12th March	Mel Lane's Inclusion Workshop
Wednesday 13th March	Beech Class Trip – Rural Life Museum Year 5/6 Football match at Sherborne Abbey Year 3/4 Netball match at Sherborne Abbey
Friday 15th March	Red Nose Day – non-uniform KS2 Music Assembly Parents welcome
Saturday 16th March	ESFA – Small Schools Cup Regional Finals in Keynsham
Thursday 21st March	Authors Abroad Maths Day
Friday 22nd March	KS1 Parents' Assembly FTS Disco
Tuesday 26th March	Parents Evening
Wednesday 27th March	Parents Evening
Thursday 28th March	LAST DAY OF TERM Easter Service in Thornford Church
Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April	EASTER HOLIDAY
Wednesday 17th April	Beech Class Trip – Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Westlands
Thursday 25th April	Mini Handball Tournament
Friday 26th April	KS1 Parents' Assembly FTS Story Night
Thursday 2nd May	Year 3/4 Football Tournament
Monday 6th May	BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 27th to Friday 31st May	HALF TERM

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

Neela Brooking

Head Teacher Office@thornford.dorset.sch.uk 01935 872706