



Thorpe Lea Newsletter

December 2022



Dear Families,

Thank you so much for your support this term, it has been wonderful to see so many of you at our events, not least this week's Christmas concert at St Paul's Church. This time of year is always so busy in school but it is by far the most exciting and fun time of year for the children and staff. We really appreciate all the kind comments and feedback that you gave us and it was such a great feeling to finally be back in the church singing in front of an audience!

This is another newsletter packed with examples of the things that your children have been up to this term. Please take a moment to grab yourself a cup of tea and see what each year group has achieved.

On a personal note, please can I take a moment to thank you all for your kind words on the gate after I returned from paternity leave. George is doing very well and we are all getting into new routines as a family of four, so far Henry has settled well to being a big brother and we are looking forward to what the future holds for us.

2023 promises to be another exciting year, please keep an eye out for upcoming calendar dates which will include Parents' Evenings in March.

Have a wonderful break, we will see you in the new year. Wednesday 4th January for Reception upwards, and Monday 9th for Nursery.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Pete Bailey
Headteacher



LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

As a school we discourage parents from taking pupils out of school, as it can disrupt continuity and places extra pressure on the pupil both before and after the absence, however carefully it is planned. Pupils attend school for 38 weeks per year, leaving 14 weeks to take a holiday. If a child is absent from school for a two week holiday, they will miss 5% of their education and we believe that this may have a negative effect on their level of achievement. Data indicates that an attendance figure below 95% means that children make significantly less progress than their peers.

Some parents may be under the impression that they have a legal entitlement to take their children out of school for up to 10 days at any time and that all they have to do is notify the school. The Governors and I feel it is important that we inform parents that this is not the case and that **there is no legal entitlement for pupils to have any time off school for a holiday.**

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2013, which became law on 1st September 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher is also required to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

Unauthorised absence of 5 days or more may result in the issue of a Penalty Notice. Penalty Notices are issued by the Local Authority in accordance with Surrey County Council's Code of Conduct.

The Penalty Notice is £60, per child per parent/carer, if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in you being served a summons to appear at the Magistrates Court.

The Headteacher will consider the reasons for the request carefully and will notify you of the decision.

For further information, please refer to our School Attendance Policy.

Thorpe Lea Awards Assembly – December 2022

Award	Recipient
KS2 Academic Achievement	Kara
KS1 Academic Achievement	Flo
Thorpe Lea PE & Sports Cup	Daniel
Thorpe Lea Creativity Cup	Aadhira
Community Cup - Donated by Peter Smyth	Ben
The Thorpe Lea Cup	Toby
Thorpe Lea Staff Recognition	Mrs Bice





The Swan's Bill

We hope that you have had a good week, please enjoy this week's edition of 'The Swan's Bill'.

Our Curriculum

After Christmas your child will be learning about...

Class	Learning
Nursery	Our new topic Traditional Tales
Recep.	Our new topic is People who help us
Year 1	Making a storybook with moving parts.
Year 2	Our book for Spring 1 is "A Walk in London" where children will be writing recounts.
Year 3	We will be starting our science topic on adaptations.
Year 4	Our book for Spring 1 is "FaRther" where we will be writing recounts.
Year 5	We will be exploring materials and their properties in Science.
Year 6	The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Attendance

Attendance is important to us, our whole school target is 96% but we want as many children as possible to be at 100% at the end of the year.

This week's attendance and the winners:

Nursery	95.7%
Reception	87.3%
Year 1	88.9%
Year 2	86.3%
Year 3	89.7%
Year 4	94.1%
Year 5	95.2%
Year 6	90.0%

Staff Profile – Mrs Wingate

Maisie and Poppy S in Year 5 are our roving reporters, this week they have been interviewing Mrs Wingate

Job role: LSA

Favourite Thorpe Lea moment: When all the teachers sang at the jubilee party

What is the best holiday you've ever been on? My holiday to Magaluf

What was your favourite subject at school? Gymnastics in PE

Favourite book: My Sisters Keeper

Favourite number and why: 1, because it's at the start!

House Points

Congratulations to King John, who collected the most House Points this week; their crest is proudly displayed at the top of the page.

Position	House	Points
1 st	Fitz Walter	520
2 nd	Langton	400
3 rd	Pope	267
4 th	King John	192

Celebrations

Finally, our celebrations this week go to the following pupils:

Class	Star of the Week	Wow Work
Nursery	Arabella	Noah
Recep.	Effie	Matas
Year 1	Emily	Harry
Year 2	Teagan	Sahil
Year 3	Evie	Hannah
Year 4	Poppy H	Joey
Year 5	Nojus	Frankie
Year 6	Lottie	Filip

Additional Celebrations

Melody in Year 3 can swim the length of a pool in all of her swimming stokes. Well done!

Abdul-Basit in Nursery received a Golden Ticket for being an amazing older brother and for bring super brave when taking all his medication.

Cyrus in Year 5 has completed his first ever solo guitar performance and has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement!

Allyna in Year 5 levelled up in Gymnastics to Grey.

Well done to all of the Nursery children for an amazing Nativity!

Freya in Reception got a golden ticket for writing her name.

Jahzara in Reception got a golden ticket for having an amazing week back after being unwell.

Aran in Reception got a golden ticket for being super good and helpful at Granny's.

Amber in Reception got a golden ticket for understanding to use exclamation marks to read with super expression!

Saxon in Reception got a golden ticket for playing in his first football match and scoring a goal.

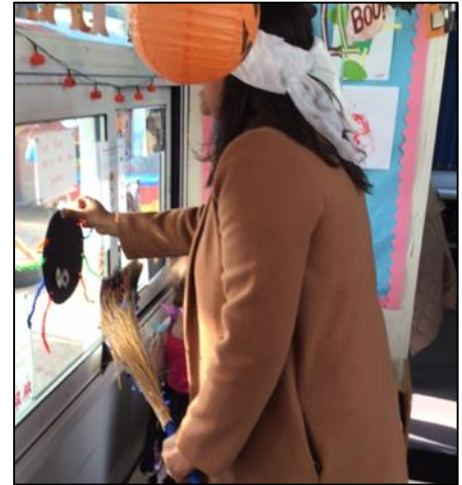
Violet in Reception got a golden ticket for taking her medicine like a superstar and doing so well at her swimming lessons.

Nursery



Nursery started their Autumn 2 with a WOW bang! The children came in wearing their Halloween costumes and took part in all the fun activities. From 'pinning the eyes on the spider', pumpkin painting, making cupcakes using playdough to performing 'them bones' dance to all the parents. It was so lovely to have parents come in and be part of the children's learning.

Thank you to all the parents who came.



Reception

It has been a wonderfully busy Autumn term as usual for us here in Reception, however we had the help of some lovely teachers to help settle us in whilst Miss Nickless was poorly! They looked after us very well!

Right from the beginning the children had been joining in with whole school assemblies and even singing practise on Wednesdays! The children have been busy learning the rules of the classroom and playground, building friendships and learning to listen and respond to our friends and adults.

On top of that, we have enjoyed a Halloween disco, Children in Need, Pyjama Day, our school Christmas dinner and writing and sending our letters to Santa as a class! We have lots more exciting things coming up next term and we cannot wait to come back to school and start our learning after the Holidays!



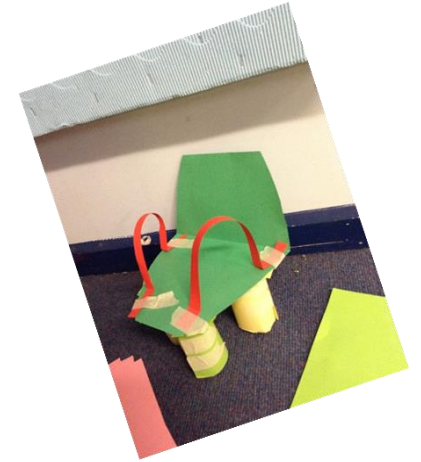
Year 1

In September, Year 1 went on an imaginative adventure with Drama4all, which including travelling to a far off land, searching through old castles and fighting off dangerous witches all in order to help a brave knight recover his sword. We had so much fun exploring cold arctic areas, crossing flimsy bridges over boiling hot lava and swimming through damp grimy swamps.



Year 2

Autumn Term in Year 2 has been extremely busy with many exciting learning opportunities taking place. In maths, they have been counting to 100 forwards and backwards. They are secure with their place value knowledge and understand that two digit numbers are made up of 10s and 1s. The children can add two 2 digit numbers, they can skip count in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s as well as use positional language. We have used many manipulatives to help with our understanding of maths and children have also used clocks and money. Most of our early morning activities are linked to maths too as well as a daily maths session after lunch. In English, we have focussed on four books: The Bear Under the Stairs, The Journey Home, Great Fire of London and Wolves. Children have completed some amazing writing over the term and have been given many different writing opportunities such as letters, stories, non-chronological reports, posters and lists.



In Science, the children have learnt about habitats and microhabitats. We looked at hot, dry habitats such as deserts and the animals that you find in those environments. We also looked at a humid, wet and soggy rainforest. The children then moved onto the science topic of "changing materials" which linked well with The Great Fire of London and our DT. They carried out many investigations to find out which materials were waterproof and which were absorbent. We carried out tests to try and find out the material with the most elasticity. We learned about the various properties of materials and in DT they had to test the stability of structures and the materials they were using. This was a great cross-curricular activity with maths as they were testing the strength of cuboids and cylinders. Many teamwork opportunities have been offered too as this helps to support their communication of ideas, their confidence and creativity as well as their social skills in terms of sharing, helping each other achieve a common goal and listening.

In computing, the children have been learning to communicate via email. They can attach documents and know how to share learning to the bulletin board. The handwriting practise continues weekly and noticeable improvement is evident. In Autumn 2, the children have been practising the Nativity. They have auditioned, made props and sung their hearts out.

Year 3

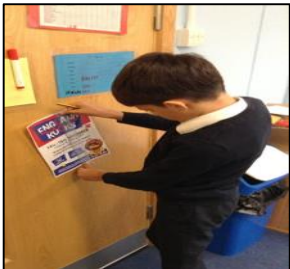


What a term it has been in Year 3! We have all thoroughly enjoyed our learning and the fun activities we have been doing. We have been looking at; Length in Maths, the Stone Age in History, Rocks in Science, Internet Safety in Computing and we have been making our own masks in DT!



We also learnt about Alma Thomas in Art. We dedicated a whole afternoon to recreate her famous artwork and learnt all about her life.

Lastly, we have had SO much fun learning the songs for the Christmas Concert (our class song especially). We have some very talented singers in this class!



Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic day dress up and learning about the Egyptians. Children in Year 4 had the opportunity to bring their learning to life, we explored artefacts from Chertsey Museum, created our own 3D pyramids and designed and painted a Tutankhamun mask. We also had lots of fun learning some Egyptian dance and writing messages in Hieroglyphics.

A brilliant day had by all!



Year 5 & 6 STEAM Trip

In the beginning of Autumn term, Years 5 and 6 visited Thorpe Park for an educational STEAM fair. We completed many fascinating and informative workshops that required us to work as a team. It was very rewarding because depending on how many workshops we completed we would earn a free pass on a ride!

When we arrived, we were greeted by the loud whirring noise of the RAF helicopter circling above our heads. This was just the beginning of an exciting trip! After leaving the coach and making our way to the entrance of the park, we were handed ear plugs but none of us knew why. Ahead of us we saw crowds gathered around waiting for something, then suddenly, a loud whoosing sound followed by a figure blasted up into the air and spun around side to side. It was a man on a jet pack! We were cheering! We have never seen anything like this before!

As we entered the park, we listened to the marching band play. They marched all the way through the park throughout the day! It was cool to see an orchestra!

We really enjoyed the practical workshop called 'The Big Bugzi' where we used tools and screws to build a wheelchair for children with a physical disability. The children each took turns to attach parts such as the wheels to the base of the wheelchair and use the drill to tighten the screws – it was very loud! It was even more amazing to see a disabled child using the wheelchair that the children were helping to build! Here are some pictures to show the work we did.



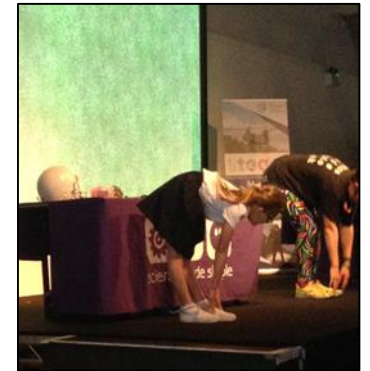
After collecting enough stamps from the activities all over the park, we could enjoy some of the amazing rides! Mrs Green's favourite ride was the teacup.



All around the park were amazing workshops, including a small petting zoo where we could feed the animals and pet them.



Almost at the end of the day, we were tired from all the walking and hard work we had done. It was nice to sit and watch a Sports Science show to end our trip with. Lexi, in Year 5 bravely volunteered to stand on stage with a child from another school to show her balancing skills. We learnt that you could not stand back to back and touch your toes. The most exciting part of the show was when the children nominated a teacher from the audience (thankfully not our teachers although our children did beg!) to sit on 100, sharp pointy nails. It was painful to watch but she managed it!

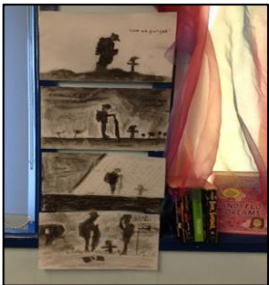


Overall, we had the best start to Years 5 and 6 and we would really love to do this again!

Year 6

Remembrance Day Artwork

On November 11th, Year 6 were thinking about all the soldiers that dedicated their lives in service. They created these beautiful Remembrance pieces of art of soldiers mourning their lost comrades using charcoal. We then displayed them around the classroom so that we can continue to remember those who fought and died for us.



Citizenship Trip at Thorpe Park

Year 6 had an amazing time visiting Thorpe Park to learn about fire, water, first aid and personal safety. At the first aid station, the children learnt how to move a person into the recovery position, learning a new rhyme to help them remember (Please miss, I have a toothache and I need a wee wee).

Next, the children learnt how to keep their bodies safe and healthy by understanding which sugars are bad, and how much sugar they are allowed each day (Can you believe it's only seven sugar cubes)

Then, the police taught the children all about stranger danger. They spoke about the importance of them telling strangers no, and making sure they do not go off with people they do not know. The police then spoke to the children about what they could do if a stranger approaches them and how they can help themselves.

The next stop was speaking with the fire brigade about fire safety. They reminded the children not to leave candles unattended, and how to use extension cables safely. Transport for London came to teach the children how to cross railway crossings safely, and how to be safe on a train platform. The RLNI (Royal National Lifeboat Institute) then taught the children how to be safe around water and what risks they need to look out for.

Finally, the children learnt about road and bike safety from the police. They explored where and when to cross the road; making sure they are not on their phones or listening to music. They also looked at how important it is to be seen when riding bikes in the dark. Remember; stay bright to save your life!

Festival of Diwali

On Monday 17th October, the entire school came together to learn and celebrate the festival of Diwali. Parents, staff and some children dressed up to mark the festivity. This year, the children took part in acting out the Diwali Story and presented to the whole school, some of our parents who celebrate Diwali and to the members of the Church. We all then took part in the 'puja' which was performed by one of the parents. The children and staff all enjoyed the traditional food kindly provided by our parents. See below for some pictures of the fabulous celebration.



Thorpe Lea Football Team

During this Autumn term, the Year 5 and 6 football team have had an amazing start to the football league and Miss Tyler is proud of each player who has taken part in the games. Thorpe Lea Football Team have faced some tricky games, and have won two out of the five matches. This is because the players are passionate and enjoy playing as a team. Miss Tyler hopes that in the Spring term, the football team continue to enjoy the sport and have fun whilst playing against other schools.



Christmas Tree Festival at St Paul's

Choir were invited to take part in the opening of the Christmas Tree Festival at St Paul's. After the festival was officially opened by the Mayor of Runnymede, they performed a number of Christmas carols with the choir of Magna Carta school. They were also accompanied by Magna Carta's orchestra. After some beautiful singing, the children took the opportunity to view the different Christmas trees on display in the church. The choir really enjoyed taking part in this community event and it was a great way to get into the Christmas spirit.



School Council

The school councillors have been busy this term. At the start of the term, they discussed the meaning of being a member of the school council and their aims. The children have shown compassion and thoughtfulness for the charities they wish for our school to support and have thought of amazing ideas on how they can best start fundraising.

The school councillors have played a key role in promoting attendance. They explained why attending school is important and how missing a day could be detrimental to their learning. They shared amazing advice and top tips for what to do if you are feeling unwell but are still well enough to be in school. After sharing their thoughts, we discussed their role in the poster competition and they decided what the required design criteria would be. When it came to deciding on who the winners would be, the children judged another year group so that the decision would be fair. Then, the winners were announced in the celebration assembly. Well done to:

Reception – Vaani

Year 1 - Joshua

Year 2 – Seher and Mystica

Year 3 - Monty

Year 4 - Ana

Year 5 – Daniel

Year 6 – Sadie

The winners each have their posters displayed around the school and on the school website for all to see.

As we approached Christmas time, the children in KS2 were fortunate to be invited to the Christmas Tree Festival at St Paul's church to decorate our very own Thorpe Lea Christmas Tree. We were the first ones to put up our tree! As we were decorating, we had a lot of fun! We listened to Christmas carols, dangled baubles off our ears like earrings, or wore the tinsel as if it was a cosy, scarf. The hardest part was untangling the 7 metre fairy lights but it looks ever so good! Take a look! We are very proud of our teamwork!



Next term, we look forward to learning more about the charity we are going to be supporting and sharing our charity work with you!



We continue to be extremely grateful for all the hard work and commitment shown by the PTA, who have organised and run many successful events this term. They have arranged several cake sales where they took earnings of £363 in total. The Spooky Disco at the end of Autumn 1 was a huge success, as children enjoyed dressing up and dancing. The hall was decorated beautifully and it was so good to see so many people helping in any way they possibly could. This event proved very popular because it generated a whopping £580. In December we saw a second hand uniform sale and there were Christmas activities such as Elfridges Wrap A Gift, Pyjama Day and the Christmas card designs.

The PTA are a very important part of school life, as they help to provide extra activities for the children to enjoy such as the Panto, which took place on 6th December 2022. The children absolutely loved the afternoon and on behalf of all the children and staff, we want to thank the PTA for providing them with this opportunity.

If you would like to be a part of the PTA, please do not hesitate to approach Mrs Marwick or email tlf@thorpe-lea.surrey.sch.uk because your ideas, support and time will be very much appreciated.

