



# Thorpe Lea Newsletter

## March 2023



Dear Families,

As we close another term it is lovely to look back on everything that the children have been up to, I hope that you enjoy reading about all of the exciting things that have been going on around the school so far in 2023. Well done to all of our Thorpe Lea Awards recipients!

Yesterday we said goodbye to Mrs Steed who is leaving us for another opportunity, I would like to thank her for her hard work during her time here at Thorpe Lea. Mrs Ressa has also recently begun her maternity leave, we wish her all the best for the arrival of her new baby!

As I am sure you will have noticed we have had a new track installed on the top field. The 'Thorpe Active Track' can be used by children throughout the day, including break times and lunch times, to run or walk to get their heart beats and fitness levels up. So far it has proven to be very popular. Soon we will be having additional signage put around the perimeter of the track to encourage children to stop and complete different exercises, I would like to thank the PTA for their very generous donation towards the cost of the Thorpe Active Track, it is your contributions and support of all the PTA events that make things like this possible.

I hope that you enjoy the Easter break and take some well earned time to relax with your families. We are already looking forward to an action packed summer term!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Pete Bailey  
Headteacher



Birds eye view of the Thorpe Active Track

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 – March 2023

Award	Recipient
KS2 Academic Achievement	Rehanth
KS1 Academic Achievement	Isla
Thorpe Lea PE & Sports Cup	Jacob
Thorpe Lea Creativity Cup	Poppy
Community Cup - Donated by Peter Smyth	Harmony
The Thorpe Lea Cup	Leni
Thorpe Lea Staff Recognition	Miss Ryan-Morrow



## Nursery

### Fairy Tales - WOW Day

Nursery started their new topic this term 'Fairy Tales' with a WOW bang! The children came in wearing their 'Fairy tales' costume. They enjoyed reading the Cinderella story, learning about Pinocchio and role playing as princesses and knights in the 'Fairy Tale Castle'. 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 along.



### Mother's Day picnic

Nursery would like to say a big thank you to all the mums and special adults that were able to come to our Mother's Day picnic. It was a wonderful day where the children got to sing a song for everyone as well as sharing snacks and enjoying the chance to celebrate Mother's Day together. Thank you for being such amazing parents and we appreciated the effort that you all put in to making the day special.



## Reception

Reception's visit from "People who can help us".

This term we were very lucky to have many visitors to come and visit us here in Reception when we were learning about "People who help us". We had the police, the firefighters, a paramedic, a nurse and we even had a visit from Mr Bailey! We got to dress up in some of the police hats, Miss Nickless tried on the handcuffs, we squirted the fire hose and we got to go in an ambulance. We even visited the school staffroom and got to see where the teacher's eat their lunch! It was so exciting! Thank you to all our visitors this term!



## Year 1

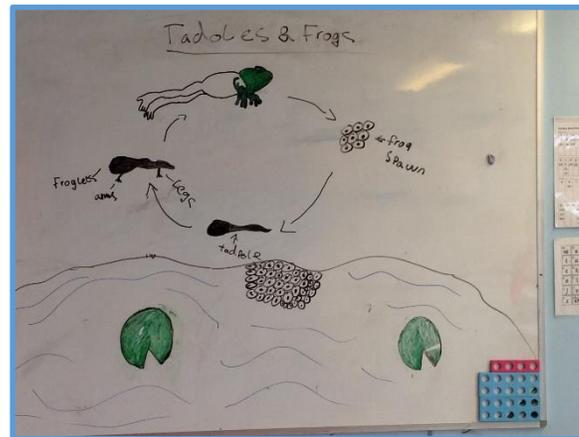
Year 1 have had a busy term but a particular highlight has been a visit from Fantastic FRED. Fred and his scientist friend came to discuss how to keep our minds healthy and how an unhealthy mind can impact us and our lives. An easy way for us to remember how to keep our minds healthy is Fred's name. F stands for food and ensuring we eat a healthy balanced diet. R stands for rest and ensuring we have good sleeping habits and that we give our brains the rest that it needs to grow. E stands for exercise and getting our bodies moving to release endorphins which help us feel happy and healthy. D stands for devices. The length of time that we spend looking at devices and social media impacts our brains, health and happiness, and too much time spent on a screen is time that could be spent being active and exercising. We had a great time learning and laughing along with Fred.



## Year 2

What a fabulous Spring Term we have had! We have had so many exciting activities such as our trip to Wisley Gardens in February and then the frogspawn arrived in March! The children have written some amazing recounts of their day out, they have designed a Guidebook, posters and written thank you letters. They have also written their own fabulous stories based on the book *The Dragon Machine*.

The children have designed and made a Ferris wheel in DT, they have also been learning how to research information using the internet. I aim to raise aspirations by linking the children's learning to various different careers. So, on maths Number Day we pretended to be dressmakers! The children were given the task of measuring their "client" using tape measures and thinking of an outfit to sew. Every child was fully engaged in this measuring task and using the tape accurately.

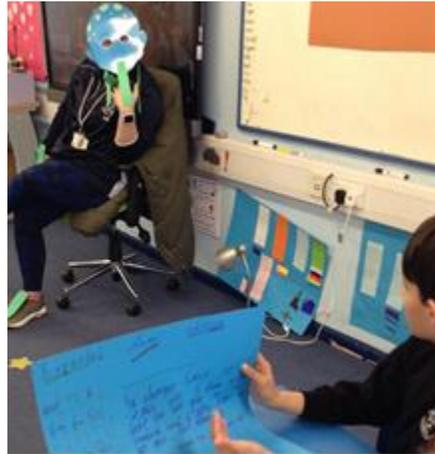


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## Year 3

What a term it has been in year 3! We have all thoroughly enjoyed our learning and the fun activities we have been lucky enough to take part in.

We have been very successful in learning lots of tricky maths. We learnt column addition, and expanded column addition. Then had to explain how to do all of this to an ALIEN! We have also read three books in English, which we really enjoyed. We tried different types of tea when we read 'Cloud Tea Monkeys'. We were not sure we liked all of the flavours...



We enjoyed our Dragon Dance workshop, some of us dressed as lions whilst the rest of us played drums to wake the lions up.



There was world book day, we all dressed up as book characters, this was really fun. Luckily, none of the children went to Miss Trunchbull's chokey! We also took a trip to the Church to celebrate Easter and take part in lots of craft activities.

We cannot wait to start the summer term (our last term in year 3! Where has the time gone?)

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## Year 4

This term has been an exciting and eventful term in Year 4!

We have been exploring Sound, looking in depth at the human ear drum (which we thought was gross!) We have had fun with Science on our Science Day. On Science day we explored which materials would melt ice the quickest and took part in an Ice race (it was very cold!)

In History we have been learning all about The Romans, we have been identifying what it was like in Roman times and learning about key Roman Emperors. We explored what it would have been like for The Romans living on Hadrian's wall, we used lots of maps to identify the location and discussed how we would have felt if we were there. We even had the chance to look at and touch some Roman artefacts from Chertsey Museum. We were fascinated that they were so old and asked lots of questions about what we thought the purpose of those items were.

In Geography we had lots of fun learning about Rivers and The Water cycle. We even learnt a Water cycle rap and created our own examples for homework. We learnt lots of new vocabulary and identified and explored Rivers all around the UK. We even looked at famous rivers such as 'The River Nile' and the 'Amazon River.'

Here are some examples of what we have been creating for homework.



In English we have been writing about 'The Selfish Giant' and we even had the opportunity to write our own stories. We had lots of fun using our imagination to create new characters and events. In Maths we have been focusing on using a range of methods for addition and subtraction and learning our times tables. We have been practicing division methods and using our times tables to help us!

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## Year 5

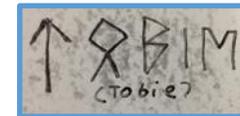
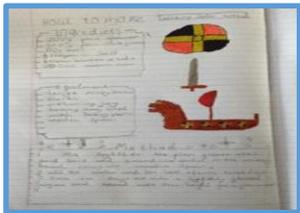
It has been a busy spring term with many fun events!

Here we are at a workshop called 'Fantastic Fred' where we learnt the importance of looking after our mental health. We taught about the links between our physical and mental health. We learnt that FRED stood for Food – eating a balanced diet, Rest – getting enough sleep, Exercise – being active and Devices – managing time on digital devices. This was a great link to our PSHE lessons as we learnt that to have a healthy life, you need a healthy body and mind.



Science day was fantastic! In the whole school assembly, we learnt that every scientist demonstrate these skills: Curiosity, patience and observant. There was a carousel of activities in each class and we got to visit 3 classes. In this picture, we were examining the patterns of our fingerprints. From our research we found that most children had the loop or arch print and few had the whorl. We know that we share some similarities to animals, but we did not know that our fingerprints most closely resembles a...Koala and not Gorillas!

We had our History Wow Day which was planned by the children. They learnt how to write their names and a secret message using the Runes symbol. We were curious about what the Vikings used to eat and drink, so we baked Soda Bread with a drizzle of honey. Miss Nickless arranged for us to become archaeologists and study a range of artefacts from the local museum. We made axes/ swords or shields, which we later used for our dance battle to the song of Valhalla Calling.

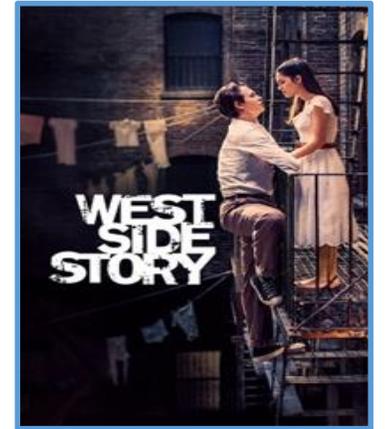


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## Year 6

### Westside Story at Magna Carta School

Year 6 visited Magna Carta to watch the production of 'Westside Story'. The children were captivated by the story from the start as it was full of action, romance and tough decisions. This was an excellent experience for the Year 6s as they have their end of year production this Summer! At the end of the performance, the children had the opportunity to ask the young actors questions about their roles and how they had prepared for them. We found out that in addition to acting, singing and dancing, the students were also involved in the sound, lighting, stage crewing, and set building! This has given us a lot to think of to prepare for our end of year production. Thank you again to Magna Carta for having us.



# History Wow Days!

This term Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 have had their History Wow Days. Year 1 were learning about “The Greatest Explorers”, Year 3 were learning about the “Bronze Age” and Year 5 were studying “The Vikings”. Year 3 and Year 5 were also very lucky to have the chance to have the history loan boxes from Chertsey Museum to explore some of the artefacts from that era. The teachers and children all went to lots of effort and all their History Wow Days were lots of fun! The children all demonstrated lots of good subject knowledge when talking about their topic this term. They were able to use some key vocabulary and are starting to use more chronological understanding and awareness. It has been lovely to see so many parents coming to view the children’s work at the end of the History Wow Days! 😊



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## RE Activities

This term we have been very busy with our religious events at Thorpe Lea. The children learnt and celebrated Chinese New Year (year of the rabbit) in style with a superb musical workshop! All children had the opportunity to Lion Dance, play cultural music, use Chinese theme instruments and experience the festive celebration by learning all about the importance and rituals of Chinese New Year!

The children also had the opportunity to learn and celebrate Easter with the help of St. Paul's Church. All classes visited the Church and were given a carousel of activities which explained the story of Easter. The Church then visited us in school for an assembly where all the children sang a song and showcased their learning. The children were then pleasantly surprised when a sneaky Easter Bunny came to deliver hot cross buns to all the classes.







## Year 4 & 6 Bikeability



This term, the Surrey Cycle Training Team came to Thorpe Lea to teach the Year 4 and 6 children how to ride their bikes safely. With Year 4, the children took part in learning Bikeability Level 1; practising their balance and control skills in the school playground. The instructors set up a few fun exercises and games so that the children could develop and practise skills such as riding one-handed, looking all around, stopping with control, sharing space, manoeuvring at low speed, using gears and turning with control.

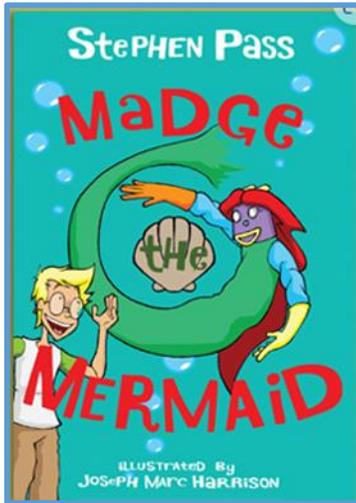


Then, Year 6 completed their Bikeability Level 2 course; developing cycling skills to be able to safely cycle with traffic on the road. The instructors taught the children how to make good observations, choose the most suitable riding position in the road, communicate their intentions clearly, and follow traffic priorities - particularly at junctions.



Well done to all the children that took part in their Bikeability training! You all listened very carefully to the instructors and I hope you all remember all the advice the trainers shared with you so that you can stay safe on your bikes.

## Book Week



Children in years 3-6 had the opportunity to have an online visit from 'Stephen Pass.' The children read the first chapter of his book 'Madge the Mermaid' and had the opportunity to learn about where his writing inspiration came from. The children also learnt a song for Madge and had great fun.

Children in EYFS and KS1 enjoyed a visit from the author 'Alison Simpson.' Alison talked about her inspiration for her books about 'Bodhi the Pirate Dog.' The children had the opportunity to ask lots of questions and Alison read her book to them.



After a successful World Book Day we had the travelling book fair. Children had the opportunity to use their World Book Day vouchers to buy a book available on the day. The children felt inspired to read new books and all classes had the opportunity to visit and look at the books on offer.

## Young Voices 2023

This January we took our school choir to the O2 to take part in the Young Voices concert. For many children, it was their first experience of singing at a Young Voices concert. Try as we might to prepare them for the experience, it was only once they were sitting in their seats surrounded by thousands of other equally excited children could they realise the sheer scale of these concerts. We arrived in the afternoon in time for rehearsals with a last minute chance to practise words and dance moves, before waiting for that magic time at 7pm when the audience were there and the lights went down to signal the start of the show. And what a show! With amazing lighting, sound and dancers the children had an opportunity to show off months of hard work -they sang and danced their hearts out. Favourites were probably the Nile Rodgers Disco Party and Sing From Your Heart. The energy coming off everyone was infectious and the choir did us proud. We hope the children never forget their experience of performing with so many others and remember that, like Nile Rodgers says, "Music never lets you down, puts a smile on your face any time, any place." Roll on Young Voices 2024!

Miss Rickett and Mrs Green



## British Science Week

We organised a whole school carousel on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 so that children could experience 4 science activities throughout the day. We had some super experiments such as coke and Mentos explosions, making slime, colouring mixing with skittles, observing frogspawn and learning about the life cycle of a frog. In KS2 the children were testing their heart rates and analysing the data, investigating fingerprints like forensic scientists and conducting experiments with melting ice! The children in KS2 also took part in a VR Workshop, where they could immerse themselves in 3D images of the human anatomy and space.



## Dance Festival



Thorpe Lea Dance Club attended the first ever Dance Festival ever held at Notre Dame School on Thursday 2nd March. The theme of the dance had to be book related to celebrate World Book Day. The key message of the dance was about: respect, determination, self-belief, passion, teamwork and honesty. Our dance was based on the story called: Giraffes can't dance! By Giles Andrae. The children learnt many different dance styles such as cha cha, tango, waltz, rock and traditional Scottish reel. Going to the dance festival was an excellent opportunity for our pupils to get a feel of what it is like to dance on stage with sound effects, stage lights and a large audience they have never met before! Even though we came fifth, our purpose was to have fun and entertain, which we did brilliantly as our performance was the only one that had the audience clapping along and singing. The day we all had will be an unforgettable experience and we will be back next year!



The PTFA have been unbelievably busy this term as they organised a Neon Disco, many cake sales, film night and an Easter Hamper. Their efforts don't go unnoticed and we are truly grateful for all their hard work. We wish to thank them for part funding our new running track for all to enjoy and we hope that everyone continues to work positively in partnership to help raise funds and provide extra opportunities for the children. If you would like to be a part of this team, please do contact Mrs Marwick who is the PTFA link.

