

# **Thornborough Infant School Report for the Parish Council Assembly**



## **Introduction**

We are pleased to provide an update on Thornborough Infant School for the Annual Parish Assembly. The school continues to thrive, with strong academic results, an emphasis on extracurricular activities, and a deep commitment to being an active part of the local community.

## **Leadership and Academic Success**

We are happy to confirm that Laura Passenger is in post as the permanent Headteacher, following her interim role from January 2023. The school has maintained its high academic standards, achieving in line with national averages in all areas and significantly above national average in Year 2 children achieving Greater Depth (the highest grade possible). The children's progress continues to be a priority, ensuring they receive a well-rounded education that supports their future development.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

The past year has seen a significant push towards extracurricular enrichment. The children have participated in engaging events such as a STEM Day, which encouraged hands-on exploration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Our pirate-themed World Book Day was a fantastic success, sparking enthusiasm for reading and storytelling. Additionally, the school was privileged to host a professional drummer, whose performance and interactive session inspired a love for music and rhythm among our students. Extracurricular activities available to children include Forest School, sports clubs, French club, baking and crafts, music tuition and specialist sports coaches.

## **Community Engagement**

Thornborough Infant School values its strong relationship with the local community and is committed to playing an active role. We are particularly grateful to the Village Hall Committee for providing a fantastic learning space for our children, ensuring that we can offer hot school lunches and a space for indoor PE, amongst other things. Looking ahead, we are excited to participate in the Thornborough Open Gardens event and are eager to be involved in other local initiatives. These include performing at Lyrics and Lunch, delivering Christmas presents to residents, and having our Eco Champions take part in litter picks as the weather improves.

## **School Improvements and Environmental Initiatives**

We are also pleased to hear that biodiversity is a key focus for the Parish Council, as this aligns with our school's initiatives. Our students are actively learning about the environment, and we are integrating sustainability into our school culture.

Thanks to generous funding from the Parents and Friends of Thornborough School (PAFOTs), John Armitage Charitable Trust, the Tesco Blue Coins initiative, and Gawcott Fields Solar Farm, we have secured financial support to rejuvenate our outdoor play area. This project includes replacing condemned play equipment and creating an eco-garden with solar generators, bug hotels, and a compost wormery. Astroturf will be replaced with lawn and recycled materials used to create paths and planters. Space for planting will be increased and climbing plants used to provide shelter in our outdoor classroom. Additionally, we are addressing long-standing maintenance issues by refurbishing the school toilets, which are long overdue replacement.

While there may be some disruption as these works are carried out, we are making every effort to minimize impact by coordinating projects and sharing resources efficiently. We are also fortunate to have the support of the Thornborough and Thornton Village Fundraisers, who are helping us enhance our outdoor spaces further. We are currently in the process of submitting proposals to ensure the best possible use of these funds.

Beyond these larger projects, our students are taking an active role in environmental stewardship through their work in the forest school area. They have been creating a small pond and expanding their planting areas, fostering a hands-on connection with nature.

### **Excursions and Learning Experiences**

To enrich the children's learning beyond the classroom, we have arranged several exciting trips. Key Stage One students will be traveling to London by train to attend a performance by the London Symphony Orchestra, offering them an unparalleled cultural experience. Our Reception class will visit Blenheim Palace for a workshop with the Head Gardener, fostering an appreciation for horticulture. Additionally, the entire school will visit Waddesdon Manor, where they will explore the house and gardens through the theme of fairy tales.

### **Community Cafe and Fundraising**

The Community Cafe remains a vital resource, both for the local community and for the school. Without the community's support, school trips and improvements to the learning environment simply could not take place. We are extremely grateful to everyone involved. The café continues to raise much-needed funds that help subsidize educational experiences, ensuring that all students have access to enriching opportunities.

### **Conclusion**

Thornborough Infant School is thriving academically, socially, and within the broader community. We are immensely grateful for the ongoing support of local organizations and individuals who contribute to our success. With a strong leadership team, ambitious projects, and an unwavering commitment to our students' growth, we look forward to another year of progress and collaboration with the Parish Council and our community partners.

