Thornden Wood BULLETIN

What a wonderful start to Term 2 we have had!
Our new children in Year R have settled into school brilliantly and it has been lovely to watch their confidence grow each day. They are now enjoying mixing with the rest of the school during OPAL playtimes, and it has been fantastic to welcome parents into school to see the children learning, playing and having fun.

Now that we are fully embracing being an OPAL school, outdoor play is an important part of every child's day. As the weather becomes colder, wetter and muddier, the children are loving the opportunity to explore, build, create and get stuck into their adventures outdoors. To help them make the most of these experiences, please ensure your child has waterproof clothing, wellies and a spare set of clothes in school. The right clothing means they can enjoy outdoor play comfortably whatever the weather brings!

We have lots of exciting things planned this term, so please keep an eye on your emails and school communications for all the latest updates and reminders.

Finally, a huge thank you for your support with Children in Need. As always, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of our families.
Your kindness and willingness to support such a worthy cause truly reflects the caring community we are so proud to be part of.
Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a busy, exciting and enjoyable term ahead!

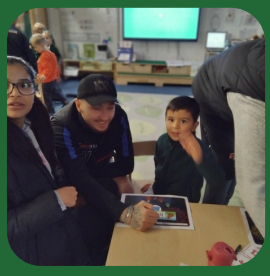
Mrs Espley
Headteacher

INSIDE THE SCHOOL DAY

Phonics Event

The children in Conkers and Acorns thoroughly enjoyed showcasing their phonics skills to their grown-ups during our Phonics Event on 5th November. Families were invited to take part in a short phonics lesson before joining the children in a range of exciting fireworks-themed phonics activities.

We are delighted to be starting our regular reading sessions with your child and look forward to seeing the fantastic progress they will make. Thank you for your continued support at home, which plays such an important role in developing your child's confidence and success as a reader.






Find Out Friday

On Friday, we held our first Find Out Friday and learned all about hedgehogs. The children shared their existing knowledge before discovering lots of new and interesting facts. We visited the library to find out more, created hedgehog houses, and thoroughly enjoyed learning about these fascinating animals.






GOLDEN TOKEN WINNERS

Our Book Vending Machine has been getting lots of visits recently, with some of our lucky Golden Ticket winners choosing their brand-new books. The children love selecting a book to keep, and it's wonderful to see their excitement and enthusiasm for reading growing with every visit! 📖🌟



















FRIENDS OF THORNDEN WOOD UPDATE

🎄 **It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!** 🎄

Friends of Thornden Wood have lots of exciting festive activities coming up, and we can't wait to bring some Christmas magic to our school community!

Here's everything you need to know about our upcoming Christmas events and how you can get involved!!

🎅 📅 **Friday 27th November**
Non-School Uniform Day
Children can come to school in their own clothes in exchange for a donation towards our **12 Days of Christmas hampers**.
Please see the attached poster for all the details.
Every donation helps us make our Christmas fundraising extra special!

🎄 🎁 **Sunday 29th November, 1–4pm – Christmas Fair**
Get ready for an afternoon full of festive fun! Our Christmas Fair is the perfect opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit, enjoy some seasonal treats and make some lovely memories together. And, of course, no Christmas Fair would be complete without a visit to **Santa's Grotto!** 🎅✨

You can **book** your child's magical meeting with **Santa** online. Please see the attached posters for details about the fair and how to book your grotto visit.

It's not a date to be missed, so come along and join the fun!

We know Christmas is a busy time of year, and we're so grateful for every donation, raffle ticket purchased and bit of support you give.

Every penny raised through our Christmas fundraising will go towards helping Santa bring the school a **special gift for everyone to enjoy** and towards our big goal of **getting another school minibus!** 🚌🎅







OPAL

Reminder to Parents in Years 3-6

We are excited to invite parents and carers to join their child for an OPAL Playdate at lunchtime. Please see the dates below and contact the school office to book your place. Limited spaces available. 😊 All slots for years R-2 are now fully booked, but keep a look out for more dates after Christmas

- 27th November
- 1st December

Please arrive at 12:15pm with a packed lunch to enjoy with your child. If you are able, we would really appreciate any donations you feel would benefit our OPAL play. To book a slot, please call or pop into the school office.







OPAL Mud Kitchen Donations Needed!!

A huge thank you to Maya's Freeshop and the Kentish Mud Pie Company for their wonderful donation following our Harvest Festival.

The children are absolutely loving making mud pies and getting muddy!
To help keep the fun going, we are looking for donations of:

Saucepans (no glass lids)
Wooden or metal kitchen utensils suitable for children
Metal or plastic bowls

If you're having a clear out or spot anything suitable in a charity shop, please drop donations at the office OPAL collection point.
Thank you for your support! 🥣🥄🌿

REMINDERS

🌿 Forest School Clothing Reminder 🌿

To help your child make the most of their Forest School sessions, please ensure they come to school with:

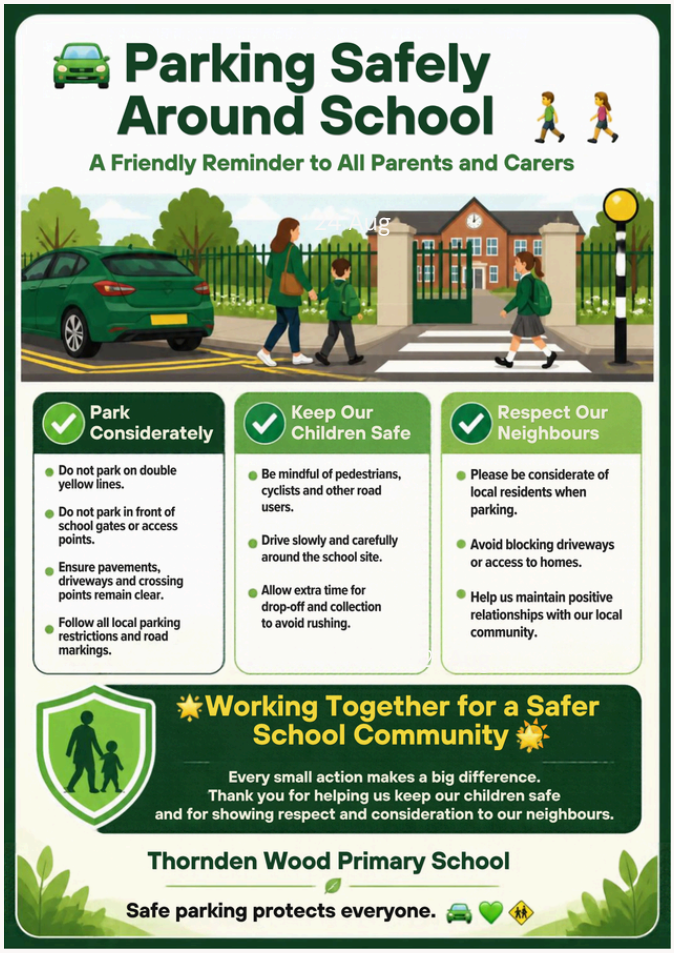
- ✅ Wellies or waterproof footwear
- ✅ A waterproof coat
- ✅ A spare set of clothes

Please note:

- 🔥 As campfires are often part of our Forest School activities, we recommend that children do not wear shell trousers.

Your children absolutely love their time in Forest School, and having the correct clothing helps them fully enjoy every session, whatever the weather! 🍂🌳
Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. 😊





INFORMATION









THORNDEN WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term Dates 2026/27

Term 1 - 2026	**Thursday 3rd September – Thursday 22nd October**
Half Term Break	**Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October**
Term 2 - 2026	**Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December**
Winter Break	**Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January**
Term 3 - 2027	**Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February**
Half Term Break	**Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February**
Term 4 - 2027	**Monday 22nd February – Thursday 25th March**
Spring Break	**Friday 26th March – Friday 9th April**
Term 5 - 2027	**Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May**
Half Term Break	**Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June**
Term 6 - 2027	**Tuesday 8th June – Tuesday 20th July**

Staff Development Days

School is not open for children to attend

Tuesday 1st September 2026
Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Friday 23rd October 2026
Monday 7th June 2027
Wednesday 21st July 2027

Bank Holidays (School Closed)

Friday 26th March 2027
Monday 3rd May 2027