

THORNGROVE NEWSLETTER

30th June 2011

In a change to my usual format I will give you the notices first followed by the news.

- There will be **no prep** on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Aftercare will operate as usual. However, there will be **no aftercare** on the final day, Friday 8th July.
- A plea from Mrs McQuillen-please return all **cups and trophies** from last year!
- **Speech Day will start at 2pm** in the New Hall on Friday 8th July. All are welcome.
- Four rows of seats at the front will be reserved for **leavers' parents**. There will also be a leavers' reception on my lawns directly after Speech Day.
- **Reports** will be handed to the children after Speech Day and will also contain a diary for next term. In a change to previous years Form 9 will receive a final letter from their form teacher and me, celebrating their achievements.
- I have attached the '**FOT First Year Report**' with this letter. It makes for very interesting and positive reading.
- '**Welcome Meetings**' have been scheduled for the first week next term. See the diary for your section date. Please remember that they are for all parents in the section.

This has been a marvellous end to a lovely summer term. I can't remember a sunnier term. Every home fixture was played, to Mr Brown's delight, and the children rarely had indoor breaks. This will be my final newsletter for the term and I have many events to report on.

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The **summer concert** was a triumph. I said on the night that the quality of the music just gets better and better every year. The children performed beautifully and I thought that the 'Bach Double' concerto played by the string group was quite superb and a fitting swansong for Miss Caudle.

Paul Rankin's visit on **Founders' Day** was a huge success. Many children benefitted from his knowledge and skills in the morning. The School Council were taught how to make bread and the cookery club had a go at making scones. In the afternoon there was a 'cook-off' between Mr Rankin and me. Burning my chicken for the stir fry wasn't a great start and things soon went from bad to worse. Surprisingly the 'child tasters' liked my burnt offering and the rather partisan crowd kindly voted for me by raising high their green peppers. The afternoon was rounded off with a delicious cream tea for everyone on the fields behind the hall where Mr and Mrs Broughton cut a rather large cake to celebrate the 23rd year of the school's founding.

Sports Day was enjoyed by everyone, particularly the competitors. The children cheered for their houses and raised their 'fluffy' mascots high and picnics were consumed by children, parents and indeed grandparents on both days. The storm clouds threatened on the second day but high spirits soon blew them away and the children performed magnificently. This year we invited a professional sports photographic company and many parents, including me, took the opportunity to buy some superb shots of their children in action. FOT will receive over £125 from the photos purchased.

Angela Davies and Jennifer Boulton would like to thank everyone who supported the **second hand uniform sale** on Move Up Day. Over £1,000 was taken on the day bringing the total taken since the last sale to over £1,250. A donation of £375 will be made to The Friends of Thorngrove. Thanks to our helpers on the day: Claire Mitchell, Emma Talbot-Williams, Deana Antonelli-Pike, Debbie Crompton, Veronique Bennett and Jo Exelby. Shepherd and Woodward have also said that they would be happy to exchange any hooded tracksuit tops for a new one if your child's neck size was too tight (even if you had to cut it to get their head in!). Please contact Cindy King (no relation) at the shop in Summertown, Oxford.

Emma Shingles, our head girl, has done superbly well to be selected for the Horse of the Year Show. It was her first attempt and her feat was reported in Horse and Hounds magazine. I wish her well as she competes this summer.

The **ballet club** will be performing 'Alice in Wonderland' on Thursday at 3.30pm on the steps just behind the music room. Everyone is welcome!

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Mrs Lynas would like me to remind you that summer **reading lists** have been distributed. Please encourage your children to do as much reading during the holidays as possible. Also, advance warning that Form 9 next term will be seeing 'War Horse' in the West End as part of their English course.

Summer camps have, on the whole, been poorly supported, so some days have had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. Letters have been sent out but please contact the office for latest information.

I would like to wish you all a very happy and relaxing summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming all the children back to school on Wednesday 7th September.

Kind regards,

Adam King
(Headmaster)



Paul Rankin making bread with Izzy



Mrs Skingley with Form 4 helpers



Mr and Mrs Broughton cutting the cake on Founders' Day