

# THORNGROVE NEWSLETTER

**10th September 2010**

It was lovely to welcome all the children back to school on Wednesday. The school was buzzing with excitement once more and I am sure that all the new children will settle very quickly. The following children have joined the Thorngrove family:

Joshua Adams, Phoebe Baynham, Poppy Baynham, Dominic Cook, Sacha Danon-Kerr, Archie Dean-Evans, Freddie Dean-Evans, Harry Dean-Evans, Jonny Francis, Tom Francis, James Gibbens, Tilly Gibbens, Sophie Gill, Elisha Green, Will Hebbes, Reuben Heppelthwaite, Edward Hickey, Francesca Hickey, Hamish Janaway, Ben Lefever, Dermot Leggett, Sofia Mata, Tiago Mata, Holly Phillip, Nick Riley.

I would also like to welcome three new members of staff. Petra Barnes joins us from St. Bart's and is our Head of D&T. Lucy Walker joins us from The Dragon and is our Head of Science (she'll be busy on the games field as well). Finally Judith Wilson will be teaching speech and drama lessons every Monday to a select group of Thespians (she also teaches at St. Swithun's).

There have been many **developments** over the summer holidays. Most of the changes are due to the tireless work of Sean Roberts, our Head Groundsman and Matt Barrett, his assistant. A new pond has been constructed outside Reception. It looks lovely and is much safer than the previous one. The new Design and Technology Centre is now up and running. You must have a peek if you can-it is really splendid! The children in Forms 6 and above will be involved in some exciting design projects using the very latest tools and technology. We will be having an official opening at some time in the future. Outside Form 1 is a new enclosed area for the children to 'free-flow' safely in and out of the form room. It does look rather smart and the terracing has also been extended. The chickens arrive next Wednesday and the run and coop are awaiting them. I am sure the children will enjoy collecting the eggs and Mrs Worrall and her team will continue the good work of the Eco Club. I am sure Prince Charles would be most impressed!

**After Care** will now take place in the Old Hall from 3.30-5.30pm and Mrs Ford continues to run this very useful service.

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**Activities**, judging by the back of the new diary, remain numerous and eclectic. Some clubs might have limited numbers and others might only apply to a certain year group. Please see your form teacher if you require clarity. Ballet is still being taught by Mrs Millard on Wednesdays. Judo still takes place on Monday but will be delayed slightly. The first class for Forms 1, 2 and 3 will start at 4pm and end at 4.40pm, the second class will start at 4.45pm and end at 5.30pm and the final class will start at 5.30pm and finish at 6.15pm.

As you all know, I have appointed a new teacher to take **Speech and Drama lessons** from September. Judith Wilson currently teaches at St. Swithun's but will be teaching here every Monday as well. She will be teaching children in small groups, pairs and possibly solos and preparing them for Trinity Guildhall or LAMDA examination boards. Only 3 children have signed up so far and she will need at least 10 to make it worth her coming from Winchester. If you would like your child to have extra drama lessons please see Mary McQuillen.

Please note that the **Childnet** talk which was calendared for the 4th October has now been rearranged for the evening of **Monday 11th October**.

**Children in Forms 4 and 5** will now be collected from the front terrace or porch at 3.45pm and 4.30pm. We have reverted to the old pickup location because the traffic calming trees have done their job!

We are having a **Christmas Fair** in the New Hall on Sunday 14th November at 12.30pm-4pm. It will be a wonderful event with at least 25 stalls, selling various festive goodies. Our choir and orchestra will be performing at some point and there will be plenty of refreshments on offer too. Although this is the first event arranged by the Friends of Thorngrove it certainly would not be possible without the efforts of Nicky Templeman. Please contact Nicky if you would like to have a stall at this event. Places are limited so please give her a call on 01635 48321.

On several Friday mornings throughout the term I have invited a small selection of senior school headmasters to come to Thorngrove and talk to parents about their schools. I've aptly named it **Heads on Friday**.

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The idea is that after they are softened up by your children in assembly you have an opportunity to 'grill them' over a cup of coffee and biscuits. Seriously, I hope that it will provide you with an informal setting to ask them a few questions about their schools. The first Head on a Friday is Fergus Livingstone from Lord Wandsworth College on Friday 17th September at 9am. See you there!

**Breakfast Club** continues every day of the week with the ever popular Friday fry-up and the special on a Wednesday.

A **minibus service** is still operating from Kingsclere, Headley and Wash Common. More customers would be welcome. Unfortunately, there was no sufficient demand for a minibus run from either Andover or Hungerford. However this can always be reviewed.

**Please remember that children must be in their forms by 8.30am for registration. Drop off is from 8.15am.**

Finally I am pleased to report that Thorngrove has made it into the **Tatler Good Schools Guide 2011** for the second year running. I've left a copy in Reception for you to read.

Have a lovely weekend,

Adam King  
(Headmaster)