



Thornton Heath Nursery School Newsletter

Wednesday 18th October 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

WOW! What an extremely busy but rewarding start to the school year! It's hard to believe that we have come to the end of the first half term.

Your children have started off their school journey with lots of enthusiasm and are thoroughly enjoying new learning that has been put in place by the THNS team.

Not only have the children harvested pumpkins and marrows from the garden (and eaten them!), baked bread three times a week, learnt about the artist Kandinsky, listened to classical music (and helped Jim mend a puncture in his bicycle tyre!), they've also managed to learn lots of new skills through our play based learning approach.

There have been many charity events this half term and we are very pleased that these have been well supported by our families.

Our International Afternoon was once again a success, it is so satisfying bringing families together that would not meet if we did not hold this event and what a wonderful opportunity to sample foods from around the world.

We will be organising more events for the second half of the autumn term so please keep checking the school's website for this information. The website also gives you an insight into the learning that has taken place during the week, we post at least two "news" stories a week where you can see photographs of the children learning through play.

We would like to remind you that the school closes at **3.30pm** on **Friday 20th October 2023** and doesn't re-open until **8.30 am Wednesday 1st November 2023**.

We would like to wish you all a good half term break spending time together and creating memories.

Supporting our community

I would once again like to thank you all for your donations of food for our Harvest collection. Many of you were able to help us deliver the food today and in doing so the children learnt about helping others that are struggling. Fr Joshua told us that around 100 families use the Food Bank each week.

On the way back from St. Albans I was asked how often we are able to help the community in this way and I responded by saying that we only deliver to the St. Albans Foodbank after our harvest celebration. This really made me think about how we could do more to support families in need within our community.

When we return after the half term break there will be a permanent food donation box situated in the nursery corridor which parents can add to if / when they are able to. There is no expectation of weekly donations or "bulk" donations, for example those that can could buy an extra tin of beans once a month and put it in the box. Once we have collected a "box" full we will donate it to the Food Bank. We are also going to hold some events throughout the year to support the Food Bank so please look out for the advertising posters.




Primary school applications

The application for primary school has to be made by 15th January 2023, this must be completed through e-admissions at www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions. This can be quite a daunting process and we recognise that for many of you this will be the first time you have had to make this type of application. If you need help to make the application please contact the school office and arrange a time with Caroline for some support. Many of the local schools are offering tours of their facilities to help you make a decision. Please check individual school websites for the date of these tours.

Communications

Please make sure that we have your current telephone numbers and email addresses. As you know we are now emailing you a copy of our letters, newsletters etc in a bid to become more eco friendly. We also send you regular text reminders so it is important that we have a working telephone number. Finally, please remember that the nursery office is not "manned" between 11.30am and 12.30pm, if you need to speak to us please ring before 11.30am or after 12.30pm.




(Head of Nursery)

Please remember to check our website THNS.org for our events, newsletters and stories about our learning. You can also follow our Facebook page and X account @THNursery



We need your help!

We are trying to build up our resource bank of "loose parts"! These are items that you will find in your house and are often the things that you would throw away! Loose parts offer children infinite play opportunities, they allow children to do the thinking instead of the manufactured toy which has set directions. Please have a hunt around your home to see if you have any of the following items that you could donate or perhaps take a walk to the park and collect some items. We appreciate any donations made no matter how big or small.

Nature based loose parts

- Sticks
- Rocks
- Dried Flowers
- Leaves
- Seeds
- Pinecones
- Wood chips
- Shells
- Acorns
- Logs
- Sticks
- Feathers
- Anise Stars
- Cinnamon Sticks
- Nutmeg



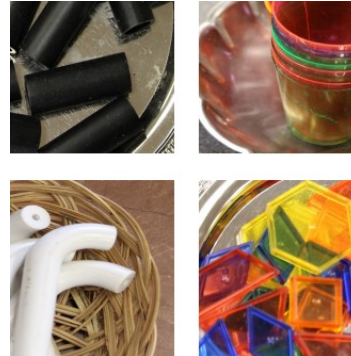
Wood reuse loose parts

- Corks
- Wooden Beads
- Golf Tees
- Dowels
- Wooden Blocks
- Candlesticks
- Napkin rings
- Wood scraps
- Wood pegs
- Scrabble pieces
- Wooden picture frames
- Thread spools



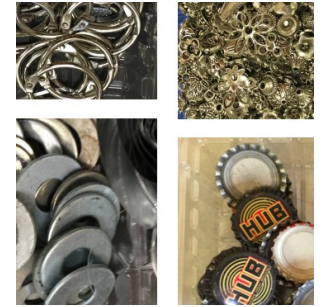
Plastic loose parts

- Milk Caps
- PVC pipes
- Reels
- Empty spice containers
- Curtain rings
- Hair rollers
- Straws
- CD cases
- Beads
- Bubble Wrap
- Lollipop sticks
- Buttons
- Funnels
- Plastic bead necklaces
- Golf balls
- Cups
- Hula hoops
- Bag clips



Metal loose parts

- Nuts and bolts
- Washers
- Tin foil
- Bangles
- Curtain rings
- Muffin tins
- Potato mashers
- Keys
- Bottle tabs
- Forks and spoons
- Metal lids
- Thimbles
- Door knobs
- Candle sticks



Fabric, yarn and ribbon loose parts

- Chiffon
- Twine
- Ribbon
- Silk
- Wool
- Ribbon
- Scarves
- Flags
- Yarn
- Embroidery thread
- Felt pieces
- Doilies
- Lace
- String



Ceramic and glass loose parts

- Ceramic tiles
- Glass Beads
- Gems
- Marbles
- Prisms
- Slate
- Flower pots
- Sea glass
- Glass vase beads

Packaging loose parts

- Packing
- Bubble Wrap
- Boxes
- Cardboard scraps
- Paper rolls
- Wrapping paper
- Painters tape
- Egg cartons
- Ribbon wheel
- Cereal boxes
- Paper scraps
- Rubber bands

