

Thomley Evaluation

Your questions answered....

- What is the purpose of community days?

Community days (including pre-school days) are open to all children and their families. The purpose of these days is, first and foremost, to encourage disabled and non-disabled children to play together, to understand each others differing abilities and to grow up accepting each other as equals. Community days also help families without disability experience to: gain greater understanding; be more aware of the needs of disabled children; and consider inclusive measures when planning their own community activities. Over the years, Thomley has also received a lot of support from the local community, and we feel it is important that local people can benefit from being part of our amazing atmosphere.

We ensure that all families visiting Thomley for the first time are given a welcome pack explaining Thomley's ethos.

- I was not aware that non-disabled children can visit. Which days can they visit?

On our Play Days, disabled children are encouraged to bring their siblings, relatives and friends (whether disabled or not). As described above, any child (with or without disability) can visit on our community days and pre-school play days.

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- Which days can we visit?

What	When	Who
Play Days	Every Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disabled children, their families and friends ○ Disability groups ○ Inclusive play-schemes ○ Other inclusive services
Birthday Parties	Saturdays <i>(N.B. the last Saturday of the month is a party free-zone)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Please call the office for more details
Community Days	1 st Saturday of every month & Every Friday during school holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All children, their families and friends.
Pre-school Play Days	2 nd Tuesday of the month (term time) <i>(Please contact the office for dates)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All pre-school babies & toddlers, their parents or carers
Teenager Days	As advertised in our newsletter <i>(These are not yet regular dates)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disabled young people (10-19yrs), their families and friends
16+ Days	1 st Tuesday of the month (term time) <i>(Please contact the office for dates)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disabled adults (16+) & their carers
School Days	Term time (Wednesday – Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Special schools ○ Inclusive mainstream schools or groups
Holiday Play Days	School holidays (Tuesday to Saturday) N.B. Fridays are community days open to all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disabled children, their families and friends ○ Disability groups ○ Inclusive play-schemes

- **Can we come and not join in theme days?**

Thomley's core activities and facilities will always be available to you during your visits. So yes, you are very welcome to come and do your own things at your own pace, without feeling obliged to join in themed events. Our activities or themed days are entirely optional and are designed to offer variety for those who would like something a bit different.

- **What are the roles of Thomley playwork staff and volunteers?**

Thomley's playwork staff and volunteers:

- Help prepare and supervise play activities and games in all areas
- Supervise play areas to protect the health and safety of all children playing in that area
- Offer support to children and their families enabling everyone to join in
- Provide advice and guidance on the use of all indoor and outdoor equipment

We know that from time to time families may need 5 minutes break to get a cup of tea or pop to the loo. Although we are not yet able to provide relief care for any length of time, you are welcome to ask a member of staff to keep an eye on your child while you do so. However, please be aware that, due to our child protection policy, staff cannot provide personal care i.e. toileting.

- **Computers look like they are for adult use. If they are available to children, please make it clearer.**

The computers we have at Thomley are set up with touch screen computers, switch friendly programmes, simple games and 'living books', however they do not yet provide access to the internet. Due to the fact that this is just the first phase of our ICT project, we currently recommend that the computers will be of more interest to younger children and those with greater learning needs however everyone is welcome to have a go! In order to use the computer room, you will need to book a half hour session. There is no charge for using the room; however it is kept locked to help families monitor the amount of time their children spend on the computers.

- **How hygienic are toys?**

Our cleaner and our volunteers regularly clean and disinfect toys. However if you find any toys that need a clean, please do not hesitate to alert us.

- **Is there a quiet space for children to relax?**

At the end of last year we set up a chill-out / reading area with comfy beanbags, sofas and books for children and their parents to relax or read together. We have also just installed a 1km long cycle/wheelchair/walking track on the field, making 5 acres of relaxing and peaceful outdoor space much more accessible.

- **Can we e-mail bookings?**

Yes, you are very welcome to email your bookings to bookings@thomleyhall.org. We will then contact you to confirm availability of space. If by any chance you have not heard from us, please call us on 01844 338380 before you set off on your journey to ensure your booking has been received.

- **Can we have a big board with useful website addresses and info in general to browse (e.g. medical, educational, social, musical)?**

There is a board of useful and relevant information in the canteen, as well as leaflets to take away. The board is regularly updated by a member of staff, and any timely information circulated in the 6 monthly "Thomley Noticeboard" newsletters.