



Thomley Activity Centre Newsletter

Issue 1

October 2002

GRAND LAUNCH

The sun came out on the 14th of July over a day of fun which celebrated the launch of the Thomley Activity Centre. The day marked the culmination of over half a million pounds and 15 months of hard work which have been spent so far to set our project up.



The site was officially opened by actor Jeremy Irons who was eager to speak to parents and children about the centre (and sign some autographs!). Over 400 people were in attendance, including children, parents and teachers from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Children enjoyed the bouncy castle, barbeque, fire engine, juggler, face painting, music and clown.

SCHOOL UPDATE



Since the beginning of September we have been contacting local special schools to discuss how we can develop the services we provide to fit their needs. Mabel Pritchard, Iffley Mead, The Chinnor Units and John Watson school have all been very supportive of our project and other schools will be contacted before Christmas.

In the New Year we hope to start welcoming groups from special schools to take part in educational projects which take a hands-on and fun approach to the National Curriculum. Our first topic area will probably be science projects, making use of the site facilities to make this area of the curriculum more accessible.

SUMMER UPDATE

With the summer holidays upon us



shortly after the launch it was all systems go with our "Summer Holiday" theme in the art and craft area. Our colourful display of a trip to the seaside was filled with creatures under the sea, boat, fish and whale mobiles, and fun on the beach. The summer holiday theme continued outside with sand and water play and plenty of fun in the sun!

The deep dark jungle beckoned next, with animals just monkeying around and quite literally hanging out in the summer sun. It was most enjoyable to see children of all ages help us make Thomley more inviting for everyone.

COMMENTS...

"We had a great time on our afternoon visits during the summer. Prepare yourselves, we will be back at half-term!!"

Parent

"I was very impressed with both the set-up and the enthusiasm and inspiration which exuded from you all. It is very exciting to be involved in such a visionary development and I am sure that you will make a great success of it."

Leisure and Recreation Advisor

"The children really enjoyed the day and the staff were very impressed with the facilities. I hope the children will be able to make a repeat visit very soon."

Playscheme Co-ordinator

"It is so hard to find somewhere that isn't judgmental and somewhere where you can have the freedom to get on and do whatever is appropriate. It's a shame there aren't more places and people like yourselves."

Carer

HALLOWEEN PARTY

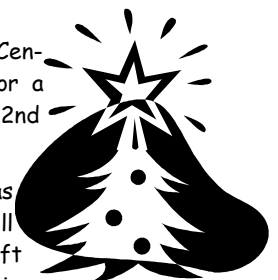
On Saturday 26th October, 10-3.30pm we welcome you to Thomley Activity Centre to join in the fun of All Hallows Eve. We hope you will help your child look the part of the "wicked witch", or monster by entering our fancy dress competition which will be compared at 1.30pm. There will be games for all, apple bobbing and slime amongst the days' goings on. There will be art and craft activities throughout the day as well as pumpkin carving (bring your own) with music playing all day. Refreshments and our home made pumpkin soup can be purchased on site. (Please see enclosed leaflet.)



CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY WEEKEND

To celebrate Christmas Thomley Activity Centre is opening its doors to all families for a whole weekend of festive fun on 21st and 22nd of December.

We hope you will join us in our Christmas Wonderland! Santa and his little helpers will be on hand to guide you through art and craft activities, calendar making, tree decorating, games, lucky dip, tombola and raffle. Festive music will be ringing throughout the day complimented by mince pies and refreshments.



ASDA FUNDRAISING

On 19th October, 10-4pm, we NEED YOUR HELP! We will be heading out to the Asda store in High Wycombe for a day of fundraising fun! Activities will include face painting, a raffle, a clown, tin shaking and parachute games. We desperately need to recruit a handful of tin shakers for the day, so if you can spare a few hours in the morning or afternoon we would love to hear from you ASAP.

COMMUNITY DAYS

The first Saturday of every month will be a "Community Day" when we shall be open to all families and groups from the local community, including those with children who do not have special needs.

5 th October	} <i>Community Days</i>
2 nd November	
21 st December	
22 nd December	

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

We shall be closed from 5pm Sunday 22nd December and will open again on the 27th, 28th and 31st December. As of 2nd January we will be open as usual.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Would you be interested in having a birthday party at Thomley? Contact us for more information.

WHAT WE HAVE AT THOMLEY

Art and Craft

Painting and drawing
Play dough and clay
Craft and sensory activities

Parent Resource area

Resource library
Materials, leaflets, publications
Computer access

Free play

Soft toys
Games and puzzles
Dressing up
Rocking horse

Music room

Drums
Guitars
Xylophone
Organ

Outdoor area

5 acres of field
Soft tarmac area
Adventure play equipment
Outdoor sports

Canteen

Refreshments
Dining area
Microwave
Outdoor picnic area

THOMLEYS' FUTURE PLANS

Light sensory room

Fibre optic lights
Bubble tubes
Light projector
Interactive lights and music
Mirror panels and balls

Soft play

Interactive ball pool
Ball shower
Mirror tunnel
Soft slide and steps
Soft shapes and blocks

Dark sensory room

Ultra violet lights
Glow in the dark objects
Magic drawing board
Fibre optic carpet

Outdoor area

Water and sand play
Roundabout and swings
Trampoline
Climbing Frames
Zip wire
Sensory Garden

Music room

Sound beam
Sound bed
Rhythm chest

THE WISH LIST

We are always grateful for the donated items and whilst they may seem trivial or a load of rubbish (literally speaking), to us they are an invaluable resource for art and craft activities. The following list is a guide to the type of things we need to help us provide activities at Thomley. Your support is greatly appreciated by all of us!

Footballs, Tennis balls, Ping pong balls, Bikes, Push along toys

Scrabble, Snakes and Ladders, Connect Four, Downfall, Young adult games, Board games, Puzzles, 500/750 Piece jigsaws

Fake fur, Felt/soft material, Cotton wool, Dressing up clothes, Children's tapes/music

Permanent markers, Old baking tins/bowls/spoons, Tea, Coffee, Sugar, Guttering, Gardening gloves with grips, Bicycle pumps, Puncture repair kits

We would also like to hear from you if you have any contacts with people involved in printing, gardening, fundraising, electricians or artists.

The Thomley Activity Centre relies heavily on donations and fundraising to enable us to stay open. If you would like to organise a fundraising event or if you know of any local company who might be interested in supporting us then please let us know.

HOW TO CONTACT US



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