



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 between 10am and 3.30 pm.

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

HALLOWEEN



On Saturday 26th October, we welcomed over 50 children to Thomley Activity Centre to join in the fun for Halloween.

The centre was decorated with pumpkins, cobwebs, witches and two giant ghosts who haunted the old barn. There were activities throughout the day including apple bobbing, art and craft, slime making and pumpkin carving. Visitors were treated to a taste of Thomley Hall's delicious pumpkin soup and took part in our Halloween tombola and lucky dip. A big thanks to *Sainsbury's* in Kidlington for donating some refreshments.

As darkness fell over the site in the evening, over twenty young adults joined us for our Halloween disco in the old barn where we danced the night away (thanks to the *Thame Lions*) with our own DJ and disco lights until late.

PARTIES



At the beginning of November Thomley Activity Centre opened its doors to its very first birthday party. More than 40 children explored the site, bounced on the bouncy castle and filled the canteen with sandwiches, cake and the loudest rendition of Happy Birthday - all in celebration of James' and Connor's birthdays!

If you would be interested in having a birthday party at Thomley then please call us in the office for more information.

SCHOOL UPDATE



During our first term we have welcomed groups of pupils from 5 different schools to take part in our educational activities. We have explored science through making water rockets, gliders and windmills as well as going on a nature trail around the site.

Pupils have tried out their culinary skills by making biscuits and bread and have ground flour out of corn from the neighbouring Thomley Hall Farm.

For the New Year we have an exciting term planned with themes such as pottery, wildlife, sensory stories, archaeology, orienteering, the working farm, the air around us and bubbles.

BARN DANCE



On the 16th November, the Thomley Activity Centre played host to the annual KEEN barn dance for 2002. Over 50 KEEN athletes came along to take part in the farmyard art and craft, dancing and traditional country music from the live band.

FRIENDS OF THOMLEY HALL - FROTH

Do you fancy your chances at being an artist, DIY enthusiast, horticulturalist, capital fund accumulator, budding Nigella Lawson or Jamie Oliver? If so then please contact Wendi Coles on 07734 068765 to find out how you can become involved in supporting our Centre through voluntary work.

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.

FREE PANTOMIME TICKETS!

30 free tickets are up for grabs to go and see this year's pantomime, Puss in Boots, at the Oxford Playhouse on the 9th of January at 2pm. All tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis so if you're interested then phone the office as soon as possible.



PARENTS PLUS



On 23rd November the rain dried out just in time for the arrival of 90 children and their parents/carers to Thomley Activity Centre. The afternoon was organised and funded by Parents Plus. Everyone bounced away on 2 bouncy castles, tested their balance on the gladiator joust, took part in interactive story telling (in the music room disguised as a spaceship), had their faces painted and transformed our art and craft room into a gallery of bright and colourful paintings!

SPONSORED SLEEPOVER



On the evening of 29th November Roo, Jodi and Mike braved the abandoned 18th Century Manor house which lies on top of Thomley Hill.

Without heating, water or electricity, their only comforts were their sleeping bags and the knowledge of a hearty breakfast the next morning. The flashing lights and creaking doors which they experienced that evening would appear to confirm local folklore that the manor house is haunted by the mysterious lady in grey. In recognition of their courageous efforts **sponsorship is still being accepted!**

ASDA FUNDRAISING

On 19th October, we headed out to the ASDA store in High Wycombe for a day of fundraising fun. A big thank you goes to all our enthusiastic tin shakers who raised a healthy £378.40 during the course of the day. The ASDA foundation very kindly topped this up with a further £100.



WANTED! If anybody knows where we can get hold of a potters wheel to use in school projects next term then please contact Roo in the office.

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.

COMMENTS...

"Good luck with the Centre - it's a brilliant and much needed initiative"

Parent

"I don't know of any other place where I can take the whole family with complete confidence that it will be a good day for everyone"

Parent

"I would like to thank you very much for a delightful morning when my group came to investigate the centre. In spite of the rain we all had a marvellous time!"

Shires Spectrum Support Group

"Every visit to Thomley has been different and uniquely special"

Parent

"Besides the happy faces and energetic dancing at the KEEN barn dance... (Thomley) was a dream venue for the professional and friendly staff as much as the wonderful atmosphere of the barn. Thomley really is a special place. I wish you the best of luck"

KEEN Co-ordinator

HOW TO CONTACT US



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