



Upcoming dates (Opening hours 10am-3.30pm)

17th May & 12th July - Late opening - Thomley will not open until 11am due to staff training

27th - 31st May - Half term - See holiday planner for 'PEOPLE WHO HELP US' activities.

7th June - Dads day (Community day - Dads & male carers of disabled & non disabled children)

- Come & meet other Dads & male carers or simply join in with activities (Mums also welcome).

9th August - Dads day (for Dads & male carers of disabled children) - As above, Mums also welcome. A selection of relevant books & info will also be available for Dads & male carers.

30th August - Thomley Olympics (Annual Open Day) - 11am - 3pm, free admission.

Book early to avoid disappointment on 01844 338 380 or bookings@thomleyhall.org

If you are coming with fewer than originally booked, please let us know so we can offer places to others.



Building works....

Over the coming months, Thomley will undergo various transformations. The diggers will start off with the cycle track in May / June; the plumbers will make Thomley warm for next winter (unfortunately we will have to close for the first 2 weeks in September); and then the diggers will be back again to excavate a sandpit... but we don't yet know when.

We apologise for the upheavals, but it will be worth it, we promise!

Pre-School Days

13th May

10th June

8th July

22nd July

Adult Days

6th May

3rd June

1st July

Useful info about days at Thomley

Quiet days - For those that enjoy Thomley's quieter days, we are thinking of limiting occasional days to a maximum of 30 children. Please let us know if you are interested in these. If you are less keen on large groups, the last Saturday of the month is a birthday party free zone.

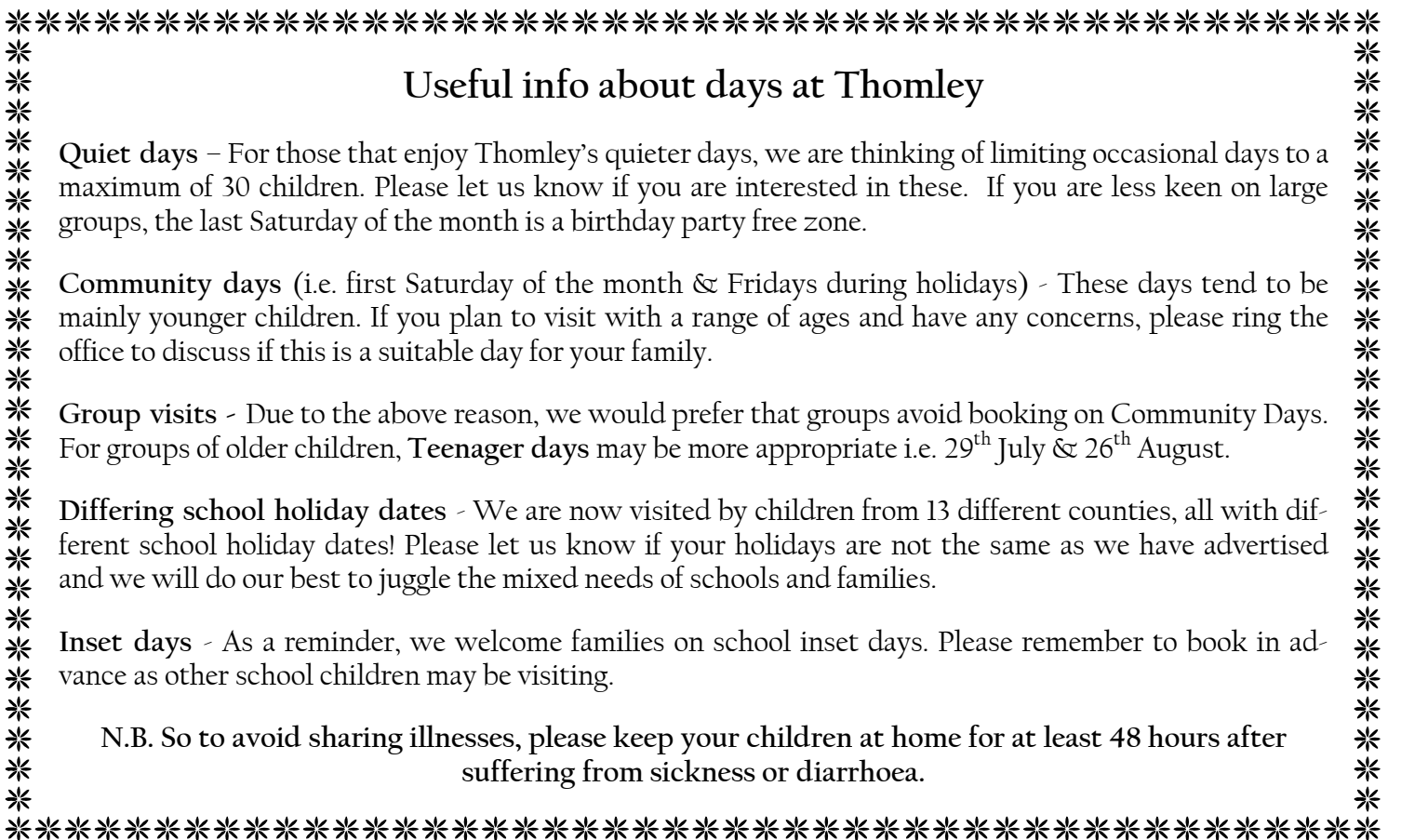
Community days (i.e. first Saturday of the month & Fridays during holidays) - These days tend to be mainly younger children. If you plan to visit with a range of ages and have any concerns, please ring the office to discuss if this is a suitable day for your family.

Group visits - Due to the above reason, we would prefer that groups avoid booking on Community Days. For groups of older children, Teenager days may be more appropriate i.e. 29th July & 26th August.

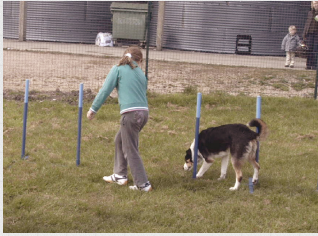
Differing school holiday dates - We are now visited by children from 13 different counties, all with different school holiday dates! Please let us know if your holidays are not the same as we have advertised and we will do our best to juggle the mixed needs of schools and families.

Inset days - As a reminder, we welcome families on school inset days. Please remember to book in advance as other school children may be visiting.

N.B. So to avoid sharing illnesses, please keep your children at home for at least 48 hours after suffering from sickness or diarrhoea.

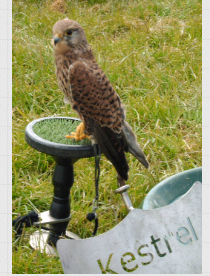


Animals, animals, animals...



An amazing 500 children visited Thomley in 2 weeks, our busiest holidays yet! Animals were clearly a big hit. After democratic election, our new gerbils are now named 'Meg and Mog'. Tina, the sheepdog demonstrated her impeccable obedience and, in return, lapped up adoration.

The less obedient Peregrine Falcon, 'Baz' kept everyone guessing as to whether he would ever come back from his exploration flight of Worminghall! However, not all our animals were feathered or furry... the brave-hearted went on a bug hunt with Milly, Dawn & Zoe. And just to complete the experience, the sensory room was transformed into a jungle, with snakes (not real!) and creepy crawlies (also not real!).



Thomley evaluation update

We have received an incredible number of completed evaluation forms, thank you all.

If your form is still lurking in your mail pile, you are not too late to fill it in and send it back. We will be collating all information over the coming month to give you feedback in the next newsletter.

Improving accessibility of the toilets

Your thoughts on improving the accessibility of our toilets have also been very helpful.

Although we will try to incorporate everyone's ideas, some are contradictory. If improving the accessibility of our toilets matters to you, we would be very grateful if you could state your preferences on the enclosed form so that we can respond to the most popular options.

In reality, this project may take a year or so until completion, as it will take time to get plans drawn up and find funding etc, so please bear with us. We have not forgotten about the improvements to the canteen but have decided that the toilets must take precedence.

Wish list...

- Volunteer for minibus
- Pro-bono lawyer to help us update staff contracts
- Brio (wooden) and/or Tomy (Thomas) train-track
- Floor mat with road map for toy cars
- Gerbil food & bedding
- Toddlers play pen
- Empty printer cartridges for recycling
- Jam jars with lids
- Small sling for our Oxford Midi hoist

Other projects at Thomley

We thought you might be interested to know what happens at Thomley on days you are not here. Firstly we wanted to let you know about the Include Bridge Project which supports young people excluded from school.

Every Thursday afternoon, come rain or shine, 3 keen young gardeners from the Include Bridge Project are out digging and refashioning Thomley's horticultural area. In return for their hard work, these guys will proudly earn themselves a Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. In addition, they have set themselves the challenge to raise funds for some new equipment for our sensory room.

In the not too distant future, this horticultural plot will be an area in which children can plant seeds, tend to their plants and eat the produce (if the rabbits don't get there first!)

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