




We can't believe it's already the start of March...this year seems to have flown by so far. It was lovely to see so many of you during the February half term and we had our busiest holiday yet! We would just recommend to all families now that early booking for holiday spaces is essential and you'd be more than welcome to book in for future holidays at any time.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

The Thomley team 

## New member of the Thomley Team!

We are so excited to have a fab new addition to our team, Joe Kitchen. As Visitor Liaison Officer, he will be the deep voice who answers the phone, the smiley face at the gate to welcome you and the kind man who will organise your bookings with you!



This is what Joe had to say for himself... "I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Visitor Liaison Officer at Thomley. If you have been to the centre recently you may have seen me around, and if you haven't then I'm sure you will be seeing me in the near future! I have previously worked with young autistic adults and children, and when this position became available at Thomley I was delighted to become a part of the team".

### Upcoming dates

**Open 10am-3.30pm**

#### **Easter School Holidays**

7th - 9th April

#### **Closed 10th & 11th April**

14th - 18th April

#### **May School Holidays**

26th - 30th May

#### **Pre-School Days**

10th March

14th April (including siblings)

12th May

#### **Adult Days**

31st March

5th May

#### **Quiet Days (Max 30)**

28th March

25th April

30th May

#### **Teenage Day**

9th April

(younger siblings welcome)

#### **Dads Day**

16th May

(for families with disabled children only)

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

## Helping us to support you...

We would like to say a very big **THANK YOU** to those who have generously set up standing orders in response to our appeal. Already, the 8 people who have signed up have pledged donations amounting to £1,000 per year. As you can see, these collective gifts quickly add to up significant amounts of money, each penny of which helps us to support you. If you would like to join the band wagon, it is not too late... if you are unable to find your standing order form, we have plenty more!!!



## Tesco Vouchers...we need your help!

Collection dates between 2nd March—7th June

The time has come again to start collecting, but this year it's even better! Tesco's are now offering all kinds of equipment, from computer software, arts, crafts and sports kit.

Last year you collected over 1,500 vouchers for Thomley, which meant that we were able to purchase everything on our wish list!

Can you help us beat last year's voucher success? As this is the only voucher scheme that Thomley is eligible for, we really need your help.... so please, please collect on our behalf!

With the following quantity of vouchers we hope to be able to buy... and more....

- Squidgy Sparkle Fish—440 vouchers
- Nature Trial Craft Paper—210 vouchers
- 2x bird house craft pack—1120 vouchers

Let us know if you need a box for your voucher collection, as we can make one up for you.

## Canteen Update

Well, the canteen is feeling rather sorry for itself, now with no ceilings or floors! Making the best of a bad situation, we have decided to go the whole hog and make the long talked about improvements. Unfortunately the area will still be out of action for Easter holidays, unless we miraculously find immediate funding... any ideas are very welcome...

## February Pick 'n' Mix Holiday Activities

Although we started the year with floods and snow, our February holiday was full of fun, laughter and sunshine! With a varied range of activities from football skills, hand therapy sessions and mask making, there was something for everyone! We had a very special sports event at the end of the holidays, with Olympic and Paralympic sporting mentors. From cycling to wheelchair rugby, the athletes spent the afternoon talking to families, signing autographs and even joining in with a game of ping pong!



### **Free river trips for disabled children and their families. Are you interested?**

One of our donors has kindly funded some spaces on a fully accessible boat especially designed for disabled children and adults. The Rivertime Boat Trust operates from the River and Rowing Museum in Henley and cruises the Thames between Windsor and Oxford. More specifically, the 'Rivertime' will be running trips from Eynsham Lock in Oxfordshire from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

We are not yet sure exactly how many spaces are available, but let us know if you are interested and we will organise your places on a first come first served basis, please email [joe@thomleyhall.org](mailto:joe@thomleyhall.org). To read more, visit [www.rivertimeboattrust.org.uk](http://www.rivertimeboattrust.org.uk)



### **AGM**

We warmly invite you to attend our **Annual General Meeting** at 3.30pm on Thursday 16th April. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

### **Safety Update – 2009**

The canteen and kitchen have been temporarily relocated to the manor hall due to a flood. The smaller space available may affect eating times and on busy days we may use the art room between 12pm-1pm for a larger eating area.

Please be aware that the **manor hall kitchen** is also a family eating area and, unlike the canteen kitchen, is **open to adults and children at all times**. Due to the accessibility of high risk electrical items (e.g. kettles, microwave and cooker), **supervision is essential**.

#### **Wish list...**

- Gas barbeque
- Tents
- Binoculars
- Industrial floor cleaner/scrubber!
- Folding wheelchair
- Hand mixer
- Display boards
- Double knitting wool
- Microphone and mini PA system
- Chicken wire
- Old carpet

#### **Volunteering Opportunities...**

We are on the hunt again to recruit more volunteers for various jobs around the site. These include;

- Male Volunteers
- Keen gardeners (including a regular mowing enthusiast!)
  - Maintenance (indoors and outside)
  - Admin (must have competent computer skills)
  - Playwork (weekdays during school holidays)

We offer a thorough induction so that volunteers have all the skills they need. This includes health and safety training and shadowing of staff. Please be aware that there are quite a few time consuming induction procedures you will need to undertake before commencing your volunteering role.

Please contact Milly for further information.

#### HOW TO CONTACT US



[www.thomleyhall.org](http://www.thomleyhall.org)

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