



Well I think the snow and ice have definitely started an already eventful year at Thomley! We're so sorry to all the families that missed out on the Christmas activities plus January's community and pre school day...hopefully the snow will begin to melt and we can start the year as we mean to go on....open!!



### Reminders for 2010!



Within this newsletter, please find enclosed all 2010 dates and revised 'Important on site information'. Please ensure that this document is read fully as it is vital health and safety information which will enable you to make the most of your visit.

For 2010, please remember that early booking is essential, especially now that families and groups have the dates to book ahead. However please make a record of and remember the dates you have booked. If you are unable to come, please let us know so that the spaces can enable another family to visit the centre. The amount of bookings really took us by surprise last year, so please bear with us in 2010 as we try to ensure that our booking system supports the level of bookings we have. If you are having difficulty in booking then please let us know .

### Health and Safety Notice - Use of skateboards on the decking slope

In 2009, a number of concerns were raised regarding the safety of skateboards on the decking slope, as this is the main disabled access for the art room and toilets. However, many families have also found this to be a valuable learning and sensory experience for their child/ren. To reach a safe compromise we have decided that staff will supervise this area at advertised times and skateboarding on the ramp will only be able to occur during these times. At some stage we are planning to replicate a slope on the field to reduce the chance of collisions!

Some of our children may find this change difficult, so we would be grateful if you could support Thomley staff in enforcing this rule.



### New posts at Thomley

**Level 2 Playworker (4 or 5 days per week, to be confirmed)**

**Salary £13,000 - £14,000 (pro-rata)**

To work in close partnership with our Senior Playworker, this role will have a major emphasis on promoting sports and healthy living activities at Thomley. Other key elements of this role will be to support all visitors, prepare and supervise play activities, help maintain health and safety standards and support day to day running of the centre. Thomley is currently under-represented by male playwork staff, and we therefore welcome male applicants.



**Closing date: 12th Feb.** Interviews will be held on the **24th Feb 2010.**

**Full job descriptions and application forms are available at:**

<http://thomleyactivitycentre.org/about-us/staff-vacancies/>

### Upcoming dates

Open 10am-3.30pm

#### **February holidays**

15th - 20th February

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

9th February 2010

9th March 2010

#### **Adult Days**

2nd February 2010

2nd March 2010

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

30th January 2010

27th February 2010

#### **Teenage Day**

17th February 2010

#### **Dads Day**

Sunday 21st March 2010

(For disabled families)

**If you are coming with fewer than originally booked, please let us know.**

### Welcome to Ruth Dickson - Our new Fundraising Officer!

In my last role I worked as part of the Fundraising team at WRVS, a UK Charity that works to help older, vulnerable people. I am excited to be joining the team at Thomley as the new Fundraising Officer and really looking forward to the challenges and rewards it will bring. I think Thomley is a fantastic place and an inspiring charity environment to work in. It has been a slow start to the year with the snow but I look forward to meeting some of you over the coming months!



**Watch this space for a welcome to our new Caretaker.....**

## Christmas Holidays....well one day of it!

Our Christmas holidays were due to be buzzing if the very festive snow had not made an appearance! However we did manage to celebrate our annual fancy dress Christmas Party with Father Christmas before the snow set in. With our usual mix of crafts, games and even our own carols (led by some very tone deaf staff but thankfully saved by some fab singing from the children and families...!) it was a wonderful day which even the cold couldn't dampen! Don't worry if you missed out on the activities due to the closures...so much planning went into this year that we'll put all the same activities on next Christmas!!

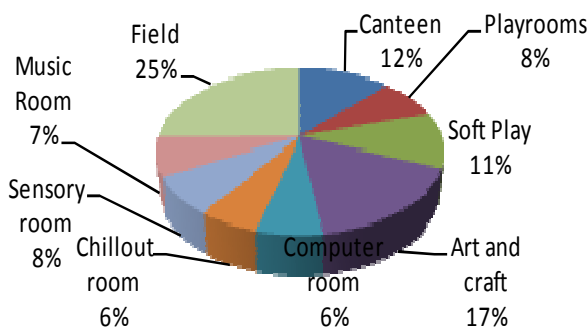


## Help us to support you....

As Fundraising Officer, Ruth will be building Thomley's 'community fundraising' capacities. She will be asking people for inspirational ideas to widen Thomley's fundraising activities, either with your family, your school, your work colleagues or with your social groups.

Ideally this year we would like to promote what we call 'unrestricted funding' which will enable us to choose the most effective way to use the money you've raised. If, however, you would like your funds to go to a specific activity, you are very welcome to choose the room or area which means the most to you. This little chart shows you where most of Thomley's funding goes. We have fundraising info sheets on each area which you could use to inspire your friends... so if you have any fundraising ideas that Ruth can support you with, please email her on [ruth@thomleyhall.org](mailto:ruth@thomleyhall.org)

### activity area



## Your views on a 'disability only' day?

Some of our children have difficulty using the centre when other boisterous children are on site. Consequently, we have been asked about organising a disability only day for Thomley's most physically vulnerable disabled children, without the presence of siblings.

We would like find out how many of you would like a day like this, and how often. So, please call the office or email [joe@thomleyhall.org](mailto:joe@thomleyhall.org) with your thoughts.

### Wish list...

- Old broomsticks
- New kettle
- Recycled oxo cube boxes (or boxes of a similar size)
- Coin counting machine
- Gazebo / Marquee
- Double knitting wool
- Ear defenders
- Plain cotton fabric / old bed sheets
- Someone with a large van and time to spare!

**Thank you for all donations recently received**

### Feedback from 2009 evaluation and community days

Thank you again to all the families that contributed towards our 2009 evaluation. The feedback from the evaluation is currently being discussed in staff and volunteer meetings and will be summarised within the next newsletter.

Remember that you don't need to wait for the 2010 evaluation to let us know what you think... please feel free to post any thoughts in our comment box in the playroom next to the office!

In the last newsletter we highlighted our intention to **consult families about Community Days**. Part of Thomley's ethos is to '**raise awareness about disability**', by encouraging disabled and non disabled children to play together.

In order to achieve this, Thomley feels it would be beneficial to **define a ratio of community families : disability families** to ensure integration and learning. If you currently use these days, your feedback is essential. Please ensure that you have your say and email [joe@thomleyhall.org](mailto:joe@thomleyhall.org)

### Last call for lost property...

Due to limited storage, we will have to take any items which are not collected by February half term to a charity shop or add them to our boxes of spare clothes.



Having a spring clean?? Keep Thomley in mind if you discover any new or unused items!



### HOW TO CONTACT US



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