



Well nearly the end of another eventful year at Thomley and it's definitely been a busy one! A very big thank you to all of our families and supporters for keeping spirits up through the year and helping Thomley to grow from strength to strength! Hopefully 2010 will be just as eventful (without the flood or burglaries!) and we hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2010.



**Thomley will be closed from Thursday 24th December and will reopen on Tuesday 5th January.**

### 2010 at Thomley!

Since the summer, families have been asking us for 2010 dates. Next year we have made the following additions;

- To meet the demand of our holiday sessions, we will **open on Mondays during the 1 and 2 week holidays.**
- We will be **re-launching our Dad's Days on 3 Sundays during the year.**
- **Disability only Pre School sessions** will be available on certain days through the year. The first of these will be held on **Tuesday 23rd March.**

For all 2010 dates please refer to our website and a full list of dates will be sent out in the January newsletter. Please remember that early booking is now essential. If you are unable to come on the day you booked, please let us know so those spaces can enable another family to visit the centre.



### New posts at Thomley

#### **Fundraising Officer - £23,000-25,000 depending on experience**

Thomley is seeking an experienced fundraiser with proven track record to build existing and new sources of funding via individuals, schools, community networks, clubs, local companies and development of a legacy programme.

This highly rewarding role will place you at the heart of Thomley's growth as it moves into a new stage of development.

**Closing date: 27.11.09.** Initial interviews will be held on 8th December 2009

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#### **Caretaker – 20 hours per week, £12,000 - £14,000 pro-rata (depending on experience)**

Thomley is seeking a hands-on individual who takes pride in their work to coordinate the maintenance of buildings and a 7 acre field and playground.

**Closing date: 15.12.09.** Interviews will be held on the 6th and 7th January 2010

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#### **Casual Playworkers - £6 per hour**

We are still building a bank of playwork staff who we can call upon for school holidays and busy times. Key elements of this role are to support 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: 15.12.09.** Interviews will be held on the 13th and 14th January 2010

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

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

### Upcoming dates

**Open 10am-3.30pm**

**Christmas party**

19th December

**Christmas holidays**

21st, 22nd & 23rd  
December

**Pre-School Days**

8th December  
12th January 2010  
9th February 2010

**Adult Days**

1st December  
5th January 2010  
2nd February 2010

**Quiet Days (Max 30)**

28th November  
30th January 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.**

## October Holidays

Our October holidays were busy, busy, busy with film crews, owls, pumpkin carving and Halloween discos! We started the week with our teenage day and a very exciting visit from the BBC One Show, who came to film the centre and our families. Throughout the rest of the week we had our usual Halloween fancy dress (with the families putting the staff to shame with their outfits!), plus lots of fantastic pumpkin designs with Felipe. We finished the week with some very messy broom painting (which can still be seen on the art room walls!) and some wonderful spooky screen printing!



## Important information

In the new year, we plan to review our community days to ensure that the mix of disabled and non-disabled families reflects our ethos of 'raising awareness about disability'. Currently, these days are primarily used by families who do not have disabled children and we would like to ensure that sufficient space is also made available for disabled children so that all children can play together. Over the next few months Thomley staff will be consulting with all families to work out how we can go forward in 2010. We are proposing that we define a ratio of community families and disability families and would like your feedback as to how you think this might work.

## New research study from the University of Oxford

### How children's brains recognise faces -

Children with and without Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are wanted to take part in a study which will measure their brain activity when looking at pictures. The researchers are hoping to find out how brain responses change as children get older and whether this is different between children with and without ASD

Families and children taking part will receive gift vouchers for their time. For more information please call Jenni on 01865 283806 or email [Jennifer.swettenham@psych.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Jennifer.swettenham@psych.ox.ac.uk).

### Wish list...

- Coin counting machine
- Gazebo / Marquee
- Large pram or pushchair
- Double knitting wool
- Chicken wire
- Old carpet
- Picnic rugs
- Folding tables
- Ear muffs
- Plain cotton fabric / old bed sheets
- Someone with a large van and time to spare!
- New digital camera

**A massive thank you to everyone for all donations recently received**

### Goodbye's.....

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Zoë, one of Thomley's original and much loved playworkers, who has seen Thomley develop and the families grow over the years. Zoë has decided to move on from Thomley to work as a nanny, whilst looking for a teaching assistant role. Zoë sends her love and best wishes to all the families that she has known and supported through the years and we wish Zoë lots of luck in the future.

### Words and wine update.....

We are still in the process of putting together our 'Book of Awareness' and will be moving forward with this project in the new year. For more information about this very exciting project please see our blog on the website - <http://thomleyactivitycentre.org/category/blog/>



### Last call for lost property...



We seem to have acquired lots of lost property in 2009. If you know you have left something behind, please look in the lost property box under the stairs by the soft play area .

Due to limited storage, we will have to take any items which are not collected to a charity shop in February or add them to our boxes of spare clothes. To ensure we don't end up with lots of lost property in 2010, we suggest clearly labelling clothing & bags with a name and contact so we can let you know if they are left behind. Thank you

### HOW TO CONTACT US



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

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