

Nursery News



October 2025



We are coming to the end of a very long half term, and I think the children will welcome the week off to recharge and come back ready for another 7 weeks leading up to Christmas. I know that staff are looking forward to half term. 😊 We have welcomed many new children this half term and they have all settled amazingly and are loving all the activities on offer. A big shout out to Bodhi, Jesse, Grace, Darcie, Danae, Zuri, Nathan, Ozkar, Charlotte, Remi, Rome and Isla.

The nursery is currently very full which is great for this time of the year, but unfortunately it does mean that if you need any additional sessions or change of sessions, we are unlikely to be able to offer them. Sorry.

Term dates 2025/2026

- ✓ 27th October – 31st October – half term
- ✓ 19th December – end of term
- ✓ 5th January – Start of Spring term
- ✓ 16th – 20th February – half term
- ✓ 27th March – End of Spring term (Easter holidays)
- ✓ 13th April 2026 – Start of Summer term
- ✓ 25th May – 29th May – half term
- ✓ 22nd July 2026 – end of Summer term



Inset days

- ✓ Friday 24th October 2025
- ✓ Monday 3rd November 2025
- ✓ Monday 23rd February 2026
- ✓ Friday 22nd May 2026
- ✓ Monday 22nd June 2026

Staffing

The staff have all worked hard this term, settling in new children, providing a variety of amazing activities for them all.

We have still been trying to recruit another qualified practitioner, so if anyone knows someone that is looking for a change and is qualified to level 3 in childcare then please send them the email address.

manager@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk

Alternatively, the job is advertised on the INDEED website.

https://uk.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=8a83c32d38f840bf&from=shareddesktop_copy

We are also looking for a kitchen assistant to work between the hours of 2-5pm Monday to Thursday.

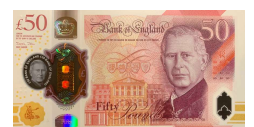
https://uk.indeed.com/viewjob?jk=178ff43048a289fa&from=shareddesktop_copy

URGENT REMINDER

We are still chasing a few changes of details forms, so please could we ask that these are returned by 23rd October Thank you

Refer a friend!

We would like to offer a £50 credit on your invoice for anyone that recommends a friend to the nursery. Once they are signed up and have been with us for 3 months then the credit will be applied.



Tapestry



We use tapestry to log your child's progress and development during their time at the nursery. We also use it to produce the monthly invoices, so all parents **must activate** their account once they have received an email link.

Tapestry is also used to log nappies, food and sleep times for the under 3's. Please look at the care diary on your child's account if you are unsure about any personal care and food during the day.

Staff are also on hand to chat to you on collection to talk about your child's day.

Reminders

Please name all personal items

Please name ALL items that you send into nursery. This will help to prevent any mix up of items and lost property.

Water bottles

Please only put plain tap water in your child's water bottle each day. If juice is seen in a child's bottle, unfortunately it will be tipped away and replaced with water.

Coats/hats/gloves/wellies

Whatever the weather the children will be going outside at some point during the day. Please make sure that your child has a warm waterproof coat and wellies, along with a hat and gloves as the weather continues to get colder.

Spare clothes

Please supply at least 2 changes of clothes for your child each day. Children that are toilet training will potentially need more, along with socks and spare shoes.

Thank you

Free childcare offer

The nursery accepts government funding (15 or 30 hours) for children aged from 9 months to 4-years-old. If you would like to access this funding, then please visit www.gov.uk for how to apply or speak to someone in the office.

If you know anyone that would like to join the nursery, please signpost them to our website www.thorneyislandnursery.co.uk or ask them to email manager@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk

Changes to the EYFS statutory guidance

As a setting we follow the statutory guidance that is written by the department for education.

This September the latest version was published and there have been some changes to various sections which in turn parents need to be advised about:

-  Child absences
-  Safer eating/allergy and food intolerances
-  Healthy eating
-  Safer sleeping

There are new policies covering these areas which can be found on our website, along with an email that will be sent to you.

Some key points:

Attendance policy - you must inform the nursery prior to your child's start time if they are not going to be at nursery on that day. We will contact you and your emergency contacts if we cannot get hold of you, to find out why your child is not in. Social services will be contacted if we have concerns over prolonged absences and/or not being able to make contact.

Healthy eating policy – there are new guidelines around what we can provide the children at mealtimes. This also applies to lunchboxes and what you can provide. Please do not include confectionary, any food containing nuts and limit the amount of processed food where possible. If you wish to provide your child with a hot meal, then this must be in a hot flask, as we do not heat home cooked food.

Allergies and food intolerances – information will be gained on registration about any child that has a food allergy or intolerance. If a child has an allergy/intolerance, then an individual health care plan must be completed with the child's keyworker. Any medication kept on site for the allergy, must be prescribed and a long-term medication form must also be completed.

Safer sleeping policy coming very soon.

Contact details

For Karen - manager@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk

For Tash - deputy@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk

For Kate - bursar@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk

For Heather (admin) – tinursery@outlook.com

01243 388879

07939 302008

Visit our website for further information and to keep up to date with regular blogs.

www.thorneyislandnursery.co.uk

and/or visit our face book page – Thorney Island Nursery

Nursery improvements

The patio areas are being well used in the main garden, along with the children really enjoying the new physical equipment that was purchased over the summer.

We are now looking into a couple of new projects for the autumn/winter months, weather dependent.

Some of you may remember that nearly a year ago we applied for funding to develop the courtyard between the 2 buildings into a play area for all children. We secured the funding which was fantastic, and we are now at the final stage of setting a date for the work to start. This will be an amazing space for the children, and we can't wait for the project to finally be under way.

We are also looking to make a growing area at the very bottom of the main garden. We plan to have a gardening club and get all the children involved in planting and growing vegetables and flowers. We will be making raised beds in the area, so they are easier for the children to work in, along with a planting table, an area for the children to sit and learn about the plants, look at wildlife and listen to stories. If we are successful in producing some vegetables/salads, then the children will be able to sample these at snack/mealtimes.

If anyone has green fingers, can offer any advice or help with the growing project then please speak with a member of staff. We would love for this to become a real community project.



DATES FOR DIARY

Halloween fun day – Wednesday 22nd October

Inset day – Friday 24th October

Inset day – Monday 3rd November

Photographer – Thursday 6th November

Christmas Jumper day – Thursday 11th December

Transitions and moving on

Children grow up very fast and as such move onto the next stage of their development before you know it.

At nursery we try to ensure that the children are meeting their milestones and with other children around them they are often keen to try new things faster than they would at home.

- ✚ As an example of this we encourage young children to stop using a bottle during the day, especially at mealtimes and will put milk into an open cup or free flowing cup for them.
- ✚ Babies/toddlers will transition from a highchair to a low-level chair at the table or move onto a bed mat instead of a cot.
- ✚ Toddlers and young children will want to help themselves and be independent, even if it does take longer. Patience is the key
- ✚ Children that are approaching 2.5 years will be intrigued by the older children and start the transition to join the older age group.

If you can relate to any of the above and wish to move your child on, then please speak to your child's keyworker. We are here to work with you, give advice and develop your child at their pace and yours.

