

# Nursery News



## February 2026

### Spring term

We are now at the end of the first half term since returning in the New Year, Christmas seems a long and distant memory. The weather has not been very kind to us this past six weeks, with rain, rain and yet more rain.



The children have still been outside every day, as rain and mud does not put them off. They were all very excited when the new outdoor area was completed and have loved the new space.

The nursery continues to be very full which is great, 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. Apologies.

### Term dates 2025/2026

- ✓ 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February – half term
- ✓ 27<sup>th</sup> March – End of Spring term (Easter holidays)
- ✓ 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Start of Summer term
- ✓ 25<sup>th</sup> May – 29<sup>th</sup> May – half term
- ✓ 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026 – end of Summer term



### Inset days

- ✓ **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**
- ✓ **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**
- ✓ **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**

### Staffing

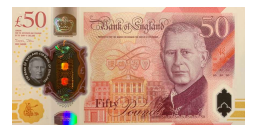
In the last newsletter we were looking to recruit a kitchen assistant, we were successful in recruiting and Sue started with us in January. She prepares and cooks the children's tea and has settled in very well, getting to know the staff and the children. She has a lot of experience with children as she has been a foster carer for many years.

We are looking for a cleaner to work 5.30-7.30pm every day, so if anyone knows of anyone or a small cleaning company then please let me know or email [manager@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk](mailto:manager@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk)

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.



### REMINDER

Please look on the Family app and complete all permissions so that we have the most up to date information.

Thank you

## **Family**



We have been using Family for a few weeks now and although there have been a few teething problems, we are getting there.

Hopefully you have all activated your account so can see learning journals, invoices, messages and notes, along with seeing notifications about what your child has eaten, any accidents, toileting/nappy changes etc.

As parents you can message us directly if you have a question and this will be answered as soon as we can. Could we also ask that you use the app to inform us if your child is sick or going to be absent for what ever reason.

If anyone is having issues with the app then please email or message and we will try and solve the problem.

## **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, as they could need them for a variety of reason.

## **Free childcare offer**

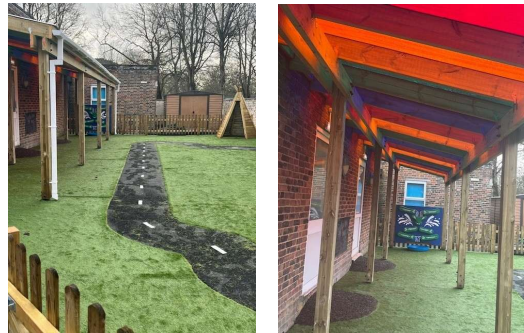
The nursery accepts government funding (15 or 30 hours) for children aged from 9 months to 4-years-old. If you would like to access this funding, then please visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for how to apply or speak to someone in the office.

If you know anyone that would like to join the nursery, please signpost them to our website [www.thorneyislandnursery.co.uk](http://www.thorneyislandnursery.co.uk) or ask them to email [manager@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk](mailto:manager@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk)

## **Nursery improvements**

The most exciting news of this half term is that 'Thorney's cosy courtyard' is completed. It has been a very long time coming, but it is finally completed and the children are loving the space and the transformation is amazing. Despite the rain, the children have been enjoying riding the bikes and scooters, playing football, planting a few flowers and playing with their siblings.

Overtime, we plan to improve this area further, buying some new equipment, painting the wall, planting vegetables and flowers so the children can watch them grow.



### **Growing area**

The growing area at the bottom of the garden will be starting during the month of March/April, dependent on weather. One of the parents is kindly donating a couple of raised planters, so we can make a start on growing some vegetables, that will hopefully grow and then be incorporated into the childrens meals.

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.

### **Information boards**

You may have noticed that we have an information board at the entrance of both buildings. They are currently still empty, but please look out for information over the coming weeks about the nursery, upcoming events and/or general information.

### Contact details

For Karen - [manager@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk](mailto:manager@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk)

For Tash - [deputy@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk](mailto:deputy@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk)

For Kate - [bursar@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk](mailto:bursar@thorneyislandnursery.co.uk)

For Heather (admin) – [tinursery@outlook.com](mailto: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](http://www.thorneyislandnursery.co.uk)

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

### DATES FOR DIARY

**Chinese New Year** – we will be celebrating this during week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> February

**World book day** – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March (come dressed up as your favourite book character)

### Uniform

Nursery uniform is available to order from the office if anyone would like it. It is not compulsory but does save you having to worry about what to put your child in every day.

We can order a range of colours red, blue, yellow or green in a polo shirt and sweatshirt. We can also order round necked T-shirts for the babies as well.

**Round necked T shirt £7.25**

**Polo shirt £10**

**Sweatshirt £10.50**



### 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.

