

www.thomley.org.uk

# Our Place

## Issue 5

### Thomley on Film...

As you will have read in our last newsletter, we have been working on a new short film about Thomley to promote the centre to new families and help to show our work to potential funders. We've made two versions of the film: a shorter one for our website and a longer one for events and presentations. You can watch these online here: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-EzycPBXz-mfcq0\\_LRHqBLQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-EzycPBXz-mfcq0_LRHqBLQ)

During filming we interviewed several families and got some great footage and testimonies which sadly didn't make the final edit. But we still want to make use of these lovely interviews and intend to share them with you online over the coming months so keep an eye out for them on our Facebook page.

We're launching our new films alongside a fundraising campaign to help cover the cost of our holiday activities: <http://campaign.justgiving.com/charity/thomleyhall/sponsorourholidays> We hope you like our new films as much as we do and that you will share them and make people aware of our fundraising campaign too. Our thanks to Torquil Boyd for producing these films and to our corporate sponsor Quanta, for funding the project.



**Thomley**  
A place for people of all  
abilities and disabilities



**We are recruiting: [www.thomley.org.uk/staff-vacancies/](http://www.thomley.org.uk/staff-vacancies/)**

# Upcoming workshops...



## **Soundabout Explorers - Saturday 3rd October**

Enjoy the best of both worlds as Soundabout teams up with Thomley! The music workshops will be on offer at Thomley, so you can experience all of Thomley's facilities PLUS join in for a 45 minute wonderful music session provided by Soundabout.



## **Gaming Wagon - Saturday 10th October**

Even if you aren't a gamer, the wagon is a must-see! A bus like you've never seen, with music, gadgets, games and more. Chill with friends or go head-to-head on the Xbox!



## **Ignite Sport - Tuesday 27th October**

Ignite are back after their popular sessions throughout the summer holidays. Here for our Harry Potter themed day, they will be running Quidditch sessions outside, don't miss this!

## **Woodwork - Thursday 29th October**

Get creative, Paul is on hand to help you design, make and decorate your ideas. Make your initials, build a lighthouse, or maybe an accessory for your Halloween outfit?



## **Science Workshop - Friday 30th October**

Awesome science demonstrations which might include fizzing potions, bubbles and flying giant smoke rings, wacky noises, gooey slime making (which you can take away with you), and yummy sweet making (which you can eat).

# Preparing for change...

As per our Director's announcement of 9th July, Thomley will be recruiting a new Chief Executive to start early in 2016, with Claire continuing to fund-raise part-time. In preparation for Thomley's continuing development over the coming 5-10 years, Trustees have decided to split strategic from operational roles, with the new Chief Executive Officer being responsible for overall strategic management and development of services, and Cecilia Guntrip taking overall responsibility for the operations management. Having worked at Thomley since 2008, Cecilia's change in role has been put into effect now to ensure continuity and a smooth handover between Claire and the new Chief Executive.

## NEW Games Room...



Now open to people of all ages, this room has an air hockey table, board games, and Wii. This means that the teenage den is then available only for our teenagers and adults, so they can enjoy time with their peers. To make use of this new room, please book a session at reception and speak to staff for further details.

## Preschool & Adult Days dates changes for 2016...

We are making an exciting change for our regular adult users who come here every Thursday. From 2016, we will also be open to adult users every Tuesday in term time. Hopefully this will mean you can come twice in a week (if you want to) and it will enable others who can't currently attend on a Thursday to also use our facilities.

Preschool users, do not panic! We will continue to offer preschool days every week, but from January 2016 they will be every Wednesday in term time. Schools can come on Fridays, plus if they fit the age restrictions of our other weekdays they're welcome to come on those too.



## Go-kart summer champion...



Congratulations to Calvin, you are now the Thomley Stig after completing our track in the quickest time.  
Please note, the record was not set in the car pictured!

# A message from our Centre Manager

It was awesome seeing over one thousand of you come and play over the summer!

We offered 41 days as we toured the American states and its themes. From art work to physical play, my team and I have loved supporting you.

A BIG thank you to everyone who filled in our “young person” evaluation, this will help us to create new themes when planning activities and it’s always great to hear how much you love Thomley.

With the seasons changing we look forward to sharing our Autumn planners and don’t forget to book fast for our spooktacular half term. With it being a one-week holiday, it’s always a busy time, especially when we’re pumpkin carving.

Hope to see you all again soon and thank you for your continued support.

# Responding to your feedback...

Thank you to the 142 parents and carers who kindly made time to respond to Thomley's annual survey, giving us valuable insight into how well we meet your needs. Many first time visitors and 49 young people also gave their opinions over the summer holidays.

Your overwhelmingly positive feedback gave our committed team of staff and volunteers encouragement that their hard work is valued. As expected, there is always room for improvement and we endeavor to make our service even better. Particular areas we are focusing on are:

- **Changes to 2016 dates** – adult day changes, as mentioned earlier in this newsletter.
- **Supporting individuals to join in** – whilst ensuring that key areas are safe (e.g. soft play), our staff aim to share their time between all visitors, helping them to join in any indoor or outdoor activity, at their own pace. So please do ask if you feel an activity needs further adaptation, or make us aware if a child of any ability needs support. Depending on the interests of visitors on the day, we may also offer pop-up workshops.
- **Parent and carer support** – Duty Managers aim to speak to all parents and carers to find out if you need additional support when you visit. If you need more support than you are getting, or would like to be introduced to other families, please ask.
- **Identifying the Duty Manager** – if you would like to speak to the Duty Manager, either ask at reception, or look at our 'Who's in Today' board opposite Reception to see a photo of the Duty Manager for that day.
- **New Games Room** - mentioned earlier in this newsletter.
- **Transport for schools and groups** – we can transport up to sixteen people to Thomley in our wheelchair accessible minibus. For further information, ask whilst making your school or group booking.
- **New mud kitchen and Go-kart track** – These additions have added to the outdoor fun and water play now appears as a pop-up activity.

Your suggestions have inspired new ideas for adventure, many of which we hope still to achieve in time and when funds allow. As promised, the Café is the next development project. Once this building is fully funded and underway, we will get the ball rolling to put in a wheelchair accessible swing and sensory garden next year. We will talk to you more next year to ask which of your many ideas should then be considered top priority. You don't need to wait until our annual survey to tell us what you think...your feedback is welcome any time of year, verbal or written.

## Wish list

We try to keep our costs to a minimum. If there are any things on the list below you are able to donate, you'd be saving us money and we would be very grateful:

Sensory plants for garden  
Wild flower seeds  
Old typewriter  
Large digital clock  
Large egg timer  
Cardboard tubes (not toilet rolls)  
X box games & controllers  
Brightly coloured decorative cushions  
Brightly coloured rugs  
Plain tshirts for printing  
Colanders  
Bike helmets  
Go-karts and trikes for all ages

## Book now

We are now taking bookings for the October half term, Saturdays, pre-school days, adult days and Youth Club, for October and November.

See our online calendar for all the activities: [www.thomley.org.uk/calendar/](http://www.thomley.org.uk/calendar/)

Remember that booking is essential. Please email Courtney: [bookings@thomley.org.uk](mailto:bookings@thomley.org.uk) or call her on: 01844 338380

Some families are forgetting to book. It's important we know how many people are due each day so we have enough staff on site. If you turn up without booking we may have to turn you away.

# Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 7th November, 11am-3pm

**FREE ENTRY** - cakes - hot food  
presents - activities - raffle



If you or anyone you know is a crafter and would like to have a stall, please email Amy:

[amy@thomley.org.uk](mailto:amy@thomley.org.uk)

If you have unwanted gifts for our tombola or can get prizes for our raffle, please email Anna:

[anna@thomley.org.uk](mailto:anna@thomley.org.uk)