

# Our Place

## Issue 39



## Holiday at Thomley...

Our camping pods are now fully open and have been operating for the whole summer holidays, with many families so happy to have a small getaway.



We are taking bookings up until the end of the 'off-season' in 2022, which runs until March 31st.

One family stayed for two nights in August had this to say about their mini-holiday:

*"We had the most brilliant time. For us, a holiday doesn't exist. We can't go far due to my son's medical needs and we are very limited with the facilities wherever we go. This is the first time in 9 years I would say I've had a proper break. We have had a fabulous couple of days and we will most definitely be back next year. For the first time in months we actually got some sleep, we relaxed, we had fun, as a family. Thank you so much to Thomley and the staff, who went the extra mile to make our stay magical"*

## Clare Foundation 50% offer...

With thanks to The Clare Foundation we are delighted to be able to offer 50% off of a set number of bookings in the camping pods for November-March.

To take advantage of this amazing offer, please quote code: 'ClareFoundationCamping' when you send in your booking request on the website.



## Bookings for 2022...

We will be taking bookings for the 2022 peak season (April-October) from 1st November 2021. Please hold any booking requests until those dates and we will work through the bookings one by one in early November.

The prices for 2022 can be seen here:

Month	Sunday to Thursday	Friday or Saturday
January - March	£90 per night	£110 per night
April - October	£110 per night	£140 per night
November - December	£90 per night	£110 per night

**TO BOOK** or for pricing information please visit the website: [www.thomley.org.uk/visit-us/camping-pods/](http://www.thomley.org.uk/visit-us/camping-pods/)

# October Workshops...



**Trunk or Treat Halloween Event**  
**Saturday 23rd October, 5-8pm**  
Dress the trunk of your car in this different way to celebrate Halloween! Lots of activities to take part in on the night.

**Pumpkin Carving**  
**Every day Monday - Saturday of October half term!**  
Bring your pumpkin

**Crocodiles of The World!**  
**Tuesday 26th October, 1-3pm**  
An amazing opportunity to see baby crocodiles and other animals up close, at Thomley. A very popular workshop!

**Woodwork with Paul**  
**Wednesday 27th October, all day**  
Paul will help you make whatever you like out of wood! Design and decorate your woodwork and take it home with you too.

**Thame Music Academy**  
**Saturday 30th October, 10am-2pm**  
Join the brilliant Thame Music Academy and make music together!

**Fireworks at Thomley**  
**Saturday 30th October, 5-8pm**  
Join us for our fundraising fireworks night this October.

**PLUS LOTS MORE...Including:**  
Lionel the Train, Fitness with Bernie, giant bubbles, cooking skills, football, archery, glitter tattoos, face painting and lots more!



# A super Thomley summer!



**A big thanks to everyone who came and spent some of their summer holiday with us! As always we loved having so many visitors for our day to day activities, special events such as camping and community events like the open day. Over 1,000 young people with a disability visited us this summer.**

We also want to thank everyone who took the time to complete our survey throughout the summer. We are still looking for more people to take part, to help shape our site and services. You can do so here:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Thomley2021>

## October half term...



**We have so much to look forward to this coming October half term.**

We are finally able to welcome back Crocodiles of the World, which we know is an incredibly popular experience for visitors. We are delighted to continue with the Trunk or Treat night, which is our inclusive way of celebrating Halloween.

We are also super excited to be putting on our first fireworks display, after visitors and the local community have requested this for several years. We look forward to seeing you all across the coming months.


# Holidays, activities and food programme success...

We were thrilled to offer the food programme to visitors across the summer holidays, which so many families benefited from. We hope to offer this again later this year or in 2022, so please keep an eye on our social media channels over the coming months to see if the programme is back at Thomley.



For more information about the programme visit here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-2021>

## Welcome to our team!



**My name is Debbie (but you can call me Debs!) and I am the newest member of the Thomley Team! I am joining as The Visitor Support Officer, so you will see me around, but mostly at the gate or Reception.**

I live in Oxfordshire with my Partner and our Son, Max. Max is 4 and has Autism, who also loves to visit Thomley as he loves to run. I like listening to music, eating biscuits and talking to people, so feel free to come and say hi!

**I'm Greta and I originally joined Thomley as a casual playworker in July 2017, alongside my full-time job as a teaching assistant in a local school. I loved it so much that when the opportunity arose, I applied to join the full time team!**

My job involves helping to plan and run the activities you may take part in every day at Thomley. In my own time I enjoy walking with my dog Benji, spending time with my family and anything arts and crafts related, especially sewing.



## Join the team...



**We are recruiting...**

**Catering Coordinator**

**Part time: 24 hours per week**

**Rate of pay: £24,000 (pro rata)**

**Visit the website for application details**

## Cleaners & Playworkers

**We are also recruiting for playworkers and for cleaners. Both roles are very flexible, casual roles. For more information about all of our vacancies, please visit the website:**

**<https://thomley.org.uk/about-us/current-staff-vacancies/>**

**Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with the latest news, activities and visitor information:  
@thomleypublic**



# New large office available...

We have another newly refurbished office available to rent at Thomley.

The office is suitable for 4-6 people with internet included and use of the coffee machine. The views from this office are just a bonus! The rent is very cheap in comparison to other office blocks, plus your rent goes directly to supporting our core services at Thomley.



Please contact Operations Manager Joe to arrange a visit or for further details, on: [joekitchen@thomley.org.uk](mailto:joekitchen@thomley.org.uk)

# Preschool 'special offer' is now a permanent fixture!

Our preschool offers were so popular we have now made them permanent.

- \*FREE entry for any preschool visitor who hasn't been before.
- \*HALF PRICE for any preschool visitor who has been before.
- \*HALF PRICE sensory room sessions.
- \*COFFEE and Cake for £3 in the cafe.

To book, click 'Book now' on your selected date on the calendar: [www.thomley.org.uk/calendar](http://www.thomley.org.uk/calendar)



# Playground development phase two, complete!



This summer we completed the second part of our playground refurbishment.

We hope you like the new, much more accessible design.

# Have you seen the new water boat race?

The maintenance team have been busy as always, this time giving you a water activity in the sensory garden. Pump the water and watch your boat race to the end of the course! With thanks to DPG Plumbing and Heating for their help.



Visit our Instagram page and be sure to tag us in your Instagram stories, we love to see your Thomley photos!

@Thomley\_



# The Achieve Lifeskills Programme has started at Thomley. There is still time to join the course for this year..



## Independent Living Skills



All young people need guidance to prepare for their future. A young person with special educational needs (SEN) may face additional challenges to achieving their goals.

The **ACHIEVE** program is aimed at developing those important independent living skills alongside functional skills to enable learners to lead a fulfilling and substantially independent life. Our program is a mixture of blended learning and hands on, practical tasks.

### Independent Living Skills

- Cooking Skills
- Health Eating
- Personal Safety
- Personal Care
- Leisure
- Road Safety
- Work Experience

### Functional Skills

- Math's
- English
- ICT

### Employability Skills

### What's involved?

The course is one year long, in term time only and is run over two and a half days per week.

The groups are small, with a maximum of 10 learners. The course is written to be inclusive of individual needs and takes into account the outcomes on a learners EHCP, their own views, individual areas of strength and development and their progression route.

We work closely with other professionals such as:

- Speech and Language Therapists
- The Autistic Teaching Company
- Local Authority
- SEN Team
- CAMHS

### Progression...

We strive to ensure all our learners gain the experience to enhance their life alongside the qualifications they need to progress onto further education, apprenticeships or employment.

We offer work experience and work closely with the local colleges to prepare learners for their next step.

Action  
Common Sense  
Hard Work  
Imagination  
Energy  
Vision  
Enthusiasm

- \* Launching this September at Thomley
- \* For ages 16-24
- \* Must hold an EHCP



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