

# Our Place

Issue 40



## Christmas at Thomley...



Thomley is a lifeline for many over Christmas, we know it's not always an easy time for families.

We want to be there for you as much as possible. That's why we have more on than ever before throughout the festive period.

We are starting off with our accessible Christmas Market on 27th November, followed by an accessible Christmas dinner on Sunday 5th December. Our annual Christmas party day will be on Saturday 11th December, where Father Christmas will be paying us a visit. Plus we will have Breakfast with Father Christmas on four days from 19th-22nd December. We are also delighted to be offering free visits over Christmas to those who benefit from free school meals, which you can read more about

later in this newsletter. We will however be closed from 24th-28th December and 31st December to 2nd January, to allow our staff to also have some time with their own families and take a little break, after what has been a very busy year for the team.

## We are now taking bookings for our Camping pods for the 2022 peak season...

We have started taking bookings for peak season 2022, with lots of bookings already coming in.

The peak season begins in April and runs until the end of October. We are specifically getting lots of enquiries for April, May half term and the summer holidays.

From April 2022, it will be a minimum two night stay in the pods.

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



*"Staying in the pods was an amazing experience for us as a family. It was actually the first time we have stayed anywhere other than our own home or at the Grandparents. My husband and I actually felt as though we had a break, even though it was only one night away, it meant the world."*

*Thank you Thomley, the pods are just lovely!"*

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

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

@Thomley\_





# December Workshops... Fireworks a huge success...



## Cooking mince pies

**Saturday 4th December, 11am**

Come and cook with us, it's December - it had to be mince pies!

## Christmas Roast Dinner Day

**Sunday 5th December**

Our accessible roast days are very popular. This one includes all the trimmings!

## Christmas Party Day

**Saturday 11th December**

Father Christmas will be on site with presents, plus LOTS of Christmas themed activities.

## Breakfast with Father Christmas

**19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd December**

An accessible treat for all the family this Christmas - lovely cooked breakfast, activities and a visit from the big man himself!

## Snow machine fun!

**Wednesday 22nd December**

The snow machine will deliver, even if the weatherman won't! Sensory snow fun for all.

## Mentos Explosions!

**Wednesday 29th December**

A very firm favourite, especially when the staff get soaked in the process of letting the rockets off!

**PLUS LOTS more happening in January, including:**

Glitter tattoos, curling, face painting, sensory bottles, Lego workshops, silent discos and more!



We were thrilled to have such an amazing attendance at our reduced sound fireworks display last weekend. Almost 500 people witnessed a dazzling display of bright lights and fireworks without the loud bang.

A Mum of two Autistic boys sobbed to our Operations Manager Joe after the display. She said, "I am just so overwhelmed that for the first time ever my children have sat through and enjoyed fireworks. I can't thank Thomley enough. They even took their ear defenders off. Thank you so much" That is precisely why Thomley exists. Experiences for those that may struggle in other environments. The event also raised over £3,500, which will go towards the running of our core services for disabled people. A massive thanks to everyone who came. We hope to see you again next year!



# Spooktacular half term...



Well, what a brilliant time we had this half term! The week was packed with some of our favourite activities. Crocodiles of the World were fantastic as always. There were LOTS of incredibly skilled pumpkin carvers and unique woodwork creations too. Dan (pictured) made an awesome basketball hoop!

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



# Christmas holidays activities & food programme...

We were delighted to offer families FREE visits to Thomley, inclusive of their lunch throughout the summer holidays. The offer was so well received.

We are fortunate to be offering this again over the Christmas period. Those who receive free school meals will be able access Thomley for up to four days, including lunch for free.

The offer will be available across six of our opening days; 19th-22nd December and 28th-29th December. This must be booked in advance. We will begin taking bookings for this in early December.



## Cooking Skills



We also will be providing an additional cooking skills workshop for attendees of this programme. Every day there will be limited spaces to join in with fun and varied cooking workshops. Making healthy snacks and festive items such as mince pies. This will be bookable when you book your visit.

## Transport

There will be the option to book transport directly to Thomley, also for free, as part of the scheme. This is for any family in Buckinghamshire. We will be organising the service to Wycombe, Aylesbury and other towns / villages on that route.



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>

## Join the team...

### We are Recruiting for a Senior Playworker

**Rate of pay:** £22,000 per annum

**Role:** Full time (40 hours per week) Ideally Tuesday-Saturday

**At Thomley, Menmarsh Road, Worminghall, HP18 9JZ**  
(On the Oxon/Bucks border, between Oxford and Aylesbury)

**Closing Date for Applications:** 1st December 2021



#### The role

The Senior Playworker is a vital member of the Thomley team. The role is an exciting and varied position, at the heart of our core services. You will deliver a varied and exciting activity programme for visitors of Thomley. You will be enthusiastic, empathetic and have experience of working with disabled people. The Senior Playworker will contribute to our community fundraising programme and ensure that all aspects of a day at Thomley run safely.

Please visit [www.thomley.org.uk/about-us/current-staff-vacancies/](http://www.thomley.org.uk/about-us/current-staff-vacancies/) for a copy of the full job description and application form.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact our Operations Manager, Joe:  
[joekitchen@thomley.org.uk](mailto:joekitchen@thomley.org.uk)

**We are also still recruiting for casual play staff and casual cleaners. Very flexible shifts available throughout the year. Please visit the website for further details:**

**<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**





# Challenge events raise vital funds for Thomley...



We were very lucky to have so many runners and competitors raise funds for Thomley at several challenge events throughout 2021.

Most recently we had 24 runners in the Oxford half marathon, 10 runners in the Blenheim 7k and a team of 12 take on Tough Mudder. THANK YOU all so much. They've raised a combined £12,000 for Thomley. Simply incredible.

# Get involved with fundraising in 2022...

Some of the popular events for this year will continue next year, including: The Oxford Half Marathon; Tough Mudder; Blenheim 7k; Quiz Night; Car boot; Football Tournament and the Charity Ball.

We will also be adding some new events and fundraisers, such as: an Easter market; Three Peaks challenge; Milton Keynes half marathon; and setting up a sponsored path at Thomley.

To register your interest early, please contact us: [fundraising@thomley.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@thomley.org.uk)



# Thanks to Royds Withy King and Lucy Electric...

A huge THANK YOU to a team of five employees from Royds Withy King who joined us in October to help on site with various jobs.

The day consisted of filling up the sandpit with two tonnes of sand (by hand!), building a wooden shop for the imagination room, painting around the site and lastly sorting through our bikes and trikes.



Another fantastic group that joined us in November were a fantastic team from Lucy Electric in Thame.

The group spent the day lifting, shifting, building, moving and generally grafting! They got so much done and saved us HOURS of staff time.

Thank you so much to both groups. We have a very small maintenance team and a very big site! So we often struggle to keep up with the long list of jobs indoor and out.

If you would like to volunteer for Thomley and help us maintain our ever-growing site, please contact us: [fundraising@thomley.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@thomley.org.uk)