



My name is Carol-Anne McCollum and, together with Laura Passenger, I have been supporting Thornborough Infant School in the absence of the Headteacher. Mrs Quirke has been away from the school due to illness and Laura and I are committed to supporting the school in her absence.

It's been an exciting time during the spring term, with improvements to both our facilities and learning experiences. Having received planning permission, we were delighted to have the new canopy fitted to ensure that pupils can access outdoor learning in all weathers. We also secured funding to have the back playground resurfaced and this was completed during the Easter holidays.

Children in the Early Years have benefitted from the reintroduction of Forest School, which has been taking place, weekly, onsite. We've secured the services of Mr Mud who has equipped the children with saws, hammers and nails to make their own mud kitchen and to plant wild flowers. The children have been enjoying activities designed to build their resilience, develop team building and appreciate our natural environment. We are keen to find a piece of local woodland to utilise, ideally with a stream or pond in the village, so we can extend the range of activities we offer. If there is anyone who may be able to help, please contact the school.

Ears have been ringing in music lessons with the introduction of Whole-Class Musicianship lessons, delivered by specialists, as all Year 1 and 2 children are taught the violin! You may want to avoid visiting on a Wednesday morning! We hope to put a little 'performance' on for local residents, in the front playground, before the end of July as we know that the villagers enjoy seeing the children out and about. In recognition of that and following community feedback, we also hope to reintroduce the Daily Mile activity in the coming months.

Recently, we've welcomed parents to celebrate the King's Coronation, where the children sang some rousing songs, wore their hand-crafted crowns and sat upon a very regal throne, while the parents enjoyed a splendid afternoon tea. Earlier in the spring we welcomed parents to become Mystery Readers, with a number of parents surprising their children and telling stories at the end of the day and more recently we held a reading session to develop parents' understanding of how we teach these days. We are so very fortunate that we are so well supported by our families!

Like all other schools, our numbers are a little down for September due to it being a low-birth rate year for the incoming cohort so if you know any families looking for a space in September, please send them our way!

I look forward to meeting some of you in due course.

Carol-Anne McCollum