



## **10,000 CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD GET A MAGICAL DAY OUT THEY WILL REMEMBER FOREVER AND 100 OF THEM ARE GOING TO THORPE PARK RESORT**

On **8<sup>th</sup> May 2014** THORPE PARK Resort is hosting 100 children as their VIPs for an all-expenses-paid special day out, courtesy of **Merlin's Magic Wand**.

As one of the leading entertainment organisations in the world, Merlin Entertainments plc, define their values not just by the passionate way they do business but also by the way they treat their visitors, their people, their suppliers, and the communities in which they operate – and Merlin's Magic Wand is an important part of that.

Merlin's Magic Wand is their very special company charity, which provides both great days out for seriously ill, disabled or disadvantaged children at all Merlin's attractions around the world; and works with local organisations to fund specialist play areas for those children too sick to visit them.

The visit to THORPE PARK Resort is part of a very special global event to celebrate the opening of Merlin's 100<sup>th</sup> attraction this year, and the children who visit will be joined by thousands of others across the 22 countries in which Merlin operate.

Mike Vallis Divisional Director said: 'This is what THORPE PARK Resort is all about – children getting the chance to scream louder, laugh harder and share an amazing time with their family and friends whilst at the Resort.'

----- Ends -----

For further information please contact the THORPE PARK Resort Press Office at [press.office@thorpe-park.co.uk](mailto:press.office@thorpe-park.co.uk) or call 01932 577130

### **About THORPE PARK Resort**

With over 25 exhilarating rides and attractions to enjoy, THORPE PARK Resort is the 'must do' destination for thrill and chill seeking families and friends – located just 10 miles from Greater London. NEW for 2014, fans can experience ANGRY BIRDS Land and 4D experience before settling down for a night in the Resort's uniquely themed accommodation, situated in the heart of the action. Brave iconic rides such as the UK's first winged rollercoaster THE SWARM, SAW – The Ride, the world's first horror movie themed rollercoaster, STEALTH, one of Europe's fastest and tallest roller coasters and COLOSSUS, the world's first ten inversion rollercoaster, as well as attractions such as RUSH, the world's largest Speed Swing and SLAMMER, Europe's first Sky Swat. Younger theme park fans can grab their adrenaline apprenticeship as they ride on a wave of light and sound on junior coaster X, before enjoying rides like the gravity defying ZODIAC and magic carpet ride QUANTUM. There

are also FIVE water rides to excite the whole family, including the ultimate super-soaker TIDAL WAVE, STORM SURGE and LOGGER'S LEAP.

- THORPE PARK Resort is open for the full season from 20 March to 9 November 2014. Visit [THORPEPARK.com](http://THORPEPARK.com) for more information
- Advance online booking rates available from £24.99 adults, £19.99 children (under 12 years) – over 40% saving when you book 2 days in advance
- For year-round group savings and benefits, including free group leader tickets, go to Merlin Groups ([merlingroups.com](http://merlingroups.com)). Group sizes start at just 7 people and bookings can be made online or by calling 0871 663 1673 (calls cost 10p per minute plus network extras)
- Fastrack tickets, VIP experiences and special event offers are available online when booking in advance at THORPEPARK.com
- Height restrictions apply on certain rides
- Download the THORPE PARK Resort iOS and Android Official App for FREE from the App Store. <http://www.thorpepark.com/plan-your-visit/thorpe-park-official-app.aspx>
- Follow THORPE PARK Resort on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/THORPEPARK](http://www.facebook.com/THORPEPARK), Twitter, [www.twitter.com/THORPEPARK](http://www.twitter.com/THORPEPARK) and YouTube [www.youtube.com/wwwTHORPEPARKcom](http://www.youtube.com/wwwTHORPEPARKcom), Instagram, [www.instagram.com/THORPEPARKofficial](http://www.instagram.com/THORPEPARKofficial)
- For press information visit [www.thorpepark.com/press](http://www.thorpepark.com/press) and for high resolution images of THORPE PARK Resort that are available to download free of charge visit [www.thorpepark.com/imagebank](http://www.thorpepark.com/imagebank).
- Nearest Train Station: Staines – just 32 minutes from London Waterloo
- Buses: 950 shuttle link between Staines Station and THORPE PARK Resort runs every 12 – 15 minutes
- THORPE PARK Resort – Staines Road, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 8PN

#### **About MERLIN ENTERTAINMENTS PLC**

MERLIN ENTERTAINMENTS plc is the leading name in location-based, family entertainment. Europe's Number 1 and the world's second-largest visitor attraction operator, Merlin now operates 99 attractions, 9 hotels/3 holiday villages in 22 countries and across 4 continents. The company aims to deliver memorable and rewarding experiences to its 54 million visitors worldwide, through its iconic global and local brands, and the commitment and passion of its managers and more than 22,000 employees.

Among Merlin's attractions are - SEA LIFE, Madame Tussauds, LEGOLAND, The EDF Energy London Eye, Dungeons, Gardaland, LEGOLAND Discovery Centres, Alton Towers Resort, Warwick Castle, THORPE PARK Resort, Blackpool Tower, Heide Park Resort, WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo, Sydney Tower Eye and SKYWALK, Siam Ocean World and Busan Aquarium. All brands which are distinctive, challenging and innovative – and which have great potential for growth in the future. Visit [www.merlinentertainments.biz](http://www.merlinentertainments.biz) for more information.