



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day **Thameside In-touch!**

Edition 5: 25th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have enjoyed reading our recent newsletters and finding out about what has been happening at Thameside School. We continue to be incredibly proud of all our children and everything they have achieved so far this year; it really is a pleasure to visit classes each day. They are all stars!



This edition of Thameside In-touch includes some of the events that have taken place over the past two weeks – most notably the Year 6 residential! We hope that you enjoyed following our photos on social media and seeing what they got up to!

Last week was antibullying week and the whole school took part in a range of activities; we were impressed with children's responses and how well they were able to explain what they would do if they felt someone was being bullied. Everyone listened respectfully during Miss Polley's assembly and our celebration assembly also recognised those children who had shown kindness each and every day.

We have a number of exciting events over the next few weeks, including an author visit and book signing as well as our PTA Christmas Fayre; we are looking forward to seeing you there! We are also looking forward to the Yr5/6 Football league game at home Vs Rush Common on Friday 2nd December.

Finally, we will also be holding our very first 'Star of the Term' assembly on the last day of term and parents of this term's 'stars' will be invited to come and watch their certificates being presented and spend some time looking at their books.

We wish you all a lovely weekend despite the rather soggy end to the week!

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

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Arriving on time

Please can we take the opportunity to remind parents and carers about the importance of arriving on time at school; we have noticed that the number of children arriving late, after 8.40am, has started to increase. This not only results in missed learning, but can also be unsettling for children arriving at school after their peers. If you need any support, please do get in touch with the school office as we would be happy to help and support our families.



Focus on.. The Year 6 residential!



Our Year 6 children had a fantastic time on their residential last week – this is a really important part of our extra-curricular provision at Thameside as it develops so many skills and provides an incredible set of experiences, as well as providing a wonderful opportunity for children and staff to develop even stronger relationships.

It is always a highlight of our children's time at Thameside and provides life-long memories. The staff were incredibly proud of their resilience and the week was quite simply filled with lots of smiles and joy! We hope that you enjoyed seeing our daily updates on the school Facebook page during the week, including some

'snapshots' of climbing, zip wires and fantastic team building activities!

We were also delighted that the children were modelling our Thameside values throughout the trip – showing respect, resilience and kindness throughout. Well done everyone; we are proud of you all!



What our children felt:

'It was really fun- we learnt how to climb and jump down from up high!'

'It was amazing; we learnt some survival skills!'

'I liked it when Mr Dineen went down the zip wire.'

'There were so many laughs; it made me smile.'

Class reviews

Year 5/6

Following the Year 6 Residential, where many of the children, conquered their fears, we have had an eventful week, with the rescue of a Hedgehog who was snuffling around in the car park on Tuesday. Miss Clark took the injured Hog to St Tiggywinkles to get medical attention - the class named it Sonic! Keeping the animal theme going, the children have completed some research to find out interesting facts about animals to help them in their persuasive writing - they need to convince the other children in KS2 that their chosen animal is the most important in the world! There have been some interesting thoughts on



animals - even the vulture and spiders are being considered! Moving into the Festive period, our RE learning is taking us on a journey through the Christmas Story, looking at it from different Biblical perspectives.

Year 4/5



So, this last week in Year 4/5 we have been researchers! Real researchers, can you believe it? We have also been finding fascinating facts and extraordinary evidence to use in our leaflet all about the local food bank. We have been looking more closely at persuasive writing and within this, focusing on some astonishing alliterations and remarkable rhetorical questions. In our History lessons we have been learning all about crime and punishment. Students have been investigating how the police have change over time and looking at what used to be illegal.

Year 3/4



In Year 3/4, we have thoroughly enjoyed being scientists this week! The children have shown enthusiasm and thoughtful approaches to the unit on magnets and forces. It has been lovely to see the children designing their own science experiments to answer scientific questions they have come up with: How can you tell a magnet from a magnetic material? Which magnet is the strongest? Are magnets just as powerful underwater as they are through the air? Which materials are magnetic? Are big magnets more powerful that small ones?

Year 2



Year 2 continue to be superstars and show a real enthusiasm for learning. Recently we have started to look further into the events of the Great fire of London, discovering the key events that led to the fire and who Samuel Pepys was. In Maths, the children have continued to develop their physical and mental skills for adding and subtracting. As well as developing our problem solving; remembering to read the question first!

Away from the classroom, it has been great to see the continued hard work with homework. Please keep reading, learning spellings, checking Timestable Rockstars and soon learning the Christmas play lines. We cannot wait to show you all!

Year 1



We have gone 'Castle Crazy' in Year 1! This term we are learning about Castles. We have built a castle big enough for us to play in and have built castles from Lego and building blocks. While doing this we learned lots of new vocabulary linked to castles, such as portcullis, drawbridge, moat, towers and turrets.

Reception and Nursery

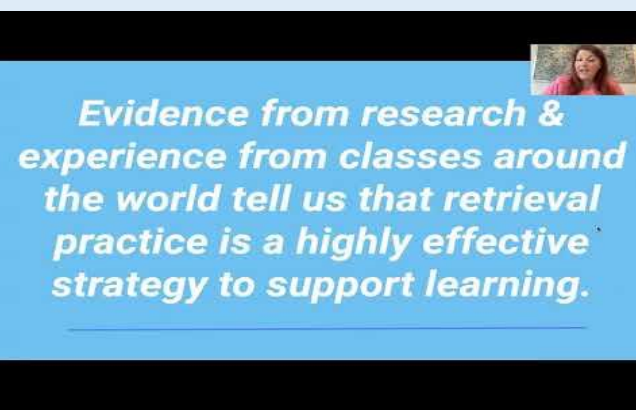


Nursery and Reception enjoyed celebrating World Nursery Rhyme week and learnt a new nursery rhyme every day. Nursery made their own frogs and then jumped around like 5 Little Speckled frogs. They also went on a dog hunt, finding the dogs hidden outside and then using them to sing B.I.N.G.O while clapping along to the beat. Reception made their own fishing rods (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught A Fish Alive), fixed Humpty Dumpty with plasters, danced along like animals to Old MacDonald Had A Farm and made a class bus with all sorts of passengers!

Teaching and Learning update

This term, our staff training has been focussed around helping our children 'know more and remember more' across the curriculum.

Teachers attended a fantastic session which focussed on the research behind, and the use of, 'retrieval practice' which helps children to recall what they have learnt in their lessons over a period of time. We talked about lots of different ways that we can support children with this in our lessons, for example using start of lesson recaps on 'sticky knowledge' and quizzing.



We have linked below a great video which explains what retrieval practice is for parents and carers – please do take a look!

[Retrieval Practice: A guide for parents, carers & families - YouTube](#)



Our stars of the week!

Well done to our 'Stars of the Week' for this week and well done to every single star so far this year!

Year 1: Alina

Year 2: Wolfie

Year 3/4: Jacob

Year 4/5: Bluebelle

Year 5/6: Arya



TTRockstars and Timestables at home!

Well done to everyone who has continued to practise at home. We now have lots of children moving up the leaderboard and continuing to make fantastic progress with their timestables. School staff have also commented on the positive impact this is having in Maths lessons.

Special mentions this week go to:

- **Cody, Evan and Daisy in Mr Dineen's class**
- **Finn, Lochlan and Peter in Mr McDowell's class**
- **Thomas, Chloe and Stanley in Miss Clark's class**
- **Estrela, Ruby and Brooklyn in Miss Bourne's class**

All of you have continued to work hard to improve your lifetime earnings points.

Remember you can also play against each other! If you click 'multiplayer' when you log on and then select 'Arena', you will be able to play against others in your class. Year 5 and 6 had great fun playing against each other last week... it was super to see their competitive sides come out!



Online safety

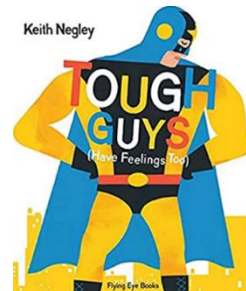
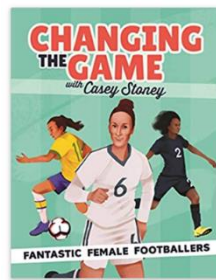
Keeping children safe online is a fundamental part of our work at Thameside – online safety is covered as part of our PSHE curriculum, our Computing curriculum and through annual events such as Internet Safety Week.

Children are taught what to do if they have any concerns about any online content that they have encountered and who they can talk to in school.

There is lots of information on our website to help support parents and carers to keep children safe at home on the internet, and we have also released our **first online safety newsletter which, this term, focuses on parental controls.**

We will be sharing new updates each term and holding a parent information evening later this year, Please do take a look at the **online safety page on our website** or at the following link: [download.asp \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](https://download.asp.thamesideschool.co.uk)

Library Corner



This week's recommendations are inspired by the kick off of the football World Cup! There are lots of other sporty books in our Reading Hive display and the non-fiction section of the school library.

'Changing the Game' by Casey Stoney is a really attractively-laid out set of biographies of successful female footballers, alongside inspirational quotations. A fantastic read if you've been inspired by the achievements of our Lionesses or would just like to find out more about the stories of determined women from a whole range of countries who have fought hard to play the beautiful game at the top level.

'Go! Go! Chichico' by Geraldine McCaughrean is a great story from the Little Gems collection which are printed in dyslexic-friendly fonts and on cream coloured paper to support those who find reading a little harder. Chichico is a young boy living in the slums of Brazil who gets the invitation of his dreams – to try out for Brazil's top team, Santos Brazil. Will he make it? Read it to find out! (AR: Book Level 3.4 / 2,9488 words / Age 5+)

'Tough Guys (Have Feelings Too)' by Keith Negley uses powerful images of different male figures to show that being physically big or strong doesn't mean you don't experience all the different human emotions. There's very little text in the book, but it really gets you thinking. A great book for starting a conversation about feelings and to bust some myths!

Accelerated Reader

The children have been continuing to quiz on their books and their combined word count is now over **three million words since September – incredible!**



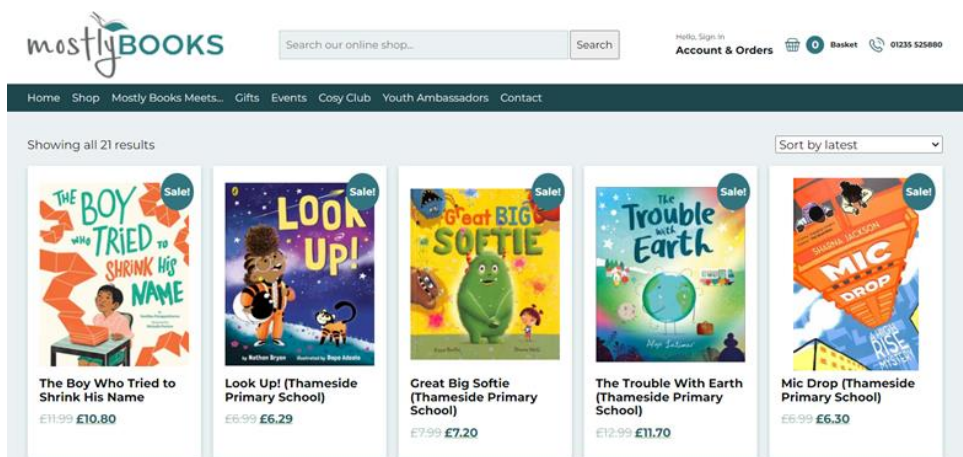
We had a special delivery this week - 'Word Millionaire' badges, kindly donated to Thameside by another school in the Vale Academy Trust. This is an accolade for our most confident readers to aim for – reading one million words in just one year. There are already quite a few pupils on track, so we're watching the leader board to see who will be the first to hit that amazing milestone!

The link you need to quiz from home is: www.tinyurl.com/dk98jpc
The password is ABC.

Thameside Reading Wishlist at 'Mostly Books'

We have teamed up with local independent bookshop, 'Mostly Books', to create a wish list of texts that we'd love for our class reading corners:
[Thameside Primary School Archives - Mostly Books \(mostly-books.co.uk\)](http://Thameside Primary School Archives - Mostly Books (mostly-books.co.uk))

If you would like to gift us a book – maybe as a Christmas present to the school – then please do check out our wish list online or pop in to talk to the lovely staff in the shop. Thank you so much!



Contacting Us!

Should you have any questions or concerns that you need help with, please contact the class teacher **via the school office email address or phone number** – they will then pass on your message and we will make sure that you receive a response within 48hours.

We have been experiencing some technical difficulties the past couple of weeks, so we apologise if it has taken longer to respond than normal; we hope that this is now resolved. Please do get in touch – we are always more than happy to help!

School admissions information

Applications for a place in Reception for September 2023 and can be made at the following link [Reception applications | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Please remember that if your child is in our Thameside Nursery, you still need to apply for a place via the link above.

If you would like a tour, please do contact the office and we would love to show you around!

Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Primary school place – you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2018** and **31 August 2019**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2023**.

Apply online at

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

– it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.



For help and information:

Web: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Email: admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Tel: **0345 241 2487**



Key Diary

dates

- Wednesday 30th November – author visit kindly funded by the PTA
- Friday 9th December 3.00pm – 5.30pm - PTA Christmas Fayre
- Monday 12th December – 3.00pm – 4.00pm - Thameside Reading Café! (see letter sent this week)
- Wednesday 14th December – Christmas dinner
- Thursday 15th December – KS1 Christmas performance (am) – details to follow
- Friday 16th December – KS1 Christmas performance (pm) – details to follow
- Monday 19th December – Nursery and Foundation Stage Christmas sing song! Details to follow.
- Tuesday 20th December – Star of the Term assembly and last day of term (early finish at 1.30pm)

FRIDAY, 9TH DECEMBER



An event for all the family to enjoy!

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM



Crafts & Stalls



Face Painting



Santa's Grotto



Mulled wine



Festive Games



Cake sale

THAMESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL , ABINGDON

