



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

**Edition 6: 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last two weeks have certainly been jam-packed at Thameside! We welcomed out new Nursery children for their visits; enjoyed a fantastic author event; hosted a brilliant football match and today is our **PTA Christmas Fayre** to get us all in the festive spirit!

Our children have continued to work incredibly hard - teachers have spent this week completing their end of term assessments to capture children's progress



and achievements since of the start of the year – of which there have been many! I have loved visiting classrooms and hearing our children share their work with pride and talk animatedly about their learning.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support in ensuring that children arrive on time to school – the number of children who are arriving late is reducing considerably, and as a result, the children are able to access valuable learning time. We appreciate your continued support with this.

**We have however had a number of children being picked up late – please note that school finishes at 3.00pm. Due to staffing, we are only able to accommodate children who have booked in advance for Stay and Play Club. Thank you for your support with this.**

We are very much looking forward to the last two weeks of term with our festive performances; Christmas lunches; our Star of the Term assembly and lots of happy, smiling faces! Our final newsletter of the term will be sent out on the last day of term; Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

*Laura Youngman*

Headteacher

## In this edition:

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- Football report
- Pupil Leadership round up
- Class reviews!
- Curriculum development update
- Stars of the week
- TTRockstars update!
- Library corner
- Diary dates



## Focus on..... Matt Oldfield author visit

It was fantastic to welcome Matt Oldfield to Thameside last week for a mixture of inspiring author talks and practical writing workshops. Matt, along with his brother Tom, have written over 70 successful books for young people, including the extremely popular 'Playground to Pitch' football biography series.



Matt spoke to all the children from Y1 to Y6 about why reading is so important and how he developed as a writer. The pupils asked some fantastic questions about the challenges of his job, as well as putting in some requests for his next book!

His visit inspired some wonderful writing from KS2 on the topic of their 'ultimate heroes' and Reggie in Y1 even made his own football book!

At the end of the day, Matt posed for a photo with our Y5/6 football team before meeting families in the hall for a book signing. A massive thank you to the PTA for funding this special event and for buying a copy of one of Matt's books for each classroom.



## Football report!



Team Thameside started the football league with a brilliant and respectful attitude.

We were really proud of the way they worked hard as a team and how they modelled our values. A brilliant performance and result. We are looking

forward to the next game against Dunmore after Christmas. Go Team Thameside!

**Here is an extract from an incredible match report written by Lois and Thomas:**

*'The next goal had simple but well-worked build up play. Thomas made a perfectly timed tackle and slid the ball through to Lois who smartly played it back for a simple, yet effective finish, from Thomas. 3-0 – the goals just kept flowing in. After that, there was no stopping us. Finn scored his second goal of the day. 4-0! Thomas scored another to make it a hattrick. As his team mates rushed towards him. It was now 5-0 but there was still one more in the tank. Another goal from Thomas and then match had finished 6-0! What a game.'*

## Pupil Leadership round up

Pupil Parliament met for the first time this term and had a hugely successful meeting. The Pupil Parliament members are so enthusiastic and came up with some incredible ideas for improving our school over the next year. We are busy working on a plan to implement some of these.

All children across the school can contribute to our plan, either by talking to their Pupil Parliament representative for their class or speaking to Mrs Putt. Please do share your fabulous ideas!



## Class reviews

### Year 5/6

Year 5 & 6 have been working hard to ensure they can persuade other children in KS2 that their chosen animal is the most important one in the world - they have all worked hard to find interesting facts and use persuasive techniques. Now to prepare for the scary part - presenting their speech to other classes! We are also coming to the end of our very exciting class reader *High Rise Mystery* and will soon find out who killed Hugo; the children have certainly developed their detective skills throughout the novel and used evidence to who the killer is, their motive and method!

### Year 4/5



This week we have certainly started to feel Christmassy. Anthony Horowitz class have been opening their puzzle advent calendar and completing a daily problem-solving question. Nothing says Christmas like problem-solving. We have also just finished our food bank leaflets which are all looking incredible. The students

worked really hard to create a persuasive leaflet encouraging people to make donations to their local food bank. Finishing the leaflets was a great

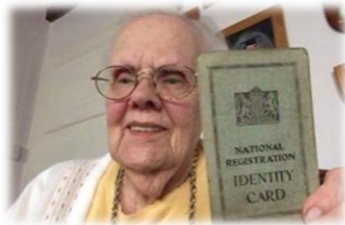


accomplishment but it also means we can finish the term with some Christmas poetry. For the run up to Christmas we will be looking across to the Emerald Isle for inspiration as we begin writing some hilarious, Christmas limericks.

In Year 4 Science we have continued to investigate electricity through using electrical circuits. This week students created their very own switches using just some cardboard, paperclips and pins. They then investigated what would happen to the circuit if the switch was opened and closed. The real exciting buzz came when we combined this new knowledge with another electrical component, buzzers, to design an intruder alarm which we will make and test next week.

## Year 3/4

Last week in history, we delved deeper into WW2. We had the exciting opportunity to do a video call with a WW2 survivor (Miss Bourne's Nan). She introduced herself as Nanny Iris! The children enjoyed listening to her experiences of being evacuated, hiding in a bomb shelter and rationing. The children then had the chance to ask historical questions about Nanny Iris's experiences. Year 3/4 asked questions such as:



- How long were you evacuated for?
- What did you do when bombs were dropped?
- How did you feeling being evacuated?
- What food did you have in your rations?
- What was it like inside your bomb shelter?
- What it is the scariest thing that happened?



The children were given the chance to see the weighed-out rations that people during WW2 had for a week and were shocked to see how few sweets they received! They were amazed that Nanny Iris was given a green cloak to wear to school so that her and her sister were less visible to enemy planes. On the way to school one morning, Iris and her sister Mary had to hide from a stray enemy plane in the hedgerow of a field!

## Year 2

We've been busy bees in Year 2, making the Christmas performance as good as we can for you. We cannot wait to show you all of the hard work that has gone into the performance. In Maths. we've started to focus on shape, looking at 2D shape properties. In English. the children have impressed me with their use of past tense, writing a recount about the Great fire of London. In other areas we've starting learning about living things in Science, made Christmas decorations for the school in DT and continue to impress with our

dancing in PE.

Thank you for your continued support with homework and learning lines.

**Please remember we will need your child's clothes for the performance in by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December.**

## Year 1



In Year one we have been learning about questions and question marks. First, we wrote some good questions and then we thought of the answers. We also wrote to King Charles to ask him what it was like to live in a castle.

## Reception and Nursery

Reception and Nursery have been practising their singing ready for their sing-song on 19<sup>th</sup> December – they have been working incredibly hard and sound wonderful! They have also been enjoying some festive books and Christmas-themed activities, such as Christmas tree counting!

## Curriculum update

A huge amount of work has taken place this term to develop and enhance our curriculum - we have also started to update our new website with our latest curriculum information, so please do take a look!

<p><b>Talk</b></p> <p>A Thameside scientist studies the natural and the physical world. They develop their natural curiosity as they explore, investigate, experiment with, and question the world around them. Children can articulate their scientific knowledge and ask questions, explain ideas and discuss their thinking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ PAC (Philosophy for Children) a chance to discuss scientific issues.</li><li>➤ Regular celebration of learning in our school community.</li><li>➤ Success sharing gives children the opportunity to talk to their parents about their science learning.</li><li>➤ Key scientific vocabulary is progressive throughout the school and is explicitly taught and applied.</li></ul>	<p><b>Read</b></p> <p>A Thameside scientist is inspired to use books and other written sources to learn about the world around them. They regularly have access to sources to deepen their knowledge and understanding of a theme or concept. Children also use books to reflect on historical aspects of science and to research famous scientists and their impact on the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ N- The colourful chameleon</li><li>➤ R- Jack and the beanstalk</li><li>➤ Y1 - The Emperor's Egg</li><li>➤ Y4 - Internet sources to research Electrical safety</li></ul>
<p><b>Think</b></p> <p>A Thameside scientist reflects on their previous learning to continue to build scientific skills and knowledge as they move through the school. Independent scientific thinking informs their predictions and helps them to be creative in their approach to scientific enquiry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Y1 - Exploration of plants.</li><li>➤ Y2 - Use of materials in everyday life.</li><li>➤ Y4 - Exploring electricity at Abingdon School.</li><li>➤ Y6 - Use of curiosity box to make light up Christmas cards.</li></ul>	<p><b>Link</b></p> <p>A Thameside scientist is able to use their breadth of experiences to make links across and within the key concepts studied. Lessons help develop the children's science capital through their learning and experiences in school promoting a love for science and possible future STEM careers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Key concepts are referred to and built upon at the start of each science lesson. (Science suitcase)</li><li>➤ Each year group studies specific famous scientists</li></ul>

## Thameside Primary School - Our Learning and Curriculum ([thamesideschool.co.uk](http://thamesideschool.co.uk))

Some of the key projects that we have been working on this term are:

- Mapping our curriculum areas closely to our 'drivers' that underpin our teaching and learning at Thameside.
- Training for teachers focused around Geography and Science.

- Launching a new and exciting approach to the teaching of Writing – staff have received training this term and are looking forward to teaching their new units!



## 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: Norah**

**Year 2: Bailey**

**Year 3/4: Alfie**

**Year 4/5: Tilly-Mae**

**Year 5/6: Darcy**



## TTRockstars and Timestables at home!

We have continued to work hard on our timestables both at home and in school. This week we have focussed on the accuracy of our timestables on TTRS.

A huge well done to: **Ava (Year 2), Matts (Year 3), Evan (Year 2), Daria (Year 2), Maisie (Year 3), Allannah (Year 2), Bailey (Year 2), Theo (Year 3), Daisy (Year 2), Lily-May (Year 2), Cody (Year 2) and Antoni (Year 2)**. These children have all been working hard on their accuracy. Mr Dineen also topped the leader board for teacher accuracy... Year 2 have clearly been practising!

Remember to use 'the studio' if you want to progress your rock status.

## Library Corner and Christmas Book Café / Sale

This week we're recommending a Christmas tradition which is a lovely way to celebrate together on Christmas Eve. **Jolabokafloð** is originally from Iceland where families give each other books and then spend the evening reading.



Why not start this tradition with your children this Christmas? It doesn't have to be fancy or expensive – sitting down together for 30min to read a few pre-loved books from a local charity shop with some hot chocolate and biscuits will be perfect!

There will be the chance to buy Christmas books, as well as other fiction and non-fiction, at the **reading café next Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October**. Paperbacks are only 50p and hardbacks will be £1. What a bargain! Come along for some free squash and biscuits, browse the stall and share a story with your children. We'd love to see you there!



## Accelerated Reader

The pupils have continued to quiz brilliantly on the Accelerated Reader app and loads of them have shown improved reading ages as a result – amazing work, everyone! In one class, the children have made six months' progress in their reading in just half that time, which is an incredible achievement.

The app is now available at the weekends to use, so please encourage your children to quiz at home after every finished book: [www.tinyurl.com/dk98jpc](http://www.tinyurl.com/dk98jpc)

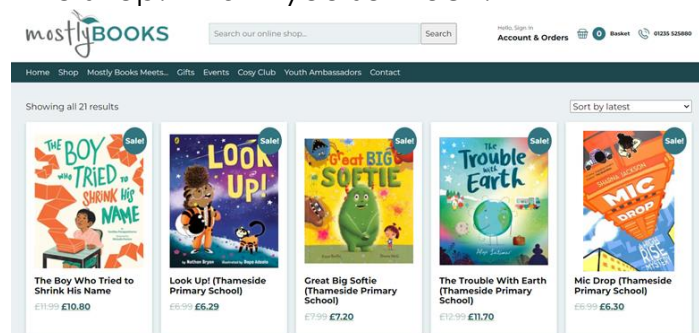


## Thameside Reading Wishlist at 'Mostly Books' - a reminder!

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://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!



## Important update on Scarlet fever and Strep

There has been a recent national increase in notifications of scarlet fever to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), above seasonal expected levels.

### Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A Streptococcus (GAS). It is not usually serious, but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications (such as pneumonia) and spread to others. The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours, the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and be pale around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a bright red red 'strawberry' tongue.

If you think you, or your child, might have scarlet fever:

- contact your GP or NHS 111 as soon as possible

- make sure that you or your child take(s) the full course of any antibiotics prescribed. Although you or your child will feel better soon after starting the course of antibiotics, you must complete the course to ensure that you do not carry the bacteria in your throat after you have recovered
- stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection

You can help stop the spread of infection through frequent hand washing and by not sharing eating utensils, clothes, bedding and towels. All contaminated tissues should be disposed of immediately.

### **Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)**

The same bacteria which cause scarlet fever can also cause a range of other types of infection such as skin infections (impetigo) and sore throat. In very rare cases, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive group A strep (iGAS). Whilst still very uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years old. It is very rare for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection.

As a parent, you should trust your own judgement.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

### **Stop the spread**

During periods of high incidence of scarlet fever, there may also be an increase in outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other childcare settings. Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should stay off nursery / school / work until 24 hours after the start of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling spread of infection.



## 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 48 hours.

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](http://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](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)  
Email: [admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
Tel: **0345 241 2487**



**Deadline for applications is 15 January 2023**



OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL

## Family Links

### **Family Links -The Nurturing Programme Starting on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

What is the Nurturing Programme?

We will look at understanding why children behave as they do  
Recognising the feelings and behaviour (ours and theirs)  
Exploring different approaches to discipline  
Finding ways to develop co-operation and self-discipline in children  
Learning the importance of looking after ourselves

The Nurturing Programme helps deal with those challenges so that you can have a calmer, happier life.

If you would like further information about this programme, please contact our Home School Link Workers, Alison and Mandy, on 01235 527600 Option 1 or email them on [hslw.2598@thameside.vale-academy.org](mailto:hslw.2598@thameside.vale-academy.org).

## Key Diary dates

- **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 3.00pm – 5.30pm - PTA Christmas Fayre. We can't wait to see you!**
- **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December – 3.00pm – 4.00pm - Thameside Reading Café in the main hall. (see letter sent )**
- **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas dinner**
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 Christmas performance**
- **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 Christmas performance**
- **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Nursery and Foundation Stage Christmas sing song!**
- **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Star of the Term assembly (9am) and last day of term (early finish at 1.30pm)**

**\*\*Our term dates for next year, 2023-2024, are also now available at the following link:**

**[Term dates](#)**



## Event at Abingdon Library

[Abingdon Library | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

**Children's Author Talk with Sam Langley-Swain:** Saturday 10 December 2022 2.30 – 3.30 pm



*A Christmas story time with children's author Samuel Langley-Swain, reading from his wonderful, new picture book: Where Björn Belongs.*

This is a beautifully illustrated book with magical winter scenes. A story of love, friendship and hope, it tells the tale of a very special bond between a boy and a bear.

Copies will be available on the day for purchase and signing.

Most suited for children aged 8 and under, we will welcome children of all ages with their grown up.

**Please come to the library or call us on 01235 520374 to register for this event.**

## Winter Mini Reading Challenge 2022

Join in with The Reading Agency's Gadgeteers, Winter Mini Challenge 2022

Oxfordshire Libraries are excited to announce the return of the Winter Mini Challenge! The Reading Agency has teamed up again with the Science Museum Group to bring back the Gadgeteers from this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

It starts on Thursday 1st December 2022 and finishes on Sunday 20th February 2023.

Parents and carers can register their children for free at [wintermini.org.uk](http://wintermini.org.uk)

The children set their own reading challenge. A target of 3 books is recommended.

They can read any books for their Challenge, including eBooks or eAudio which can be borrowed for free from Oxfordshire Libraries.

For some brilliant book ideas a collection will be available on our Overdrive platform: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ebooks](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ebooks) .

Parents and carers can join their children to the library by visiting [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)

Children rate and review the books they have read on the Winter Mini Challenge website to unlock virtual rewards and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate.

There are also games, reading activities and book reviews on the website.

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**

