



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

Edition 8: 13th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023! We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a restful break over the festive period!

It was such a joy to end the term with our 'Star of the Term Assembly' celebrating those children who had gone above and beyond since September – we look forward to our next one just before Easter. We have already seen from their hard work, that it is going to be yet another tricky decision to make for our teachers! For example, we were incredibly impressed with how many of our Year 6 children joined our first 'Reading Drop in' session before school – we had a huge group of children attending!

It has been wonderful to have all of the children back in school and to see them so enthusiastic, excited and focussed on their learning. We started the term with a New Year assembly led by Mrs Youngman where we thought about what we wanted to achieve; improve on and grow in 2023 – we also recapped our school values and motto together, including our new addition of '**showing kindness**' which was suggested by our pupils.

We also welcomed our new lovely new Nursery children, Mrs Stacey Smithson (Early Years Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Lucy Hendry (Nursery Manager) to our Thameside family – please take a look at the article introducing Mrs Hendry later in this edition!

We do appreciate that this may be a challenging time for families and we have included a list of links where you can gain support if you need later in this newsletter. As always, please do ask to speak to one of our home school link workers if you have any questions or queries.

We are very much looking forward to a very busy and productive term ahead – please do keep an eye on our website, social media pages and 'Thameside In Touch' for the latest updates. As always, please do catch a member of the

team if you have any questions – we are always on the gate at the start of the day and would be happy to help.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Laura Youngman Headteacher

In this edition:

- **Focus on..... Our curriculum leaders**

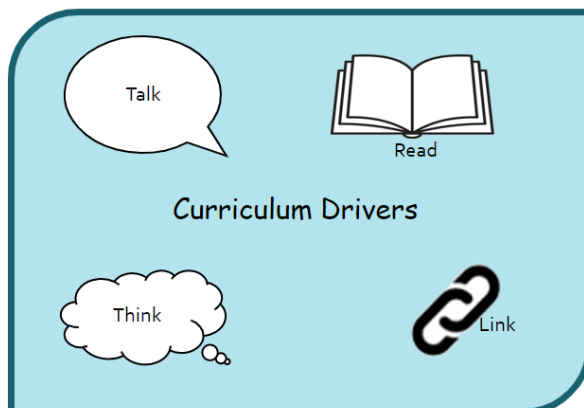
Termly Curriculum Information

- **Miss Polley's update!**
- **Introducing.. ... Mrs Hendry**
- **Class reviews!**
- **Stars of the Week**
- **TTRockstars update!**
- **Library corner**
- **Support for families**
- **Diary dates**



Focus on...our curriculum leaders

At Thameside, our teachers play an important role in making sure that our curriculum vision is embedded; ensuring that it inspires a love of learning in our children and that the most important knowledge taught in the classroom each day, 'sticks' and helps children to make links in their learning.



Our subject leaders work collaboratively with our senior leaders to shape our curriculum to support the context of our school; create clear and cohesive progression documents and monitor the impact of this work on children's learning. More information can be found on our website but we wanted to share which subject each of our staff lead:

[Thameside Primary School - Subjects \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)

Subject	Subject Lead
English (Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening)	Ms Daniell and Miss Clark
Phonics and Early Reading	Miss O Neill
Maths and History	Mrs Putt
Science and Music	Miss Cross
Religious Education and Personal, Social, Health Education	Mrs Cottrell and Mrs Youngman
Physical Education and Art	Mr Dineen
Computing, Geography and Design Technology	Miss Bourne
Spanish	Miss Formis

Termly Curriculum Overviews

We are always striving to communicate with parents and families about what our children are learning in school. So, this term we are launching our new termly curriculum overviews! The overview will include lots of information about what your child will be learning across the curriculum as well as the key vocabulary they will be focusing for that term.

We hope this will give you a deeper insight into the learning happening in your child's class and support you with the discussions you have about your child's learning at home.

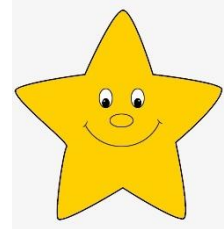
Look out for the first overview next week!

Miss Polley's update!

Please find below some updates from our Inclusion Lead, Miss Polley!

Star Club!

Last Friday, we had our very first Star Club! Star Club is for children who help care for someone at home or who have someone in their family who has medical needs. We held a Reception and KS1 group and then a KS2 group later in the afternoon. All the children loved playing games and being very creative with the Arts and Crafts. We ended with a parachute game, and we were a great team!



If you think your child might be caring for someone at home or has an immediate family member with a medical condition, please contact Miss Polley via the school office.

Punctuality Rewards

There has been a huge improvement with the late arrivals using the raffle reward system -thank you for everyone's support! The children love seeing who receive a prize in celebration assembly. Please keep aiming to be in school for **8.40am** so the children can earn more raffle tickets and so that they do not miss valuable learning time. Every moment in school makes a difference!



Monitoring of Attendance and Punctuality

We have been very busy looking at our attendance figures and we will be in contact with families whose children have fallen below 94% for their attendance. This will be a supportive offer of what we can do help improve your child's attendance. Please contact Miss Polley if you have any questions.

Keeping Safe Recap

Just a reminder that the Pantosaurus is a great resource to help young children understand how to keep them safe. The very catchy song can be found here [Talk PANTS & Join Pantosaurus - The Underwear Rule | NSPCC](#)



Introducing.....Mrs. Hendry our new Nursery Manager!



1. **Favourite chocolate bar? (important things first!)**

Cadbury's Boost

2. **Place of birth?**

Oxford

3. **Favourite place in all the world?**

Wherever my boys are!

4. **Favourite book?**

'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy. This book helped me and my boys stay positive though lockdown.

5. **Favourite film?**

The Holiday

6. **Favourite song?**

'Giant' by Rag and Bone Man (A good motivational song)

7. **Last meal on earth is likely to be?**

Cheese, cheese and more cheese!

8. **When I was little, I wanted to grow up to be**

A teacher

9. **Unlikely interesting fact about you?**

I am a keen runner and will be running the London Marathon for the first time this year in April.

Class reviews

Year 5/6



It has been a creative start to the term, beginning our 'Express Yourself' art journey, which involved designing an outfit to show our personalities - we have quite a selection of footballers and fashionistas! Although not everyone was convinced when it was revealed they would be doing a Dance unit in PE, our first session helped them to overcome their shyness and give the

'Haka' a go, as well as to explore the meaning and history behind the famous sporting routine.

Year 4/5

In Anthony Horowitz class we have dived straight into our new English topic, biographies. We will be taking a look into the work and life of Banksy with the aim to create our very own Banksy biography. We have spent time exploring street art and graffiti, taking a virtual tour of the East Side Gallery in Berlin. From this, we have been debating whether graffiti is art or vandalism which has led to some very different opinions. We have explored a book all about Banksy and have started to investigate some of the key pieces of vocabulary looking to define these words and find synonyms which we can use in our writing.



On Wednesday we started our new computing topic where we have been using software to record our own audio, we started off with recording some knock knock jokes, there was a very rude interrupting cow in lots of the recordings! Once we have got to grips with the software, we will be working to record our very own small podcast.

Year 3/4

Year 3 and 4 have had a great start to 2023! They have been learning all about synonyms in English and creating fact families in Maths. It has wonderful to see them enjoying their fantastic Science unit too – they learnt about the different types of rock through a demonstration from Miss Bourne using Starburst sweets – there was certainly lots of 'awe and wonder' in the room!

Well done everyone!

Year 2

It's been a lively start to 2023 in Year 2 with the introduction of our new book in English, 'The Disgusting Sandwich'. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school. The children were tricked into thinking I'd eaten a disgusting sandwich and then enjoyed exploring the brilliant vocabulary the book has to offer. We had an amazing lesson on extending vocabulary related to all things gruesome and disgusting!

In other areas of the curriculum, we are focusing on 3D shapes and their properties in Maths, Food from around the UK in Geography, Dodgeball and Dance in PE, along with much more.

As always, please let me know if we can help with anything and thank you for your ongoing support.

Year 1



Year 1 have been Gruffalo hunting this week! We read the story and listened carefully to the passages that described him. Armed with our clipboards, we then went into the forest and found his features. The knobbly knees were the hardest to find but we located them all in the end. Over the next two weeks, we are going to be inventing and describing our own scary creatures.

Reception

Reception have spent the week enjoying the story 'The Smartest Giant in Town' and thinking about how kind and caring the giant was to everyone. We made our own 'giant' and created plenty of clothes for him to wear, as well as



thinking about ways that we can be kind and caring everyday too. We also decided that it is a bit lonely being on your own, so it would be really kind to make some friends for our giant. He is now joined by Rose the Prettiest Giant in Town, Mrs Hardy the Best Giant in Town, Daisy the Loveliest Giant in Town and lots more!



Nursery

I have had a fantastic first week in Nursery. Everyone has been very welcoming and it has been lovely to meet all the children and start to get to know them. This term we are looking at journeys. This week, we have read 'The Journey Home from Grandpa's'. The children seemed to enjoy listening to the book and joining in with the song. Then we spoke about how we get to school and drew a picture of this. We explored the vehicles in the messy play tray with the jelly bath and liked doing digging outside in the garden. I am starting to look at the children's number knowledge and we will be building on this in the coming weeks.



Our stars of the Week!

Well done to our Stars of the Week

Year 1: Darina

Year 2: Lily-May

Year 3/4: Marshall

Year 4/5: Harvey

Year 5/6: Hallie-Rose



TTRockstars and Timestables at home!



We have seen the children continuing to work hard on improving their timestables. Lots of children were even practicing over the Christmas holidays, which we were really impressed by!

A huge well done to **Riley M**, **Georgia W** and **Haroon** for racking up the most minutes over the previous 14 days!

If anyone is struggling to log in at home, please let your class teachers know

Learning at home resources

Please do check out our website which is continuing to grow! We have included lots of new information about our curriculum and resources to help support you at home on the following pages:

[Thameside Primary School - Keeping Safe \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)

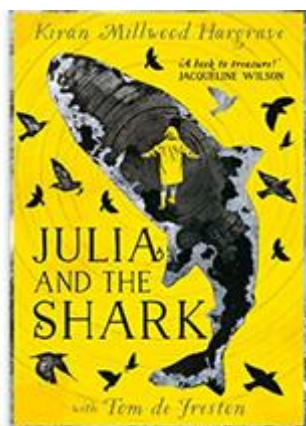
[Thameside Primary School - Families and Learning at home \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)

We have also included some resources to support our children with the statutory assessments in Year 4 (Multiplication Check) and the SATs in Year 6 – please do check back regularly for updates!

[Thameside Primary School - Preparing for Assessments \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)

Library Corner

Very excitingly, Thameside are going to be taking part in the Oxfordshire Book Awards this year. This involves reading the shortlisted books and then voting on which ones we think are the best. There are two categories – Best Picture Book and Best Junior Novel – and I'll be sharing the texts with you in the newsletters.



'**Julia and the Shark**' by local author **Kiran Millwood Hargrave**, illustrated by her husband **Tom de Freston**, is a very moving story about a girl who moves to a remote Scottish island for the summer so that her mother can look for an elusive species of shark. A fantastic story, with twists and turns, which also

explores what it's like to be a young carer for a parent with mental health struggles. Highly recommended for Y5+. (AR Book Level 4.8 / 32,000 words)

'Mia Makes a Meadow' by **Rachel Lawston** is a lovely picture book about a girl who re-wilds a garden outside her block of flats. How will her neighbours react to this, however, especially Erik who has always kept things neat and tidy?

We have copies of both of these books in school for the children to use.

Accelerated Reader

The children in KS2 are continuing to quiz on their finished books and have now read a combined 5.6 million words! There is strong competition at the top of the leaderboard, with Grace, Logan T, Finn, Stanley, Jacob, Thomas, Matthew, Haroon, Sarika and Amoy currently in the top ten spaces!

Please do keep encouraging your children to quiz at home, as well as at school, on any finished books.

They will need to use the specific link:

tinyurl.com/dk98jpc rather than Google, as it's school-specific.

Well done everyone and keep reading!

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

We have teamed up with a 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 \(mostly-books.co.uk\)](https://mostly-books.co.uk)

If you would like to gift us a book, 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!

Showing all 21 results

Sort by latest



Support for families – useful links

We hope that the links below will be helpful. As always, please do get in touch if you would like any further support.

[Abingdon Foodbank | Feeding Local People in Crisis](#)

[Support for people struggling financially due to the Coronavirus pandemic – Abingdon on Thames Town Council](#)

[Warm Spaces 2023 - Vale of White Horse – Oxfordshire](#)

Strep A and Handwashing advice

It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible, so we ask your support with

- If a child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better, and the fever has resolved.
- Teach children the importance of good hand hygiene, practice regular handwashing with soap and warm water.
- Catch coughs and sneezes in tissues then bin them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

- Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if they do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.
- Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus.



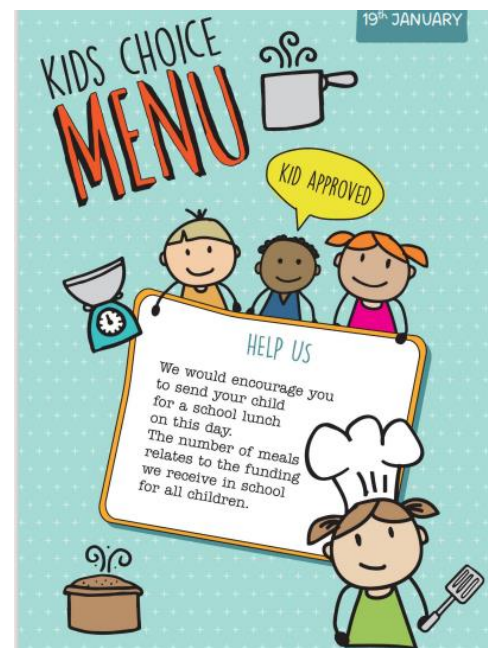
It is also essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus.

Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside).

Key Diary dates

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

- **Thursday 19th January: Census day** (National School CENSUS Day is when a snapshot of school data is taken and the information is used to calculate our future funding. We would like to encourage all children in KS1 and Foundation Stage to take up a universal free school meal on this school day in order for us to get our maximum funding. Meals need to be ordered in the usual way.) KS2 children can also order this meal, payment made as normal via ParentPay, unless you are entitled to Free School Meals.
- **Tuesday 24th January (3.30pm): Football match at home against Dunmore – all support welcome**



[Thameside Primary School - Term Dates \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)

Winter Mini Reading Challenge

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

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 .

Parents and carers can join their children to the library by visiting 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 web