



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

### **Edition 9: 27<sup>th</sup> January**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all had a good two weeks – January has flown by and is already almost coming to an end.

Thameside has been very busy over the last few days with a swimming gala, another author visit, an amazing assembly by Larkmead musicians (including some past Thameside pupils!), and a review completed by the Vale Academy Trust. We were delighted to welcome some senior leaders from other trust schools to provide some feedback on the behaviour and personal development offer at our school.

We were over the moon with the feedback we received, which included:

- **The school 'oozes' inclusivity and you go above and beyond for your children**
- **Every classroom was calm and purposeful; relationships were excellent**
- **Children are at the heart of all you do – you know them 'inside out'**
- **We were impressed with the number of clubs and enrichment opportunities on offer**
- **Pupil voice is very strong-children were able to talk proudly about the school and what it offers.**

We have also been enjoying working closely with lots of local schools and charities to support our children, including Quest for learning, the ARCH volunteer readers scheme and Abingdon School, who led both a nurture and Music group.

We are delighted that we will be offering a range of new clubs this term – we are incredibly grateful to our teachers who offer their time for free – we look forward to sharing some updates about the clubs we have on offer in future newsletters! There are still places available in most clubs so please do ask the office if your child would like to join!

Parents' evenings will be held again after half term – please do keep an eye out for the letter which will be sent home soon. There will also be an opportunity to look at your children's work and books; we are planning a number of other events to share in celebrating your children's learning.

Wishing you a lovely weekend – stay warm!

Best wishes

*Laura Youngman*                      Headteacher

### **In this edition:**

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## Focus on.....the Governors!

### Local Governing Body – the LGB

Hello! My name is Jayne Bennion, and it's been my pleasure to be a Governor at Thameside Primary since September 2019. Last year, I also became the Chair of the LGB as well as the lead Governor focussing on the Quality of Education. I am proud to be a Governor at Thameside Primary as it's a fantastic, welcoming school, and it's always such a pleasure to visit the school to see your children as they learn.



### Who are the people on the LGB?

There are seven of us on the Governing Body at Thameside. Each person volunteers their time, and we meet six or seven times a year to discuss how well the school is doing and to work with Mrs Youngman and the senior leaders to make it even better.

We have two governors who are also parents of children at Thameside, (Lindsey Chegwiddden & Richard Auburn) and one staff governor (Mrs Richardson). The rest of us (Ellie Ball, Paul Thompson, Sandra North and me) are appointed by the Vale Academy Trust. We work as a team and we all believe in the Thameside values and the importance of an exceptional education for each and every child.

### What do Governors do?

Our job is to help the school with strategic direction and to ask questions of Mrs Youngman to make sure the school performance is continually improving. We also make sure the budget, staffing and policy are properly managed. We have specific governors who take a particular interest in Safeguarding and keep all of your children safe at school, as well as governors who keep a special eye on budgets, health and safety as well as important aspects of your child's education such as curriculum, attendance and behaviour.

We are always keen to hear from you as parents and carers and so if you have any questions about the LGB, please don't hesitate to contact me, or let Mrs Youngman know and we can arrange a conversation over a cuppa!

*Jayne Bennion*

**More information about our governors can be found here:**

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

# Introducing...Ms Smithson!

A huge welcome to our new EYFS TA!

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

Cadbury's Flake

2. **Place of birth?**

Isleworth

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

At home with my family

4. **Favourite book?**

Tom Fletcher – There's a Monster in My Book!

5. **Favourite film?**

The original 'Annie.' I also named my six hamsters Annie when I was growing up!

6. **Favourite song?**

Ed Sheeran - Pokémon Celestial

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

Chicken Madras

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

An ice cream lady

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

This summer I will be cutting around 16" (41cm) off my hair and donating to the Little Princess Trust. They provide real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment and other conditions.



## Sports update!

Sport is flourishing this year at Thameside!

Over the last few weeks, we have competed in a swimming gala with Year 5 and 6 children; we have started a KS1 multi sports club and the girls in Year 1 and 2 have started taking part in Disney shooting stars at lunch time. This is just the tip of the iceberg!

'Disney Shooting Stars' is a program designed by both Disney and the Football Association (the FA), aimed at supporting girls to thrive in sport and improve their social skills. This is all done with a backdrop of the incredible Disney stories - we are currently using the 'Incredibles 2'. It has been great to see the reaction from the girls and the positive leadership from our Sports Leaders to support the development of the program.



We are extremely proud of the resilience and sporting behaviour shown by our swimming team at Radley Sports Centre. The children (pictured at the top of the newsletter) represented the school really well with some great results. This again demonstrates that sport and exercise have a vital role to play in many areas of a child's development, none more important than health and well-being. At Thameside, we have lots more exciting opportunities coming up in sport throughout the year including: a dance competition, flag football, football league fixtures and tennis competitions. Watch this space!

# Class reviews

To find out more about what each year group is learning, please do check out our overviews on the class pages of our newly re-vamped website!

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

## Year 5/6

Getting our Science brains in gear this week, Year 5 have had to use their logical thinking to calculate how long it takes each planet to orbit the sun, as well as make a moveable model of the Earth's orbit - COSMIC! Peeling back the layers of the human body, Year 6 dramatised the flow of blood around the body, then created life-size diagrams showing double circulation.



## Year 4/5

In Anthony Horwitz class we have been continuing with our street art/Banksy work. In Art this week we were working on drawing letters in different graffiti styles focusing on different font types and shading. The sketches are all really, vibrant, unique and impressive. We may have the next Banksy in year 4/5!

In our year 4 Science, we have been focusing on all things sound. This week we explored pitch which is a very tricky concept to understand. We first investigated how the lengths of a ruler flicked on a table can change pitch. We noticed that pitch is all down to the speed of vibration. To finish the lesson we made straw flutes with different lengths of straw.



## Year 3/4

In Michael Morpurgo class, we have had a very busy week using resources in school to help us with our learning. In Maths, Year 3 have been using different strategies and resources to divide 2-digit numbers by a 1-digit number, for example place value counters, Dienes and drawings, and we are now moving on to use flexible partitioning. In Science, Year 3 used scientific skills to make observations, used a measuring cylinder by trying to answer the question 'Why doesn't water drain away in some areas?'



## Year 2

It's been a brilliant few weeks in Year 2! The children have been busy preparing to write their instructions for a disgusting sandwich ready for Mrs Youngman. Their ideas have been extremely creative, and the sandwich instructions truly are disgusting! In Maths, we have been exploring the use of money. The children have shown great resilience with this topic and the more exposure they can get at home to using money, the more this will support their development. Thank you for your support with this!

In Science we have started to explore animals and humans. The children have realised that science is everywhere and have enjoyed being 'scientists'. In P.E., we have continued to learn dance and dodgeball; look out for letters coming your way about the upcoming dance event! We were also extremely lucky that we had a brilliant afternoon with Sarah Coyle, the author, using our imagination and exploring her books.

As always, thank you for your support with your child's education and please do ask if we can help in any way.

## Year 1

Our topic in Science is 'Animals including Humans.' We have been learning to name the different parts of our body. We drew around each other and wrote labels to show what we had learned and remembered.



## Reception

This week Reception have been thinking about people who help us. We have been for a walk around school to ask the question 'How do you help?' and took lots of photos for our Big Book. We have also turned part of our classroom into a hospital and have been very kind and helpful at looking after each other!



## Nursery

Nursery have enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year. We turned our role play area into a Chinese restaurant complete with woollen noodles and lots of other Chinese dishes. We have been exploring chopsticks and some of the children have been showing us all how to use them. We have also learnt about the culture and how to celebrate Chinese New Year; we even had a party and made rabbit ears for the 'year of the rabbit'.

After that we have been looking at The Gruffalo again as we are The Gruffalo class. We have been exploring the story and all of the characters from it. We have made a Gruffalo reward board to encourage the children to continue to make good choices – we are very proud of them already!



### Our stars of the Week!

**Well done to our Stars of the Week**

**Reception: Pixie and Haniya**

**Year 1: Eddie**

**Year 2: Daisy**

**Year 3/4: Zoe**

**Year 4/5: Phoebe**

**Year 5/6: Elle**



## TTRockstars and Timestables at home!

TTRockstars has got off to a flying start this term! A HUGE well done to **Noah** in Year 6, the first of all of our children to make it to **ROCK HERO**! This is something that none of the teachers have achieved yet. Noah you should be really proud of yourself!

For this week's leaderboard, we have looked at improving accuracy. The three children with the most improved accuracy this week are **Ophelia** (Y3/4), **Jacob** (Y5/6) and **Lexie** (Y3/4). Well done!



### 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)

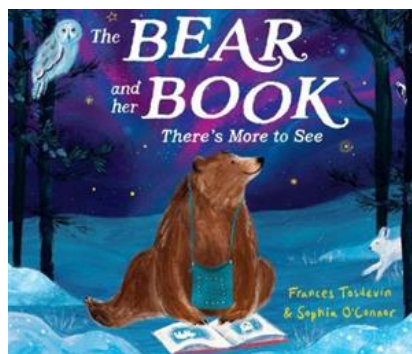
[Thameside Primary School - Families and Learning at home \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)

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

Another two fantastic books to recommend this week from the Oxfordshire Book Awards shortlist 😊



**'The Bear and her Book'** is a very endearing picture book about a bear who sets off on an adventure, meeting various creatures along the way. Beautiful illustrations and alliterating rhyme make this a real joy to read aloud.

**'The Dangerous Life of Ophelia Bottom'** gives a first impression of being quite a silly or playful book, and there are some very funny moments along the way. It's so much more than this, however, with a very clever plot and thought-provoking content about how we treat our planet.

We have copies of both these books in school.

## Accelerated Reader

Last week, we celebrated an incredible reading achievement – our very first Thameside 'word millionaire'! Grace in Year 4 has been very busy reading and quizzing on Accelerated Reader since September and recently hit the million words milestone. She is now proudly wearing her 'word millionaire' shield. Well done, Grace!



There are a number of other pupils who are on track to achieve this goal by the end of the summer term, so please do encourage your children to keep quizzing. We also recognise and celebrate pupils who are making great progress with their reading, quizzing regularly on shorter books.

Please do keep encouraging your children to quiz at home, as well as at school. The link is [tinyurl.com/dk98jpc](https://tinyurl.com/dk98jpc)

Year 6 have an extra opportunity to boost their word count at quizzing club, held every Wednesday morning from 8.15am!

## Thameside Reading Wishlist at 'Mostly Books'



It was SO exciting to receive our first gift from the Thameside Reading Wishlist – a copy of Sharna Jackson's 'The Good Turn'. Year 6 are particularly thrilled with this lovely present, as she is their class author this year. A big **thank you** to our anonymous donor – your generosity is much appreciated.

If you would like to support Thameside, then buying a book from our wishlist is a really great way to do that. Please have a look at the list here: [Thameside Primary School Archives - Mostly Books \(mostly-books.co.uk\)](https://mostly-books.co.uk)

A screenshot of the 'mostlyBOOKS' online shop website. The header includes the 'mostlyBOOKS' logo, a search bar, and links for 'Hello, Sign in', 'Account & Orders', 'Basket', and a phone number. The main navigation bar lists 'Home', 'Shop', 'Mostly Books Meets...', 'Gifts', 'Events', 'Cosy Club', 'Youth Ambassadors', and 'Contact'. The page shows 'Showing all 21 results' and a 'Sort by latest' dropdown. Five book cards are displayed, each with a 'Sale!' badge. The books are: 'The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name' (by Nathan Bryon, illustrated by Nigel Mordaunt), 'Look Up!' (Thameside Primary School), 'Great Big Softie' (Thameside Primary School), 'The Trouble With Earth' (Thameside Primary School), and 'Mic Drop' (Thameside Primary School). Each card shows the original price and the sale price.

Book Title	Author/Illustrator	Original Price	Sale Price
The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name	Nathan Bryon / Nigel Mordaunt	£11.99	£10.80
Look Up! (Thameside Primary School)		£6.99	£6.29
Great Big Softie (Thameside Primary School)		£7.99	£7.20
The Trouble With Earth (Thameside Primary School)		£12.99	£11.70
Mic Drop (Thameside Primary School)		£6.99	£6.30

## Nursery request!

We are looking to 're-vamp' our role play and book corner areas in our Nursery. If you have any good quality cushions, wooden toys or real-life items for role play that you would be happy to share, please do let us know. We would love to create some special areas just like the pictures below!



## 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

- **PTA cake sale – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February after school**
- **Internet Safety Day – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**
- **End of Term – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February (finish at normal time)**
- **Start of Term 4 – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February**
- **Bedtime and Books event – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February (look out for more details!)**

- Parents' evenings – week 28<sup>th</sup> February (letter to follow)

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

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

## ***Parent Governor Nominations***

**We will soon have a vacancy for a parent governor to join our LGB.**

Becoming a governor is a very rewarding and worthwhile experience. Effective governors do not need expertise in education but do need to be committed to their school, willing to ask questions and offer appropriate challenge and support.

All governors are expected to:

- attend termly (roughly) evening meetings of the LGB
- attend development sessions which are usually once a term
- visit the school formally for monitoring purposes

Governors also need to be able to work as an enthusiastic member of the governing body team with the aim of raising and maintaining high educational standards for all children. Governors are asked to act with integrity, honesty and objectivity and at all times in the best interests of the school. The prime focus of the LGB is to develop the strategic direction of the school, be accountable to stakeholders and to ensure that financial resources are spent appropriately. Governors also have a number of opportunities to access training to develop and enhance their knowledge and skills. It is important to note that governors are elected to bring the experience of that individual as a member of the LGB. Once elected, parent governors are a representative parent but not a delegate. This means they are not expected to report back to parents on any matters relating to the school or LGB without prior consent from the governing body

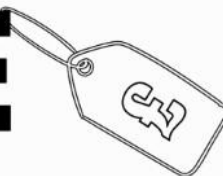
**Nomination requires that each candidate provide a brief personal statement of up to 200 words in length, covering a little information about the candidate and why they would like to be a governor. Should there be more than one nomination for the vacancy, there will be a parent ballot and all personal statements will be shared with parents, to help them decide how to vote.**

**Should you wish to have a copy of our application form, please ask at the school Office.**

**Nominations must be received by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 3.00pm**



# GIANT Jumble SALE



**Sunday 29th January 2023**

**10am - 12pm, Fitzharrys School**

Northcourt Road, Abingdon

**£1 entry**

Children go free!

**Good quality donations welcome between 9 - 10am**

(We cannot accept any electricals, VHS/cassette tapes, or opened toiletries/make-up)