



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

Edition 10: 10th February

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of another term and what a fantastic term it has been. We have seen our children continue to flourish and to hear how much they enjoy attending school is fantastic. We are all so proud of our pupils at Thameside – thank you to parents and carers for your ongoing support.

This term has been filled with a variety of events and enrichment activities and fantastic learning – there is nothing quite like seeing those 'lightbulb moments' where children understand a concept after persevering with a challenge.



Next term is looking to be equally as 'jam-packed' (with parents' evenings, World Book Day and lots of other events and activities) so we wish you all a wonderful and restful half-term break with some sunshine, we hope! As always, please remember that the most important thing you can do with your child is to read with them, but if you would like some ideas for other activities, please do take a look at our website for ideas to learn at home – links are all provided later in this newsletter!

Please do also take a look at our new 'word of the week' section – vocabulary development is an important part of our curriculum and we hope that this section will provide some interesting discussion at home!

Finally, please can we just add a gentle reminder to ensure that all clothes are named – we have lots of lovely new uniform in lost property that is unnamed so it is tricky to work out the owners!

Take care and best wishes

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

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Focus on..... Internet Safety Day



On Tuesday, it was Internet Safety Day. As a school, we felt it was incredibly important to raise awareness about e-safety with each child as part of the Thameside team!

We attended a whole school 'live' assembly which encouraged the children to get talking. Children talked about:

- Our favourite things to do online
- Things that can go wrong online
- Who to talk to if they are worried



As part of Internet Safety Day, children were given the opportunity to research how to stay safe online and take part in a poster competition!

The Winners were:

- KS1 winner – Darina
- KS2 winner- Bailey

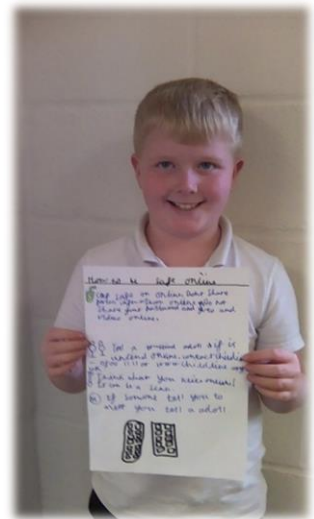
**Our challenge to you:
Talk about it!**

Well done!

More information can be found on our dedicated online safety page on our website (click to access the link):



Thameside Primary School -
Online Safety
(thamesideschool.co.uk)



Curriculum and school development update

At Thameside we are absolutely committed to developing our school and are keen to share this with parents and carers. Some of the key activities that we have undertaken this term have included:

- Staff training on best practice in Reading and Phonics
- A review of our teaching and learning approach based on the latest research – we look forward to sharing this with you soon!
- Senior Leaders have completed learning walks and book looks, having supportive coaching conversations with teachers
- Safeguarding drop-in sessions for all staff
- Teaching assistant meetings
- Our new termly curriculum overviews have been launched

Class reviews

To find out more about what each year group is learning, please 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

A huge well done to all the Year 5/6 children who have worked with resilience to create their own 'tribal- dance'. Not only were they inspired by the Haka, but they linked knowledge from other areas of the curriculum to tell a story through dance. In English, we have looked at controversial issues throughout the term, chosen a topic we are passionate about, and produced balanced arguments to inform our audience - the children have chosen some really interesting topics, which have even challenged their own views! Enjoy a well-deserved half-term and recharge!

Year 4/5

Year 5 had the very exciting opportunity to take part in a Bikeability course on Tuesday. This involved a service and check of their bikes, before practising skills on the playground. They finally got to take to the roads and put into place their new skills, attempting to navigate some pretty complicated junctions in a safe manner. This involved some serious multi tasking!

The group, consisting of Tilly, Jaymes, Sonny, Lilly-Ann and Lochlan all passed and received their certificates for their incredible hard work. We received glowing feedback from the instructors who said the children were all fantastic. A great way to represent our school and make all of Team Thameside proud!

Year 3/4

Year 3/4 have turned into a group of journalists and editors!

They have worked really hard this term learning about writing a web-based news report. They learnt about headlines, captions, introductions, the 5 Ws (who, what, why, where and when) and direct and indirect speech. We looked at features of online news articles and did a slow write to produce a web-based news report about the discovery of a WW2 bomb on the school field. Then, we edited our final report before publishing it on Microsoft Word. Don't be alarmed - this was imaginary! I was blown away by the children's finished articles! They have shown resilience and reflective skills to achieve this and it has left me wondering who might go on to be a journalist. I am very proud of the children in the Year 3/4 team!

Unexploded WW2 Bomb Found On A School Field

On Monday an unexploded WW2 device was discovered on a school field in Abingdon. The name of the school was Thameside School. Local Residents were surprised that a WW2 bomb was found on a school field. The bomb had been there for 89 years!



The unexploded WW2 Bomb

"What if the bomb explodes!" said Matts a pupil at the school. Mrs Youngman The Headteacher said everyone was sensible and everyone was evacuated safely. As soon as a child saw the bomb he ran to a teacher immediately. "I hope there aren't any more bombs?" said Lucas a pupil at the school. An Archaeologist took the bomb to the museum. After an Archaeologist saw it he confirmed it was a WW2 bomb. Local Residents were surprised that the bomb was at a school field. Bomb Disposal Teams are concerned that there are more bombs in the area.

Year 2



Well, what a disgusting term we have had in English! The children have blown us away and made us all feel very unwell with their brilliant instructions for making a disgusting sandwich. It has been such fun and the improvement in using time conjunctions, expanded noun phrases and verbs has been great to see.

In Maths, the children have now finished using money, learning how to give change and identify the best coins/notes to use for an amount. This area of Maths really is tricky and the more exposure you can give to coins/notes really will help with long-term retention of the skill. We are now focusing on multiplication and division; so far, we have recognised and shared equally.

In Computing, we had a Bee-bot race using coding and programming to instruct our Bee-bots' path. We continue to look at animals in Science and have been making our final piece of Artwork in the design of Henri Rousseau in Art (the children love wearing the aprons and overshirts). Have a lovely break



with your children and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school after half term.

Year 1

In Year 1, we have been busy writing labels and captions about animals. At the beginning of our learning journey, we had a list of animals we needed to find in our non-fiction books. Next, we labelled some animals and finally we wrote captions to explain what the different parts of the animals were used for. We discovered that baby elephants hold on to their mum's tail when they go for a walk!



Reception

Mystery in Reception Class



This week, Reception came to school on Monday to find that someone had made a mess in their classroom, breaking a chair and making a hole in the ceiling!

They immediately started searching for clues and found:

- Footprints
- Handprints
- Rubbish
- Blue fluff
- A trail of white powder that led into the garden



Some of the children think it was a robber that broke in, others think a dinosaur stamped on the chair and broke it, but most of the children decided that Sonic the Hedgehog must have been running around the room and made a mess by being too fast. They took photos of everything they found to add to the police report they wrote, which was posted on Tuesday.

On Wednesday P.C. Brown wrote back thanking them for their hard work and asking for their help to make and put up some posters around the school to ask everyone to keep their eyes open for anything suspicious. Hopefully we, will find whoever did it soon!



Nursery

We have had a fantastic time going on journeys in Nursery! We have packed a suitcase, carefully thinking about what we need to take when we go on a journey - the children then decided to go on a train ride to the swimming pool! We all had tickets and there was even a refreshments trolley. This inspired the children to go on their own journeys during their free play time. This week, we have been learning about Valentine's day and thinking about the people we love and what we can do to show them we love them. We performed a Valentine's song and dance, and have made cards. In Phonics, we have been working on listening as it is a key skill that will help the nursery children excel throughout their time at school.



Our stars of the Week!

Well done to our Stars of the Week

Reception: Elsie-Mai and Jackson

Year 1: Logan

Year 2: Evan

Year 3/4: Felicity

Year 4/5: Sonny

Year 5/6: Thomas

Attendance and Punctuality update

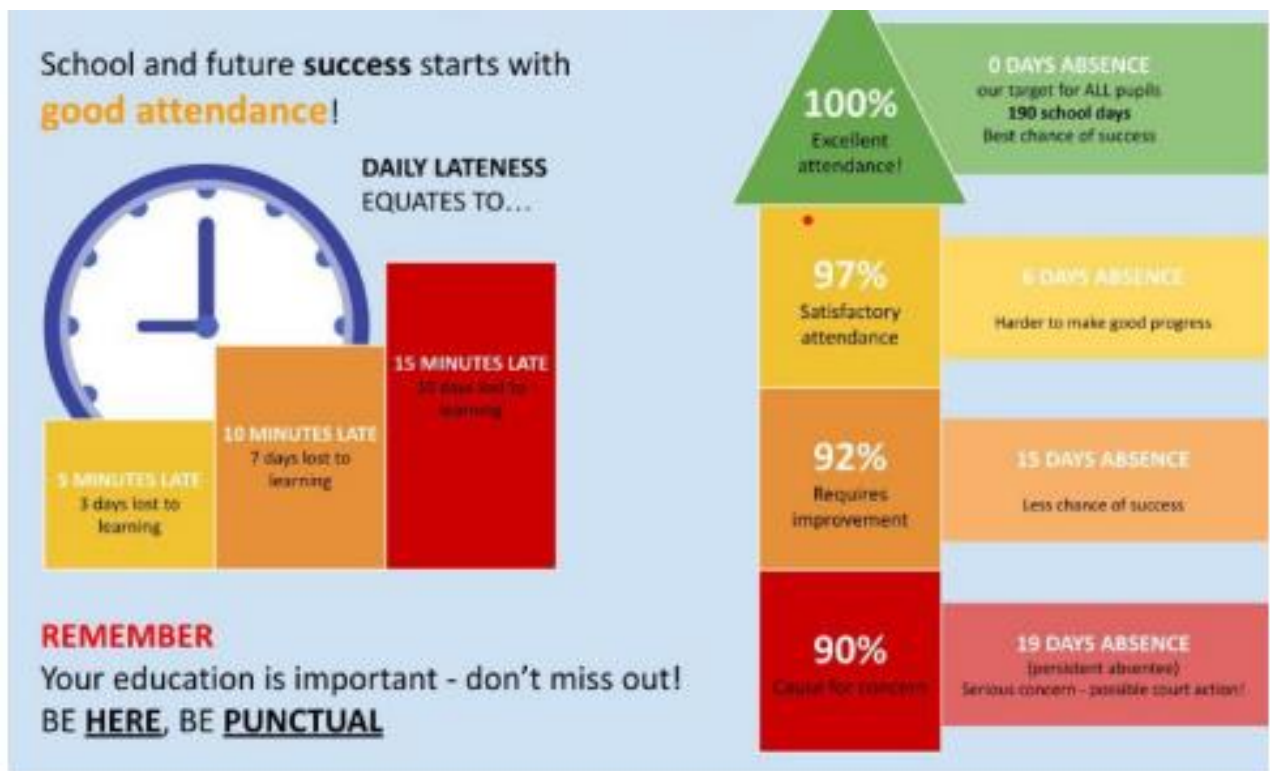
Thank you to everyone for your continued support with our focus on absence. It can be worrying or frustrating to receive a letter from us about low attendance but it is incredibly important that children are in school and arrive punctually so that both their academic and social development are not negatively impacted.

We have seen a real improvement in punctuality this term and our raffle ticket system is loved by the children – please keep it up!

Just a reminder to please notify the school office every day of your child's sickness or medical absence. Please clearly state your child's full name, class and the specific reason for absence (including the symptoms of the illness).

For further information, please see our **Attendance Policy** on the website.

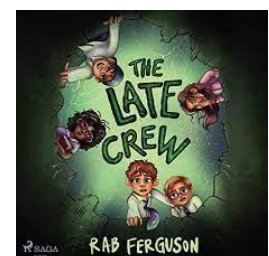
We are very grateful for all the work parents are doing to keep their children at school. There have however, been a few occasions recently when parents have been ill and decided to keep their child at home. **The government is clear that parents need to make arrangements for their child to be taken to school and parent illness cannot be used as a reason for pupil absence (unless special/emergency circumstances).** If you find it absolutely impossible to obtain this kind of help please contact us to talk about it.



Young Carers

Key Stage 2 are very excited to be welcoming Rab Ferguson, author of 'The Late Crew' into school on Monday 27th February.

Rab will be hosting an assembly about 'The Late Crew' and talking about the role of young carers. Books will be on sale for a discounted price of £3.50 if children would like to purchase a copy. Be Free Young Carers, a local charity who support children who are young carers, will also be joining us on the day.



Older members of 'Star Club' will be working with Oxfordshire County Council on their views on young carers on Monday 20th February. We are very excited to raise awareness of young carers within our school.



TTRockstars and Timestables at home!

This week in TTRS, we looked at how many coins everyone has earned over the past 7 days. Amoy (Year 5) has topped the leaderboard with 2020 coins! Well done **Amoy**, what a fantastic effort! In second place is **Felicity** (Year 3/4) with 1780 coins and in third place is **Grace** (Year 4/5) with 1321 coins. Well done to everyone for your hard work over the course of this term. Remember to keep practicing your times tables over the half-term break!

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)

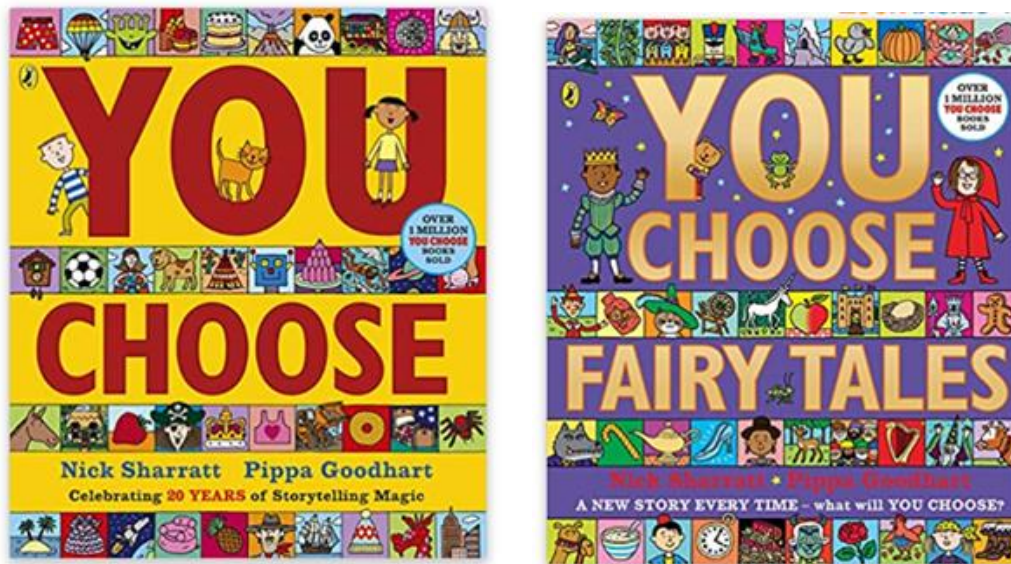
[Thameside Primary School - Families and Learning at home \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)

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!

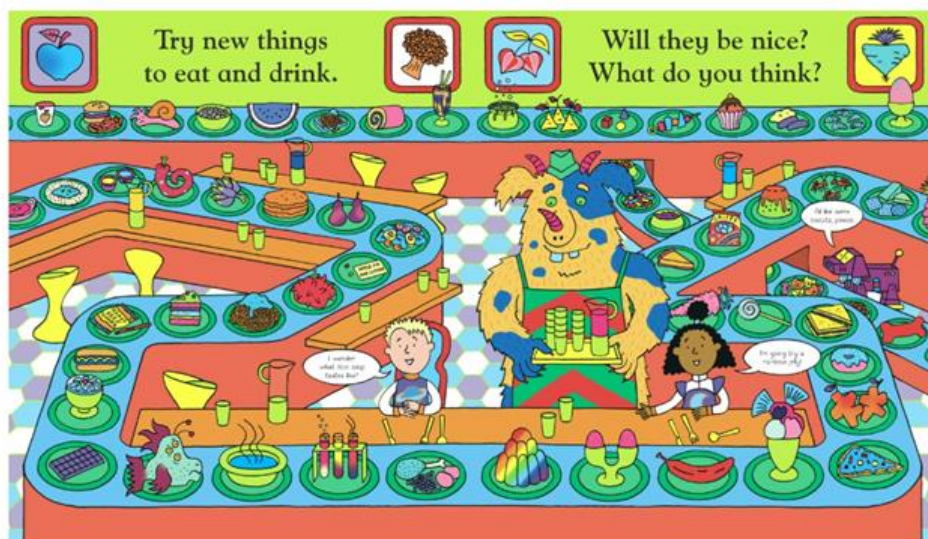
[Thameside Primary School - Preparing for Assessments \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)

Library Corner

This week, we're recommending a whole series of books: **'You Choose'** by the fantastic children's author and illustrator, **Nick Sharratt**.



These bright and colourful books are wonderful for sharing with your child. Each page invites you to choose from a whole double-page spread of things, such as outfits, houses, food or a place to go on an adventure. There's no right or wrong answer and you can make a different decision every time you look at the book!



This series is brilliant for developing children's language and imagination. **Top Tips:** sit somewhere comfortable (blankets and cushions are great!) and look at the pages together. Talk about the different colours, etc and listen to your

child's choices. Share what you'd choose too! Maybe make up a little story or ask 'I wonder...' questions.

Good news! Nick Sharratt has published a special 2023 'You Choose' mini adventure, which is going to be one of the books children can get for free with their World Book Day tokens next month 😊

Accelerated Reader

The quizzing has continued throughout January and Year 4/5 have reclaimed the top spot on the class leader board!



A special mention this week to Finn R. and Logan T. who have just passed the 500,000-word mark – excellent reading, boys!

If you have internet access at home, you can quiz there too with this link:
tinyurl.com/dk98jpc

Thanks for your support!



Stay and Play plea!

We are looking for donations of puzzles and board games that are in excellent condition for our Stay and Play Club (and hopefully a future Games Club!). If you have any excellent quality games, we would be very grateful for any donations!

Update from our fantastic PTA!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thameside Primary School PTA would like to thank you very much for your continued support. Without your help we wouldn't be able to support the school financially and pay for much-needed teaching resources.

Only in the past few months, we have paid over **£3000** from the money we raised over the last year for:

- ✓ crumbles computing sets
- ✓ books for the reading spine
- ✓ books for the writing spine
- ✓ Matt Oldfield author visit and books
- ✓ planters for the Eco Council
- ✓ cooking equipment
- ✓ rocks and soils to support Science learning
- ✓ -Design Technology resources
- ✓ football goals

It is not only the financial support that counts. We wouldn't be able to deliver our events without you helping on the day: setting up or running stalls. When planning an event calendar for the year, we are hoping our amazing children from the school and their families will really enjoy our fayres, cake sales and discos.

Speaking of which, we have some fantastic events planned for the remainder of the school year; details for which will follow:

BINGO - 23rd March, from 7pm, at Abingdon Rugby Club

MOTHER'S DAY CREAM TEAS pre order 17th March

EASTER SURPRISE at the last assembly before Easter break

APRIL'S CAKE SALE 27th of April

MAY'S DISCO 25th of May

FATHER'S DAY 15th or 16th of June

and the SUMMER FAYRE - date to be confirmed.

Planning and holding these events does take time and preparation and we are very grateful to everyone who gives their free time to help us raise money for our school!

In other news, Joanna Blaszczyk - current chair, and Liz Perris - current treasurer will be stepping down at the end of the year – we are very appreciative of all of their hard work and commitment to Thameside.

We are now looking for people to take on these roles in the new year! If you are interested we would love to hear from you! You will be able to find the application forms, after half term, in the school's office, next to our PTA mailbox. Should we have more than one candidate, an election will take place.

Please do get in touch if you would like to find out more about the roles – the PTA have had such a huge impact on our children and it would be incredibly sad if the PTA was unable to continue operating. Thank you for your support!

Finally, we are always grateful for any help in organizing and running our events. You don't have to become a PTA member to do that. Even a little help from you means a lot to us.

Your PTA



Key Diary dates

- End of Term – Friday 10th February (finish at normal time)
- Start of Term 4 – Monday 20th February
- Bedtime and Books event – Thursday 23rd February (look out for more details!)
- Parents' evenings – week beginning 27th February (letter to follow)
- World Book Day – 2nd March (more detail to follow!)
- Year 6 SATs parent information evening – Tuesday 14th March at 3.00pm.

****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)

Word of the week!

Developing vocabulary is a key element of our curriculum at Thameside – each week we will be sharing some new words on the newsletter you to discuss and share with your children!

One will be English themed and another Maths themed!

Word of the week - EQUALITY

When equal opportunities are given to everybody.

Martin Luther King fought for equality for all.

Synonyms: fairness

Antonyms: inequality

Etymology: it comes from the Latin *aequus* meaning equal.

Word of the week: PRODUCT

The result when two numbers are multiplied e.g. 2×2 product = 4

product

x

=


?


multiplicand

multiplier

product

a product is the result of multiplication


5 x 3 = 15


10 x 4 = 40

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 20th February at 3.00pm

[Help for Families - Household Support Fund](#)

Vale of White Horse District Council has a Household Support Fund, which is now open for new applications. If you are having difficulty affording food, energy bills and other essential expenses you may be eligible for support.

To apply for the fund by completing an online form, please see the council's website: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/household-support-fund>

Anyone in need of emergency support or help to fill in the online form can contact the Community Hub on 01235 422600 Monday to Friday.

Oxfordshire Library events!

Tuesday 14th February: Explore Learning are delivering a free, Worded Problem Workshop. **Working as a team to help complete the worded problem puzzles and decipher the meanings behind the questions.** 3:30-4:30pm. Age: 9-11. Book through Explore Learning Tel: 01865-595509

Thursday 16th February: Rob Jones Children's book illustrator, Illustrating Workshop 10:00-11:00am. Age: 5-11. Ticketed event. Please contact the library for tickets (drop in, call 01235 520374, email Abingdon.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Thursday 16th February: Harcourt Arboretum, Winter themed session 2:30-3:30pm. Age: Most suitable for ages 4-8 but all children welcome. Drop in

Saturday 18th: Storytime for children of any age 2:30-3:00pm. Drop in

Please note that children of primary school age must be accompanied by an adult.

For more up to date information parents can check our web page [Abingdon Library | Oxfordshire County Council](#)