

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 11: 3rd March 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a start to term! We have already hosted our parents' evenings; taken part in the Vale Academy Trust Mini - Speaks event; enjoyed a fantastic 'Young Carers' assembly and held our World Book Day event full of wonderful reading activities! Please do look at our galleries in this newsletter - our theme this year was linked to vocabulary and



we loved seeing the children dressed up as a word of their choice and enjoying reading across the school with their 'reading buddies'!



We continue to enjoy lots of Thameside 'firsts' – for example our Year 2 children represented Thameside at the Schools Dance Competition in Oxford – they were amazing! Thank you to Mr Dineen and Mrs Chung who gave up their Saturdays so that we could participate.



It was lovely to see so many of you at the parents' evenings (and we hope you enjoyed the free meal tasters!) – if you were unable to attend, please do arrange a time for a meeting or a phone call via the office as we are keen to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to speak to their child's class teacher.

Over the past two weeks, we have also welcomed two of our governors, Sandra North and Paul Thompson into school; as part of their visit, they conducted a learning walk, meetings with senior leaders and had many chats with our children! In their post-visit report, they commented:

The whole school was calm and purposeful and all interactions with children were positive. Children in all classes were engaged and teachers had high expectations. It was a pleasure to spend so much time in school – please pass on our thanks to all the staff who made us so welcome.

Thank you so much for all of the lovely comments and great suggestions in the parent survey so far – it really does mean the world to receive such kind words! **If you have not done so already, please do also provide your feedback via our survey link (just click below); if you would like a paper copy, please ask at the office.**

<https://form.jotform.com/230591202929354>

Enjoy the latest newsletter and have a lovely weekend – hopefully Spring is almost here!

Take care and best wishes

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

In this edition:

- **Focus on... all things reading and books!**
- **Mental Health update**
- **Class reviews!**
- **Stars of the Week**
- **TTRockstars update!**
- **Library corner**
- **Diary dates**
- **Word of the week!**



Thameside Uniform Reminder!

It has been wonderful to see everyone looking so smart in the new uniform.

However, we have noticed recently that there have been a few items creeping in that are not part of our uniform policy, so we wanted to take a moment to remind you where you can find information about what our uniform includes (link on the website below). Thank you for your support with this!

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

Focus on..... all things reading and books!
World Book Day Gallery!





There are 6 elements which support a child reading for pleasure:

1. Being read to regularly
2. Having books at home and school
3. Having a choice in what to read
4. Finding time to read
5. Having trusted help to find a book
6. Making reading FUN!



Mental Health Update

Mental Health is a key priority for us at Thameside and is an area that we are continuing to shape at our school this year.

Led by Mrs Youngman, our Senior Mental Health Lead, our school working party has met to develop an action plan for this area of school life and to ensure that both pupils and staff are supported. Mrs Youngman will also sit on the trust Mental Health leads forum where best practice between schools will be shared.

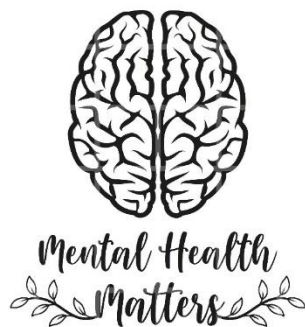
Please do take a look at our school offer via our website at the following link, where we have also included how families can access further support:

[Thameside Primary School - Family Support, Mental Health and Wellbeing \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](https://thamesideschool.co.uk)

We are looking forward to putting the following additional plans in place:

- **Developing a dedicated nurture room from September 2023 – we can't wait for this addition to our school and a huge thank you to Christs Hospital who have funded this for us.**
- **Creating a staff wellbeing charter**
- **Providing pupil wellbeing champions and input from the Pupil Parliament about what our children would like to support them further**

Plus, lots more....so watch this space!



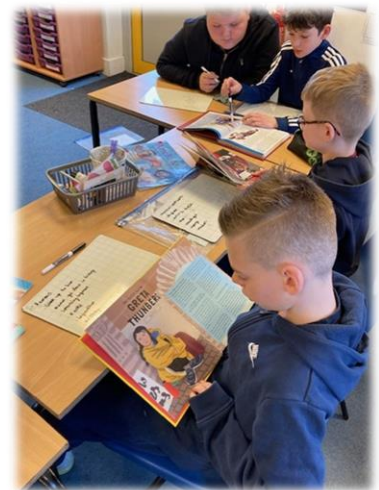
Class reviews

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

Another brilliant week in Year 5/6 with lots of focus and resilience being shown by all! Beginning our English learning journey into biographies, the children enjoyed exploring lots of different examples, as well as finding out more about famous people from history and the modern day. Thursday has been a fun-filled day with word costumes galore and first-aid training for the Year 6 children! Here's to keeping up the amazing work in Year 5/6 this term - it will all be worth it!



Year 4/5



In Anthony Horowitz class we spent some time last week sharing our amazing Banksy biographies. The whole class put so much hard work into them and the results were amazing. Those who wanted to, had the opportunity to share them with the whole class. It was a really lovely opportunity to share their hard work and celebrate their brilliant Banksy biographies. We have now started our new English unit which is all about

creating a Tudor short story that has an interesting twist; I am very excited to see how the turn out!

An exciting investigation is well underway in our Year 4 Science class. We are learning all about teeth this week and are investigating how sugar can cause tooth decay. For this investigation, students planned how we could use eggshells, which are very similar to teeth, to explore the impact of sugar on our teeth. We have left eggshells in coke cola, orange juice and water to see what we happen over a week. Some students have left the eggshells in water with different amounts of sugar to create a fair test as comparison. We shall see what the results are next week!



Year 3/4



On Thursday, it was World Book Day. The children in Year 3/4 enjoyed visiting Year 1 to take part in reading with a buddy.



The children were helping one another read and talking about their books enthusiastically. Year 3/4 loved being illustrators by doing the Draw Along online event for the book 'Dave the Pigeon' by Swapna Haddow and illustrated by Sheena Dempsey.

Year 2



Year 2 have been extremely busy over the last few weeks; from Dancing Schools UK, Cricket, World Book Day to looking at our new book Perfectly Norman! It has been brilliant to see the children in so many different situations across our curriculum.



In Maths we have started looking at multiplication and division; I must say that Times Table Rockstars practice has really helped the children, so please keep this up! In English, we have started our learning journey for writing a letter to the

Mayor of Abingdon, using 'The Boy and the Giant' to help us think welcoming thoughts.

Finally, I must mention the inspiring six children that represented our school at the Dancing schools UK at the Christian Life Centre. They represented the school in a very mature manner and made me an extremely proud teacher showing their brilliant dancing skills on the stage. Well done, Bailey, Evan, Hasham, Daisy, Lily-May and Daria.

Year 1

On Tuesday, Year 1 were scientists for the afternoon. We visited Abingdon School and took part in an animal workshop.



We saw a snake, a turtle, a cockroach, a chameleon and a very naughty bearded dragon who would not eat his dinner! The children had a great time classifying the different animals and learning some new vocabulary – vertebrate and invertebrate, mammal, reptile and amphibian.

We finished the session by watching 'Micro Monsters' with David Attenborough in 3D. It was very exciting 'being in the jungle'



Reception

This week Reception have been reading the story 'The Enormous Turnip' and thinking about how the only way to pull it up was to work together. We have practised retelling the story through role play, making a story map to help us. We also really enjoyed World Book Day, dressing as our words and choosing our World Book Day favourite book!

Nursery

We have had an exciting time in Nursery celebrating Shrove Tuesday. We had a pancake race in hall and we enjoyed playing with flour and playdough making our own pancakes. We have been looking at shapes inside and outside and making things out of shapes including spaceships and trees. We had a great time today celebrating World Book Day. There were some fantastic outfits and the children enjoyed having stories read to them by the Year 6 children as well as exploring book inspired play invitations.



Our stars of the Week!

Well done to our Stars of the Week

Reception:

Year 1: Isaac

Year 2: Bailey

Year 3/4: Emily

Year 4/5: Mason

Year 5/6: Louis

Attendance and Punctuality update

Thank you for all of your support in ensuring that your children attend school and arrive on time – we closely track and monitor attendance figures and patterns and have seen a significant improvement since September! Thank you!



Attendance Matters



We do still however have a number of children whose attendance currently is below our target level – we will be in touch to discuss this with you and work together to offer support where needed. Every minute counts!



TTRockstars and Timestables at home!

We have been so proud of everyone who has been busy accessing TTRS at home this week. There is a real buzz around TTRS in school at the moment and the children have been getting very competitive! This week we have been looking at how many minutes have been spent playing TTRS. Well done to **Ava** (Year 2), **Paige** (Year 6), **Elle** (Year 6), **Lillie** (Year 6), **Luca** (Year 6), **Stanley** (Year 6) and **Lyra** (Year 6) for all spending more than 20 minutes playing TTRS over the course of a week.

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 \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](https://thamesideschool.co.uk)

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

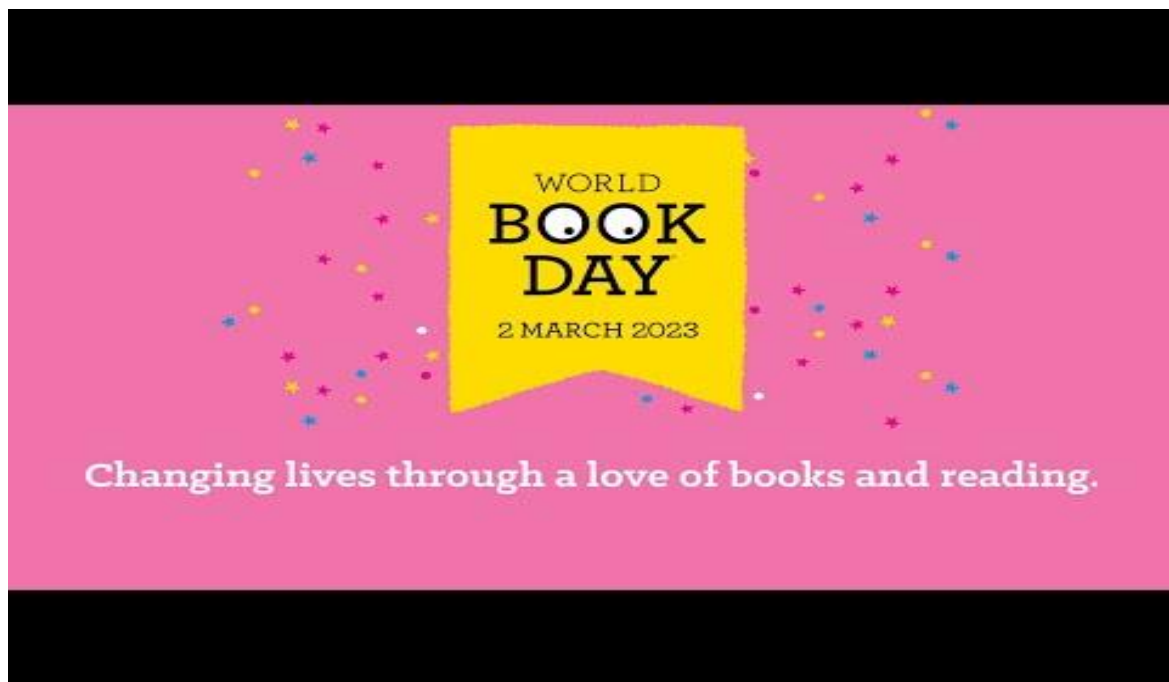
Thameside Primary School - Preparing for Assessments
(thamesideschool.co.uk)

Library Corner

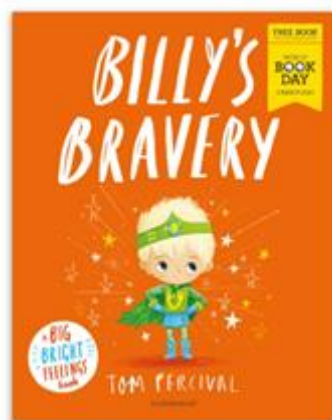
Yesterday, we celebrated World Book Day and shared the amazing books that are on offer for FREE with the children's £1 book tokens.

You can watch a short video with all the choices on YouTube here:

[World Book Day 2023: Official £1/€1.50 books and campaign reveal! - YouTube](#)



We're particularly thrilled that there's a Tom Percival book on offer - 'Billy's Bravery'. 'The River', 'Perfectly Norman' and 'Ruby's Worry' by the same author have been some of our reading texts in class this year and the children have really enjoyed them.



Billy absolutely LOVES Nature Girl. She's his favourite superhero EVER! He has read all the books, seen all the cartoons, and he's even got his own Nature Girl costume! So when World Book Day comes round, Billy knows exactly who he wants to dress up as.

Then Billy hears a nasty voice in his head. What if he looks silly? What if his friends make fun of him? Going out in a costume can be scary, even if you are dressed up as your favourite character in the whole world. Can Billy be as brave as Nature Girl?

Billy's Bravery is available as a free audiobook on the World of Stories hub this year. Here's the link if you'd like to listen to the book with your children: [Billy's Bravery - Bloomsbury - Beginning Reader - World Book Day](#)

It also has a quiz on Accelerated Reader, so – once you've listened to it a couple of times – why not try the quiz using the link below?!

Accelerated Reader

There continues to be steady quizzing on the Accelerated Programme which is brilliant to see – well done, everyone!

This week's special mention goes to **Haroon in Year 3** who has just passed the quarter of a million words mark. This is a fantastic achievement, Haroon.

It would be great to see more pupils quizzing from home, so please do use this link if your child finishes reading a book:
tinyurl.com/dk98jpc

PTA events reminder!

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.

Key Diary dates

- **Year 6 SATs parent information evening – Tuesday 14th March at 3.00pm.**
- **Star of the Term assembly – Thursday 30th March (details to follow)**
- **End of term – Friday 31st March 1.30pm**
- **Start of Term 5 – Monday 17th April**
- **Monday 1st May – Bank holiday (School closed)**
- **Monday 8th May – Bank Holiday (school closed)**
- **Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May – Year 6 SATs week**

****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)



23RD OF MARCH

ABINGDON, RUGBY CLUB

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM, EYES DOWN AT 7:00PM

ENTRY TICKET £1 BOOKS INCL. CASH GAME £10

**PLENTY OF LOVELY PRIZES
& CASH TO BE WON**



Treat your mum this

Mother's Day

with a **CREAM TEA BOX**

Each box includes:

for £7



2 scones



2 mini cakes



2 Teabags



jam & clotted cream



Pre-book your box!
Forms will be sent soon.
Boxes will be given to the
children at the end of the day
on Friday, 17th of March

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!

English Word of the week: CRESCENDO

Meaning: a gradual increase in loudness.

There was a crescendo of thudding footsteps that reverberated throughout the cave.

Etymology: Latin meaning to increase.

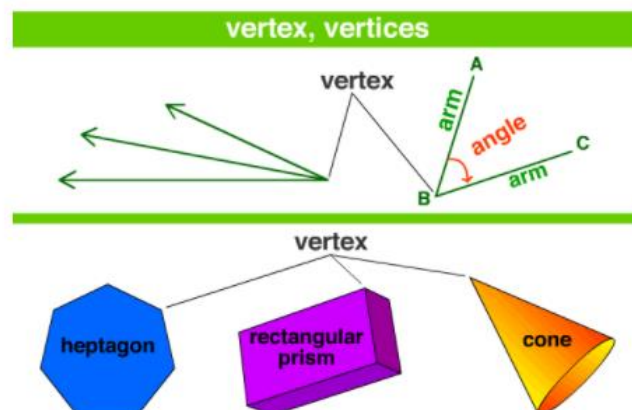
Crescendo



Maths Word of the week:

VERTEX, VERTICES

A point where two or more line segments meet. A corner.



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.