



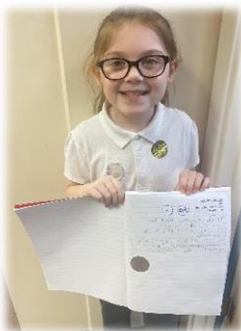
Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 11: 17th March 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all had a good couple of weeks. At Thameside, it has been another learning-filled term so far – the weeks are flying by!



I had the pleasure of spending time in a number of lessons this week and it was simply wonderful to see our children enjoying learning so much and wanting to share their work with such pride – I am nearly out of Headteacher stickers!

Last Tuesday, we welcomed the Vale Academy Trust Director of Learning and Science Lead to review our provision in Science and provide some feedback on the work we have done so far this year to ignite a love of Science in our pupils. We are delighted with the report which again commented on the developments this academic year.

Feedback included the following comments:

The curriculum has been mapped showing knowledge and skills progression from Nursery to Year 6.

Pupils were very positive about their learning in science and could articulate their learning journey and key vocabulary very well. They spoke confidently about practical work

Through lessons seen, retrieval practice was evident, and pupils were clearly remembering more. The focus on key vocabulary is also helping pupils to develop a good science vocabulary.

Other strengths seen in lessons – positive pupil attitudes and behaviour for learning, science working walls with enquiry types displayed, effective partner talk, engaging investigations.

This term is a very important term for the children especially our Year 2 and Year 6 children who will be working really hard in preparation for SATs later on in the year. **Please support your children by making sure they come to school every day, arrive on time and complete the home learning that they have been set. Children should be spending a few minutes every day reading the books they take home and we would love to see as many Year 6s as possible at our TTR and reading morning drops ins.** Mrs Putt and I are also running a one-day holiday club on **5th April for Year 6** – please do send in your permission slip if you would like your child to attend!

Thank you so much for all of the lovely comments and great suggestions in the parent survey so far; we really value your feedback and will share both the outcomes and future actions with parents once the survey has closed. 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. The final date to provide your responses is Monday 27th March.

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

Enjoy the latest newsletter and have a lovely weekend.

Take care and best wishes

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

In this edition:

- Health and Safety reminders
- Focus on... Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Class reviews!
- Stars of the Week
- TTRockstars update!
- Library corner
- Diary dates
- Word of the week!

Health and Safety reminders

- Please can parents make sure that the play equipment around school is not used by children before and after school. This includes the Trim Trail on the field, the table tennis tables and other equipment in the Nursery and Reception areas. Health and Safety requirements are that "...play equipment must only be used under the full supervision of school staff."
- When dropping off and collecting children, please make sure the yellow zig zags and pavements are kept clear and that consideration is paid to our neighbours. **Please do not drive onto the school premises to pick up children; this is in order to keep all of our children safe.**
- Inside the school grounds we ask that bikes and scooters are not ridden for the safety of our children. Please would adults and children (including younger children accompanying parents/carers) push their bikes/scooters. We would really like to see children who use bikes and scooters wearing helmets. Children bringing bikes and scooters to school can leave these in the racks by the playground gates or by using the fence to keep them upright.
- Finally, please would parents/carers collecting or dropping of children during the school day ensure that the school gate is closed. The latch on the gate needs to be put back so the gate closes automatically.

Thank you for your support with this!

Focus on.... Equality and Diversity

Equality, diversity and inclusion are important aspects of our curriculum and ethos at Thameside.



As a school, we are passionate about ensuring that our children are supported to be respectful, appreciative and understanding of everyone's differences, and celebrate the positive impact that this has on our school, local and wider community. At

Thameside, we have mapped all that we do to promote EDI and wanted to share a few of these activities with parents and carers:



- Assemblies linked to inspirational people and events
- Visitors and role models, for example female scientists
- One of our learning to learn skills focuses on 'empathy'
- Opportunities to develop understanding of the experiences of others, for example our wheelchair challenge day led by Ms Nurton.
- A diverse book spine that features characters from a variety of backgrounds and home circumstances – with regular displays linked to current events (for example, Black History Month.)
- An inclusive approach to education – **'this school oozes inclusivity'** (quote from a recent Trust review)
- A curriculum that covers social and moral issues, for example the important role that food banks play in supporting our local community
- Tracking and monitoring our clubs, pupil leadership and enrichment to ensure that all groups of pupils are well represented

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 week full of hard work for the Year 5/6s! Linking our History (Medicine), English (Biographies) and Spanish (our guest was Mexican!) learning, we were very lucky to talk to a scientist and find out more about her life and work; she answered our questions and was truly an inspiration! History has also been an eye-opener! Over the last couple of weeks, we have learnt about medical practices throughout the ages, finding out about questionable Tudor diagnosis during the Black Plague and how the Victorians changed the medical world. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who continues to support our learning at school and home, we really appreciate it!

Year 4/5

Year 4/5 have had a super busy week – Mrs Youngman loved joining the class during their Science lesson, where children re-created a model of the digestive system using tights, orange juice, Shreddies and water. It was a little bit messy but their understanding of the scientific terms and processes was fantastic. There were also some incredibly perceptive questions showing that children were linking their understanding of different areas of Science, for example how the digestive and respiratory systems fitted together. Well done!



Year 3/4

In Michael Morpurgo class, we have had a very busy week in science. The budding scientists in Year 3 enjoyed devising an experiment to answer the question 'Do bones grow?'



Year 3 pupils measured children in Nursery, Year 1, Year 3 and Miss Bourne and Mr Dineen. They will be using J2E Data to present their results.

As musicians, children explored metre in music. Children used body percussion to mark the metre in a piece of music and sang the song 'What's the Metre This Time?' They

definitely have better singing voices than Miss Bourne! Click on the link below to see a little performance!



[WIN 20230308 14 38 12 Pro.mp4 \(sharepoint.com\)](https://www.sharepoint.com/:video/default.aspx?docid=WIN_20230308_14_38_12_Pro.mp4)

Year 2

Year 2 have been amazing this week – they have adapted brilliantly and Miss Forson has loved getting to know all of the children. Mr Dineen has continued to work with Miss Forson to ensure a smooth and supportive transition. They have been working incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum and in particular, on their presentation – the new Year 2 'presentation champion' award is a much sought-after prize! We have been incredibly proud of their resilience in Maths whilst completing some tricky division calculations – well done and keep it up Team Year 2!

Year 1

In Year 1 we have had great fun in Design and Technology. We looked at different fruits and vegetables and thought about which part of the plant they came from. We tasted them to see which ones we liked and then chopped them and blended them in to delicious smoothies. Year 1 have also been amazing writers – Mrs Youngman and Mrs Putt have been simply amazed by the quality of their writing and how much progress they have made this year! They are superstars!



Reception

Reception have had lots of fun this week with Mr Dineen and Miss Polley – they have been continuing their learning about life cycles, reading the story of the Very Hungry Caterpillar; creating storyboards and watching their very own real-life caterpillars grow – they even went to visit Mr McDowell's class' tadpoles to see how they have changed too. Reception also loved their morning in the woods – exploring and playing with their friends. Finally, they joined our celebration assembly this week and we were super impressed with how beautifully they walked to the hall and sat and listened throughout – super Thameside role models!



Nursery

In Nursery over the past few weeks we have been looking at Spring and doing lots of planting. We are trying to make our garden a bit more colourful so we are hoping to grow some plants and wild flowers;



the children have really enjoyed learning about plants and how to look after them. We have been observing a vase full of daffodils and painting pictures of them. We have also

been looking at the story Rosie's walk and creating lots of story maps and exploring every aspect of the story. Today we went on our own Rosie's walk around the hall; going around, through and over obstacles like Rosie did in the book.



Our stars of the Week!

Well done to our Stars of the Week

Reception: Benjamin

Year 1: Matthew

Year 2: Will be a double award next week!

Year 3/4: Matts

Year 4/5: Will be a double award next week!

Year 5/6: Lois

Attendance and Punctuality reminders: Top tips to support your child's attendance and punctuality:

Help your child understand that school is their very first job!

- Make great school attendance a priority for your child.

- Talk to your child about the importance of daily attendance and how it helps their learning.

Help your child develop good habits

- Help your child practise good daily habits like:
 - laying out clothes and their school bag in the evening
 - having a regular bedtime for a good night's sleep
 - leaving early enough in the morning to get to school on time.
 - turn off electronic devices one hour before bedtime.

When your child is ill

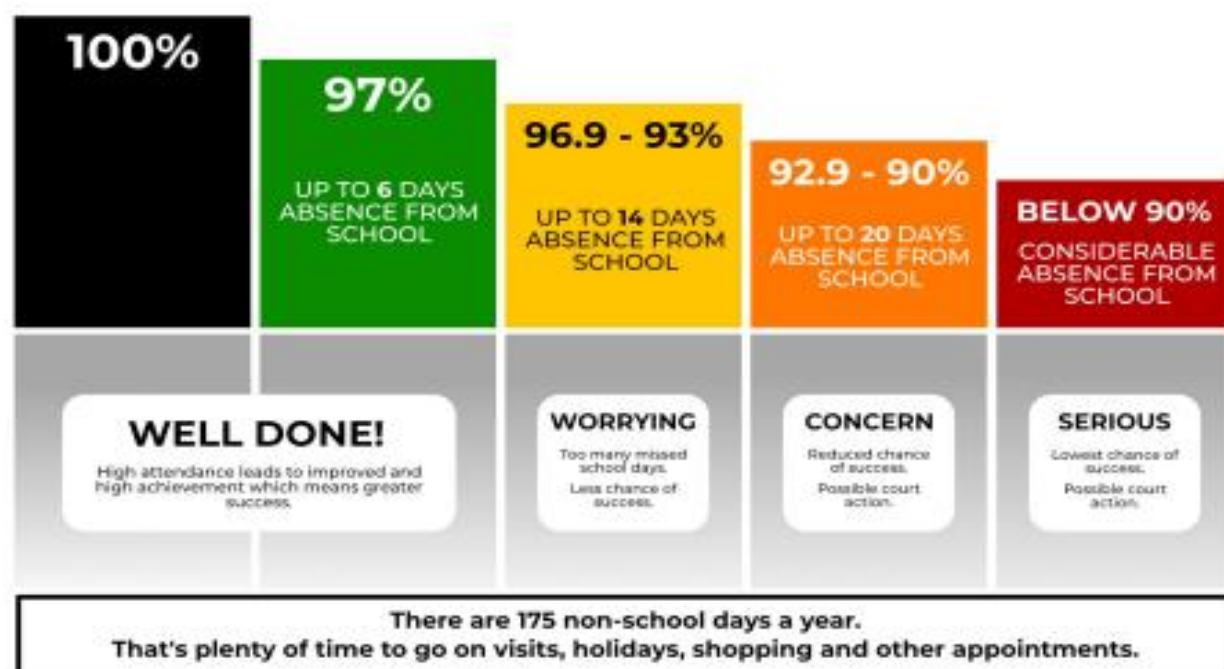
- Only let your child stay home if they are definitely poorly. Sometimes complaints of a headache or stomach ache might be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home. Please do contact us if you have any concerns so that we can support you – we are always very happy to help!
- Follow the NHS guidelines if you are not sure whether your child can attend school: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/when-to-keep-child-at-home/)

Appointments

- Make every effort to schedule doctor, dentist, and other appointments after school hours.
- If your child must be out of school for an appointment, try to get them back to school for at least part of the school day.

Full details about our attendance procedures and policies can be found on our website or via the school office.

WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...

Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...

or They Would Have Missed Approximately...

5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance



TTRockstars and Timestables at home!

This week for TTRS, our focus has been on studio speed.

To improve your studio speed, log on to TTRS, click on Studio and try to improve how quick you are at answering times tables! A huge well done to: **Harvey (Year 4), Amoy (Year 5) and Peter (Year 4)** who have all hugely improved their studio speeds over the last week. Harvey has managed to shave a huge 0.6 of a second from every single question he is answering!

Next week our focus will be on minutes played!

Learning at home resources and preparing for statutory assessments:

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!

The PowerPoint from our recent Year 6 SATs meeting can be found here:

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

Library Corner

Pupils have really enjoyed listening to the Oxfordshire Book Awards shortlist over the last few weeks and the final votes are in! It was a very difficult

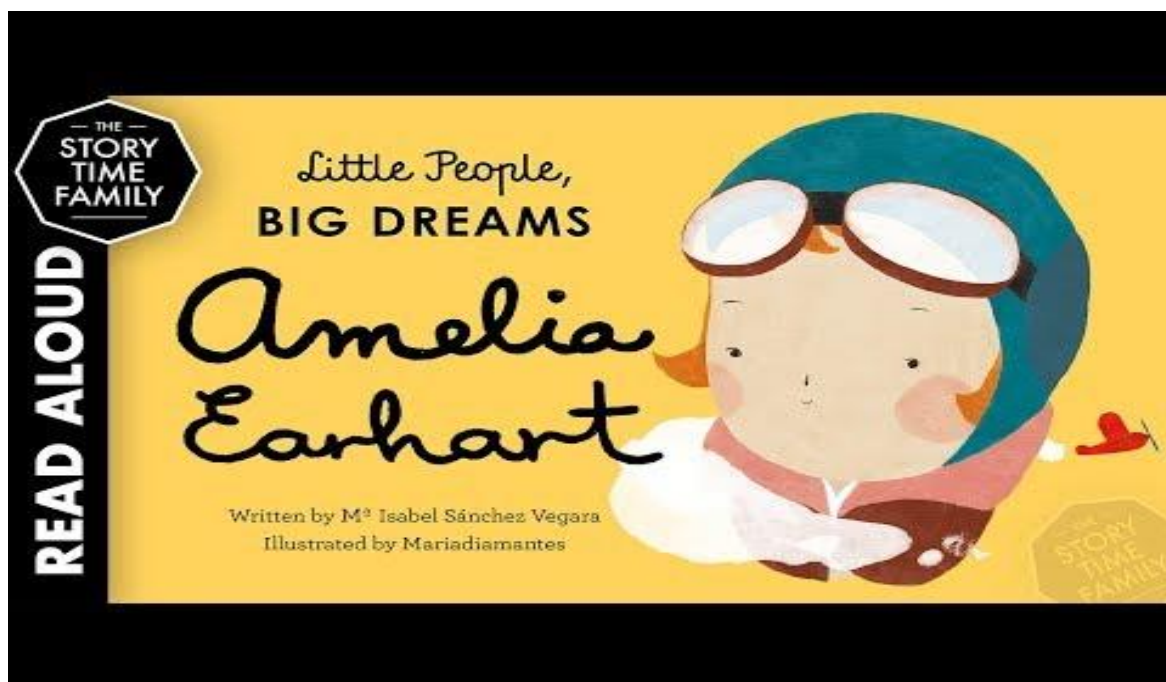
choice, as all the books were wonderful, but 'Mia Makes a Meadow' snuck in to the top position, just ahead of 'We are the Shapes'. We will hear later in the year who has won the award once all the votes are counted up.

This week's recommendation is inspired by International Women's Day which was celebrated last week. 'Little People, Big Dreams' is a totally brilliant series of biographies about all sorts of inspiring figures. Tesco Extra currently have these on sale or you can listen to some of them online. Here are a couple about some amazing women from history:

Rosa Parks (AR quiz available on this book!): [Rosa Parks - Little People, Big Dreams I Read Aloud I Biographies for kids - YouTube](#)



Amelia Earhart (AR quiz available on this book!): [Amelia Earhart: Little People, Big Dreams | Read Aloud Books for Children - YouTube](#)



Accelerated Reader

It's great to see the children still quizzing on Accelerated Reader and this week we passed the nine million words total, which is fantastic! Special mentions this week go to:

- **Harvey (Y4) – ten quizzes passed already this month!**
- **Allanah (Y4) - nine quizzes passed already this month!**


Please continue to encourage your children to quiz from home using this link:
tinyurl.com/dk98jpc

PTA events reminder!

BINGO - 23rd March, from 7pm, at Abingdon Rugby Club
EASTER SURPRISE – presented in assembly before end of term
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.

New event – Break the rules day! Friday 31st March!

Thameside PTA Break the Rules Day!



THAMESIDE
SCHOOL

Friday 31st
March!

Choose which rules to break!

Suggested donation: 50p for each rule broken.

- ❖ Put squash in your water bottle
- ❖ Bring in an unhealthy snack (must be NUT FREE)
- ❖ Wear trainers for the day
- ❖ Style your hair in a crazy style
- ❖ Wear nail polish
- ❖ Wear a hat in the classroom
- ❖ Change your name for the day
- ❖ Bring in a cuddly toy
- ❖ Call your teacher by their first name

Key Diary dates

- 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

Dates for the final term of the year will be shared at the start of next term.

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

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: Ambitious

Very much wanting to succeed and do well.

The child's plans for the future were very ambitious.

Synonyms: determined, eager

Antonyms: unambitious, lazy


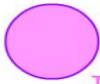
Etymology: it comes from 'amb' meaning around and 'ire' meaning to go.

Maths Word of the week: Fraction

fraction

A fraction is any part of a group, number or whole.

One circle has been cut in half.
A half is a fraction.
We write one half as



The top number is called the numerator. **1** It is the number of parts we have.




The bottom number is called the denominator. **2** It is the total number of parts the whole is divided into.

There are three main types of fractions.

proper fraction

The numerator is less than the denominator.

1 numerator
2 denominator

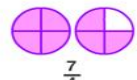
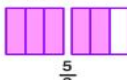



$\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{7}{10}$

improper fraction

The numerator is larger than or equal to the denominator.

5 numerator
2 denominator


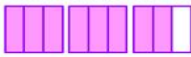


$\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{5}{3}$ $\frac{7}{4}$

mixed number

A number written as a whole number with a proper fraction.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$



$2\frac{2}{3}$ $2\frac{3}{4}$

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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**