



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 13: March 31st 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! What term it has been! So much has been happening and we can't quite believe we have reached the end of another term. We have continued to receive lots of positive feedback about the work that we are completing at Thameside to make our school even better and to ensure that ambition is embedded in all we do. We have included a summary of our school development updates in this newsletter. I also had the huge pleasure of attending the VAT Music Festival on Wednesday – I was so proud to see our children sing so beautifully as part of the VAT Primary Choir; they were a credit to us and I am grateful to the parents and carers who brought their children to the event. Mr Campbell shared this lovely comment in an email to me which made my day:

'Working with your Thameside group has been an absolute pleasure (as always!). I hope that they enjoyed taking part as much as I enjoyed having them – they really were FAB!!!!'

As we mentioned last term, next term is an important term for our children, with statutory assessments in Year 1, Year 4 and Year 6. **Please do continue to read with your children during the holidays; there is also a new TTR competition over the holidays so please do have a go! If you would like some ideas for resources, please do take a look at the 'learning at home' section of our website! Mrs Putt and I are looking forward to our day with some Year 6 children on 5th April.....there may be Easter eggs involved!**

We are also very excited that after half term, we will be opening our new 'Nurture Room'! Thank you once again to Christs Hospital for funding this development which we hope will provide a calm space for us to deliver nurture activities as well as a dedicated area for children who may need a re-set before re-joining their class. Photos to follow soon!

Thank you for all of the lovely comments and great suggestions in the parent survey – it really does mean the world to receive such kind words! We are so proud of all of children – they really do inspire us each and every day! We will provide a full summary of responses next term, but we have captured some of the feedback on our website (please click on the link below):

[Thameside Primary School - Feedback from visitors, Staff and parents](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)
[\(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)

Finally, a huge thank you to our PTA for buying all of our children an Easter egg to enjoy over the break. Our first ever 'Break the Rules' day was a huge success enjoyed by pupils and staff alike!

I hope that the latest newsletter makes you smile and I wish you a wonderful Easter break!!

Take care and best wishes

Laura Youngman

Headteacher



Important Uniform reminder

Please can we remind parents and carers about our uniform expectations – we have noticed a variety of PE tops, trainers and branded 'sneaker-type' shoes being worn which are not part of the uniform policy. All uniform information can be found on our website or via the office and if you have any problems obtaining items or any specific queries relating to your child, please do let us know.

In this edition:

- Focus on...our lovely home school link workers!
- School Improvement priorities update
- Personal development and citizenship in the community
- Class reviews!
- Stars of the TERM!
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- Library corner
- Diary dates
- Word of the week!



Focus on our lovely home school link workers!

We have asked our home school link workers some very important questions to help you get to know them a little more! Mrs Richardson and Mrs Winder work tirelessly to support our children and families and we would quite simply be lost without them!



Mrs Richardson:

1. **Favourite chocolate bar? (important things first!)** Cadbury's Whole Nut
2. **Place of birth?** Taunton, Somerset
3. **Favourite place in all the world?** Machu Picchu, Peru

4. **Favourite book?** I don't have one as I love to read anything and everything!

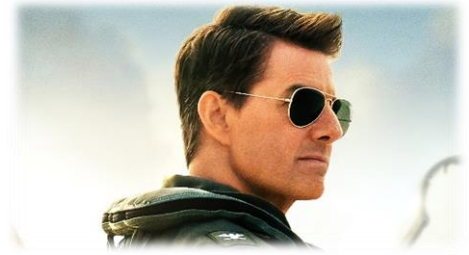
5. **Favourite film?** Top Gun (the original one)

6. **Favourite song?** The Prayer by Andrea Bocelli

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

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

9. **Unlikely interesting fact about you?** I played netball for 32 years in the premier division for various teams in Oxfordshire and the first team I ever played for were called Thameside!



Mrs Winder

1. **Favourite chocolate bar? (important things first!)** Cadbury's Wispa

2. **Place of birth?** York

3. **Favourite place in all the world?** Glencoe, Scotland

4. **Favourite book?** Lord of the Rings

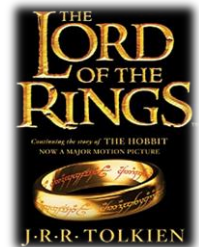
5. **Favourite film?** Sweet Home Alabama

6. **Favourite song?** Somewhere Over the Rainbow

7. **Last meal on earth is likely to be?** Cup of Coffee and a really big piece of cake

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

9. **Unlikely interesting fact about you?** I play the saxophone



School Development priorities update

So far this year, we have worked hard on our core development priorities and are delighted to have received lots of external validation of the positive changes that have taken place (which we have shared in recent editions of Thameside in Touch).

We wanted to give you, as parents and carers, a very brief overview of some of the key actions we have taken:

Key priority 1: Enhancing our curriculum offer

- ✓ Support for subject leaders from our curriculum leader
- ✓ Staff meetings linked to key subject areas, for example Writing
- ✓ Time for teachers to plan together and share ideas
- ✓ Expert 'teacher' input, for example Music, Science and Computing specialists from the Vale academy trust
- ✓ Cross-school collaboration with other VAT schools
- ✓ Parent overviews and updates on the newsletter
- ✓ More wide-ranging and meaningful curriculum enrichment, for example clubs and visitors.

[illegible]

Key priority 2: High quality teaching and developing staff

- ✓ 1:1 Coaching using the latest research and advice linked to high quality teaching and learning
- ✓ Staff meetings, linked to the latest best practice in teaching including time to prioritise planning
- ✓ Online/face to face courses
- ✓ Subject specialist teachers and support from senior leaders
- ✓ Staff online CPD courses

Key priority 3: Improving outcomes

- ✓ Carefully planned support, such as small group work, tutoring, after school and before school sessions
- ✓ Intervention activities
- ✓ Support for families from our inclusion lead and home school link workers to support learning at home – as well as new resources shared on our website for parents and carers



Personal development and citizenship in the community - update from Mrs Putt!!

Here at Thameside, we have really focussed on the Personal Development aspect of school life since September. The children have had many opportunities to expand their horizons including Bikeability training for Year 5, author visits from Matt Oldfield and Sarah Coyle, Safer Together training, the Year 6 residential, the Vale Academy Trust Music Festival and IMPs Training (amongst many more!).

We have many more exciting events upcoming, such as visits from the ambulance service, learning about the King's coronation, puppet shows and workshops, Bikeability training for Years 4&6, Junior Citizens training for Year 6 and many more!

We have also given out lots of Vale Academy Trust Citizenship Awards this week in Years 3-6. Children have had to think carefully about how they have achieved the different criteria (from 'be kind at home and at school' to 'help raise money for the PTA'). We are so proud of all of our children who have achieved their bronze, silver or gold awards. Years 1 and 2 will have the opportunity in the summer term to start working towards their Bronze award. More detail can be found on our website:

[Thameside Primary School - Character development - VAT awards \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](http://thamesideschool.co.uk)



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

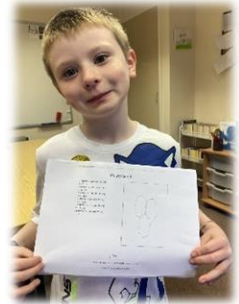
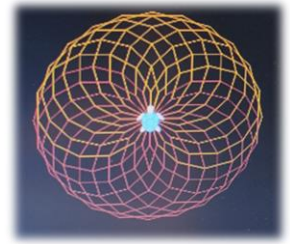
Phew - we made it! Well done to all the Year 5/6 children for all their hard work - there may have been the odd tear, but we have overcome these together! We have had a busy, busy last week of term, completing our Marie Curie Biographies; a surprise visit to Year 1 for Book Buddies and a chat about social media and cyberbullying with our local Police officer and PCSO. Now for a well-earned break and refresh!



Year 4/5

In Anthony Horowitz class we have had a super busy week. We have really enjoyed our History topic, Tudors, where this week we have looked at the reign of Elizabeth I. We explored some historical sources (some quotes and paintings), where we discussed what we could see and predicted what we thought the source may be about. This led us to investigate the Spanish Armada and Shakespeare. As a class we had some fun as we read a scene from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Logan drew the short straw and read the part of Bottom, which he did superbly. There was lots of laughter and decoding some of the tricky Shakespearean language.

We have also been programming within our Computing lessons. We have been focusing on coding to create shapes, which we can then repeat. This has allowed us to create some pretty incredible images. The students have been using a free online resource called Turtle academy. The students have been creating codes and debugging their codes to create repetition in shapes, the results are honestly amazing. Conner even made his own at home!



Year 3/4

In Michael Morpurgo class, we have a group of future historians. The children have been learning about Roman Britain and have enjoyed doing their own research to find out more. The children have made my day at several points over the week by sharing how they have carried on their learning at home. They have made models of Hadrian's wall and were able to talk about the different parts and explain why it was built. All the children have worked incredibly hard this term, and I am immensely proud of each one of them. Keep believing you can achieve and have a lovely Easter break!



Year 2

Year 2 children are finalising their persuasive letters to the Mayor of Abingdon! We have written some fantastic ideas that he will hopefully take on board in order to make Abingdon more inclusive and welcoming. Children used time connectives, conjunctions and emotive words to help convey their message. We will be posting our letters to the





Mayor soon! Mrs Forson has had a lovely time getting to know the children and is excited to be staying with them next term!

Year 1

In Year 1 we have been having great fun in our Computing lessons as we have been learning to move a robot. We started off just making the BeeBot move forwards and backwards, but



soon we added the 'turn' command and made our BeeBots follow a path visiting different shapes. We had to really think hard about how far our BeeBots needed to move and which direction they needed to turn.



Reception

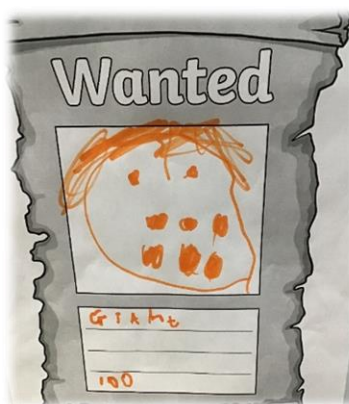
We have been very busy in Reception over the last few weeks, getting ready for Easter! The children have been helping the Easter Bunny to save Easter with our story 'Saving Easter'. We have seen some brilliant writing as well, with a big well done to our first writer of the week; Lyla! It has been a pleasure getting to know your children in Reception over the last few weeks. We also had so much fun meeting Jonathan's Jungle, with some very brave children (and grown-ups). I have been extremely impressed with how the children are showing great working behaviours such as sitting quietly, taking it in turns to speak and best of all walking into the hall and lunch quietly. We have been trying to sneak past Mrs Youngman's office without her noticing. We are currently winning!



Have a lovely Easter break and see you all when we return to school.

Nursery

Nursery have been so engaged, learning about Jack and the Beanstalk. The giant even visited our Nursery on Wednesday looking for Jack and his hen who lays golden eggs. He messed up the classroom and left lots of clues that he had been there, including beans and footprints along with a letter. The children decided to build traps inside and outside to try to trap the giant and made wanted posters which we put up around school. In the afternoon, we discussed the question - should Jack have taken the hen from the giant? It was great to hear the children's own views. The children have also planted their own beans which we hope will turn into beanstalks of our very own!



Our stars of the Term!

Well done to our Stars of the Term!!!!



Reception: Mason

Year 1: Hazel

Year 2: Evan

Year 3/4: Matts

Year 4/5: Evaldo

Year 5/6: Phoebe

Mrs. Youngman's Headteacher Star: Darina in Year 1



TTRockstars and Timestables at home!

This week, our focus has been on the number of minutes played. A big well done to **Ava** (Year 2), **Bailey** (Year 6) and **Thomas** (Year 6). All three children have played more than 35 minutes over the course of the week!

Over the Easter break, we have set a '**Battle of the Bands**'. This means that one class will be declared the winners and we will have prizes for the winners in the top three classes! Keep practising over the Easter break to be in with a chance of winning! The winners will be announced in the first celebration assembly after half term.

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:

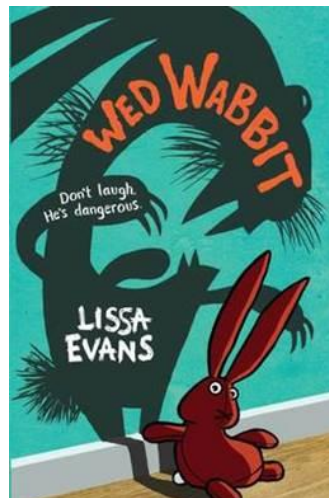
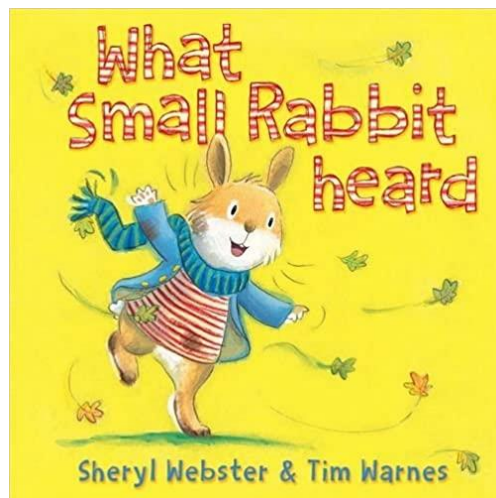
[Thameside Primary School - Keeping Safe \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](https://thamesideschool.co.uk)

[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 and Easter recommended reads!



With Easter coming up, this week's recommendations are both books about rabbits!

'What Small Rabbit Heard' by Sheryl Webster and Tim Warnes is a really funny book about little bunny who keeps mis-hearing instructions! Perfect for reading aloud, this is definitely a book which gets you giggling as Small Rabbit becomes more and more mischievous.

'Wed Wabbit' by Lissa Evans is a recommended read for KS2 – another laugh-out-loud book about a rabbit who is certainly not cute and fluffy. Fidge, an 11-year-old, finds herself trapped in her sister Minnie's favourite story. She must solve a series of puzzles to escape and save her sister from a very desperate situation. An unusual book which is well worth a read!

For more rabbit-themed books, check out the Book Trust website here [Rabbits | BookTrust](#) or – even better – pop into the Abingdon library and borrow some for free!

The library is a lovely warm space to visit in the holidays. They now have free tea and coffee at various points in the week and a big selection of puzzles and games which you can either play there or take home. Check it out! [Abingdon Library | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Accelerated Reader

The children have been continuing to read and quiz using the Accelerated Reader programme and I'm thrilled to be announcing another fabulous milestone – our second Word Millionaire of the year!



Sarika in Year 4 hit the one million words mark last week and received her special 'Word Millionaire' shield badge in assembly. Sarika has read a wide range of genres to get her to this amazing achievement, but particularly likes the fairy series by Lauren Brooke and books by Jacqueline Wilson. Congratulations, Sarika, on this reading success!

As always, we encourage the children to finish books and quiz at home using this link: tinyurl.com/dk98jpc

PTA events reminder!

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

- 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
- Monday 15th May – KS1 SATs

Summer provisional dates will be shared after the Easter break.

****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 - REFUGE

Meaning: to give a place of safety or shelter, or a place of safety.

The woman gave refuge to the terrified family who were fleeing.

Synonyms: asylum, haven

Antonyms: expose

Etymology: it comes from the Latin 're' meaning back. And fugere meaning flee.

Maths word of the week:

SYMMETRICAL

An object is symmetrical when one half is a mirror image of the other half.

It may be divided by one or more lines of symmetry.

