

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 14: April 28th 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely Easter break – the sun even came out for us! It was a pleasure hosting our Easter activity day with a very happy and enthusiastic bunch of our Thameside Year 6 children; everyone had a great time and lots of learning took place!



The start of the Summer term has been jam-packed with events such as our Reception and Key Stage 1 'Beep Beep Day' linked to keeping safe near roads. We have loved having the children back in school; they have been incredibly proud of their achievements so far and we have enjoyed spending time in classes to hear them share their knowledge and learning with us.

We have also been spending time revisiting our 5Rs values at the start of this term and were delighted when Sarika produced a wonderful guide for our staff and children in her own time at home – we will be getting a number of copies made for visitors to enjoy. Thank you, Sarika – amazing modelling of responsibility!

Linked to our value of responsibility, we have also reminded children about the expectations that any scooters and bikes should not be ridden on the school site on the way to and leaving school – I appreciate your support with this.

Finally, we would also like to welcome parents and carers to an **open classroom afternoon at 2.00pm on Wednesday 24th May – this will be chance to pop into your child's classroom, join in with the activities and then if you**

would like to, join our summer Reading Café afterwards (hopefully in the sunshine!). We also have a Reception Reading session on Wednesday 3rd May – please see the poster at the end of this newsletter.

Wishing you all a lovely Bank Holiday weekend – let's hope that Spring has finally sprung and that the sun continues to shine and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 2nd (please note that Reception and Year 4/5 will be closed on Tuesday 2nd due to strike action).

Take care and best wishes

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

Important Uniform reminder

Please can we remind parents and carers about our uniform expectations? We have continued to notice 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:

- Year 6 SATSs – a big well done and top tips!
- WOW writing from Finn
- Focus on... Year 6 Junior Citizens trip!
- Class reviews!
- Stars of the week
- TTRockstars update!
- Library corner
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Year 6 SATs tests – week beginning 8th May

Year 6 SATs will be taking place in the week beginning 8th May (from Tuesday to Friday, with Monday 8th May being a Bank Holiday)– we are so incredibly proud of the children. They have quite simply worked their socks off and we know that they will do the very best they can.

You are all amazing!

The most important things that you can do, as parents and carers, to support your children in the run up to the exams, are to make sure that they:

- ✓ arrive on time for school
- ✓ have lots of sleep
- ✓ eat a healthy breakfast – we will also be providing breakfast before school during SATs week (timings to follow)
- ✓ stay relaxed

There is a fantastic chart at the following link to provide some really useful top tips to support children in staying calm:

[How to Help Kids with Test Anxiety](https://www.biglifejournal-uk.co.uk/how-to-help-kids-with-test-anxiety)
[Big Life Journal – Big Life Journal](https://www.biglifejournal-uk.co.uk)
[UK \(biglifejournal-uk.co.uk\)](https://www.biglifejournal-uk.co.uk)

**But most importantly – to our wonderful
Year 6 children, you are amazing and
we believe in you!!**



YOU ARE AMAZING,
you are important,
you are special,
you are unique.
YOU ARE PRECIOUS,
you are loved.

Wow Writing!

Mr McDowell was astounded by Finn's incredible Tudor story as part of Year 4/5's historical narrative unit – Finn used some incredibly well-chosen vocabulary to set the tone of the story and then worked with Mrs Youngman to edit and improve with his purple pen. Well done! We hope you enjoy the extracts of his work below:

“Edward, you cannot have a dog in the kitchen,” a woman screamed, her face contorting with anger.

Edward just had time to get to the doorframe as he witnessed his dog, Woofers, leap onto the back of a man like a ravenous wolf.

There was a boy getting his new job as a cook. His name was Edward. He marvelled at the dullness of the kitchen. Everything grey, the room dimly lit by flickering candles.



Focus on..... the Year 6 Junior Citizenship trip- written by Phoebe and Daniel!

As part of our focus on keeping safe, Year 6 visited Rewley Road fire station for a fantastic morning of learning – find out more in the article below:

This was a phenomenal experience. Everyone had loads of fun and discovered new techniques on how to be safe and save other people's lives in dangerous situations. Everybody had great fun and learned what to do to and what not to do. When we arrived, the fire fighters, Police, PCSOs, transport police and Trading Standards people were fantastic and pleasant. After our adventure, we realised we knew so much more about health and safety.

Castle Alley - This room was the best room of them all, it took everyone on a roller coaster of emotions and in some groups, people ended up falling over! It was scary because a horrifying man came out of nowhere.

The instructors were so utterly kind towards us. Whilst we were there, we accomplished new achievements such as making a 999 call,

which a lot of people really wanted to do. We also learned what to do if you fell into a river, as well as put an unconscious person into the recovery position. Do you know what the recovery position is?

To conclude, we think that this was one of the greatest experiences of our entire lives. We 100% would do it again if we got the opportunity. All the volunteers and adults did a great job on demonstrating the activities and keeping us out of harm's way. It was so fun especially Castle Alley.

Class reviews

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

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

Year 5/6

Another week of hard work, resilience and collaboration! Miss Clark gave us some tricky situations to work our way out of - trying to cross a river of lava using a piece of paper was not as easy as it sounds and as for the man trying to get the chicken, fox and corn across a river, we really had

to put our heads together to solve this dilemma!



In English, we have started looking at vocabulary to describe beaches around the UK, some beautiful, others polluted, and we used our findings to persuade others to stop plastic pollution. We have also continued our class reader *Ella on the outside*, which has helped us understand friendships and relationships - I wonder what twists and turns we will find out next!



Cameron wrote this very powerful piece linked to our work around plastic pollution and we wanted to share it with you!:

Why do people keep harming our beaches? If you keep dropping rubbish on our beach, the animals will die. It looks like a trash dump and smells horrible and disgusting. Over 800 000 tons of plastic and rubbish are dropped in our beautiful sea. This causes sickness for people, giving them headaches, eye infections and an upset stomach. Even over 100 000 turtles and marine animals die by eating the plastic. Please stop throwing things in the ocean so we can save our animals. We want them to live. Please stop.

Year 4/5

These past two weeks have been very busy for Anthony Horowitz class. We have been working extremely hard, writing and finishing our Tudor narratives which, will be sent to Mr Cole (a history teacher at Larkmead). The class have put a great amount of effort into these stories and they are a real pleasure to read. Since we have finished our Tudor narrative, we launched our new writing topic with an exciting and mysterious scavenger hunt.

The class had to find clues and solve various problems to uncover what was in the box; the contents of the box revealed our new writing topic. The class worked collaboratively in their groups, decoding SOS calls and solving puzzles to uncover the mystery within the box. Most of the class guessed correctly and discovered that this term we will be writing about... DRAGONS! Using the book 'How to Train Your Dragon' as our linked text, we will be creating a non-chronological report all about a dragon.



Year 3/4



This week, Michael Morpurgo have been learning how to create observational drawings of plants. We thought about drawing the details, using careful observation and patience. Everyone enjoyed spending time drawing a tulip or rose. It was lovely to see how resilient the whole class were! Well done Year 3/4!



Year 2

Mrs Forson has been so proud of Year 2 this week! They have been working incredibly hard on their reading skills and their resilience has been incredible – we celebrated this in our Star of the Week assembly. They all thoroughly enjoyed this week's 'Beep Beep' Day and Evan played a starring role! Well done everyone - you are stars!



Year 1

In Year 1 we have been reading Jack and the Beanstalk. We are preparing to write our own version of the story. We have had great fun looking at some new vocabulary and then worked collaboratively to make some graffiti posters to show what each of the words meant.



These are the words we used: furious, enchanted, monstrous, penniless, contented, inquisitive. Mrs Putt was stunned at how brilliantly they explained the meaning of the words when she popped in!



Reception

In Reception we have had a great start to the term, carrying on where we left off with lots of fun, friendly behaviour and learning. The children (and the staff) have really thrown themselves into our new focus of animals, role playing a Veterinary



surgery with lots of (cuddly) animals feeling a lot better. In Maths we have been focusing on forwards and backwards counting to 10, including jumping forward or backwards one space. Town mouse and country mouse is our new story and the children have been thinking about each other's feelings, and linking this to last term's learning to learn focus of empathy.



In addition, please note that photos of our learning and key messages will continue to be shared via Tapestry. Please refer to Tapestry for more information. Tuesday is outdoor learning day and Thursday is PE day. Please come in appropriate kit for both. As always, please don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries.

Thank you for your support with your child's development.

Nursery

We have had a great time in Nursery since the Easter break. We have been learning all about The Three Little Pigs and focusing on our learning to learn skill, which is 'collaboration'. We have been building houses for the pigs as a team, to keep them safe from the Big Bad Wolf. We have spoken about what makes a house strong and safe. Therefore, we have experimented with lots of different materials. We have created our own story maps which have included the order of events in the story. In Phonics, the younger children have been working on their listening skills, playing simple games, and the older children have been looking at alliteration. In Maths, we have been looking at sequencing events and numbers from 1 to 10.



Our stars of the week

Due to the strikes, we will do a double Star of the Week report next week



TTRockstars and Timestables at home!

We had a fantastic response to the TTRS competition over the Easter holidays. A big well done to everyone who took part and kept practicing! Well done to **Bailey (Year 6)**, **Grace (Year 4)** and **Lexie (Year 3)** for getting the highest scores in their class. A special well done to Bailey who managed to rack up an incredible **23024** points!! Bailey, Grace and Lexie were presented with their prizes in the first celebration assembly back.



Bailey has also received the coveted Rock Hero status which means she was able to answer every question **under 1 second** – even Mrs Putt is yet to reach this status! Bailey, you are awesome and will be receiving our first ever 'Rock Hero' Badge!

Our focus for next week is **accuracy**, so keep practicing to improve those scores!

We are also delighted that we now have access to Numbots – the Reception and KS1 version of TTR which focuses on number bonds and calculations – log ins will be provided later this term so watch this space for the next round of competitions!

Learning at home resources

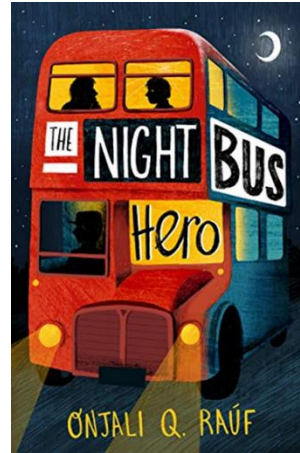
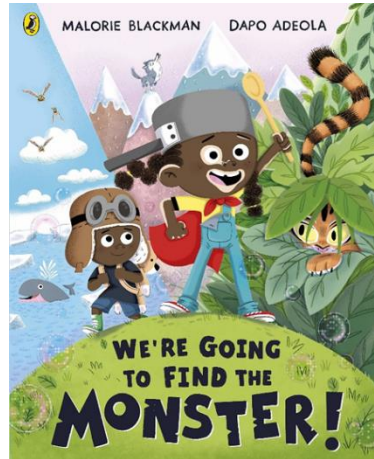
Please do check out our website which is continuing to grow! We have included lots of new information about our curriculum and resources to help support you at home on the following pages:

[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



'We're Going to Find the Monster!' by Malorie Blackman is a really colourful and imaginative picture book about two children who are going on an adventure. A great book to read-aloud with your family as you follow Charlie and Eddie to try and find the monster. But who is the monster? (AR Book Level 2.9 / 453 words)

'The Night Bus Hero' by Onjali Q. Rauf is a recommended read for KS2. It's a fantastic book all about a boy who always gets into trouble. However, after playing a prank on an old man who lives in the park, he wants to prove to everyone that he can be a hero. This book shows bravery and determination and is well worth a read! (AR Book Level 5.3 / 54,932 words). This is one of Mrs Youngman's favourite ever books!

The library is a lovely warm space to visit. 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](#)

PTA update

This month our PTA chair, Joanna, will be stepping down from her role – we thank Joanna for all of her hard work and the many hours that she has spent supporting fundraising projects for the school. Thank you Joanna – we will miss you and we are so grateful for all that you have done for us!



We are still looking for a new chair/co-chairs, so please do get in touch. More details about future events to follow soon!

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

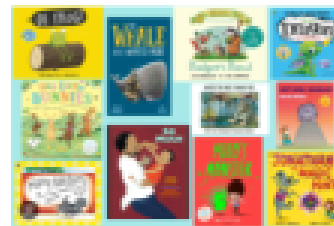
- **Monday 1st May – Bank holiday (School closed)**
- **Monday 8th May – Bank Holiday (school closed)**
- **Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May – Year 6 SATs week**
- **Monday 15th May – KS1 SATs**
- **Wednesday 24th May 2pm – open classrooms**

Summer event dates – provisional and times TBC:

- **Wednesday 5th July - Years 1-6 Sports Day**
- **Wednesday 12th July - Transition Morning**
- **Tuesday 18th July - KS2 Production AM**
- **Wednesday 19th July - KS2 Production PM**
- **Thursday 20th July - Year 6 Leavers assembly**

****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)



All Reception parents are warmly invited to a

READING OPEN AFTERNOON

in Reception
at 2.30pm
on Wednesday 3rd May

with Ms Daniell (Phonics/Reading Lead)
and Miss Polley (SENCo)

- ◆ Find out about how your children learn to read at Thameside
- ◆ Get ideas and tips on how to support at home
- ◆ Free books to take home and (time permitting) an end-of-day story!

EXPLORE LEARNING

YEAR 6

FREE SATS WORKSHOP

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29TH APRIL
12:30PM-1:30PM



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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 - UNIQUE

It means, to be one of a kind.

We are all unique in our own way.

Synonyms : individual, special.

Antonyms: same.

Etymology: it comes from the Latin 'unus' meaning one.

Math word of the week - COMMON

It means to be shared or done often. Belonging to two or more quantities.

Find the common factors of 20 and 45.

Synonyms: regular, frequent.

Antonyms: rare, unusual.

What is the highest common factor of 16 and 24?

Factors of 16: 1 2 4 8 16

The highest common factor is 8

Factors of 24: 1 2 3 4 6 8 12 24