



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 15: 12th May 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a lovely couple of long weekends enjoying some special time with families and friends, whether you took part in a coronation party or just enjoyed some well-deserved relaxation. At Thameside, we celebrated the coronation with a picnic-themed lunch and lots of activities in our classes. The bunting is still up and being enjoyed by all!



This week, we have been so, so proud of our Year 6 children during their SATs tests– they have been absolute role models of our value 'resilience' and I could not have asked for more from them. Well done to Team Thameside!

In staffing news, Mrs Sarah Hardy will be leaving us at the end of this half term to move to another teaching assistant position within the Vale Academy Trust.

We thank Mrs Hardy for her hard work, kindness and dedication – we will miss her smile but wish her all the best for the future; keep in touch!

We are delighted that two new support staff will be joining the Thameside family after the half term break – we welcome Megan Boddy and Chelle Witney as teaching assistants. Both come with significant experience in primary schools and I am sure that you will join us in welcoming them (we will introduce them both properly in a future edition of 'In Touch'!)

We are still advertising for a further teaching assistant role for September; if you would like an informal conversation about the post, please do get in touch.

Next week, our wonderful Year 2 children will be taking their KS1 SATs papers; like our Year 6s, we wish them lots of luck - we are already super proud of all they have achieved and the amazing people they are. Go for it!

Have a lovely weekend...the sun is forecast to shine! Hooray!

Take care and best wishes

Laura Youngman

Headteacher



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Thameside values in the community!

We are always so proud to hear that our pupils are modelling our values of kindness outside of school – **Sonny** is currently raising money for an amazing cause and would be delighted if anyone had a few pennies to spare to sponsor him! Amazing work Sonny! Link below:

[Siobhan Rhodes is fundraising for The Eve Appeal \(justgiving.com\)](https://justgiving.com)

Year 2 also received a letter back from the Mayor of Abingdon in response to their suggestions for how to make Abingdon more welcoming – we are so proud to receive such a wonderful reply! Not only does this show the power of our new Writing approach, but also how we can make a difference to our local community!

Dear Mrs Forson & all the children of Year 2,

Thank you so much for writing to me about all your ideas of how to make Abingdon a more welcoming place. You have so many good ideas!

I was delighted that so many of you wanted to make sure that refugees get a nice welcome in our town. Abingdon has a great tradition of welcoming people from very many backgrounds and helping people in need. One of our councillors was a refugee herself, and I've listened to her talk about experiences.

Your ideas about making our town work for people who use sign language are important. People who are disabled should be able to enjoy our town and all its facilities and that's something that the Council will always have in mind.

I was really impressed by all the thought that you have put into your letters – you clearly love Abingdon and want the best for it. Please keep on thinking about what changes you would like to see, and keep on telling your councillors about them – we are here for all of our residents, whether you are 6 years old or 86!

Best wishes,



Councillor Andy Foulsham
Mayor of Abingdon, 2022-23



Focus on.... Magical Maths at Thameside!

At Thameside, we are mad about Maths! All year groups have a daily Maths lesson, with a focus on fluency and reasoning skills.

We use the White Rose Scheme of Maths on which we base our daily planning and Maths learning journeys. Lessons use a range of resources, and we focus on the concrete, pictorial, abstract

approach to develop a deep and sustainable understanding of Maths.

Children who succeed at maths are usually the ones who enjoy it most, so remember – maths is fun, everyone! Try to keep telling yourself that, even if that's not the way you remember it from your own childhood. We all know how easily children pick up on the things we say, so it's important that we as adults don't pass on our dislike or fear of maths by saying things like 'I was never any good at maths' or 'I hated maths at school'.

In Nursery and Reception, learning focuses on number, patterns and connections, and spatial reasoning. It is essential that all children develop a strong grounding in number so that they develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Please find some links below with videos and activity ideas for Maths at home.

10 fun maths activities and games for the EYFS | Family

[count-with-me-leaflet-3-to-4-years.pdf \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#)

[count-with-me-leaflet-4-years-plus.pdf \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#)

[Help your child be epic at maths - CBeebies - BBC](#)



In Years 1-6, children build on those skills learnt in the Early Years and continue to learn about number, operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), fractions, percentages, decimals and problem solving.

Look out for details of our Maths Café coming soon!

Attendance and punctuality update from Miss Polley!

It is great to see how excited the children have been earning their punctuality raffle tickets in celebration assembly. There has been decrease in our lateness numbers which is amazing to see – thank you for all of your support! We will continue to offer targeted support for families with punctuality and please do get in touch if you would like any support or guidance. It would be brilliant to see the lateness numbers decrease again by the end of the summer term! Go Team Thameside!

Every week, there is a big competition between classes to find out who will win the class attendance award of extra playtime. The magic number is 96% or above and it has been great to see lots of classes reaching and even exceeding this! We have been celebrating classes with improved attendance each week too and supporting families with their child's attendance through teacher phone calls, Home School Link support and Attendance Plans. If you need any help with attendance, please contact Miss Polley, Mrs Winder or Mrs Richardson.

We would also like to provide a quick reminder about booking holidays in term time. We are unable to authorise any holidays in term time in line with our attendance policy. Any absence of this type will be unauthorised and closely monitored.

We have however had a number of occasions where we have been informed that children are ill, but have then been told by children on their return to school, that they were on holiday but were told not to tell anyone.

We ask you to be open and honest with the school, as creating a supportive environment with trusting relationships, is key to encouraging children to share any thoughts or worries they have with staff.

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments					
190 DAYS FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION EACH YEAR	10 days absence 180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	19 days absence 171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	29 days absence A term missed 161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	38 days absence 152 DAYS OF EDUCATION	47 days absence 143 DAYS OF EDUCATION
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start		Worrying Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress		Serious Concern Not fair on your child. Court action!	

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

We are definitely ready for some fun after this week! Mrs Russell and I would like to say a massive WELL DONE to the Year 6 children this week - it has been tough, but they have shone through with resilience and determination; we are so very proud of them! Not forgetting the Year 5s, who have also worked with increased independence and resilience - thank you for being patient and understanding!

Year 4/5

What a busy few weeks we have had in Anthony Horowitz class! We spent some time last Friday making some decorative Coronation themed bunting and some royal crowns ready for the big day! We have also had the first showing of 'Thameside News at 12', where the students got into the role of a news reporter and presented a news report all about a dragon sighting at Thameside (don't worry! The sightings were made up). It was great to get an insight as to who would be on the BBC breakfast sofa in years to come.

This week, we have been working hard, starting to come up with ideas and questions for our Science fair. This year theme is all about being green and focusing on the environment. We are taking a closer look into the water cycle to then explore how plastic and other waste ends up in our oceans. We are investigating ideas around microplastics and how we can reduce our use of plastics and ultimately prevent plastic entering the water cycle. Watch this space! (There may be some interesting requests at home to support with their investigations!)



Year 3/4

We have continued to work incredibly hard so far this term – last week, Michael Morpurgo class enjoyed celebrating King Charles's coronation! The children were very creative designing the King's crown! It was lovely to see their enthusiasm and curiosity about this historic moment. We hope that you enjoyed the photos on our Facebook page!

Year 2

What a busy but exciting week we've all had. Children have enjoyed sequencing the 'HERMELIN THE DETECTIVE MOUSE' story by using pictures to identify the different components of the story (beginning, middle and the end of the story), as well as writing sequences of sentences to form a narrative. Children worked really hard remembering the structure of a good sentence (capital letters, finger spaces and full stops) as well as writing some noun phrases.



We also discussed Hermelin's attic and all of the unusual objects he had, like a typewriter. We explored a real typewriter and compared it to Mrs Chung's laptop and thought about the difference between the two. This is a build up to children writing their own stories which will be shared with parents and carers soon.

Year 1

We are becoming amazing writers in Year 1!

This week, we have started to write our own versions of Jack and the Beanstalk. We started by thinking about who was going to climb the beanstalk, what they were going to steal and finally how they were going to get rid of the giant. We had some amazing ideas about stealing golden coins, treasure and even a gold ingot! We are going to bind our writing into proper books which we are looking forward to reading to our friends. We are even going to invite our grown-ups into school to read our amazing stories. (More details to follow.)



We have all decided that we are enjoying being authors and are looking forward to finishing writing our books next week.

Reception

We have been very busy bees in Team Reception over the last few weeks. The King's coronation has kept us busy learning all about why, what and where the event took place. The children loved their coronation picnic; we saw many future kings and queens with royal accents and spectacular crowns!



In other news, we continue to grow stronger with our recognition of numbers to 10 and beyond. 'Town Mouse and Country Mouse' has become our new Literacy story. The children have been improving their empathy skills and thinking about what it would be like to go to a new town/area. The children have really impressed us with their desire to read and write; our phonetical knowledge is improving daily which has made us a very happy team in Reception.

Thank you as always for your support with your child's development. **Reminder that I am using Tapestry to give you a weekly update so please keep checking for the latest news.**

Nursery

For the past two weeks in Nursery, we have been learning all about pets. We have explored lots of exciting tuff trays and even made our very own pet shop.



We had to think very hard about what we would have in a pet shop and used a book called The 'Great Pet Sale' by Mick Inkpen and an online tour of Pets at Home, to help us. On Thursday and Friday last week we started learning all about the coronation and what it meant. We read a story called 'The King's Coronation' and listened to the new national anthem. Miss Higgins - Boyce created a Union jack flag out of coloured rice which the children adored exploring. We made crowns for a lovely picnic we had in the Reception garden; created pictures of King



Charles and built our very own castle complete with flag. We have had so much fun!



Our stars of the week!

Well done to our Stars of the Week!

Reception: Evun

Year 1: Providence

Year 2: Harvey

Year 3/4: Riley

Year 4/5: Tilly - Mae

Year 5/6: All of the Year 6 children!!!!!!



TTRockstars and Timestables at home!

This week we wanted to say a MASSIVE well done to our next Rock Hero – Peter!

This is an awesome achievement and we know that he is rightly proud; he has practiced very single day and it just shows what hard work and determination can achieve.

The teachers are now all trying to beat Bailey and Peter's Rock Hero status – who will achieve it first?



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)

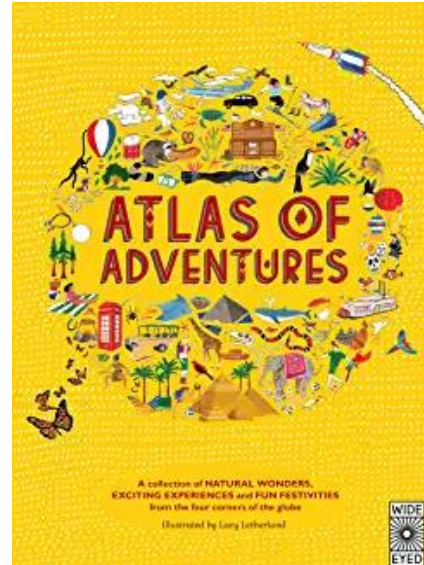
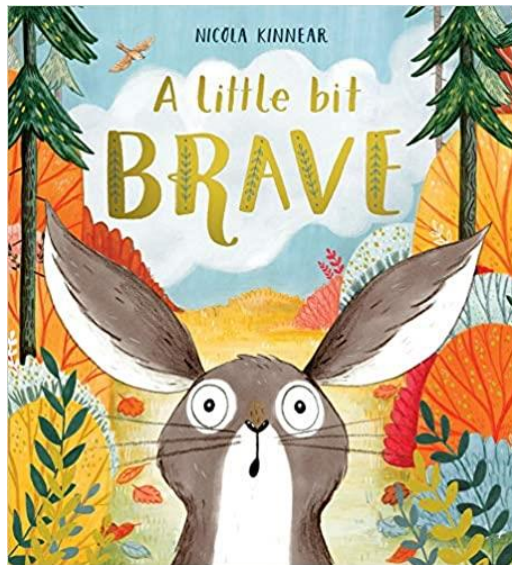
We have also included some resources to support our children with the statutory assessments in Year 4 (Multiplication Check) and the SATs in Year 6 – please do check back regularly for updates!

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

Library Corner

This week's recommendations are books about bravery and adventure! If you like the look of them, you can reserve them (and any other available book!) for FREE from Abingdon library ☺ Just use a young person's ticket and this link to get any children's book delivered to your nearest library!

[My account - Oxford \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk)



'A Little Bit Brave' by Nicola Kinnear is a really wonderful book for reading aloud. Logan and Luna are really good friends, but Logan is quite timid and always plays things safe. Unknown places and experiences are quite scary for him – something that we can all relate to at times. Logan ends up facing his fears, however, in this funny and reassuring story.

'Atlas of Adventures' is an amazing information book with stories from around the world of weird and wonderful experiences. Score a goal in Senegal, do the haka in New Zealand...even meet millions of monarch butterflies. Modern non-fiction books are nothing like the boring encyclopaedias of old – so many having stunning illustrations, and this is no exception!

Accelerated Reader

We are celebrating another INCREDIBLE milestone this week as Grace in Year 4 becomes our first ever word multi-millionaire! Yes – Grace has read and quizzed on a mind-blowing 2,214,379 words since September. We will be acknowledging this accolade soon with a millionaire-themed treat, but wanted to congratulate her in the newsletter in the meantime.

A second special mention goes to Ava, who has just passed the third-of-a-million mark with her quizzing. This is another fantastic achievement, particularly given that Ava is only in Year 2.

Do keep quizzing at home on any finished books, using the link here:
tinyurl.com/dk98jpc

We look forward to congratulating even more pupils as the year goes on. Well done everyone!

PTA events reminder!

MAY'S DISCO 25th of May – full details to follow soon!
FATHER'S DAY 15th or 16th of June
and the SUMMER FAYRE - date to be confirmed.

Key Diary dates

- Monday 15th May – KS1 SATs
- Wednesday 24th May 2pm – open classrooms
- Friday 26th May – end of term 5 (normal time)
- Monday 5th June – start of term 6

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)

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 - **ACCEPTANCE**

Meaning: the acceptance of somebody into a group means to think of them as part of the group and to act in a friendly way.

To be able to tolerate people or situations.

Synonyms: tolerate

Antonyms: rejection

We show acceptance of everybody in our community.

Math word of the week - **CALCULATE**

Meaning: to find an amount or number using maths.

Please calculate the answers.

Synonyms: work out



THAMESIDE NURSERY

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Spaces available for September 2023!

Thameside Nursery provides children with an excellent start to their school journey. In our welcoming and vibrant setting, we ensure that we ignite a love of learning that continues throughout their school career.



The Nursery is very much an integral part of Thameside school, providing a strong foundation for achieving our school vision, which is to nurture life-long learners who are aspirational, courageous, creative and kind.

Children attending the nursery will be well prepared to transition to school.

15 hours and 30 hours funded childcare places available – flexible patterns available.

Interested? Please book a tour and take a look!

Telephone: 01235 527 600

Email: office.2598@thameside.vale-academy.org

Website and links to social media: [Thameside Primary School - Home \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](https://thamesideprimaryschool-home.thamesideschool.co.uk)



For our new parents and carers:



SCHOOL READINESS DROP-IN SESSIONS

**COME AND FIND OUT HOW TO HELP YOUR
CHILD PREPARE FOR SCHOOL**



MONDAY 12TH AND 19TH JUNE

1 - 2.30PM

WANTAGE LIBRARY

CONTACT@GROWFAMILIES.CO.UK

WWW.GROWFAMILIES.CO.UK

Steps to starting school

Build your child's confidence so that they start school confident, curious and ready to learn

Access more great advice, tips and downloadable resources at
pacey.org.uk/schoolready



More top tips:

- ★ Get your child ready for their new routine by switching their meal times to match those of the school day
- ★ Encourage your child to explore new environments and interact with new people
- ★ Talk to your child about what they are most looking forward to at school
- ★ Let your child practise putting their new school uniform on and taking it off
- ★ **And remember**, every child is different and starts school with different abilities

