

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 16: 26th May 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of another term and this one really has gone by so quickly! I can't believe that after half term, we will be entering the final term of my first year at Thameside; it has been such a pleasure and I have loved being part of a very special community who want the very best for our children – it has been wonderful to see the school grow, develop and receive lots of positive feedback on everyone's hard work: onwards and upwards to an exciting future ahead!

Alongside statutory assessments, which will continue next term for Year 1 (Phonics) and Year 4's multiplication check (please do encourage your child to use TTR over the break – can you make Rock Hero status?), we have hosted a wide variety of enrichment activities and events. These have included a wonderful open afternoon to showcase the term's learning (with a huge number of parents, grandparents and friends attending to the point that there was HUGE queue to sign in – thank you!); a Summer Reading Café and our PTA discos. You can see some pictures of these events in the gallery below.

We have been so incredibly proud of all our children in Year 6 and 2 who have been completing assessments this term – they have shown and modelled our learning to learn skills amazingly!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we say goodbye to Mrs Hardy today and wish her all the best in new role; we will miss her! We welcome Megan Boddy and Chelle Witney to the support staff team at Thameside after the break.



Next term is always a lovely, but busy term; we will communicate details of various events over the course of the term, so please do check your email regularly!

Wishing you all a lovely half term break – hopefully the summer sun is properly on its way now!

Please do continue to read with your child daily over the break; it really does make the biggest difference!

Take care and best wishes

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

In this edition:

- Focus on... LGB and VAT Directors Visit
- Thameside Science Fair!
- End of term events Gallery!
- Mental health update
- Class reviews!
- Stars of the week
- TTRockstars update!
- Library corner
- Diary dates
- Word of the week!

Games plea!

Our children have shown a real interest in chess recently and we would love for them to be able to play this during breaks and lunches – if you have any great condition, chess, draughts or other board games, please do drop them into the office!

Thank you :)



Punctuality and attendance reminders

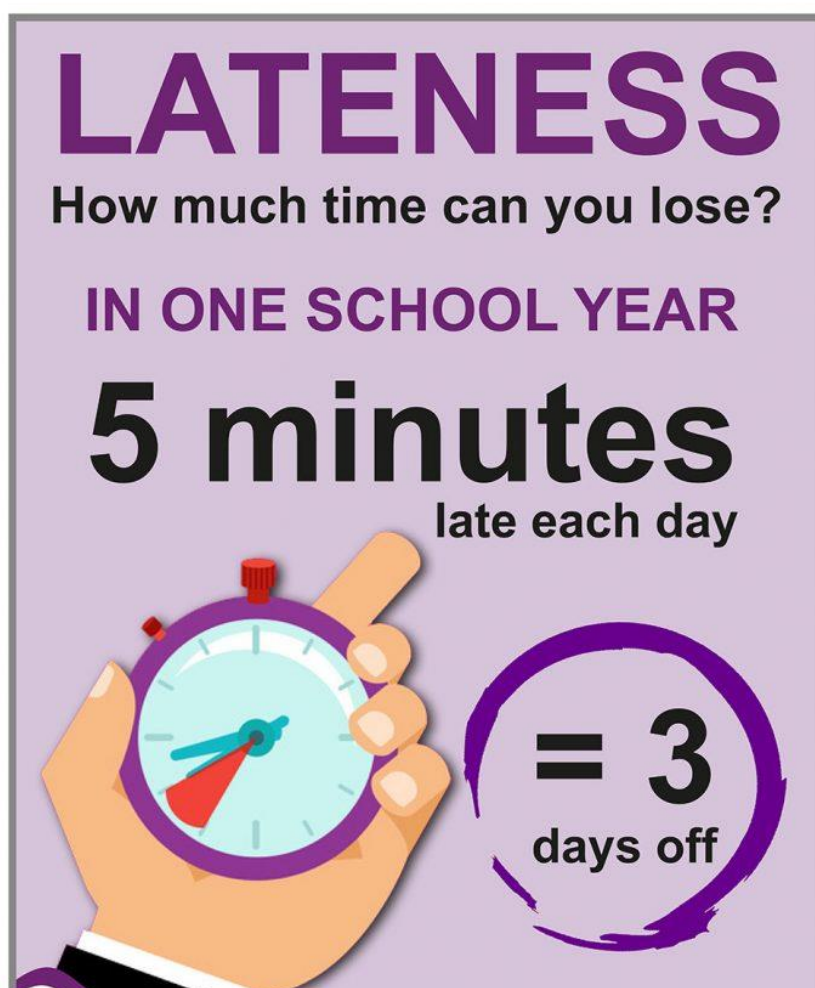
We have seen a huge improvement in the number of children arriving on time – thank you! However, we have started to see a few more children arriving late this week towards the end of term

Please can we remind you that school starts at 8.40am and the register will close at 9.00am. If you arrive on time, your raffle ticket goes into the weekly prize draw for your class!

If your child is ill, please let us know as soon as you can by calling the office; if we have not heard from you, we will call to find out where your child is.

Please ensure that you do inform us, as if we have any concerns, our Home School Link Workers may complete a welfare visit; if there are serious or ongoing concerns or we are unable to get hold of you after this visit, we may then need to ask the police to make a welfare call.

Thank you for your support with this.



Focus on.... VAT Directors and LGB visit

Last week we were delighted to welcome a group of Directors and Governors to school, who were overwhelmingly positive about Thameside. We wanted to share some of their comments:

We were all very impressed by the whole atmosphere of the school, the calm classrooms, the bright surroundings, and the dedication you and your team are bringing to your roles.

Beth Taylor, Chair of the Board of Directors (VAT)

It was a pleasure to notice evidence of many strengths:

- **How well engaged children are across the whole school.**
- **How calm and purposeful the classrooms are, with evidence of respectful and positive relationships between children and between staff and children.**
- **How the Thameside 10 (teaching strategies) are being used to good effect in the classrooms – such as talk partners, focus on subject vocabulary, questioning by teachers that extended the challenge for children.**
- **Additional adults in the classrooms were focussed and enabling the children's learning by skilled questioning and guidance.**
- **Children articulating their learning and in many cases, they could explain why its important (for example why it's important to be able to tell the time).**
- **Classroom displays that are focussed on the process of learning (known as working walls) and also include examples of children's work to celebrate their efforts.**

Jayne Bennion, Sandra North and Paul Thompson (Thameside LGB)



Thameside Science Fair!

Last week all the children in KS1 and KS2 took part in the Thameside Primary School Science Fair. It was a great opportunity for children to explore their own science ideas in their own way and to share their findings with others.

During the week, children worked in pairs to investigate a science problem. The problems ranged from fixing a hole in a wellington boot to investigating problems involving microplastics.

On Friday, the children and the teachers visited all the exhibits and talked to the children about their work and what they had learned.

Mrs Cottrell was impressed with all the exhibits but had to choose a winner from each category. She said it was a really difficult decision.



The finalists from Thameside will join finalists from 11 other primary schools from Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon, for a Science Fair at Rutherford Laboratories.

These are the finalist from Thameside.

Year 1/2 - Logan and Imogen

Year 3/4 - JJ and Grace

Year 5/6 - Lillie and Hallie-Rose

It was great day and everyone should be really proud of their hard work! Well done!



End of term events gallery



Mental Health update

As mentioned in our previous newsletters, at Thameside we have a strong focus on mental health for both staff and children.

Since our last newsletter, lots has developed:

- ✓ We are delighted to have implemented a **welfare cupboard** of items to support families in need – this includes spare PE t-shirts, underwear, socks, sanitary products and oral health items. **If you need anything, please do speak to our HSLWs.**
- ✓ Mrs Youngman and Miss Polley have also completed their **mental health first aid training** to enable us to further support staff and children.
- ✓ The Mental Health Working Party group have completed their first review of our action plan and are delighted with the progress we have made!
- ✓ **The Nurture Room** will have its grand opening after the break!

Please look out for our next MH newsletter at the start of next term, and visit our website page for some fantastic links and guides:

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

The hard work continues as we head towards half-term! Authors in the making, we have been working hard on writing, editing and improving this week - our creatures at the mouth of the cave were really quite frightening but our animals are amazing, probably the most important in the world! Continuing our 'protecting the planet' work in Geography, we became explorers looking



for supplies of minerals around the world - did you know that salt is a mineral too? Also, that diamonds are made out of carbon? The world really is an amazing place! We were taken back to our younger years in Art this week, using Playdough to explore techniques which will help us to sculpt and decorate our vases in Art - we even had a little bit of time to come up with some of our own creations using the techniques!

Year 4/5

This week, we were incredibly proud of JJ and Grace, who won the Science Fair with their fantastic investigation about micro-plastics. They investigated what would be the most effective material as a net to filter different sizes of microplastics – we loved the responsibility that they showed as part of their eco-themed entry. The children have also been working hard to develop their description in preparation for writing their dragon-themed non-chronological reports. Finally, the Year 4s completed their mock Multiplication Check this week; the work that they have put into TimesTableRockstars was clearly evident and they have made huge progress this year – **please do keep practising over half term**. I wonder who can beat Mr McDowell's time (so far, he is the teacher with the quickest time per question!)

Year 3/4

Last week, Michael Morpurgo class set up a class science fair. Working in pairs, the children generated a scientific question they wanted to investigate, planned their experiment, set it up and recorded their results. The children spent time discussing and explaining their results, and then evaluated their experiment. On Friday, it was brilliant to see children from other year groups visit our class science fair and Year 3/4 scientists share their learning. It was lovely to see the enthusiasm and enjoyment being shared between the different year groups.



Year 2



Children in Year 2 have showed so much resilience in their SATs this week. Their 'can - do attitude' and their positive

mindset has been rather impressive! This week we completed our fantastic and well-illustrated Missing Posters for Mr Penguin using noun phrases as well as some question sentences. We also described a scene from our 'HERMELIN THE DETECTIVE MOUSE BOOK' by using different sentence openers and some apostrophes. We will start planning our own stories soon with emphasis on the beginning, middle and end of our stories.



Science week has been absolutely brilliant. Our prediction was based on what happens when oil and water is mixed together by making our own Lava lamps. Children enjoyed making their lava lamps in groups and there were some really meaningful collaborations!!

Year 1

We have been working really hard in Maths this week. We have been learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. We



started this by thinking about equal groups and how we could put counters into equal groups. We started with 12 counters and put them into groups of 1,2,3,4 and 6. It was quite hard to make sure we had found all the groups.



We also finished writing our amazing stories about a beanstalk. Miss Cross bound them into books for us so they looked really special. It was great fun reading them to our parents.

Reception



What a brilliant six weeks we have had in Reception! It has been a pleasure to have a full term with your children and see the progress they are all making. Proud teacher alert! May I start by saying a big thank you for all adults that came into to help build our Bug Hotel! If you didn't manage to make it in that day, please take your child into the garden at pick up and let them show off our brilliant Bug Hotel!

All that is left to say is have a brilliant break with your children; **please continue to share picture books with your children daily, practise their phonics sounds and talk about what you have read as this is the most important thing that you can do.** If you can visit the library; that would be amazing! Children will receive their new reading book

on the first Monday of half term. Please feel free to share anything the children get up to and want to share on Tapestry.

Thank you for your support with your child's learning and as always please do get in contact if you have any questions or queries.

Nursery

The children really enjoyed exploring the topic of insects. We had lots of fun exploring the field and finding different creepy crawlies. A lot of caterpillars, beetles, ants and flies were spotted. The children picked lots of Daisies and Buttercups too and created their very own sun catchers - you can see these on the Nursery window. We have also completed lots of collaborative work too – creating insects using natural objects outside, making homes for snails and caterpillars, large scale art work and digging for worms in the mud kitchen...team work makes the dream work in Nursery!

We still have spaces in our Nursery for September, so please do spread the word!

Bug hunt on the field



Our stars of the week!

Well done to our Stars of the Week!

Reception: Robin

Year 1: Ana

Year 2: All of Year 2 for amazing resilience!

Year 3/4: Kyran

Year 4/5: Maisie

Year 5/6: Chloe - May



TTRockstars and Timestables at home!

We are so proud of everyone this week – it has been amazing to see how many children are playing TTR at home! Keep it up.

A special well done to **Ethan, Logan and Conner** who had the top three best improvements in number of correct answers this week - Mrs. Youngman was very disappointed that she did not make the top three this week after lots of practice!

Please keep playing over the break – there is a special battle in place for the Year 4s!

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)

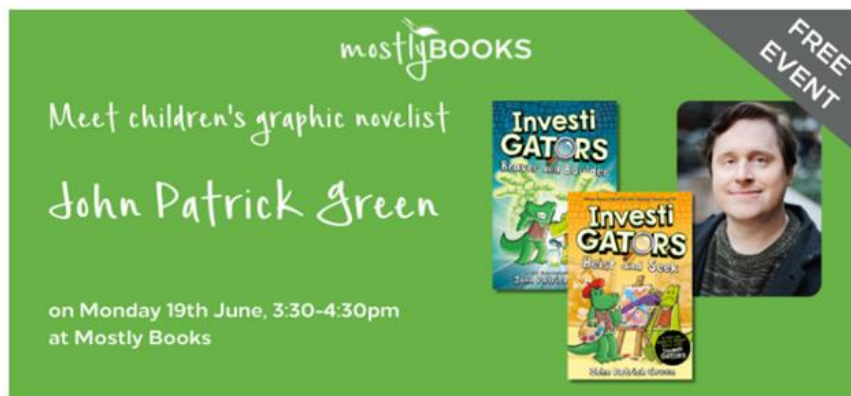
We have also included some resources to support our children with the statutory assessments in Year 4 (Multiplication Check).

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

Library Corner

This week's recommendations are both graphic novels. In the past, texts like comics and annuals have been considered 'not real books', but we now know that it's just important that children are keen readers and accessing texts that they enjoy. Graphic novels really appeal to young people who like the strong visuals and spaced-out text.

After half term, there's an exciting opportunity to meet an author who specialises in graphic novels for children – **John Patrick Green**. See the advert below for the details of this **free event!**



The advertisement is a green rectangular poster. At the top left, it says 'mostlyBOOKS' in a stylized font. Below that, it reads 'Meet children's graphic novelist John Patrick Green'. Further down, it states 'on Monday 19th June, 3:30-4:30pm at Mostly Books'. On the right side, there is a portrait of John Patrick Green and two covers of his 'InvestiGATORS' books. A diagonal banner in the top right corner says 'FREE EVENT'.

Bring your young investigators down to the shop to meet children's graphic novelist John Patrick Green! The creator of **InvestiGATORS** is visiting Mostly Book all the way from the USA on Monday 19th June, from 3:30-4:30pm.

Free event - no booking required.



'Phoebe and her Unicorn' by Dana Simpson is the first book in a graphic novel series about the unlikely connection between a girl and a mythical beast

called Marigold Heavenly Nostrils! Very funny, with a clever dead-pan humour!

'Corpse Talk' by Adam and Lisa Murphy are darkly humorous graphic novels about famous people. A brilliant and subversive way to learn history – children really love these books!

Exciting Library Developments!

Now that our class book corners are looking fantastic, our next job is to spruce up the library! We have been gathering great ideas from staff and a wonderful group of Year 3/4 pupils have been involved in the planning too.

Over the half term, we'll be giving the library a bit of a makeover, courtesy of the massive generosity of Homebase, Abingdon who donated a big tub of paint, plus brushes and rollers. A huge **THANK YOU** to the manager (pictured below) for his support of Thameside. If you're in there over the half term break, please do give him another thank you!



Once it's redecorated, we'll be reorganising the shelves and adding pupil recommendations, etc. If you have any spare books at home which are in good condition, we are always looking for donations to use as prizes, in the library, to sell at the book sales, etc. We'd love to put your donations to good use.

One final plea! Children in Key Stage 2 at Thameside have put graphic novels on their list of books they would really like for the school library. There are some on our Mostly Books website here: [Thameside Primary School Archives - Mostly Books \(mostly-books.co.uk\)](https://mostly-books.co.uk) If you (or your local business / place of work) would like to support Thameside, then **buying us a book or two from this wishlist would be greatly appreciated.**

Key Diary dates

- Friday 26th May – end of term 5 (normal time)
- Monday 5th June – start of term 6
- Ambulance visit to school – Friday 23rd June

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
- Wednesday 19th July – Year 6 leavers party 3.30pm – 5.00pm
- 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)

PTA events reminder!

SUMMER FAYRE - Friday 7th July 3.30- 5.00p

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: **Tactic**

Definition - an action or strategy carefully planned to achieve a specific goal.

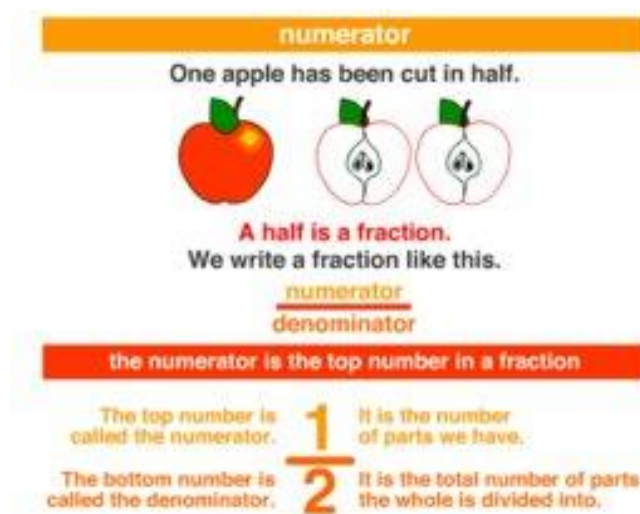
Etymology- from Greek 'tactos' meaning ordered or arranged

In context - The footballer used a clever tactic to score a goal.

Synonyms - strategy, scheme, plan

Maths Word of the week: **Numerator**

Meaning: number above the line of a fraction, showing the number of parts of the whole.



LEARN THE UNDERWEAR RULE



AND YOU'VE GOT
IT COVERED!

P RIVATES
ARE PRIVATE

A LWAYS REMEMBER YOUR
BODY BELONGS TO YOU

N O MEANS NO

T ALK ABOUT SECRETS
THAT UPSET YOU

S PEAK UP, SOMEONE
CAN HELP



ChildLine
0800 1111

ChildLine is a service provided by the NSPCC.
2019381. Registered charity numbers 218401 and 50557717

NSPCC
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.



THAMESIDE NURSERY

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



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

