

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 17: 16th June 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 6 – it has been lovely to enjoy the more summery weather and see the children enjoying our wonderful field and outdoor spaces. **As the weather warms up, please can I take this opportunity to remind parents and carers to ensure that children come to school with a full water bottle, hat and wearing suncream (the all-day ones are very useful). We will naturally limit the time they spend in the sun and provide shade, but we really appreciate your support in helping to keep our children safe in the hot weather.**



As many of you will know, on the first day of this term, we received the call that Ofsted would be completing a Section 5 Inspection of our school. Although we are unable to share the outcome until the report is published, we wanted to thank you all for your support and kind words; it really has been appreciated. We will update you once the report is officially published.

As well as the inspection, we have had a fantastic Vale Academy Trust Science Fair, a visit by the PCSOs to Nursery and Year 6, as well as statutory assessments in Year 1 (Phonics) and the Multiplication Check in Year 4 – as always, we have continued to feel incredibly proud of the hard work, resilience and positive attitude of our pupils; in Year 4, many of them have found that using Times Table Rockstars has really helped them, so please do make sure that you are encouraging your children to play at home (and Numbots for our younger children!) **Please do continue to read with your child daily as well; it really does make the biggest difference! We are always happy to help recommend books too!**

Exciting future plans for September 2023!

We will be sharing information about next year's teachers and classes at the start of July when reports will be sent home along with information about staffing for the new academic year– we have created a 'new style' end of year report this year, which aims to capture children's achievements and successes really clearly for parents and carers. We hope that you like it! As always, there will be an opportunity to provide your feedback about your child's report and chat to us if you have any questions or queries.

School Day

We are now able to confirm that the consultation to extend the school day has been completed and as such, the school day will be extended to **3.15pm** from September 2023.

There are also some changes to the Nursery day as detailed in the letter sent out last term; **we will send a full communication about the new timings later this term to remind parents and carers.**

Year group changes

We are also delighted that due to increasing numbers at Thameside, **we will be moving to SINGLE YEAR GROUP classes in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) from September 2023 (so there will be no more mixed classes)** - we are in the process of adjusting our curriculum and arranging staffing, and will be inviting you to some welcome sessions at the end of the year to meet your child's new teacher (watch this space for dates!). This is a really exciting development for Thameside – we do have spaces in most year groups, so please do spread the word!

Finally, please do keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as our website for the latest updates – dates can be found at the end of this newsletter and reminders will also be sent via BROMCOM too. Take care and best wishes

Laura Youngman Headteacher

In this edition:

- **Focus on... Introducing.....our two new TAs**
- **Teaching and Learning/curriculum update**
- **Class reviews!**



- Stars of the week
- TTRockstars update!
- Library corner
- Diary dates
- Word of the week

Focus on..... Introducing the new members of Team Thameside!

Mrs Megan Boddy



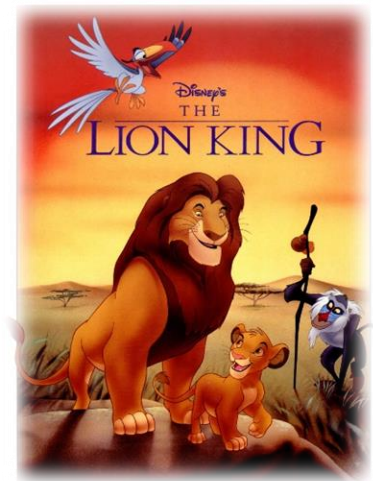
- **Favourite chocolate bar?** - Twirl
- **Birth country** - South Africa
- **Favourite place in all the world** - Ndaka game Lodge in South Africa and the Cotswolds in England.
- **Favourite book** - A Friend Like Ben by Julia Romp or Fall Down 7 Times Get Up 8 by Naoki Higashida
- **Favourite film** - Star Wars, Shrek and The Notebook
- **Favourite song** - Cover Me in Sunshine - Pink
- **Last meal on Earth** - A Yorkshire pudding with my mom's homemade gravy!
- **When I was younger, I wanted to be...** a social worker.
- **Interesting fact about me** - I helped get an animal rescue back up and working in South Africa.



Mrs Chelle Witney



- **Favourite chocolate bar? (important things first!)** I am more of a crisp person, however if I had to pick a chocolate bar it would be a Snickers.
- **Place of birth?** Winchester
- **Favourite place in all the world?** North Devon in the summer with my Family.
- **Favourite book?** This is a tricky one... Anything Crime related!
- **Favourite film?** Lion King.
- **Favourite song?** I Want To Dance With Somebody - Whitney Houston.
- **Last meal on Earth is likely to be?** Has to be a rare steak, followed by a cheese board!
- **When I was little, I wanted to grow up to be** A police officer.
- **Unlikely interesting fact about you?** When I was little, I used to model bridesmaid/flower girl dresses.



Thameside Curriculum and Teaching and Learning update

Two of our key school development priorities this year have linked to developing our curriculum and the quality of teaching even further. We wanted to share some of the great work that has been completed so far this year:

Curriculum development

- ✓ Subject leads have worked with Mrs Cottrell and other senior leaders to further shape the curriculum in their subjects, including both the content and in terms of enrichment
- ✓ Opportunities to attend training and 'forums' with other subject leads within the trust to share and gain new ideas,
- ✓ Support from Trust Subject specialists, for example Cat Boaz, Computing and Science Specialist, and Kate Daniell, English Specialist, have been working with staff to support the development of best practice.
- ✓ We have enriched our curriculum with more visitors and experiences, for example a visit from the Deputy Mayor this week!



Growing and supporting teachers

- Staff meetings linked to the latest science about how children learn best and how this can be built into lessons
- Regular feedback from senior leaders on a weekly basis to teachers – and some 'shout out' postcards identifying great practice seen (of which there has been lots!)
- Opportunities for teachers to meet with and visit other schools within the Vale Academy Trust
- Time for teachers to meet together and share ideas for planning

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 website!

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

Year 5/6

I can honestly say that Year 5/6 are showing their true potential as budding authors this week! It has been an intense week in the classroom, but the children have persevered to show off their writing skills across a variety of different genres ; each and every child has had a shining moment at some point during the week. Although it has been very busy in class, we have had time to welcome our local police officers into class for a quick chat about staying safe in the community, including sharing videos online, doing favours for strangers in return for gifts or wandering off with them. We have also started practising our KS2 play this week, so be prepared for want-to-be actors memorising lines and singing songs; who knows, there may be some Oscars being awarded to outstanding, dramatic performances!

Year 4/5

In Anthony Horowitz class this week, we have had lots of fun creating a piece of music using different layers! It has been pretty tricky as we have been using a variety of different instruments from xylophones to drums and shakers. We have started with one set of instruments playing then adding a different group each time, layering our piece of music to create something really impressive. We then had a go at composing our own pieces and performed them to the rest of the class. They sounded amazing!

We have just kicked off our new DT topic, Structures, where we will be designing and building a pavilion structure. We started this project by using marshmallows and spaghetti to create different shaped structures. From this, we then attempted to make these structures three dimensional. We soon discovered that to make our structures sturdier we would have to add some additional spaghetti support.

Extra shout out to **Logan** and his amazing solar system build. We were all super impressed by his knowledge and painting! Great work!

Year 3/4

Last week in Art, we delved deeper into plant art. We had the exciting opportunity to choose the media we wanted to use to make our final art piece based on plants. We could use: clay, paint, print or pencil to create a plant themed piece of art. All the children were enthusiastic and engaged. We have lots of aspiring artists and we cannot wait to see what they produce next!



Year 2

What a busy but exciting week it's been!

Children in Year 2 have shown so much resilience and perseverance in all areas of their learning!

We have enjoyed responding to an illustration in the 'Rescuing Titanic' non-fiction book. Children discussed what they thought; how they felt about the picture in the book and then wrote about what they liked and disliked about the illustration. We used apostrophes, noun phrases and extended our sentences.



Children have also used different painting techniques to mimic Yayoi Kusama's painting. Children used painting to practise twisting, dabbing and stroking.

Year 1

In Design and Technology this term we will be making vehicles and having races with them. To start our project, we looked at toys that have wheels. We looked at them closely to find out how the wheels worked and how they were fixed onto the car.



Next week we are going to think about we will fix the wheels onto model cars and then finally we will make a model using cardboard boxes, wheels, axles and axle holders. If you could send some small cardboard boxes into school it would be really helpful.

Reception

It has been a brilliant and rather warm start to the term in Reception. Our topic this term is 'Under the Sea' and the children were straight to work on day one creating a ship in our classroom with great teamwork and turn taking skills. They have also learnt some of the different animals that live under the sea such as Octopus, Ray, Jellyfish and Coral.



Alongside this, our new fairytale is the 'Three Billy Goats Gruff'. The children have started to learn the story and are retelling this with their friends. It has also been fantastic to see the children's desire to write recently. They have made me such a proud teacher with their brilliant efforts.

As always, thank you for your support with your child's development. Please ensure that your child has a water bottle, a sun hat and they bring in labelled sun cream.

As the weather gets hotter, we want to protect your children as much as possible. As always, please do keep up to date with the weekly update on Tapestry and please catch a member of the team if you have any questions.

Nursery

We have a fantastic few weeks in Nursery. We started looking at fairy tales thinking about how they normally start with 'Once Upon a time' and finish with 'Happily ever after'. We looked in depth at Cinderella; the children enjoyed creating story maps, counting pumpkins and making their own glass slippers.



This week we also had a visit from the police on Monday which sparked a week of finding out about 'people who help us'. We have looked at a different service each day, including the police, fire, doctors and dentists. On Monday the children saw a police van and were able to hold a police shield. They asked some good questions and enjoyed



building on their current knowledge. It has been a very fun week learning how important it is to clean our teeth and make good choices.



Our stars of the week!

Well done to our Stars of the Week!

Reception: Samitha

Year 1: Charlie

Year 2: Daisy

Year 3/4: Theo

Year 4/5: Lily-Ann

Year 5/6: Oscar



TTRockstars and Times Tables at home!

This week the Year 4s have seen just how important it is that they know their timestables fluently and accurately, as they have been taking part in the Year 4 Multiplication and Timestable Check. Well done to all our Year 4 children who have been practicing constantly and have worked hard on learning their timestables. Timestables are used in every aspect of Maths, so it's a vital skill to be able to recall them quickly.

This week for TTRS, we looked at amount of time spent practicing. A huge well done to **Matts (Year 3)**, **Connor (Year 4)** and **Rocco (Year 4)** for spending the most time practicing.



Numbots at home!

Before half term, we had our very exciting launch of Numbots, which focuses on number bonds and place value skills, for children in Years Reception, 1 and 2. Children were given their log on details before half term and lots of them have been busy practicing! A special well done to Ana (Year 1), Ava (Year 2), Elsie (Year 2)

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

Ms Daniell has been enlisting the help of some pupils in Years 2, 3 and 4 this week with a very special task! This summer, she is on the longlisting panel for the UKLA Book Awards and has to choose about 10 books (from 120!) to go on the shortlist.

They are all recently published information books. Here are a couple of the favourites so far: **'Seasons' by Annabel Griffin** and **'The Encyclopedia of STEM Words' by Jenny Jacoby**.





Pay it Forward - £2 or £5 for our new library?

If you'd like to support our new library, there's now a '**pay it forward**' option on our brilliant 'Mostly Books' website (scroll to the end – link below). You can donate £2 or £5 towards a new book. Every little counts, so please do consider helping our amazing school in this way. Maybe skip a coffee at Costa or Starbucks this week and give us the money instead! Thank you 😊

[Thameside Primary School Archives - Mostly Books \(mostly-books.co.uk\)](https://mostly-books.co.uk)

Key Diary dates

- Ambulance visit to school – Friday 23rd June

Summer event dates – provisional and times TBC:

- Wednesday 5th July - Years 1-6 Sports Day

29th and 30th – New Reception and Nursery stay and play sessions (see welcome pack)

- Wednesday 12th July - Transition Morning
- Thursday 13th July – Star of the term assembly (9.00am)
- 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- 5.00pm

Date for our non-uniform day to follow soon – this will enable us to raise as many donations as possible for our summer fayre!

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: **ILLUMINATE**

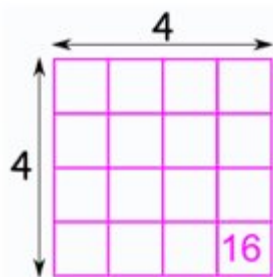
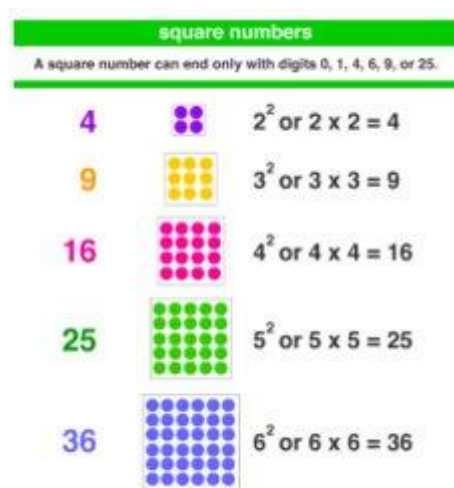
Definition: make something bright or visible by shining light on it

Context: they used the candles to illuminate the church.

Etymology: from Latin 'in-lumen' meaning upon light.

Maths Word of the week: **SQUARE NUMBER**

Meaning: a number which can be represented in the shape of a square. A number that results from multiplying an integer by itself.



Example: "4 squared" is $4 \times 4 = 16$

Often shown with a little 2 in the corner like this: $4^2 = 16$
that is said "4 squared equals 16"

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

