

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 17: 30th June 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! What a couple of weeks it has been – it has literally been completely jam-packed with some amazing learning and experiences for our children. This included an ambulance visit and defibrillator training; a trip to Williams Racing for our Year 5 and 6 girls as well as a visit to the Abingdon 'Echo' singing event with lots of other Abingdon Primary Schools. We are exhausted!



Over the past two weeks, alongside lots of exciting enrichment activities, we have been immersed in the completion of assessments; this year our Writing assessment judgements in Year 6 were externally moderated by another Oxfordshire Headteacher, and we were delighted that he agreed with our judgements.

This week Year 4 got our results from our Multiplication Check; the results across the board were great. Everyone made progress from our first attempt on the Times Table Rock Stars unofficial check. It really proves how the ongoing commitment and practice within the TTRS program really makes a huge difference. Well done to all the Year 4s who took part, your hard work paid off! Keep up the great work!!

We have loved sharing the events and learning of our children via our social media pages. However, please can I take this opportunity to remind parents

about conduct when posting – we have had huge amounts of positive feedback about how much parents and carers love the new pages and enjoy seeing the photos of what our children have been up to. However; can we remind parents and carers that if you have any queries or concerns, to raise them via the correct channels with school directly and not via comments on the posts. Sadly, if the pages are not used respectfully, comments will be silenced. Thank you for your support with this.

Strike action reminder:

Just a reminder, that due to NEU strike action, **that Reception and Year 4/5 will be CLOSED on Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July – except to those with an EHCP or open to social care support. Sports Day will therefore take place on Thursday 6th July – timings have been shared with parents and carers.**

Reminders about the 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!

Laura Youngman Headteacher

In this edition:

- **Focus on... our Williams Racing Visit – written by Amoy and our athlete visit written by Lillie Knights.**
- **Athlete visit**
- **Class reviews!**
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- **TTRockstars update!**
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- **Diary dates**
- **Word of the week**

Focus on..... our Williams Racing visit!

Written by Amoy



The day at Williams F1 was brilliant, we met lots of different people and learnt about the jobs and careers that are involved in designing, creating and building a Formula 1 Car.

Throughout the day, we completed various activities and spoke to the people who worked at Williams about the design and engineering process. It was interesting to see the steering wheel which is used in F1 Cars – they are designed to fit each driver's needs and preferences and they get to decide where the buttons and levers are placed too.

We were also taken for a tour around the Williams museum, where we saw the old racing cars were told about the changes and developments over the years.

The visit was really good and I would recommend the day to other children who are interested in science and technology.

Athlete visit

Written by Lillie



First, we did a circuit to get our bodies moving and heart beating; we had to complete a minute of spotty dogs, leg drives, push-ups and star jumps.

In assembly, Nerys told us about her life, being in the army and having to leave her mum and dad for six months, then being in an accident which left her unable to use her legs.

But she kept on pushing and started skiing after she was inspired by another disabled man; in the summer she goes open water swimming and has swum to France!

Winning an amazing 43 medals and setting 9 world records, I think she is very inspiring; she makes me think that I can push myself even when I cannot do something.

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

Another action-packed week in Year 5/6. Year 6 were inspired by the St.Helen's and St.Katherine's play Beauty and the Beast - some acting tips were picked up ready for the KS2 production! Also, our singing voices were tuned up during our visit to St.Helen's Church to join in with the Echo singing workshop - we all learned how to make music through the sounds we created and had to use our rhythm skills to keep the beat while singing.

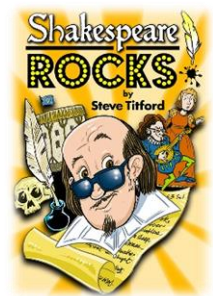
Starting a new adventure in English, we are taking a trip to Guatemala and the temples of the Maya to inspire our writing of the next chapter in the book! Watch this space for some suspenseful, thrilling writing...

Year 4/5

In Anthony Horowitz class we have been finishing our Dragon Non-Chronological Reports. This week, we have been writing our first draft before carefully editing and improving our work ready to make our final draft which will be turned into an encyclopaedia style book which will be available to see in our library. Although some of their dragons sound terrifying and ferocious, they have all managed to create some incredibly detailed and imaginative descriptions of their dragons. I cannot wait for them to be finished and to see our class encyclopaedia book.

Year 3/4

Last week in Year 3/4, we started practising our school play Shakespeare Rocks! The children have been singing their hearts out and are enjoying learning the catchy songs. Children have been working hard learning their lines and have really focused on projecting their voices clearly. It is going to be an amazing performance by KS2. We can't wait for you to come watch!



Year 2



Children in Year 2 have shown an interest in snails this week. As a result, we will be dedicating some time to learn about snails next week and create or make our very own snail habitat in our class. We will be keeping some snails as first-time class pets!!

Children have also done a fantastic job in writing their recounts about their typical day in Year 2 on Fridays. They used time connectives, wrote in the past tense, used noun phrases and wrote in chronological order. I am so proud of all of them because they have worked extremely hard this term.

Year 1 and Reception – a combo this week!



This week Year 1 and Reception have been enjoying some transition time in their new classes and our staff have been so impressed with how grown up they have been. Our current Reception looked like they had been in Year 1 all year when Mrs Youngman Popped in! Our current Year 1 children also wrote some incredible poems about what the teachers keep in their pocket – they found out that Mr McDowell keeps Timothy

the spider in his pocket so that he doesn't get lonely and Ms Nurton keeps sweets in her pockets!

Nursery

Nursery have fully embraced the wonderful world of Neverland. We have been learning about how the characters use happy thoughts and pixie dust to fly. The children enjoyed going on a treasure hunt. They followed clues and found a treasure chest at the end. We also made a massive pirate ship, painted it black and explored the inside. In Maths we have been looking at shapes and noticing how many sides they have. In Phonics, we have been looking at instrumental sounds. At the end of the week, the children went for a visit into Reception, and we had some new children that came to visit nursery. We all had a lovely time!



Our stars of the week!

Well done to our Stars of the Week!

Reception: Iyla

Year 1: Melody

Year 2: Evan

Year 3/4: Ruby

Year 4/5: Jaymes

Year 5/6: Elle



TTRockstars and Times Tables at home!

Everyone seems to be busy practicing their timestables this term. I know so many of you are keen to achieve your Rock Hero status before the summer holidays (not least Mr McDowell, Miss Bourne.....and Mrs Youngman!) ...keep going, we believe in you all!

This week our focus was improvement in accuracy over the last 7 days. A big well done to **Jacob (Year 5)**, **Tilly (Year 5)** and **Lilly-Ann (Year 5)** for being the top 3 most improved!



Numbots at home!

Well done to everyone who has been busy practicing their number skills using our amazing new Numbots program.

A letter and log in details went home before half term (years R-3), but please speak to your child's class teacher if you are finding it difficult to access. A special well done to **Ana (Year 1)**, **Imogen (Year 1)** and **Ellie (Year 1)** for the highest number of minutes played over the past 7 days.

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)

Library Corner



The two recommendations this week are especially for Year 6 – two fantastic books about the transition to secondary school!

'Go Big' is written by the headteacher from the TV programme 'Educating Yorkshire'. It is packed full of really helpful and practical advice for the move from primary to secondary. As useful for parents and carers as it is for their children!

'Can You See Me?' is a fantastic book co-authored by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott. It looks at the move to 'big school' through the eyes of Libby, who is autistic. Joyful and sad in equal measure, it's a really enlightening read which is particularly helpful for young people who are neurodiverse. You can watch Libby talk about how the book was written here: [Can You See Me? by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott - YouTube](#)



VOTE FOR THAMESIDE, ABINGDON!

We are working hard to improve our school library at the moment and would love to win £1,000 in this competition: [WIN £1,000/€1,000 for your school's library! \(nationalbooktokens.com\)](https://nationalbooktokens.com)

Please take 30 seconds to vote, making sure you put **'Thameside Abingdon'** as the school name (as there's another Thameside in Reading!) You might even win £100 for yourself, just for voting.

We would also love any children's books which you no longer need to use in our classrooms and to give out to other families. Please drop them into the school office or email kdaniell@vale-academy.org if you have a big box you'd like collected. Thank you in advance!

A huge thank you!!

To our lovely ARCH volunteer reader, **Sarah**, who has been supporting some of our children with their reading this year. Sarah and Ruby surprised Mrs Youngman this week, having made their very own versions of some Beatrix Potter classics. Ruby worked so hard to come up with her own vocabulary – well done! Thank you to Sarah for all of your dedication, care and kindness; our children's love of reading has certainly flourished this year and you have been a key part of that – we really appreciate it!



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)

Support for parents

Helping your child to share what they have done in the school day with you.

We often hear from parents that their child is reluctant to talk about what they have done in the school day. This could be for many reasons but usually because they are tired from the school day and just want to switch off.

These are tips adapted from an article by a speech and language therapist to support you in talking with your child about their day.

1. Provide a good model: briefly outline your own day's activities. Demonstrate use of time concepts, such as 'first...then'. Explain how activities made you feel and why. Hearing a good model of how to share news will support the young person to understand how to share their own day.
2. Use visuals/props: Draw a picture to go with your 'first...then' activities for the day and encourage your child to do one.
3. Use questions wisely: open questions are a great way of encouraging expression, but some children will find them challenging to answer. They may struggle to work out what it is you want to know and give you a huge amount of detail or no information at all i.e. "What did you do today?" – "Nothing". Try asking questions that give the child more guidance about what you want to know, e.g. "What was the best thing you did today?" or "What made you smile?"
4. Adapt your questions to the child's level, e.g. "Who did you see?" "Where did you go?" "How did that feel?"
5. Try something different: an alternative to sharing what they did in the school day would be to encourage your child to talk about what they DID NOT do. For example, "Today I did NOT go to Mars in a rocket, and I did NOT share my picnic lunch with a Martian". Let their imaginations run

There are also some great tips below about how to talk to your children about their safety and wellbeing:

[5 tips for talking to your child about their safety and wellbeing | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](https://www.barnardos.org.uk)



Key Diary dates

Summer event dates – provisional and times TBC:

- Thursday 6th July - Years 1-6 Sports Day – see BROMCOM message for details
 - Tuesday 4th July – Nursery parent information evening (3.15pm)
 - Thursday 6th July – New Reception information evening (3.15pm)
- Wednesday 12th July - Transition Morning and 'Meet the teacher' meetings for parents and carers from 3.15pm – 3.45pm.
- Thursday 13th July – Star of the term assembly (9.00am)
- Tuesday 18th July - KS2 Production AM (time TBC)
- Wednesday 19th July - KS2 Production PM (time TBC)
- Wednesday 19th July – Year 6 leavers party 3.30pm – 5.00pm on the school field.
- Thursday 20th July - Year 6 Leavers assembly – morning (time TBC)

****Our term dates for next year, 2023-2024, are also now available at the following link:**

[Thameside Primary School - Term Dates](https://thamesideschool.co.uk)
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 - **COMPASSION**

Meaning a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune

I felt such compassion.

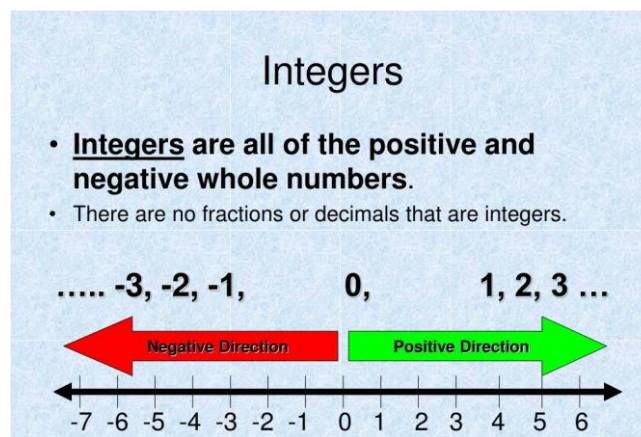
Synonyms: Empathy, grace

Antonyms: harsh, cruel

It comes from the old French, compassion, meaning pity and sympathy.

Maths word of the week – **INTEGER** meaning a whole number

The children named each integer up to 100.



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
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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](https://www.thamesideschool.co.uk)
([thamesideschool.co.uk](https://www.thamesideschool.co.uk))



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Eco-Schools Best Practices Event

and the potential of **technology, data, & visualisation** in helping children lead their school in climate action



Hybrid
event in
Abingdon!

Calling on **teachers, parents, and school staff** to share their experiences **working with children** to enhance their leadership in climate action, either through **Eco-Schools UK, OnePlanet, or any other initiative!** Come network and learn from peers.

Europa School and UCL researchers will also share their experiences developing **interactive data visualisations** with their Eco-Club.

Those without experience but interested in starting up an Eco-Club (or similar) at their school are also welcome!

Coffee, tea, and snacks will be served for those attending in-person.

Where: Hybrid event on **ZOOM** and at **Europa School**, Abingdon Road, Culham, Abingdon OX14 3DZ

When: Thursday **29th June, 2023, 16:15-17:30**, followed by informal networking at Europa until 18:00.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/eco-schools-event>



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

