



*Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day*



## Thameside In-touch! Super, end of the year edition!

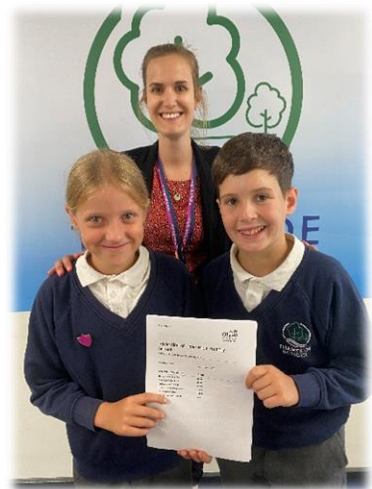
**Edition 19: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

**Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with so many emotions that I write this final newsletter of the year and also my very first end of year newsletter at Thameside – and what a year it has been! There have been so many highlights, firsts and successes and it has quite simply been a privilege to have led the school this year – **I was told that the school and pupils would become deeply embedded in my heart; they were right!**

As a school we have invested heavily this year in ensuring that our children experience an inspiring and ambitious curriculum; have the best teaching every single day and are given the opportunity to take part in lots of different activities to enhance their learning and to 'open doors' in the future – this has included trips, visitors, clubs, performances, and awards ceremonies to name but a few! We have



also made sure that reading has been the core focus as we know that reading is the window to all other subjects – it has been wonderful to see how a love of reading has flourished at Thameside and I can't wait to see this continue to grow next year. The final highlight of this term was watching the Key Stage 2 production of 'Shakespeare Rocks!' which was quite simply amazing – it was such a privilege to see how much our children's confidence has grown and to witness their talent; we have some West-End stars in the making for sure as well as lots of seriously 'cool' dance moves! Thank you to all of the staff who made this happen!



We are absolutely delighted with our recent '**Good**' Ofsted report which validated everyone's hard work, passion and determination to provide our pupils with the best start in life – the wording of the report really captures the essence of Thameside; our children are at the heart of all we do. Thank you for all of your support – exciting times ahead for Thameside! We were also awarded the Bronze Games Mark for sport this year – another fabulous achievement! Increasing our pupil numbers now really is our aim to secure more funding, so please do spread the word far and wide about our lovely school! We will also share our new development priorities in September – we continue to be incredibly ambitious for Thameside.

You will have received our staffing update letter last week – as detailed in the letter, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Cottrell, Mrs Commander, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Benneworth and Mrs Forson today – we wish them all the very best in the future. We also say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6s – they have been my first Year 6 leavers at Thameside and I will miss them greatly. They have inspired me and their enthusiasm, positivity and resilience have been examples for us all. We know they will shine at secondary school – come back and see us!

**Finally, in September we will be starting the process to appoint a new parent governor for the school. Please do have a think about whether you might be interested in this role and I encourage you to speak to me informally if you have any questions. Full details will be circulated at the start of next term. Our LGB play a pivotal role in the strategic development of the school and this is a really exciting opportunity to be part of our forward journey!**

Now, all that is left to day is have a wonderful summer and thank you for all of your kindness and support this year – Thameside is a very special school and I am so grateful to be work within such a wonderful community. Enjoy the break, keep reading and enjoy some special time with family and friends. We will send a reminder letter of all of the key information you need for the new year towards the end of the holiday.



**Please note that Breakfast and After School club will resume from 7.45am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September (children's first day back); all children will also be expected to wear the new navy uniform (introduced in 2021) from September.**

Take care and happy holidays!!

Best wishes

*Laura Youngman*

Headteacher

### **School Day reminders – for September 23**

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; **new timings were included on the staffing letter sent earlier this term.**

### **In this edition:**

- **Focus on... gallery of Thameside 23/24 highlights!**
- **Safeguarding top tips – sun safety in the holidays**
- **Class reviews!**
- **Stars of the term**
- **TTRockstars update!**
- **Pupil Leadership for next year!**
- **Library corner**
- **Diary dates**
- **Word of the week**

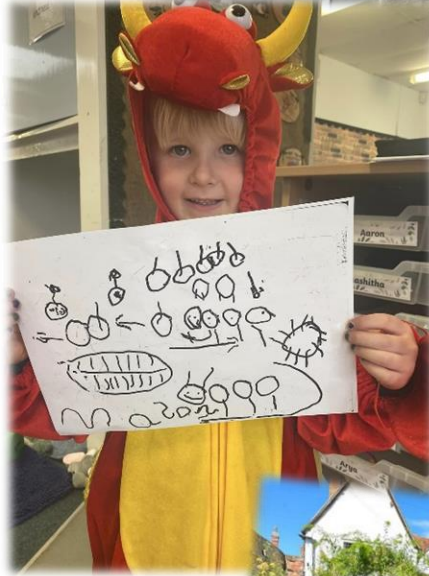




# Focus on..... Some highlights of the year gallery!









## Safeguarding – Sun safety in the school holidays

The sun's rays are particularly strong over the summer and they can damage children's skin. Dehydration and over-exposure to sunlight can cause concern, so we wanted to share some top tips ahead of the holiday for keeping your children safe. As a school we regularly talk to children about the importance of being safe in the sun during lessons and assemblies as appropriate.

### **Your support is very important. You can help by:**

- Talking to your child about the importance of sun protection at home.
- Ensuring that children wear a sunhat and sunglasses.
- Applying a high factor sun cream (ideally Factor 50) and reapply regularly, especially after having been in water.
- Ensuring your child drinks plenty of water.
- Staying in the shade where possible, especially between the hottest part of the day – 11am – 3.00pm.
- Take a look at the NHS site below for more information

[Sunscreens and sun safety - NHS](https://www.nhs.uk)  
([www.nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.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 website!**

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

### Year 5/6 and Year 4/5

The past two weeks in Upper key Stage 2 have been full of rehearsals for our production of 'Shakespeare Rocks!' We have been so, so proud of all of our children – to see their talent shine and also watch how their confidence has grown, has been incredible. Their singing was awesome too!

Our Year 6 children will be moving on to their next adventure at the end of this term– they have been amazing and every single member of staff who has taught them is bursting with pride! We will all miss you – keep shining!



### Year 3/4



Last week in Year 3/4, we created slingshot cars. We had to design, assemble and test our final product. We practised using a glue gun, following a design, used tabs to create joins and created a slingshot mechanism. The children loved creating their final design and testing their design against other cars. Well done to all of our class – you have been a pleasure to teach!

### Year 2

It has been a memorable school year for many good reasons. What an amazing adventure we've been on this year: hosting the Deputy Mayor of Abingdon, making our own Baby Bear Chairs and everything in between.

Children in Year 2 have enjoyed learning about the Carpathia and how it helped rescue some Titanic survivors to making our Yayoi Kusama inspired sculpture and mimicking or copying some polka dots by painting. This was definitely our highlight this school year.

This week, we have enjoyed making our Baby Bear Chairs, considering how we can make it stable by using different recycled materials. We thought about the shape of the leg of Baby Bear's Chair and why a cylinder-shaped leg works best. We also fixed and tested our chairs. It worked!

Also, thank you to all our parents and carers for their continued support, collaboration and partnership - our children thrive when school and home work together.

Children in Year 2 have progressed in all areas of their learning and continue to show the 5R's in and outside of the school environment and I am hopeful that this will continue in Year 3! They have been a fantastic cohort and a delight to teach this year. I will miss them all !!!



## Year 1

In Year 1, we have been thinking about what we have learned in Year 1 and getting ready to move into Year 2.

Earlier in the term we read the poem, 'Ten Things in a Wizard's pocket' and then we wrote poems about our teachers at school. We used all our knowledge to write list poems about what we have done in Year 1. We wrote these poems independently and didn't need any help from Miss Cross. We are very proud of our poems!



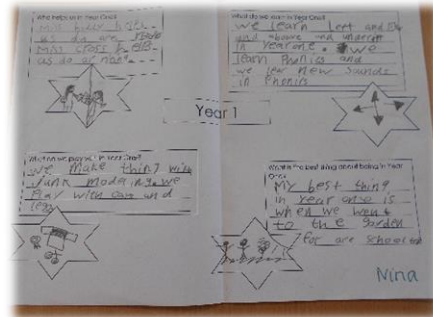
### Year One

We do adding up.  
We read books.  
We do quarters.  
We do Maths.  
We do PE.  
We sing songs.  
We do RE.

By Peter



For the past week we have been thinking about how we can help the Reception children learn about moving into Year 1. We made some posters explaining what we do - we hope that our poster will help the younger children move into Year 1 as we move into Year 2. Well done everyone!



## Reception

What a year it has been! It has been a pleasure to get to know your children and see them enjoy school over the last few terms. I have been so impressed with the progress they have made academically, in building friendships, their self-regulation and showing their kindness. As we always say, 'teamwork makes the dream work'; none of this would have been possible without all of 'Team Reception', so a big thank you to Miss Smithson, Ms Foster, Mrs Chung and Mrs Eddy.



I wanted to take this opportunity to share a few key moments that I will remember the class for. Firstly, in my first few weeks, during Jonathon's Jungle Roadshow, the children showed so much trust and bravery, when stroking or holding the animals; we shared a few laughs when the snake licked my nose, something I definitely wasn't scared of!! 'Get your body moving' - our song to start the day – has been another highlight, I've done this with many classes, but no class have every put such a personal spin on it, showing their character as they dance and sing. Finally, I will miss our PE lessons; the children have shown such creativity and enthusiasm for our story warm-ups where we've been everywhere from space, down to the bottom of the ocean in a submarine.

Finally, I wish every child good luck for Year 1 and hope you have a brilliant summer holidays. Keep your child curious to learn with reading at the heart of what they are doing and if they have learnt anything this year, it is that 'in reception we always try our best'

## Nursery

Nursery have had a wonderful time enjoying the lovely sunshine! Their small world role play area has been turned into a pirate ship – luckily no one has had to walk the plank! We have lots of plans to develop the outside in Nursery even further next year – watch this space for pictures!



**Our stars of the TERM!**

**Well done to our Stars of the Term!**



**Reception: Sophia**

**Year 1: Daniel**

**Year 2: Daria**

**Year 3/4: Estrella**

**Year 4/5: Mason**

**Year 5/6: Jacob**

**Headteacher star: Chloe-May**



**TTRockstars and Times Tables at home!**

It's been a brilliant year for TTRS at Thameside; everyone has been so engaged and has worked hard to learn their timestables. A huge well done to **Darcy (year 6)**, **Jenson (Year 6)** and **Ilayda (Year 6)** for the biggest improvement in accuracy over the last week.

**TTRS will be under maintenance for a few days whilst we sort the new classes out, so there may be a few days over the holidays when you may not be able to access it. However, please do log on later in the break and keep practising! More challenges coming next year...!!!!!!**



## Numbots at home!

Lots of you have been busy practicing your number skills on Numbots over the last few weeks and it is really beginning to show in Maths lessons. Well done to **Ellie (Year 1)** and **Alice (Reception)**

for both working hard to earn lots of coins on Numbots.

Numbots will be under maintenance for a few days whilst we sort the new classes out, so there may be a few days over the holidays when you may not be able to access it

### Learning at home resources

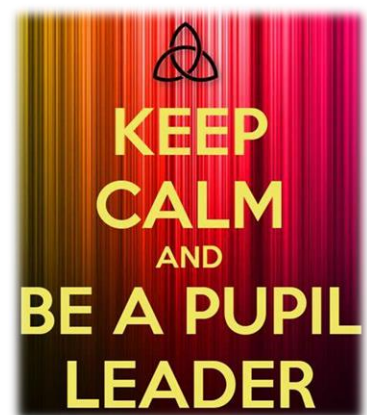
Please do check out our website which is continuing to grow! We have included lots of new information about our curriculum and resources to help support you at home on the following pages:

[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)

### Pupil Responsibilities – 23/24!

Please look out for a letter from Mrs Putt with details about how your children can apply for a variety of exciting pupil leadership roles next year – Stanley and Lois have been amazing head pupils, and have set a great example ready for our new recruits next year! Go for it!







## Summer Reading Challenge

We had a great assembly last week about the Summer Reading Challenge being run by the library over the holidays.

In the assembly, the children found out:

- It's completely **free** to join the reading challenge! Just go to the library near Poundland.
- All the books are **free** to borrow!
- Children can read whatever type of book they like
- There are rewards to collect, including stickers, pencils and a wooden eco-medal at the end 😊

Please do visit the library with your children as soon as you're able and get them signed up! There's more information at [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)



## 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](mailto:kdaniell@vale-academy.org) if you have a big box you'd like collected. Thank you in advance!**

### 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))

## Thank you!!

**Thank you to our amazing PTA** – we are so incredibly grateful for all of your support and the many hours of work that you have spent to raise money for our school!



The PTA are always looking for new members, so please get in touch! We are already thinking (dare I say it!) about how to make the Christmas Fayre spectacular! Deck the halls

## Key Diary dates

- **Monday 4<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – INSET and school closed**
- **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September – all Nursery, Reception and Years 1-6 start back full time**

**\*\*Our term dates for next year, 2023-2024, are also now available at the following link (please also keep an eye on the calendar on our website which will be updated with next year's dates):**

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

**We will add new dates to the online calendar on our website – so please do check regularly!**



# 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 - **INQUISITIVE**

Meaning: having or showing an interest in learning things; curious.

Etymology: from Late Latin inquisitivus 'making inquiry, or to seek information'.

Quis means to seek in Latin. This can be found in: acquisition, exquisite, inquisition.

Maths word of the week: **PARALLEL**

Meaning: When the sides or lines are side by side, the distance between them remains the same, they will never meet.

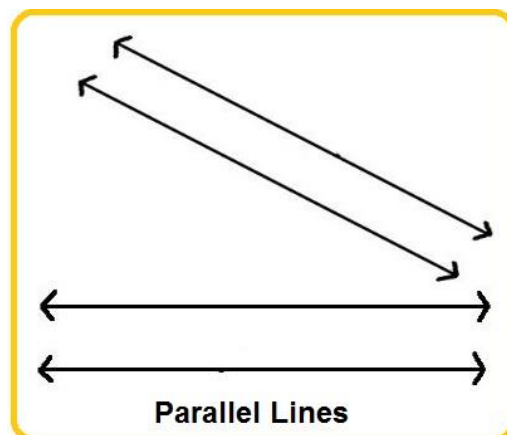
It comes from Greek *parallōlos* meaning besides one another.

The tracks lay parallel, never meeting.

The teacher asked me to draw a pair of parallel lines.

Synonyms : aligned, side by side

Antonyms: divergent



# Online safety - Smartwatches

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to help an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## 10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

### AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or control children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

### CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

### BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which automatically also alerts parents and carers.

### MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class; for example, Apple's SchoolTime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-telling devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

### BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phones are down. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you should encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

### TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – sending these cushion-busting pings when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

### THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police; location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

### STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to that information in a crisis. These devices can have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

### USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

### Meet Our Expert

Garry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 10 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, iFruit, PC and Computerworld. He is responsible regularly on a technology panel on television and radio, including BBC's Newsnight, Radio 4's and BBC's Friday Night with Jonathan Ross, and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



**NOS** National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

[@nationalonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/nationalonlinesafety)

[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/nationalonlinesafety)

[@nationalonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

[@national\\_online\\_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.05.2023



# 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](mailto: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))



**NOW  
BOOKING**



Presents

**GUITAR | BASS | DRUMS**  
**LEARN | MEET | PLAY**



**Group or One to One Lessons**  
for **All Ages and Abilities**



Instruments **Provided**



Regular Student **Concerts**



**Multiple Locations**

**To book visit:**

**[www.oxfordshiremusicschool.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshiremusicschool.co.uk)**





From balance bike & stabilisers  
Get your child pedalling unaided

Improve your child's confidence  
or get them ready for racing

## Mr Clead's Summer Coaching

This summer I will be hosting a Cycle Camp at Thameside from the 1st to 3rd of August.

**[www.clealswheelscoaching.co.uk](http://www.clealswheelscoaching.co.uk)**

This is aimed at all children whether they are already riding confidently or not riding at all. Each day is filled with different coaching sessions to help improve your child's confidence and ability with their bike. For those that aren't riding yet we will work to get them riding pedals completely unaided!

### Pop-up Stay and Play

There will also be somewhere to play for 0-8 years with ride-ons, inflatables and more!

**2 hour session - £7 per child**  
(discount for sibling and baby)





# 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](https://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

