

— WELCOME — BACK TO SCHOOL

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch! Start of year edition!

Edition 20: September 15th 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our fortnightly school newsletter, sent out every other Friday. It's the main place to read our news, updates and notices.

It has been a fantastic (but rather sticky!) start to the year – it is always a joy to welcome the children back, but this year it was wonderful to hear so many children talk about how 'awesome' the start of term was. One comment that really stood out was when I heard two children talking about the new times of the day, **'Hey X, now school finishes at 3.15 we get an extra 15 minutes here! I love this place!'**

We were also delighted to be featured in **'Round and About'** magazine due to our recent Ofsted report; a real credit to all of the team's hard work.

I have really enjoyed spending lots of time walking around our newly split year group classes and have been incredibly impressed with how the children have



responded to these changes – they have shown amazing resilience and maturity. I am also very grateful for the time and care that staff have taken to set up their classrooms and make them so inviting – they really have created environments that inspire learning and pride.

Please can I just take this opportunity to remind parents that we are a nut free school – this includes Nutella. This is due to a number of children with allergies. In addition, we ask that children who have a packed lunch have healthy lunchboxes. There are some great ideas at the following link:

[Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

I do hope that you enjoy the first updates of the school year in this newsletter – as always, do keep an eye on our social media pages and website as we keep these updated with the latest news!

Next week we will be taking part in the Abingdon Music Flood event – on Monday, there will be some busking from local secondary students so please do come and enjoy! We also have the Year 6 residential – a busy week ahead!

Finally, soon, 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 in a few weeks along with an online application form. 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!

Best wishes for a lovely, and slightly cooler, weekend!

Laura Youngman

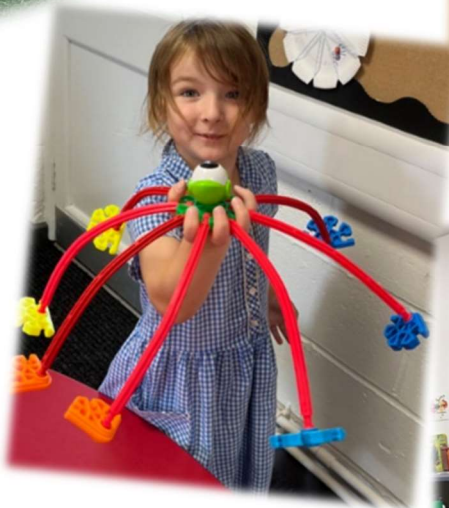
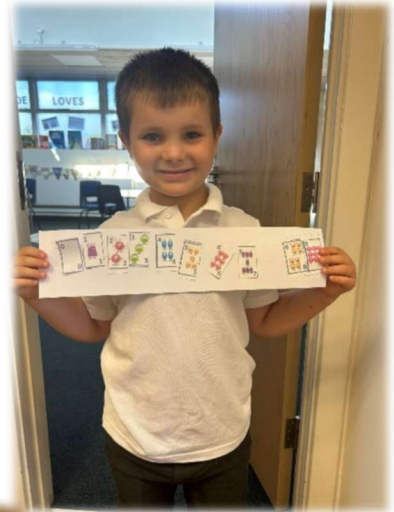
Headteacher

In this edition:

- **Focus on... a fabulous start to the year gallery!**
- **Attendance and punctuality updates**
- **Safeguarding**
- **Class reviews!**
- **Stars of the term**
- **TTRockstars update!**
- **Library corner**

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- Word of the week

Focus on... a fabulous start to the year!



Attendance and punctuality updates

Attendance at school is now top of the priority list for us and all schools nationally. **Our school target is for us to achieve at least 96% attendance for all children – we celebrate our class attendance figures in our celebration assembly each week.**

Miss Clark's Year 5 Class were our first winners this week with an amazing 100% attendance!

We monitor absence meticulously. If your child is not in school, you must notify us by leaving a message on our answer phone or calling the school office. Please state clearly and concisely your child's full name, class and their reason for absence- **being specific about the illness or medical needs.**

You must inform the school in advance by the office email, if you need to take your child for an educational setting visit, religious observance or similar. These absences will need to be pre agreed by us. No birthdays, cheaper holidays, altered holiday arrangements or similar will be agreed. In line with strict government legislation, they will be recorded as unauthorised on your child's attendance record.

For further information regarding Attendance, please view our Attendance Policy on our website.

More information can also be found at these links:

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Parental responsibilities for attendance

We monitor all absence closely and where concerns are identified, we will contact parents to discuss attendance expectations and help with any support that families may need. Please do speak to Alison (HSLW) if you need any support.

Punctuality is also key to ensure your child has a settled start – please ensure your child (Reception – Year 6) arrives at 8.40am; all children who arrive on time will receive a raffle ticket which provides a chance to win a prize at the end of the week.

Thank you in advance for your support.

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



Safeguarding and medical needs reminders

Safeguarding leads

At Thameside, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of the children at the school. If you have any safeguarding concerns, **Miss Polley, Mrs Youngman, Mrs Putt and Mrs Winder are the designated safeguarding officers at school.** Posters with pictures of these staff are all around school. Please do come and see us if you have questions or worries.

SAFEGUARDING AT THAMESIDE

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is;



Miss Annette Polley

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are;



Mrs Laura Youngman



Miss Emma Putt



Mrs Alison Winder

Safeguarding is
everyone's
responsibility.

If you have a
concern, please
speak out!

Online safety update

The potential dangers of social networking sites are often highlighted in the news. <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk> has sections for parents and children. We talk to children about online safety in assemblies, during computing lessons and PSHE focus lessons but it is fantastic if you can follow this up at home. At home, the important aspect is ensuring children have the skills and understanding to know what to do if they have a concern about something that they have seen online. Please take care of yourself as well as being a role model for all our children when using social media and please can we remind parents and carers that most social media sharing sites are regulated as over 13s only. We will update parents and carers across the year with the latest top tips to help keep your child safe online.

Medical needs updates

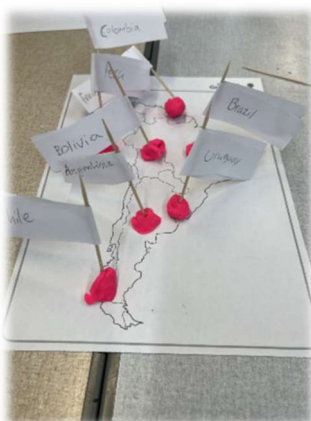
Please make sure that you make the school aware in writing of any changes in children's medical needs. If required, children must have their 'named' and 'in-date' inhaler at school at all times (this is a parental responsibility). If, over the holidays your child has been given an inhaler for the first time please speak to the office as you will need to complete relevant paperwork. If your child requires antihistamine or an epipen please remember it is your responsibility to ensure medication is replaced when it expires.

Class reviews

To find out more about what each year group is learning, please do check out our updated parent curriculum overviews on the class pages of our website!

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

Year 6



What an incredible start to Year 6 the children have had! In particular, they have enjoyed practical tasks in Geography. The children collaborated well in groups to create a labelled map of South America.

It is going to be an amazing year watching Year 6 get secondary ready! I have already witnessed the children show resilience and responsibility in their learning, and I can't wait to see each child realise their own potential!

Year 5

Everyone has settled brilliantly into life as a part of Year 5 - adults and children alike! We have met August, the main character from our class reader Wonder, and explored his disability. In Science, we had fun creating craters in flour & cocoa to explore the effects of gravity and found out the differences between the UK, British Isles and Great Britain in Geography. We could not have asked

for a better start to the year, and we are looking forward our future adventures and learning in Year 5.

Year 4

In Farook Class (Year 4) we had a very exciting guest come and talk to us from Abingdon museum. The talk was all about archaeology and artefacts, she brought in a box full of different items found in and around Abingdon, with the oldest being part of a pot from the Roman times. The children got to hold (and many of them smelt) the different items whilst asking all sorts of questions. This linked really nicely to our new book 'The Thames Tide Club' which follows a group of children who go mudlarking and uncover all sorts of treasures.

Year 3

We've had a fantastic start to the term in Year 3 and Miss Biss and I are really enjoying getting to know the children. Our class author for 2022-23 is Tom Percival and we've been sharing lots of his 'big bright feelings' books. 'Billy's Bravery' and 'Perfectly Norman' seem to be the favourites so far! The children are going to be writing to Tom with idea for a new book. Our Maths work has focused on splitting numbers into tens and units, as the foundations for the addition/subtraction work we will be doing in the next unit. We've been very busy in the afternoons too - one of the highlights has definitely been starting our new PE topics: football and athletics.

Year 2

Year 2 have had a brilliant start to the year. We have been very busy learning our new classroom routines and getting used to being Year 2s! We were absolute superstars in our P.E lessons this week (Wednesday and Thursday!), learning new skills for both tennis and netball. In Writing, we have been looking at the story 'A Bug Safari' and then going on a bug hunt around the school. We have then used adjectives to describe all the bugs we found.



Year 1



Year One have had a brilliant start to the year. Lots of great listening and super behaviour. We have had great fun exploring in our new classroom. We love all the new toys that are helping us with our learning!



Reception

It has been a pleasure to welcome your child to Superworm's class. Team Reception have started the term brilliantly. Already we've seen musical performances on the stage area, our bike classes have started with Cleal's Wheels and we have enjoyed our class book, Superworm.



The children have settled in well, learning routines and enjoying Phonics, Maths, Reading groups and lots more learning. They have really impressed as a class with their ability to focus and tidy up!

Please keep up to date with Tapestry where you will see more regular updates on what we are doing in class and any information you need. Thanks for your support for your child's development and please catch any of Team Reception if you have any queries.

Nursery

We have had a very busy time in nursery with lots of lovely new children and families joining our school. The children have been settling in well to their new routines and we have enjoyed learning all about them. We are The Gruffalo class so we completed some activities linked to the Gruffalo and of course, read the story many times – we even enjoyed some Gruffalo yoga!



This week we have been looking at the topic 'all about me and our families'. The children have



been drawing pictures of themselves and their families as well as taking part in loose part play creating different faces. Today we did dough disco which the children really enjoyed, and is very beneficial as it promotes fine motor skills. In Phonics, we have been listening to environmental sounds and in Maths we have been finding out about the children's current number knowledge. We cannot wait to get to know everyone even more over the coming term.



Our stars of the week

Well done to our Stars of the week

Year 1: Sofia

Year 2: Ellie

Year 3: Daria-Nicole

Year 4: Charlene

Year 5: Miyah

Year 6: Bluebelle



TTRockstars and Times Tables at home! Numbots at home!

We are just finishing off adding all of our children.... Watch this space for the latest update; but in the meantime, keep playing!

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

This year, our book reviews will all be written by our children – Finn in Year 6 has written the first one of the year and it is fantastic! Mrs Youngman went straight out to buy the book after reading this!

Skandar and the Unicorn Thief

By A.F.Steadman



I am reviewing this book because it is an adventurous book for people who like dangerous fantasy action. It is a dream debut for fans of books like Percy Jackson.

It is set on a magic island called the mainland, where Skandar Smith is preparing for hatchery exams, depending on whether he passes or fails determines if he can hatch his destined unicorn or not. However, things take an unexpected turn when he is not allowed to take his hatchery exam. Every child's hope is to hear the three knocks on there door at midnight.

But, now his hopes are crushed. Or are they? At precisely midnight, he hears the most ominous sound. A sound so confusing, but so delighting. Three knocks on his door.

Soar into this breath-taking world of heroes and unicorns as you've never seen them before in this fantastical middle grade debut perfect for fans of the Percy Jackson and Eragon series!

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://www.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!

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)

Key Diary dates for this term

- Year 6 residential – Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th September
- Wk beginning 18th September – Abingdon Music Flood activities in school
- Thursday 26th September – PROSEPCTIVE parents open morning 9.30-10.30
- Thursday 19th October 2.00pm – 3.00pm – open classrooms for parents

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

Meaning: polite and respectful.

Thameside students are always courteous at our school.

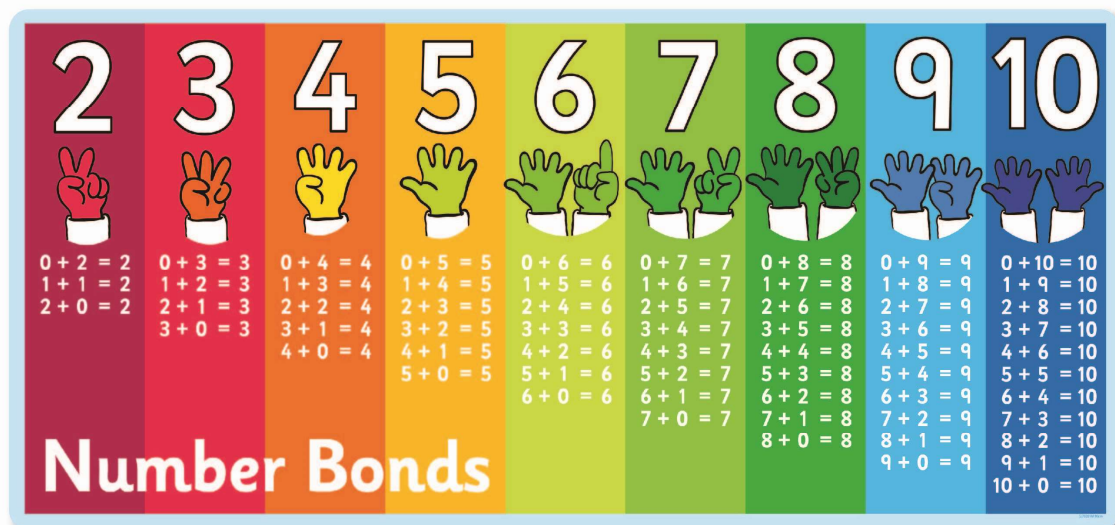
Etymology: comes from the Old French 'curteis' meaning elegant manners.

Synonyms: well mannered; respectful; polite

Antonyms: rude

Maths Word (s) of the week: **NUMBER BONDS**

A number and the parts that combine to make it.



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.
2015201, Registered charity numbers 218471 and 50557717

NSPCC
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

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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



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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**WE NEED
YOU!**



**IS YOUR CHILD/YOUNG PERSON
CURRENTLY WAITING OR HAVE THEY
RECEIVED A DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM/ADHD
THROUGH OXFORDSHIRE CAMHS?**

We are looking for a small group of parent carers to join a focus group who has a child or young person on the NDC waiting list for an Autism or ADHD assessment or has recently had a diagnosis of Autism/ADHD.

Join **OxPCF** and **Oxfordshire CAMHS** for a feedback session on a new referral process.

Thursday 21st September: 10 - 1pm
Slade House,
Oxford OX3 7JH



INTERESTED?

Scan the QR code or visit
<https://forms.gle/h7UGmFm3YnPG8uAq8>