

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 21: September 29th 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last two weeks have been nothing short of jam-packed – I can't believe that we have managed to fit so much in!



Year 6 had their residential to Condover Hall and we took part in Abingdon's fantastic Music Flood event – we enjoyed some wonderful performances from musicians both in school and in Abingdon Town Centre. We were also delighted that staff from Radley College who visited Thameside commented on

the excellent behaviour of our children throughout the assembly – we are incredibly proud!

Our Year 5 children also enjoyed the first of a 10-week set of workshops led by the Oxford Playhouse – these sessions will look at dramatic techniques and script

writing, culminating in a visit to the Oxford playhouse where one of the children's playscripts

will be performed as part of a showcase by professional actors. As well as this, a group of Year 5



and 6 children visited the new Vale Academy Trust Science Phiz Lab and had an awesome day!

All of these fantastic activities have really served to enhance and widen our curriculum opportunities for our children – we have so much budding talent in our school!

In staffing news, Ms Nurton will be leaving Thameside on October 13th to start a very different role as an admin assistant in a local doctor's surgery. We wish her luck in her new adventures and thank her for her hard work and support at Thameside. We are delighted that we appointed two new teaching assistants who will be joining Team Thameside soon – we will introduce them in a future newsletter!

Ms Daniell and her daughter have also spent lots of time making the library look even more brilliant, labelling the books to support children in choosing the topics that they would like to explore – the library is still a work in progress, but we are very grateful for Ms Daniell's time and effort to develop this area which is so key to our reading for pleasure ethos at Thameside.



We also have some amazing new books in our reading hub – please do take a look!

Finally, the secondary school application window for Year 6 children is now open: all details can be found at this link [Year 7 - secondary school applications | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend!

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

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Focus on...the Year 6 residential!

Here are some more photos of the brilliant Year 6 trip to Condover Hall for you to enjoy! We were so proud of the children's resilience throughout.



Attendance update

Thank you for supporting us in ensuring that your children attend school every day; our overall attendance this week was 95% - our target is at least 96% so please do keep working on this! **Miss Clark's Year 5 Class** won the attendance award once again with a fantastic 99%, but Miss Bourne's and Mr McDowell's class were not far behind!

This week, we have been informed that a number of children have not attended school due to parental illness – please can we remind parents and carers that it is your responsibility to ensure that your children attend school and make other arrangements if you are unable to drop them off yourself.

Thank you for your support with this.

Clubs and enrichment update

We are absolutely delighted to be offering a wide range of enrichment opportunities this year to enhance our children's learning – from trips and visitors, to clubs, pupil leadership responsibilities and competitions. At Thameside, we plan out our enrichment systematically to ensure that it serves to complement and enhance the core curriculum and not only allows our Thameside talent to shine, but also to open doors for the future; we are developing our Thameside 'enrichment journeys'

this year which we look forward to sharing with you!



As a sneak peek, this week in gardening club we were planting lots of Daffodil bulbs around the school grounds. We planted up lots of our pots and even had a go at creating some Daffodil circles around some trees. The children had to make sure

they were planting the bulbs the right way up with the roots facing down, whilst

also planting them at a suitable depth. They will really add some colour when they bloom in March.

This term our range of clubs has been extended and there will be different opportunities each term – we are committed to supporting all children to be involved in at least one form of enrichment each year as part of the Vale Academy Trust promise.

So far, brand new cycling and yoga classes have started as well as singing clubs, football club, chess club and gardening club! Days and times can be found on our website – please do speak to the office if you would like more information!



Thameside values in action



We have been so proud to see our children modelling our Thameside rules and values in all they do and not just in the classroom.

This week we wanted to celebrate a truly wonderful act of kindness that took place unprompted by any adults in the school and was noticed by us all – Jack in Year 4 spent a whole lunchtime supporting Jackson in Year 1 with his writing. It was lovely to witness and we are incredibly proud of Jack (and Jackson!)). Here they are together – we may have a future

teacher in our midst!

Class learning 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

The last couple of weeks in Year 6 has been fantastic! It has been incredible to watch Year 6 overcome their fears, step out of their comfort zones and pushed boundaries. The trip was a true testament to what these children can achieve if they show resilience and I can't wait to see what they will go on to achieve by the end of year.

We loved the quote from Jacob about the recent residential – ***'Going on this trip is like pushing the boundaries of being a 10-year-old!'***

Year 5

What a fun-filled couple of weeks we have had in Year 5! The class have been working with the Oxford Playhouse to practise their performing skills and explore characters through role play - there have been some very questionable villains and burglars lurking about!



We all enjoyed the Music Flood event in Abingdon Market Square last week. Everyone joined in with the songs we had been practising earlier in the week, as well as enjoying some Samba rhythm and live music from the band.



Over the next couple of weeks, we will continue reading about August in *Wonder*, working on our place value knowledge and exploring more forces in Science.

Year 4

Farook class (Year 4) had a really bubbly Science lesson this week! As part of our states of matter unit we have been learning all about solids, liquids and gases, however, trying to see gases is very tricky. The students were tasked with creating investigations that would allow us to make gases visible. We had some students creating huge bubbles



with soap and others mixing mentos and Coca-Cola to create a fizzy gas reaction.

Year 3

What a great start to the term! These first three weeks have been packed with learning. Our science topic this term is Forces and Magnets. We've had great fun investigating the effect of different surfaces on the speed of toy cars. Predicting the outcome before our experiment led to lots of discussion and the actual experiment gave some surprising results. Toy cars do not go anywhere on bubble wrap!

In Art we've been looking at the artist George Seurat and his technique of Pointillism. We've had a go at copying his method and found that it takes a lot longer than we thought and a lot of concentration. In spite of that, Year 3 have produced some wonderful pictures.



Year 2

This week in Year 2 we have been working hard in Maths, practising our counting in tens and partitioning numbers to 100 into groups. We have also been learning about ways to stay healthy in Science and have started our own 'Healthy Hero Advice Book' to share with others. Mrs Youngman enjoyed judging our 'healthy plates' – the children came up with some excellent ideas to support a balanced diet!

Year 1

Year 1 have been practising to subitise. Subitising is *when you are able to look at a group of objects and realise how many there are without counting.*



We looked at pictures on the whiteboard and then found the correct number on our number fan. It was a bit tricky to start with but we are getting quicker!

Sing Subitize Rock with Jack Hartmann.

<https://youtu.be/A1Mazc-SsG0?t=1>

Reception

It's been a pleasure to continue to get to know the children and see their excitement for school. Superworms Class have been brilliant! We have been learning about the story 'Stone Soup' and making it in the mud kitchen. The children have been finding sets, matching objects that are the same and spotting rules in Maths. We've enjoyed our outdoor learning sessions and we have been developing our understanding how to play and work in the forest together. Their behaviour and understanding of the rules/routines has made me a very proud teacher. Keep being brilliant learners everyone!



Thank you for your engagement on Tapestry and please speak to Team Reception if you have any questions or queries.

Nursery



Autumn has moved definitely arrived in Nursery! We have been noticing the change in the seasons and all the signs that Autumn is now with us.

We have enjoyed seeing the leaves falling down in the nursery garden and creating a large piece of art using the leaves, sticks and conkers we have found. Henry kindly brought in a sunflower head

and we have enjoyed looking at it and picking all the seeds out of it that we will hope to plant next year.





Our stars of the week

Well done to our Stars of the week!

Year 1: Jackson

Year 2: Ana

Year 3: George

Year 4: Kyron

Year 5: Macy

Year 6: Evaldo



TTRockstars and Times Tables at home! Numbots at home!

TTRockstars and Numbots are all set up and we hope that everyone is practising lots at home! Next week we will start to give out some of our certificates in celebrations assembly, so make sure you log in lots at home this week! Who can make it to Rock Legend or Rock Hero status?

Remember that you can even challenge a teacher!! Have fun!

Learning at home resources

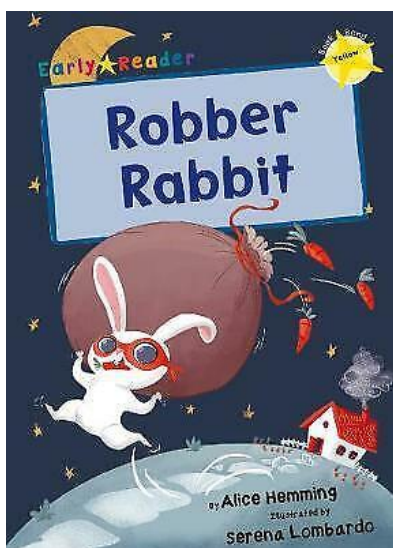
Please do check out our website which is continuing to grow! We have included lots of new information about our curriculum and resources to help support you at home on the following pages:

[Thameside Primary School - Keeping Safe \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](https://thamesideschool.co.uk)

[Thameside Primary School - Families and Learning at home \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](https://thamesideschool.co.uk)

Library Corner

This year, our book reviews will all be written by our children – **Finn in Year 6** has been super responsible and has supported **Reggie from Year 2** this week to write his review! Enjoy!



Robber Rabbit

Reviewed by Reggie!

I like rabbits because they are fluffy and my favourite part of the book is page 4 because the rabbits go into the tunnel/home.

I also like page 6/7 because it says "no carrots" and my friends laugh.

The book is about robber rabbit who steals the carrots for himself but there isn't enough to go down the tunnel to the home. The end part makes me laugh and my friends - "I will go back tomorrow"

The part that makes me laugh is when he empties the sack and there are no carrots "I did not get much in my sack!" my favourite thing that robber rabbit says is "Hop... Hop"

My favourite part is when he smells the carrots. Jaz is a rabbit, but at night, he us a robber rabbit! Jaz wants some carrots, but are his eyes bigger than his belly?

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

- Monday 2nd October – Year 5 and 6 cross country
- Week beginning 9th October – parents' evenings (please see letter regarding the new online booking system).
- Thursday 19th October 2.00pm – 3.00pm – **open classrooms for parents from Nursery – Year 6**
- Friday 20th October and Monday 31st October – INSET days (school closed)

PTA dates for your diary:

- Thursday 19th October - Break the rules non uniform day (details will be sent out!)
- Thursday 2nd November - Halloween/Autumn Disco after school (details TBC)
- Friday 17th November - non uniform for Tombola donations
- Friday 1st December - 3.30pm -5.30pm Xmas Fayre

[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: Tactic

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

Etymology- from Greek 'tactos' meaning ordered or arranged

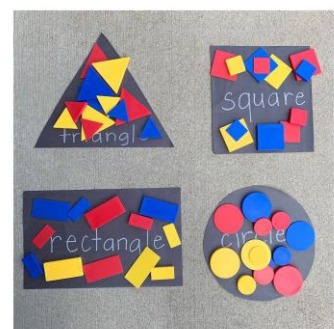
In context - The footballer used a clever tactic to score a goal.

Synonyms - strategy, scheme, plan



Maths Word of the week: SORT

Meaning: to arrange or group in a special way (such as by size, type or alphabetically).



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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.

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SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



1 LISTEN

This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and shows interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'smallest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great. <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/support-ask-twice-campaign>. Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

Are you sure?

3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.

4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or loss; 'It's very sad that Nana has died' or 'I feel sad that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.

6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the usual 'are you ok?' is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this... Is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'

7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they show their vulnerability and share their worries.

8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.

9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'man-up' or other such words in a derogatory way won't encourage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.

10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.

Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Sources of Information and Support

Your GP
Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>
<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/parenting-tips/2016/november/a-simple-guide-to-active-listening-for-parents/>
<https://www.themix.org.uk/mental-health>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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5th October

KIDS CHOICE MENU



KID APPROVED

Chicken or Quorn Nuggets
with a Choice of Dip
Chips

BBQ Beans

Sweetcorn

Chocolate Brownie



edwards and ward

a recipe for success