

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 21: 13th October 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to another full 'Thameside in Touch' – it has been a wonderful couple of weeks and we have also enjoyed some rather lovely late October sunshine! **This will be the last Thameside in Touch of the term – term finishes next Thursday 19th October at 3.15pm (which is also our open classroom event and Break the Rules day!).** This term has flown by and we have so many photos and updates to share with you!



It has been fantastic to see so many parents and carers at our first parents' evenings of the year – we are incredibly proud of what they have, and will continue to achieve. Thank you for your support so far this year.

Over the past two weeks, we have welcomed Liz Cooper (Co-chair of our LGB) for a learning walk. It was a pleasure to welcome Liz into our school and we were delighted with her feedback on the learning environment and conduct of our pupils at Thameside.

'When visiting today I noted the engaged and positive learning atmosphere around the school, as well as the warm and friendly welcome from staff and children. I was very impressed with how well the children behaved and how settled they seemed at this early point in the year. I was pleased to feedback to the headteacher what an enjoyable morning I had.'

Mrs Youngman also took part in the first Vale Academy Trust Leadership review led by the trust Director of Learning, Hazel Pittard, which focused on the quality of the leadership at Thameside – again we were over the moon with the feedback which reported that our Senior Leadership Team are:

'Reflective, ambitious and knowledgeable leadership team who are nurturing, proactive and strategic.'

A big thank you to Mrs Putt, Miss Polley and all of the staff team for all that they do to make Thameside the school that it is.

In more fantastic news, thanks to a kind donation by Christs Hospital we have been able to purchase a set of class iPads to enhance our Computing curriculum – we can't wait to share how these have been used with you. Pupils (and staff!) are very excited. This is another example of how we are developing our curriculum even more.

As part of our marketing, there has been much excitement around school as we have been filming our new promotional video – the children have been amazing and despite some butterflies in stomachs at the prospect of a camera, the staff have shared some lovely comments about our school too. This will be available on our website and social media very soon.

Finally, just a reminder that information regarding our parent governor election process has been shared with parents – this is a key role so please do consider coming forward **as the closing date is today!** We also are currently promoting Thameside ready for a new cohort of Reception children in 24/25 – as always, please do spread the word and look out for leaflet coming out very soon.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend!

Laura Youngman

Headteacher



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- Focus on... our school development priorities
- Our new Pupil Leadership Team!
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- Word of the week



Introducing the new members of our Thameside Family!

Fatima Nobrega – Teaching Assistant

Favourite chocolate bar? (important things first!)

Bounty

Place of birth?

Portugal – Funchal

Favourite place in all the world?

Wherever my family are

Favourite book?

Paulo Coelho the alchemist;

Favourite film?

Beauty and the Beast

Favourite song?

A new day comes (Celine Dion);

Last meal on Earth is likely to be?

Gammon, egg and chips;

When I was little, I wanted to grow up to be

Lawyer

Unlikely interesting fact about you?

I hate cooking, even though I know how to do it!



Holly-Anne Pullen – Teaching Assistant

Favourite chocolate bar? (important things first!)

Has to be Guylian seashells.

Place of birth?

Oxford.

Favourite place in all the world?

At home with my family, my dog Buddy and cat Bob.

Favourite book?

Any autobiography

Favourite film?

Dirty Dancing.

Favourite song?

Sweet Caroline by Neil Diamond as it gets everyone singing and dancing.

Last meal on Earth is likely to be?

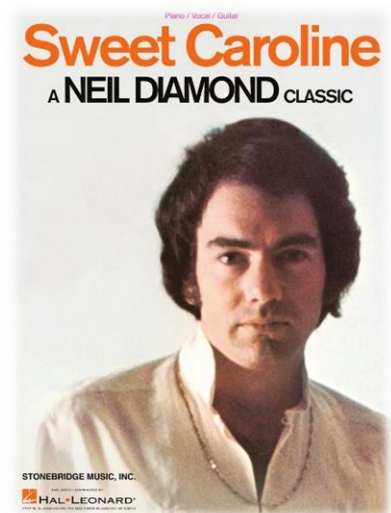
Chinese Singapore noodle and salt and pepper chicken.

When I was little, I wanted to grow up to be

A Teacher. I loved taking the class register with my friends.

Unlikely interesting fact about you?

Thameside was my primary school!



Liann Thompson – Cleaner (Thameside Site Team)

Favourite chocolate bar?

It has to be Terry's chocolate orange, although I'm very keen on the mint Twirls as well.



Place of birth?

Oxford

Favourite place in all the world?

Weymouth! I have been going there almost yearly my whole life, It's a place I call my home from home.



Favourite book?

All of the Harry Potters - they give so many more in-depth details than the movies.

Favourite film?

Dirty Dancing - it's a classic and who does not love a good romcom with great music and dancing?!



Favourite song?

It's so hard to pick a favourite song as I'm more of an 80's girl, but I would have to choose , Queen: Don't Stop Me Now!

Last meal on Earth is likely to be?

Hunters' chicken, with triple cooked chips and onion rings.

When I was little I wanted to grow up to be?

A pre-school teacher.

Unlikely interesting fact about me?

I have just enrolled into college to better my English and Maths – I hope that my dream job will soon become a reality.

Focus on...our school development priorities

Each year, we set core development priorities so that we can make our school even better.

The core principles underlying our work this year are shared with you below and we will update you on our progress in Thameside in Touch! They are underpinned by an ambitious vision to make Thameside the very best school it can be for our children.

1.) To embed a culture of excellence and ambition, where children (learners) are supported to become curious and resilient 'thinkers' who achieve strong outcomes, through high quality teaching and a broad and balanced curriculum.

2.) Children are provided with the very best start to their education from the Early Years where they develop a love of learning; experience a diverse and inspiring environment and are supported to regulate their emotions.

3.) Pupils experience rich and varied opportunities to become responsible citizens with an understanding of the world around them, locally and globally.



Congratulations to our new Pupil Leadership Team!

After a rigorous application and interview process With Mrs Youngman and Mrs Putt, we are delighted to introduce our new Pupil Leadership Team. Pupil Leadership is a huge part of all we do at Thameside – our leaders have already been showing around prospective parents and have done an amazing job!

They will head up our Pupil Parliament with Mrs Putt and Miss Polley, and oversee our other committees as well. Watch this space for more updates from them.

Head Pupils: Evaldo and Kiara

Deputy Head Pupils: Lilly-Anne and Phoebe

Sports and Play Leader Captain: Sonny

Lead Peer Mentor: Finn



PE at Thameside!

At Thameside, we believe Sport and PE, play an important role in making our vision statement a reality for every pupil: **Every child, Every chance, Every day.** We believe a high-quality, inclusive physical education curriculum inspires all pupils to enjoy, succeed and excel in both competitive sport and to participate in sport, as well as inspiring a thirst for fitness for life. Team Thameside PE and Sport is all about creating positive life habits and to switch on the light to being healthy and confident.

This year we have invested in a new PE scheme from TA Sports, that gives teachers a high-quality scheme to work from and the children a wide variety of sports to participate, compete and enjoy during their PE slots. Reception have also had the opportunity to take part in a weekly bike session from Cleal's Wheels, which is a real benefit for our school.

We have also started our offer of extra-curricular activities with KS2 Football club, Yoga club for Year 3 and 4s on Thursday and Cleal's Wheels bike club for Year 1 to Year 6 on Fridays. We have also taken 8 children to take part in the Cross-Country event in the Abingdon Partnership at Tilsley park, doubling our involvement from last year. We also have the Year 5/6 Football league, athletics and swimming competitions to come this year, along with many more.

There really is lots going on at Thameside with Sport and PE. Sport is for all!

Mr Dineen








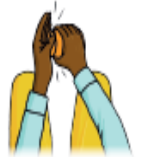

Class learning reviews








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

Year 6 have enjoyed being a group of budding musicians. The children had to follow and pass on patterns and rhythms on our World Cup Tour. Year 6 were brilliant at collaborating and synchronising with one another to pass the rhythm and patterns of the cups. Have a go at home!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						
pick	tap	floor floor	tap	floor floor	tap	pass

1	2 and	3	4	5	6	7
						
pick	(wait) tap	floor	(wait) tap	floor	(wait) tap	pass

Year 5

Another exciting couple of weeks for Year 5 with lots going on - it has been exhausting!

We were fortunate enough to be invited to a Webinar with Maz Evans, author of *Who Let the God's Out*, which was enjoyed by all.

Oxford Playhouse have been visiting every Monday and we have started to plan out our storylines for our scripts - the theme is 'Friends?' and have interpreted it in so many creative ways already! This week, Year 5s from across the VAT schools attended the Rise Together Space initiative held at Harwell Campus. It was a brilliant and inspiring day

for all (including Miss Clark, Mrs Witney and Mrs Pullen who now want to be Astronauts!). We got to learn about travelling and living in space, the pathways each person took to become an Astronaut, as well as some of the amazing opportunities and experiences they have had along the way. We will also be awaiting the return of our Space Art, which will be travelling to space and have a NASA stamp of authenticity before being returned to us.



Year 4

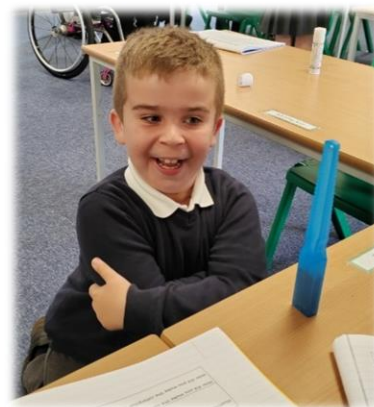
Year 4 have been busy learning lots of different figurative language techniques, from personification to similes and metaphors. We have been doing all of this to create images in the reader's mind by trying to stimulate their different senses. This week we have started planning our Free Verse Poems, which we will be sending to the Abingdon museum. The poems are all inspired by what items the children could possibly find mudlarking. I cannot wait to read their final pieces.

Year 3



A very exciting week in Science in Year 3. We experimented with a variety of magnets and Cody discovered that magnets work through the table!

Wolfie and Frances made some magnetic discs float!



Year 2

This week in Year 2, we have started to write our Winnie and Wilbur stories ready to share with Nursery – we can't wait to show our friends! We have also started a new Maths unit looking at number bonds to 10 and addition and subtraction families.

Year 1

We love reading in Year One. Children love listening to stories and are beginning to choose to read independently now too. It has been great to see the children make so much progress with their reading since September. Please keep reading with your children at home. It really does help!



Reception

Superworms have been very busy over the last few weeks and continue to grow as a class together. The children have impressed us with their mark making and desire to write. The children have drawn and written tricky words, shopping lists of healthy food and coloured sentences to demonstrate mixing colours. In Maths, the children have loved measuring and comparing things that are: bigger or smaller, heavier or lighter. We have also been working on how to tell our friends when we do not like something, developing what we have that is similar and how to be a better friend.



Team Reception also did their first assembly with the whole school in singing assembly – they absolutely loved it and behaved very well. Thank you for your continued support with your child's development and please keep checking into Tapestry, especially for our weekly Phonics videos.

Nursery

In Nursery we have been learning what Harvest is and looking at lots of different vegetables. We have enjoyed exploring them and even painting with them.

Our book of the week has been Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have been exploring oats and adding water to make porridge. We



have done lots of filling and emptying talking about full, half full and empty.



Our stars of the week

Well done to our Stars of the week!

Year 1: Evun

Year 2: Imogen

Year 3: Katie

Year 4: Estrela

Year 5: Grace

Year 6: Matthew



TTRockstars and Times Tables at home!
Numbots at home!

We have started to give out our first TTR and Numbots certificates in assembly
– we are so proud of what our children have already achieved!

Practising number bonds and times tables at home really is one of the most
important things you can do (alongside lots of reading!) so please do
encourage your children to play!

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

**If you would like even more Maths practice, the
White Rose '1 minute Maths' app is also a great
resource – it can be downloaded for free:**

[1-minute maths app | White Rose Maths \(whiteroseeducation.com\)](https://www.whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths-app/)



1-Minute Maths 4+

White Rose Education Services Limited

Designed for iPad

★★★★★ 5.0 • 2 Ratings

Free

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

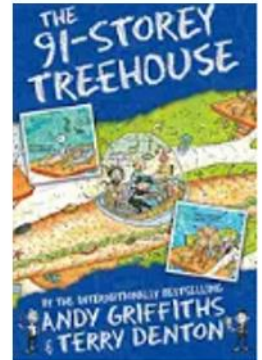
This year, our book reviews will all be written by our children – this week Finn, worked with Felicity in Year 4 to write this great review!

The 91- Storey treehouse

By Felicity

The storyline of the whole series is Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton race to publish the book on time.

MY FAVOURITE FLOOR IS THE HUMAN PINBALL MACHINE



I liked this this book because there are funny stuff in this book!
My favourite part of this book is when Mr Big nose (the publisher of their books);
His nose exploded.

Jill is their best friend. She owns a farm
With a flying cat! And a lot more animals

There was a fortune teller that drained their brains; she wanted to know the many answers!

THEY LIVE IN THE COOLEST TREEHOUSE EVER!

I also liked when they used
a sandwich submarine
made out of bread.

The 7th in the **series**

Andy is the one who writes the words of their published story
and Terry is the illustrator

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

- 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)

***Christmas event dates to follow early next half term**

PTA dates for your diary:

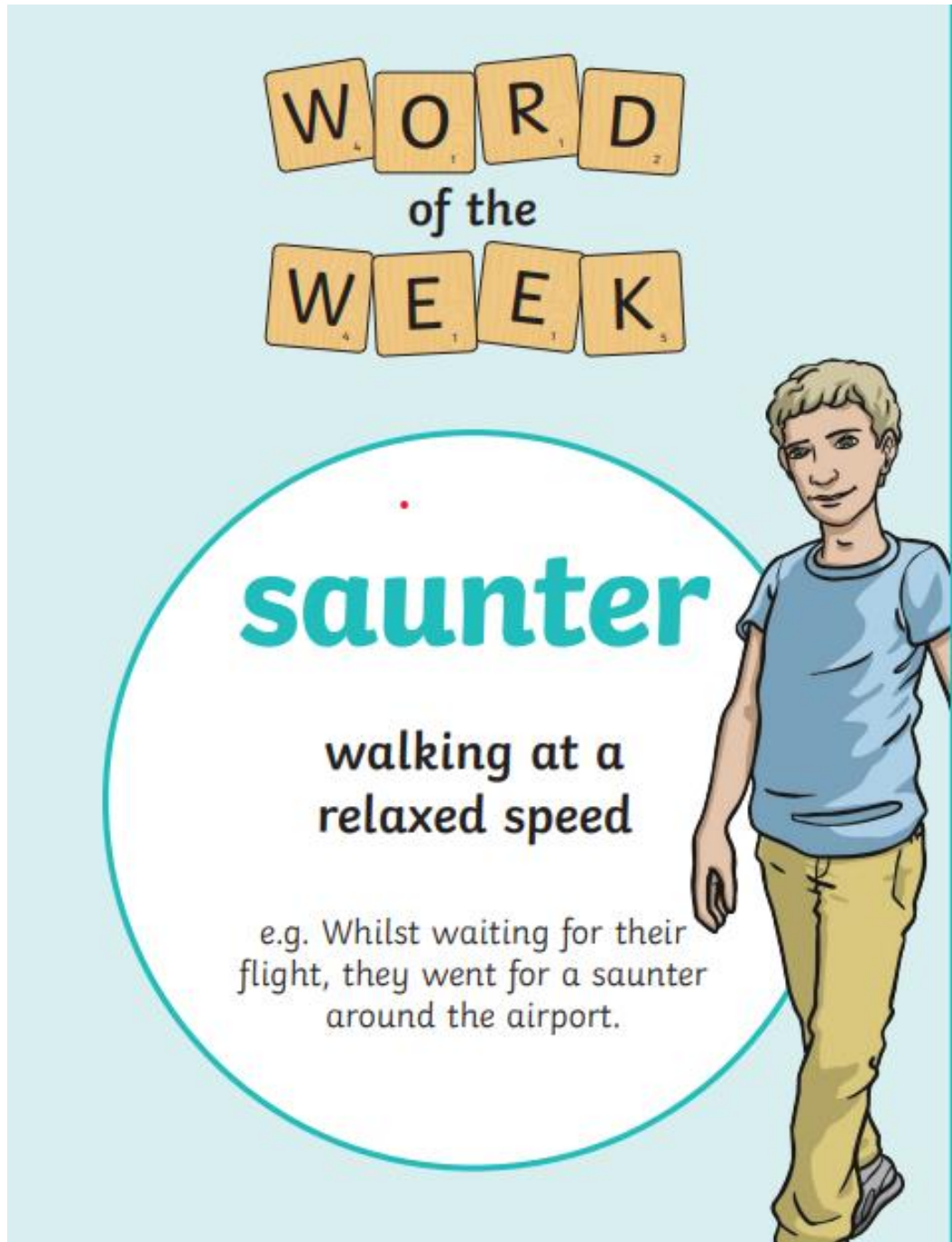
- Thursday 19th October - Break the rules non uniform day (details will be sent out!)
- Thursday 2nd November - Halloween/Autumn Disco after school (details TBC)
- Friday 17th November - non uniform for Tombola donations
- Friday 1st December - 3.30pm -5.30pm Xmas Fayre

[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!



LEARN THE UNDERWEAR RULE



AND YOU'VE GOT
IT COVERED!

PRIVATES
ARE PRIVATE

ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR
BODY BELONGS TO YOU

NO MEANS NO

TALK ABOUT SECRETS
THAT UPSET YOU

SPEAK 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.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Frog Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://tippapp/about/privacy.html>



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Online
Safety®**

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