



*Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day*



## Thameside In-touch!

**Edition 22: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It certainly has started to feel rather wintery this month – this term is always one of my favourites of the school year and we are very much looking forward to sharing the highlights with our families. You will also find provisional Christmas dates at the end of this newsletter so please do pop them in your diaries. Thank you to our fabulous PTA for organising the recent Halloween disco – lots of fun was had by all!!

This term has started with lots of exciting learning which you can read about in the year group updates below, as well as an author visit and a trip for Year 3 to the Abingdon Museum to enhance their learning about the Stone Age. Our clubs have also been in full swing and we are super proud that we have been able to offer such a wide



range this term – I continue to be very grateful to our staff for giving up their own precious time to run these.

This week, we have started to discuss remembrance with our children; this is a key aspect of our 'respect' value at Thameside. This has included discussion in school and Miss Cross will be leading an assembly to share what it means. Please do take time to discuss with your children at home – there are some lovely resources online, including a beautiful short film on the BBC website, called 'Poppies' for younger children. We are also supporting the British Legion Poppy Appeal. The red poppy is a national symbol of Remembrance and hope. Wearing a poppy is a way of showing appreciation for the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces, veterans and their families, both past and present. A reminder that you can now purchase poppies from our Year 6 pupil leaders by the school hall.

In staffing news, we will be saying goodbye to Bev Newman from the Office this term – Bev has worked at Thameside for 14 years and we thank her for her hard work and smiles at the office hatch. We wish her luck in her new admin role and future adventures! We are delighted that we have appointed a new admin officer who brings a wealth of experience to our school – we will introduce her to everyone soon! **We are currently still recruiting for a cleaner and part-time teacher – please do spread the word.**

Finally, congratulations go to Caius Galliers who becomes our new parent governor. We very much look forward to working with him.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend!

*Laura Youngman*

Headteacher

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# Admissions to Primary School

Admissions to Primary School (Academic Year 24/25): If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August

2020 (inclusive), you need to apply for a primary school place for September 2024. You will be able to apply on-line from 1st November 2022.

Please visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) for further information.

**The deadline date for online applications is 15th January 2024.**

Please remember the following:-

- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to apply for a school place by the deadline of 15 January 2023
- If your child is attending nursery classes within a primary school, you must still apply for a place in the main school
- You can list three different schools in order of preference. We strongly advise you to use all three preferences
- We advise you to enter your catchment (or designated) school as one of your preferences
- Attending your catchment school does not entitle you to free home to school transport if it is not your closest school and / under 2 miles away
- If your application is late, you are far less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools.

Click here to visit the OCC website:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place>

**Copies of our NEW leaflet can be found in the school office and tours are warmly welcomed!**

## Focus on: Communication update

Communication is really important to use all at Thameside and we have worked hard to develop and extend this over the past year. We wanted to recap the main ways in which school communicates with parents and carers:

- **Fortnightly Thameside in Touch newsletter**
- **Email – for all key school messages/reminders**
- **Our social media pages – Facebook and Twitter**  
**(please do follow us as photos and updates are posted several times a week!)**
- **Website – dates and termly overviews**

We also use 'Dojo' points in school to celebrate children's achievements (as one of the many rewards that form part of our behaviour policy) – we have however made the whole school decision to not use the Class Dojo Software outside of school. This is due to a number of reasons; however, for parents and carers, we are also conscious of ensuring that we do not have too many methods of communication that can cause confusion within everyone's busy lives.

We naturally review our communication regularly and welcome feedback!

**We will be providing future updates about how Dojo points are awarded and are celebrated – please do watch this space!**



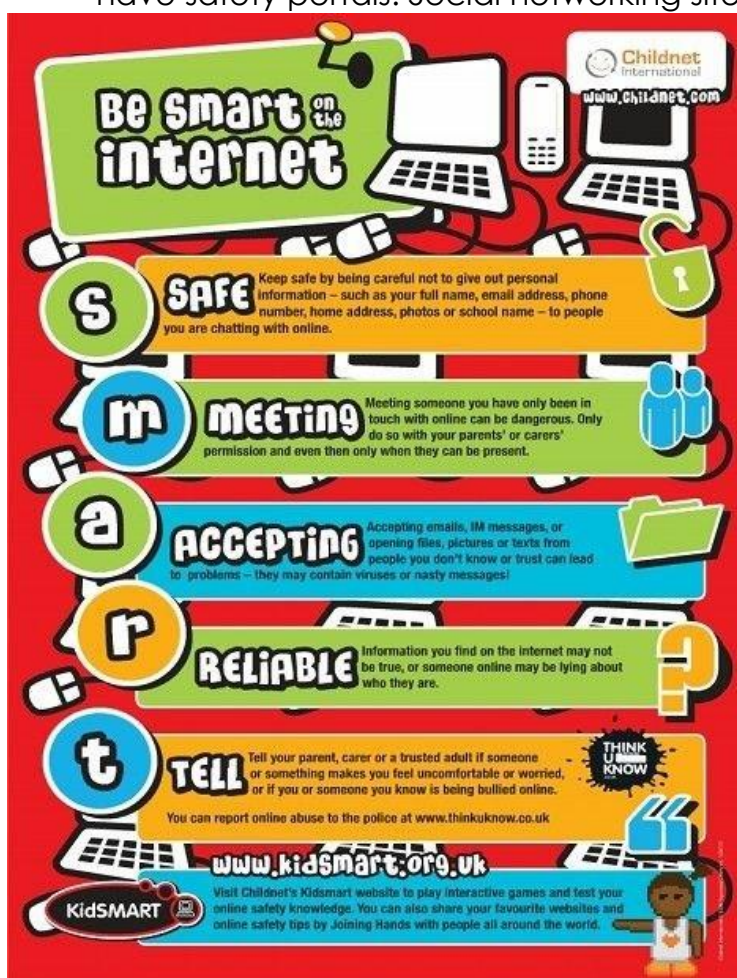
# Keeping children safe online

Online safety is key aspect of our curriculum at Thameside. It is a complex area that is constantly evolving. It is really important that school and parents work together in partnership to keep our children safe. Sadly we increasingly hear about children accessing material outside of school that is inappropriate and are keen to support families in how to manage online access at home.

There are some amazing resources online and we have shared a poster on the next page with some further top tips:

## Top tips:

- ✓ Families (and professionals!) who need support can access Parent Zone [Parent Zone | At the heart of digital family life](#)
- ✓ There are also resources and support via libraries
- ✓ Phones are preloaded with supervision tools. Internet Service providers have safety portals. Social networking sites have safety portals.



- ✓ Childnet have excellent resources for parents and schools, including pornography, body image, healthy relationships, cyberbullying and more:

[www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers) [Childnet — Online safety for young people](#)

As always, please do speak to one of our safeguarding leads if you have any questions – we are also planning to host an information evening later in the year for parents and carers.



# ONLINE CONTENT

## 10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



### 1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



### 2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



### 3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



### 4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



### 5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



### 6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



### 7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



### 8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



### 9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online; listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



### 10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

# 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

In Year 6, we carried out an experiment using yeast. We asked the question, 'Does temperature affect the amount of gas produced by yeast?'

Lochlan: 'We found out warm water produced the most gas because it wasn't too cold, and it wasn't too hot. As the yeast feeds on the sugar, it produced carbon dioxide and the balloon expanded.'

Matthew: 'We checked what gas was released by using the inflated balloon to blow out a candle and we found out it was carbon dioxide.'



## Year 5

A brilliant start to Term 2 for everyone in Year 5! We are well underway in our English journey, which started with a





hunt to locate Viking treasures from the Galloway Hoard; we have explored and discussed the objects, using inference skills to identify their purpose and use.

Our visit to Abingdon Museum unearthed lots more information about the Anglo-Saxons in Abingdon and we enjoyed getting hands-on with the artefacts!



## Year 4

In Year 4, we have been learning all about the Ancient Egyptians. We started our English topic with an Egyptian Mummy Mystery, where year 4 had to solve a riddle, complete a jigsaw, decode hieroglyphs, locate the river Nile and unscramble a key word. We have since, spent some time researching the Egyptian mummification process and exploring our key vocabulary words.



## Year 3

Year 3 have had a great start to term and are getting stuck into lots of new topics. In History, we're learning about the Stone Age. This has come alive for us thanks to the amazing handling workshop at Abingdon Museum. We got to hold all sorts of artefacts from ancient times and could see how people used to use stone to make weapons and tools. During the tour of the rest of the museum, we spotted lots of other amazing curiosities! We could have spent another hour there at least! Please do drop into the Museum with your children one weekend or during the holidays, as they would love to show you around. It is completely free to go in and the staff are super friendly.



### A recount of the day:

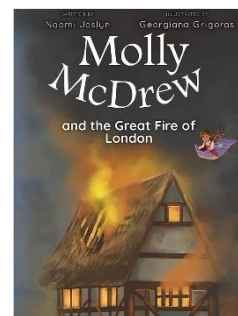
**On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, we went on a trip to Abingdon Museum. When we were there, Jennifer greeted us to the museum. We were split into two groups. It was great fun! We held a woolly mammoth tusk. Also we held Stone Age tools. They were hand made. I went with group two. In the gift shop I bought crystals then we went back to school.**

**Elsie Thompson, Year 3.**



## Year 2

This week in Year 2 we have starting thinking about firefighters and what we would like to learn about them in our new writing unit. We have also been thinking about different types of fire and how to stay safe around it. We had an author come in to read her book 'Molly McDrew and the Great Fire of London' which we all enjoyed



## Year 1



Year One have been working hard on their writing skills this week. We have been thinking about using capital letters and full stops in our sentences as well using describing words to make our writing more interesting. We invited Naomi Joslyn into school to talk to us about being an author and to read us one of the books she had written called 'Molly McDrew and the Great Fire of London.' The children had great fun helping with actions during the story telling and then designed and wrote a sentence about their own flying blanket.

**Please can we remind parents that reading books should be returned on Thursday so that they can be changed and go home on Friday.**

## Reception

Here in Superworms class, we have been super busy learning about the past and understanding the world we live in. We have discussed the dinosaurs and talked about what the word 'extinct' means. Diwali, the festival of light, has been a focus this week to support children in learning an appreciation for other religious celebrations. They have loved lightening up our classroom - more pictures to follow on Tapestry.



As always, thank you for engaging in Tapestry and liking the posts. That helps us to see who is engaging at home, so please like them and keep supporting your child's development.

## Nursery

What a fantastic start to the term with lots of spooky fun. We have been looking at festivals including Halloween and Firework night. We have been exploring fun tuff trays full of orange rice and plastic spiders. We also enjoyed hammering golf tees into pumpkins to develop our motor skills as well as listening to 'Room on the Broom' and 'Funny Bones.' The children really enjoyed dressing up and having their Halloween party in the hall with Reception – there was lots of dancing and playing games with their friends.



We have been learning lots of The Little Wandle Phonics games which are based on hearing sounds and oral blending. In Maths, we have been looking at numbers 1,2,3 by watching Numberblocks, playing fun games and using the connecting cubes.



## Our stars of the week

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

**Year 1: Alice**

**Year 2: Eddie**

**Year 3: Dushane and Frances**

**Year 4: Zoe**

**Year 5: Quinn**

**Year 6: Angel**



## **TTRockstars and Times Tables at home! Numbots at home!**

**Well done to everyone who has been playing TTR and Numbots this term so far. A special well done to Matts and Pixie who earned their first place certificates in assembly this week.**

**Please do keep up the great work and continue practicing – a little bit everyday makes a huge difference! There is also a nationwide competition taking place between 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November called 'England Rocks'. We can't wait to take part!**

[Event – Times Tables Rock Stars \(ttrackstars.com\)](http://ttrackstars.com)





## Learning at home resources

Please do check out our website which is continuing to grow! We have included lots of 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 – this week Finn, worked Elsie in Year 3 to write this great review!



### Funnybones By Janet and Allan Ahlberg

By Elsie

My favourite part of the story is at the start where a narrator repeats a poem which says dark on each line

This book is about a dog skeleton, a big skeleton and a small skeleton

In this book they go to the park, they throw a stick for their dog and they scare each other and they swing on the swings.

These bones these bones can bark again  
These bones can run  
Around in the park again  
Can frighten people in the dark again!

I like the song where the where the skeletons crash into a tree and put them selves back together using the method of singing a song.

I like the book because the skeleton animals that come out at night

The foot bones connected to the leg bone

The toe bone connected to the foot bone

The leg bones connected to the hip bone

The hip bones connected to the back bone!



"I really enjoyed the book"! -Elsie

Funny bones!

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 for the fantastic donations already 😊

Thameside Primary School Archives - Mostly Books ([mostly-books.co.uk](http://mostly-books.co.uk))



## Key Diary dates for this term

Please also keep an eye on the website online Calendar!

- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Children in Need (Spotacular!)
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day (or, if you prefer, just something red/green/something festive!)
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> (am) and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> (pm) – KS1 performances to parents – times TBC
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas dinner day
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December – 2.30pm Nursery and Reception Christmas singalong to parents
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – 9.00am Star of the Term assembly (invites to follow)
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – 1.30pm end of term

**PTA dates for your diary:**

- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December - 3.30pm -5.30pm Xmas Fayre

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



# Word of the week!

Developing vocabulary is a key element of our curriculum at Thameside – each week we will be sharing some new words on the newsletter you to discuss and share with your children!





## Opportunity to train as an ~~ARCh~~ Reading Helper

~~ARCh~~ volunteers work one to one with selected children in a primary school, close to their home or workplace, providing personalised support to boost confidence, build self-esteem and turn around negative attitudes to reading.

We are looking for more people to join us in making a real difference to children's lives.

All volunteers are vetted (including enhanced DBS) and receive initial and ongoing training and support as well as resources tailored to each child.

If you would like to get involved as a volunteer or supporter, or if you work in a school and are interested in our service, please email [info@archoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@archoxfordshire.org.uk)

Please support us – you can donate via <https://localgiving.org/donation/arch>

Registered Charity number 1148276



Company number 7962217

~~ARCh~~ is committed to Safeguarding and this role is exempt from RGA 1974 and eligible for enhanced DBS certificate/banned list check