

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 24: 23rd November 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is almost December so it means that we are starting to make Thameside look more festive. We are over the moon that B & Q have kindly donated a real Christmas tree this year which we are super excited to decorate this week ahead of next week's Christmas Fayre!

We have enjoyed a huge amount of exciting curriculum enrichment events in the past two weeks – including:

- ✓ **A trip for Year 5 and 6 to hear Matt Lucas talk about his new festive book**
- ✓ **A Children in Need 'Spotacular' and 'Bearpee' challenge!**
- ✓ **A visit from the Radley Zoo – including real snakes!**
- ✓ **A Year 6 business challenge at Abingdon School**
- ✓ **Oxford Playhouse workshops in Upper KS2**
- ✓ **Keeping safe assemblies for the whole school**
- ✓ **A new Year 4 stop-animation lunchtime club and swimming lessons**
- ✓ **A hedgehog rescue!**
- ✓ **And so much more!!**



Positive feedback!

This term we also experienced a very positive review from the Vale Academy Trust Director of Learning and a Headteacher from a local school – both visitors commented on the quality of our approach to Writing introduced last year

and the high impact it is already having on our children, who spoke with enthusiasm about how much they enjoyed writing! We were delighted once again with the positive feedback.

I also showed around some prospective parents and it was lovely to hear more kind feedback about our school – they commented that even from a first visit Thameside felt warm, nurturing and bright; children were welcoming and polite and that classrooms and learning areas were impressive. Well done everyone!

Staffing updates

Staff have also been working closely with St James School in Hanney as part of our collaborative staff development programme – we enjoyed two sessions together led by Mrs Youngman and Mrs Ash from St James, linked to developing questioning in the classroom and the latest research in this area. It was great to share best practice and ideas with each other: growing and developing is a key aspect of our culture at Thameside, for children and staff.

In other news, we will be saying goodbye to Miss Biss at the end of this term due to personal reasons; Miss Biss has only been with us since September but we will miss her – we are delighted to have appointed a new teacher who will work alongside Ms Daniell; we will keep Year 3 parents updated.

Finally, please do let us know if you can attend our online safety session for parents next Wednesday 29th November at 2.45pm – details were sent via email. This is such an important part of the work we do and hope that many of you can attend.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend – we hope to see lots of you this afternoon at our Christmas Fayre!

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

In this edition:

- **Focus on.... attendance**
- **Class learning reviews!**
- **Stars of the week**
- **TTRockstars update**
- **Library corner**
- **Diary dates**
- **Word of the week**



Focus on attendance and punctuality

Thank you for everyone's support in helping us improve attendance and punctuality even further – **please continue to make sure that your children arrive promptly at 8.40am in the morning and are in school every day.**

We wanted to take a moment to remind you about all of the support and initiatives we have in place at Thameside (**please see our policy and dedicated website page for more detail**).

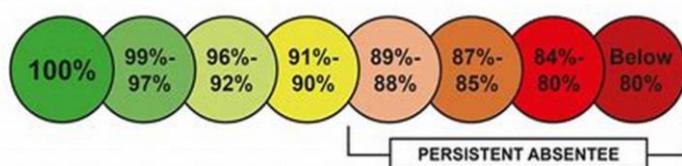
What school will do to support you and your child with school attendance

School will:

- make contact with you by phone or visit your home if no reason has been given for your child's absence
- call for updates if your child has been called in unwell.
- review whole school/class attendance patterns regularly
- make contact with you if your child's attendance continues to be a concern. This may be by phone, letter, home visit or an attendance meeting in school. Please see our policy for details.
- work together, with you to improve your child's attendance.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?

Attendance Incentives

School encourage good attendance and punctuality by celebrating pupil's punctuality and classes' attendance with:

- Weekly class attendance assembly
- Weekly Punctuality Raffle – each child arriving on time each day goes into a class raffle for a prize!
- Attendance display board celebrating the top two classes

Book Amnesty!

Phonics and Reading Books - Amnesty Update

Last year, we lost over £450 of specialist Little Wandle phonics books and about £400 of other reading books. A big THANK YOU to the parents who have responded to our appeal and have brought some of these back - we really appreciate it! This pile alone (in the photo) has saved us £140 😊



Please keep looking for any Thameside books you have at home and drop them into the office. We will be very pleased to have any books back, however long you've had them! Thanks again.

Class learning reviews

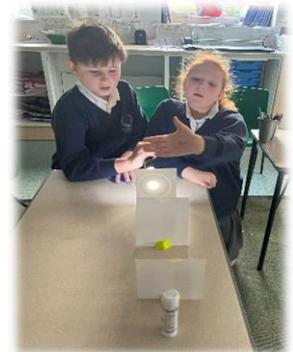
To find out more about what each year group is learning, please do check out our updated parent curriculum overviews on the class pages of our website!

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

Year 6

Year 6 have been extremely busy in the last couple of weeks. They have enjoyed having Radley Zoo visit and 6 children took part in the Abingdon Schools business challenge. It has been brilliant to see the children thrive with extra enrichment opportunities.

This week in Science, children discussed the question 'How does light travel?' Children were able to investigate and



observe how light travels. They explored the resources given and were able to use mirrors or create holes in the card to explain that light travels in a straight line.

Year 5

Year 5 have been fantastic the past two weeks! They enjoyed meeting the animals in their Radley Zoo workshop and have loved their weekly drama session with Oxford Playhouse – some budding actors in the making! Mrs Youngman also thoroughly enjoyed teaching Year 5 on Wednesday, where they learn about useful causal and contrasting conjunctions ready for their discussion writing piece. Mrs Youngman enjoyed teaching Year 5 so much, that she did not want to leave! We are proud of you Year 5!



Year 4

The past two weeks have been a bit unusual for Year 4 as we have been swimming. However, the whole class handled the change in our timetable superbly. They have made Thameside proud by representing the school flawlessly throughout every session, on the coach, and in the leisure centre. It has been amazing to see the progress over the last two weeks, those who had never swam are really becoming confident in the water and some of our more experienced swimmers managed an entire length with no rest. They really have been an asset to the school. Thank you for all the support in managing to provide dry towels and kit daily for the whole two weeks.

When not swimming, we have been lucky enough to visit Abingdon School where the students took part in a stop-motion workshop. I was blown away by the creativity and skill as some of the short films were truly brilliant. We will be taking our new skills and having a go at producing some short animations



ourselves over the coming weeks. It has felt like a crazy few weeks but the students have really handled it well.

Year 3

Year 3 have been working so hard this week – Mrs Witney and Ms Daniell have been incredibly proud of their resilience and determination in class. They thoroughly enjoyed their Science this week, led by our trust STEM lead, Mrs Boaz and our other visitors were super impressed by how well they could talk about their Writing – this term they are working towards creating a fact file of Mary Anning. Well done our Year 3 superstars!

Year 2

In Year 2 we have been thinking about 2D shapes and their properties in Maths. We have been really impressed by the children's prior knowledge on this and they have been excited to learn more! In Writing, we have been learning about the difference between questions and commands. We have then used these commands in our writing for keeping safe from fire.

The children have also really impressed us with their hockey skills so far this term. They have all learnt the correct grip and we have had lots of fun trying to pass the hockey ball to each other. We think we may have found a few members for Team GB!



Year 1

In year one we have been working hard at improving our writing. We practise our phonics every day and use this knowledge when writing. This week we have been thinking about how we could make our writing more interesting by using describing words. We like to link our writing to books we are reading. We have been reading 'Paper Dolls' by Julia Donaldson and used this to help

us think about what adjectives we could use to describe ourselves and our friends.

We had great fun making some paper dolls and writing words on them to describe how we have decorated them. Amelia chose some great words to describe her dolls – stripy, spotty, red, zigzag.



Reception

Team Reception have been very busy over the last few weeks as we've stepped up our reading culture and expectations, in line with our Phonics scheme 'Little Wandle'. It has been great to see the children's excitement, both at home with the videos on Tapestry and in class during lessons, continuous provision and in reading sessions. Being persevering parrots, is so key during these early reading times for both the children and grownups. Please keep reassuring your child and taking the time to establish early reading routines. More top tips, as always, on Tapestry.



In other areas of the curriculum, our play leaders have been supporting our learning and play (see pictures below). The children have engaged so well with their older peers. In Maths, we have started to look at triangles and circles; the children are spotting them everywhere! We have also turned our attention to 'where Kings and Queens lived in the past'. Thank you for your donations on our Spotacular day for Children in Need, Superworms were amazing in the 'Bearpees' challenge and we completed over 1000 between us!

Nursery

Nursery have had a very colourful time! Each day we have looked at a different colour. All of the activities in nursery have been based on the colour of the day. We have played with yellow cornflour and water, black sparkly sand, white shredded paper and orange lentils just to name a few. We have also made orange



monsters, brown bears and explored white paint on black paper in the craft area. We had a great time taking part in the Bearpee challenge for Children in Need. The children impressed us all with their athletic skills and resilience. We also liked exploring with spotty stickers and putting them everywhere!



Our stars of the week

Well done to our Stars of the week!

Year 1: Simmal
Year 2: Melody
Year 3: Cody
Year 4: Remy
Year 5: Myah
Year 6: Sonny



TTRockstars and Times Tables at home!

We have seen a huge increase in minutes spent playing on TTRS and as a result, have seen children's confidence in timestables soaring.

A big well done to Year 4 as we can really see how engaged they are and this is making a big difference to their retention of timestables. Well done to **Joey (Year 4), Phoebe (Year 4) and Riley (Year 4)** for the top three improvements in studio speed this week!

Numbots at home!

We have also seen a big increase in the number of minutes spent using Numbots and this has made such a difference to the children's confidence in working with numbers and place value. Well done to **George (Year 1), Daniel (Year 2) and Katie (Year 3)** for the highest number of minutes played last week.

Next week in Numbots and TTRS, we will be focusing on highest number of coins earned

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 week, we wanted to highlight a couple of fantastic websites to help in choosing books with your children. Finn will be back next week with his fortnightly review when he has finished his current book!

- [The Reader Teacher | Children's Books | Reads, Reviews & Recommendations](#)

This is a great website with recommended reads and 'book matches' to help you find books that are similar to authors that your child loves.

- [BooksForTopics | Search Children's Books by Age or Topic](#)

A fantastic range of books organised by theme and topic.

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 for the fantastic donations already 😊

Thameside Primary School Archives - Mostly Books (mostly-books.co.uk)



Key Diary dates for this term

Please also keep an eye on the website online Calendar!

- **Wednesday 29th November – online safety session for parents (2.45pm – 3.15pm)**
- **Thursday 7th December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day (or, if you prefer, just something red/green/something festive!)**
- **Tuesday 12th (am) and Thursday 14th (pm) – KS1 performances to parents – times TBC**
- **Wednesday 13th December – Christmas dinner day**
- **Monday 18th December – 2.30pm Nursery and Reception Christmas singalong to parents**
- **Tuesday 19th December – 9,00am Star of the Term assembly (invites to follow)**
- **Wednesday 20th December – 1.30pm end of term**

PTA dates for your diary:

- **Friday 1st 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!

A vertical poster with a light orange background and a thick orange border. At the top, the words 'WORD' and 'WEEK' are written in black capital letters on individual wooden blocks, with 'of the' in smaller black text between them. Below this, the word 'inquisitive' is written in a large, bold, orange font inside a white circle. Underneath the circle, the definition 'curious or showing interest' is written in black. Below the definition is an example sentence: 'e.g. The inquisitive cat went into the garage.' To the left of the text, there is a cartoon illustration of a woman with glasses, wearing a purple and grey shirt and dark pants, sitting cross-legged on the floor with an open book on her lap. A small orange logo is visible at the bottom right of the poster.

WORD
of the
WEEK

inquisitive

curious or showing interest

e.g. The inquisitive cat went into the garage.

RAFFLE

Christmas
crafts

Thameside Primary School Christmas Fayre

Fri 1st Dec 3.15pm-5pm

Entrance through the main hall (Yellow doors)

- *Cake sale
- *Hot dogs
- *Tombola
- *Bodyshop
- *Christmas craft stall +many more
- *Wine or water
- *Face painting
- *Raffle prize draw
- *Stocking fillers

Plus a *Ho ho ho!*
Special guest!

SPONSORED BY
MCKENZIE REPAIRS LTD





Christmas

FAYRE

2ND DECEMBER

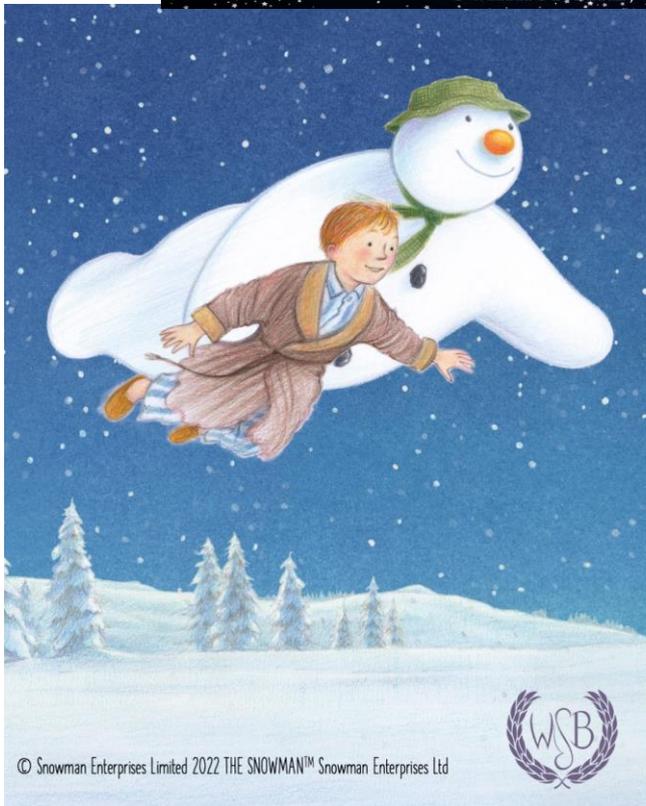
10:30AM - 14:30PM

20 Stalls, Hot Food, Witney Brass Band & Reindeer!!

Free entry and free parking

Chawley Grove Care Home, 195

Cumnor Hill, OX2 9PJ



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WANTAGE BAND THE SNOWMAN LIVE

Saturday 2nd December

The Beacon, Wantage

3:30pm & 6pm

Sunday 3rd December

The Amey Theatre, Abingdon

1:30pm & 4pm

Tickets available from

www.ticketsource.co.uk/wantage-band

Adults £15

Students £12

Children £10

Family tickets available

Under 2s (on laps) FREE



Follow us on Facebook & Instagram

ParentLine 5-11 years

New School Health Nursing messaging service for parents and carers of children 5-11 years attending a state school in Oxfordshire

Text **07312 263227**
to message a school health nurse



Text School Health Nurses for advice on issues such as:

- diet & healthy lifestyles
- toileting
- sleep
- bullying
- support with behaviours
- general and emotional health

Or scan QR code here to start a chat

Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Primary school place – you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2019** and **31 August 2020**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2024**.

Apply online at

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/
primaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

– it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.

For help and information:

Web: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Email: admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Tel: **0345 241 2487**

