



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 26: 20th December 2023

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of term and almost to the end of 2023! It has been a wonderfully festive couple of weeks (mixed in with the normal winter bugs, coughs and colds!). Please do take a look at our 'Festive Gallery' later in this newsletter which showcases all of our festive events including our KS1 nativity; Christmas Dinner Day; EYFS Sing Song and Festive Reading café to name but a few! We were so incredibly proud of our children who showed fantastic resilience – performing in front of large audiences is a little bit scary for us all.

Well done to our Stars of the Term as well for quite simply being fantastic Thameside role models; there is never a dry eye in the house during the assembly (and that is just the staff!). It has just been wonderful to see so many smiles all around the school at this special time of year. We also welcomed 'Atomic Tom' to showcase some amazing experiments this week as a final 'wow factor' – the children were in awe!!



A sincere thank you to all of the parents and carers who have attended our many festive events – we love being able to welcome you to into school so that you can share in the work we do and celebrate all of our children's achievements.

Amongst all of these exciting enrichment opportunities, we have loved seeing our children's love for reading continue to grow and blossom – it was a pleasure to witness our children asking to read in our newly painted reading hut (thank you Mr O'Neill!) at break and lunch. Keep reading everyone!



Wishing you a wonderful Christmas break with friends, family and loved ones - **please do keep reading with your children and practising on TTR and Numbots over the break to keep improving these important skills! A few minutes a day makes a huge difference.**

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on **Tuesday 9th January** (a reminder that Monday 8th January is an INSET day)

Merry Christmas from all of the staff at Thameside!

Laura Youngman

Headteacher



Communication reminder!

You said, we did!

We appreciate that there is always lots going on and much to remember on a daily basis for parents and carers. We are keen to make communication as clear and accessible as possible for everyone.

In light of some feedback on volume of emails received, **from January, we will send out a weekly 'Friday Flyer' with key dates and admin reminders to try to reduce the amount of emails sent – this will include info such as PE days etc.**

Thameside in Touch will then be sent out every three weeks to provide updates on what the children have been learning and other more detailed aspects of school life (twice per small term).

In this edition:

- Focus on.... Introducing our new members of Team Thameside
- SEND and Inclusion update – from our HSLW, Alison Winder.
- Class learning reviews!
- Stars of the week
- TTRockstars update
- Library corner
- Diary dates
- Word of the week



Mural Competition!

**We will announce the winning designs
next term- watch this space!!**

If there are any parents with fantastic artistic skills
who would like to be involved in this project, we
would love to hear from you!



Focus on.... Introducing our new member of Team Thameside!

Karin Loudon – Year 3 teacher



1. Favourite chocolate bar? (important things first!)

Toblerone

2. Place of birth?

London

3. Favourite place in all the world?

Austrian Alps

4. Favourite book?

Can't choose one single one. Love reading all sorts - fantasy, autobiographies, detective stories, historical novels. The longer the better!

5. Favourite film?

A trilogy of films: three colours white, red and blue.

6. Favourite song?

I want to break free by Queen



7. Last meal on Earth is likely to be?

Gazpacho, followed by a Lamb curry and topped off with either Christmas cake or a sticky toffee pudding.

8. **When I was little, I wanted to grow up to be**

I wanted to grow up to be a ski lift operator so that I could live in the Alps all year round.

9. **Unlikely interesting fact about you?**

There is a burnt down castle in Scotland that carries my family name. I also have my own family tartan.





Mandy Bayliss – Admin Officer

1. Favourite chocolate bar? (important things first!)

Cadbury's Dairy Milk

2. Place of birth?

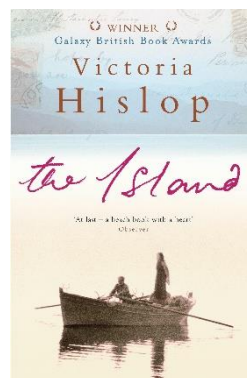
Woking, Surrey

3. Favourite place in all the world?

New York

4. Favourite book?

The Island by Victoria Hislop



5. Favourite film?

An Officer and a Gentleman

6. Favourite song?

Wonderful Tonight by Eric Clapton

7. Last meal on Earth is likely to be?

My mum's ham, egg & chips!



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

Police Officer

9. Unlikely interesting fact about you?

I used to be a fitness instructor and I'm qualified in Swedish massage!

Inclusion and SEND update – Family support and HSLW update

Message from our Home School Link Worker, Alison Winder:

Many of you will know me but in case you don't, I am the Home School Link Worker here at Thameside and my job is to support our Thameside families and offer emotional support to the children in school.

If you have anything that you are worried about, your child or your family, and are not sure where to go for help you can make an appointment to see me or catch me at drop off or pick up. My office is opposite the school gates as you come in.

You will always get a friendly and non-judgemental ear and sometimes just having someone to talk to can make all the difference. If I can, I will help or signpost to other support. One of the offers of help is from the Early Help Team.

A letter from our link worker Sophia Lazarou-West went out in the last newsletter. She has access to a wealth of knowledge and can help us to help you too.

Don't suffer in silence, come and chat. My door is always open. My working days are Monday to Thursday with a late start Wednesday.

Contact details:

01235 527600 option 1

Email: awinder@thameside.vale-academy.org

Festive Photo Gallery!



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 \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](https://thamesideschool.co.uk)

Year 6

Year 6 have enjoyed their rocket reward after earning stars for being resilient, responsible, resourceful, reflective and respectful. They have worked hard this term, and I am immensely proud of them for all that they have achieved. To end the term, Year 6 chose to play a series of games which showed all of their competitive sides and it was lovely to see them all smiling. I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and a well-deserved rest! Happy New Year! See you in 2024!

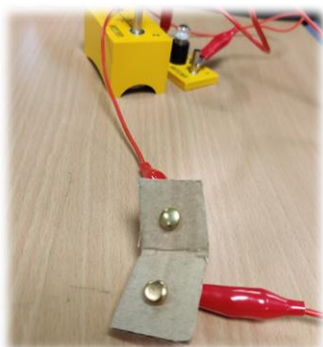
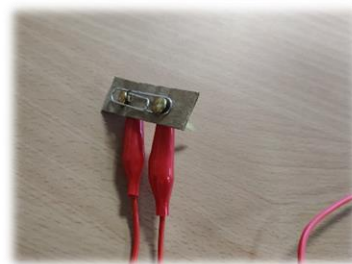


Year 5

The final countdown to Christmas Holidays! We may have been completing festive activities, but Miss Clark and Mrs Russell have made sure we have used our brains! There has been a challenging Santa's Workshop fraction problem in Maths and innovations of The Night Before Christmas in English - thinking about syllables and rhyme was particularly tricky, but the everyone tried their hardest to produce some fun verses. Preparing festive decorations to take home, our resilience and determination has also been tested - but the outcome has been worth it with some beautiful Christmas Wreaths being created! From all of us in Year 5, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!



Year 4 Another busy week, but the children have been brilliant and shown great resilience throughout. All in the same week, we completed some tricky Maths assessments and managed to complete our English writing task. We have been catching up with Science, so this week we have been creating our own working switches to be used



in a circuit. We have then explored different materials in the classroom and investigated whether they are insulators or conductors.

This past week, I have also had to show lots of resilience. The children have been desperate to overtake me on TT rockstars and last week has seen Remy, Jack, Lucas and Jacob all join Estrela in beating my studio time. I now sit dangerously close to slipping out of the top 10. This only goes to prove how much time and effort the students are putting into TT rockstars so great job and keep it up!

Year 3



Year 3 (Percival class) have had a busy end to term! A definite highlight was our Christmas crafts afternoon on Friday with all sorts of amazing creations made from old CDs, cotton wool, ribbons and other upcycled materials. As you may have seen on Facebook, we've been celebrating the children's resourcefulness, with a special mention to Frances who has done an incredible job making wooden Christmas trees out of old pallets. We've also been sharing a wonderful book called 'The Dog that Saved Christmas' about Jake, a boy with autism. We've had some really thoughtful discussions about what makes us a diverse class, something we'll be exploring more in PSHE in the new year.

A big well done to everyone in Percival class for all their hard work this term and Mrs Witney, Mrs Loudon and I really look forward to seeing you back in the new year 😊

Year 2

We are so proud of the hard work our children have done towards our Nativity. They have worked so incredibly hard on learning lines, songs, actions and most importantly, when to come on and off the stage! Thank you to all of you who



were able to come and support your children at one of the performances, it meant the world to them to perform to you! We have also been doing lots of Christmas themed Maths and English work this week, as well as lots of Christmas crafts.

Year 1

The last two weeks have been very busy in Year One. We hope you all enjoyed 'Baarmy Bethlehem.' It was hard work learning all the songs and dances, but we really enjoyed it.

This week we have worked extremely hard being scientists and learning about light. We listened to the story, 'Can't you sleep Little Bear?'



and thought about the different things we could give Little Bear, so he wasn't in the dark anymore. We wanted to look at different torches and find out which were the brightest and would be the most helpful. First, we had to make a dark cave. It was quite hard, but we managed it using lots of blankets and paper!



Once we had made a cave, we used different torches to investigate which ones we thought we the best. We were quite surprised when we found out that the smaller torches were better than the big ones!

Reception

I am so proud of the children as we end our second term. It is a pleasure to work within Team Reception. This term we have been Kings and Queens, Dinosaurs, Santa's little helpers, Explorers, Bug finders, Footballers, Construction workers, Story tellers, Mathematicians and the list goes on and on. The children's curiosity and imagination make every day different. Always be curious!

As always, a huge thank you to all grown-ups who support their little one's development, it really is a team effort and



every minute counts! A huge thank you to Cleal's Wheels as we've had our last session of the year. The children have developed so much in the prime area of Physical Development and had loads of fun using the balance bikes.



Finally, I would like to wish you, your child and the rest of your family a brilliant Christmas break, however you choose to spend it. We look forward to welcoming you and your child back in 2024.

Nursery

We have been busy little elves in nursery making our Christmas crafts and practising our Christmas songs. We have been thinking about what being on the nice list means and how it is important to be kind to our friends. We really enjoyed our Christmas dinner in the hall with Christmas crackers and music. We are all very excited for Christmas.





Our stars of the TERM

Well done to our Stars of the term!

Reception: Robyn

Year 1: Pixie

Year 2: Alina

Year 3: Harvey

Year 4: Estrella

Year 5: Macy

Year 6: Amoy

Mrs. Youngman's Headteacher Star: Jackson (Year 1)



**TTRockstars,
Numbots and**

COMPETITIONS at home!



Well done to all pupils who have been accessing TTRS or Numbots and worked hard on practising their number skills. In TTRS we focussed on improved studio speed. A big well done to Phoebe (Year 4), Joey (Year 4) and Remy (Year 4) for being our top three of the week! In Numbots, we focussed on the highest number of coins earned over the last 7 days. A big well done to Alina (Year 2), Cassius (Year 1) and George (Year 1) for being the top three of the week.

We have a TTRS Battle of the Bands running over the Christmas holidays for Years 3-6 and we will be announcing the results in our first week back!

Christmas is always a busy time of year, but even 5 minutes a day spent practising our number skills over the holidays, could make all the difference!

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)



Festive Library Corner

Winter Reading Challenge 2023!

Oxfordshire Libraries have announced the return of the Winter Mini Challenge!

The Reading Agency has once more teamed up with the Youth Sport Trust and public libraries, continuing with the Ready, Set, Read! theme from the Summer Reading Challenge. The Winter Mini Challenge is a free reading challenge, completely online, that tackles the holiday reading 'dip', encouraging children to keep up good habits or discover the joy of reading.

- Children will re-join the six characters from the Summer Reading Challenge, as they go on a winter walk to the library.
- They will unlock virtual rewards and a special certificate by rating and reviewing books.
- A target of 3 books is recommended for children, who set their own reading Challenge. Children can read any books, including eBooks or eAudio, which can be borrowed for free from Oxfordshire Libraries.
- We will have a themed collection of eBooks to download from our [Overdrive Ebook Platform](#)
- Parents and carers can join their children to the library by visiting [Oxfordshire Libraries](#)

Challenge start date: 1 December 2023 Challenge end date:
19 February 2024

*****Register here: [Libraries | Oxfordshire County Council](#)*****

Supporting our school!

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 Term 3 - 2024!

***Details to follow.**

Please also keep an eye on the website online Calendar and our first Friday Flyer which will be sent out on Friday 12th January.



- Monday 8th January – INSET Day (School Closed)
- Tuesday 9th January – Term starts at 8.40am
- Thursday 11th January – Y6 IMPs session
- Week beginning 22nd January and 29th January – Year 5 swimming (letters to follow)
- Friday 2nd February – NSPCC Number day
- Tuesday 6th February – Safer Internet Day
- Week beginning 5th February – Year 6 ONLY parents' evenings (letter to follow). Other year groups after half term.
- Friday 9th February – end of term 3.15pm
- Half term holiday – Cleal's Wheels Holiday Club at TS – more Info to follow!

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!



COMPASSION

Meaning a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune

I felt such compassion towards the person who was crying.

Synonyms: Empathy, grace

Antonyms: harsh, cruel

It comes from the old French, compassion, meaning pity and sympathy.

Join us for

Stay and Play

at Abingdon Library



For babies and toddlers

Every Thursday

9:30–11:00am

Free drop-in sessions

Children must be accompanied by an adult

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

– 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**



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

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





The Nurturing Programme



A **FREE** 10-Week programme for parents and carers.

Over the 10-weeks, we will look at lots of different topics, including:

Understanding... why children behave as they do

Recognising... the feelings behind behaviour (ours & theirs)

Exploring... different approaches to discipline

Finding... ways to develop co-operation and self-discipline in children

Learning... the importance of looking after ourselves

Where? Abingdon Carousel Family Centre, Caldecott Chase, Abingdon, OX14 5GZ

When? Tuesday mornings from 9.30-11.30am

Starting? Tuesday 16th of January 2024

Cost? Free

Interested? To book a place, please email m.etienne@abingdoncarousel.org.uk or call (01235) 526691

Let children know you're listening

A **safeguarding resource** to help you show children and young people that, whatever they want to share, you're ready to listen.

There are three simple directions to remember...

➤ **Show you care, help them open up**

Give them your full attention and keep your body language open and encouraging. Be compassionate, be understanding and reassure them their feelings are important. Phrases like "you've shown such courage today" help.

➤ **Take your time, slow down**

Respect pauses and don't interrupt them – let them go at their own pace. Recognise and respond to their body language. And remember that it may take several conversations for them to share what's happened to them.

➤ **Show you understand, reflect back**

Make it clear you're interested in what they're telling you. Reflect back what they've said to check your understanding – and use their language to show it's their experience.



+ Find out more

For more training and resources to help protect children visit
nspcc.org.uk/listen