

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 27: 19th January 2024

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a positive start to 2024 and enjoyed a lovely Christmas. It has been wonderful to see our children back at school, raring to go for the new term! Thank you to everyone who supported children with their reading, Numbots and TTR over the break – even just 5 minutes each day makes a huge difference to children's learning and retention.

This coming term is short, but as always, very busy! I have been very impressed with the children's engagement in class and how hard they are already working – well done! It is always a pleasure to walk around and see the children's pride and excitement in showing me their learning (and handing out Team Thameside stickers!



Yesterday, we welcomed the VAT EYFS Lead and another experienced EYFS practitioner to conduct a robust review of our EYFS provision. We were delighted with the feedback about the quality of education we offer to our youngest pupils and the developments made. **In particular, our Nursery provision was praised for being, 'exceptional', which was wonderful to hear!**

A huge well done to Mrs Hendry, Mr Dineen and the whole Early Years team – Team Thameside! Our favourite quote from the day captured the essence of our approach in both Nursery and Reception:

'The care guidance and support offered is palpable.'

Year 6 have also taken part in the IMPs training this term which taught them about using basic first aid and what to do if someone is in trouble – a key aspect of teaching children to stay safe. They have also reassured me that they will look after me if anything were to happen! The VAT Music festivals rehearsals are in full swing as well – the children were buzzing after the first rehearsal with Mr Campbell!

Our in school and after-school clubs continue to inspire our children and provide some fantastic enrichment. This term we are running chess club for the whole of lunch break on a Friday allowing for more time to have matches and play different people. Children are allowed to eat their lunch and play if they would like to. Last week, we had an amazing 16 chess players with some really exciting and close matches. It is brilliant to see so many budding young chess players within our school.



In other news, we are pleased to share that we have secured a grant to provide parent Maths classes with a view to enabling parents and carers to support Maths at home as well as developing your own confidence – more news on this coming soon!

Finally, Cleal's Wheels (who have provided our cycling club) will be running a holiday camp here at TS during February – please see the banner on our gate for more details.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for regular updates and we wish you all a wonderful, if rather chilly, weekend! Stay warm.

Laura Youngman

Headteacher



Communication reminder!

You said, we did!

We hope that you have found the [weekly 'Friday Flyer' with key dates and admin reminders helpful in reducing the amount of emails sent.](#)

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).

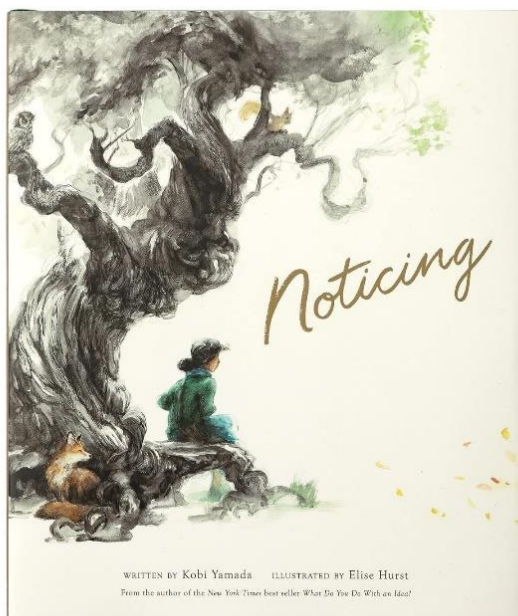
In this edition:

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



Focus on.... Our Learning to Learn skill of Noticing

As part of our 5R values, each term we focus on a new skill that helps our children learn. This term we are focussing on 'Noticing' which is an aspect of developing resilience in learning through supporting children to pay attention to and maintain focus on what they are learning.



A wonderful book that Mrs Putt read in assembly – it is well worth a read!

Learning often requires us to pay attention to what we are interested in: not necessarily thinking about it, just really noticing how it looks, what it is made of, or how it behaves. This also includes being able to identify the significant detail, which often can take time to identify. The skill of noticing is improved with practice and we often learn this skill from people around us, for example,

babies learn to work out what their mother is focusing on, and to 'share joint attention' with her.

At Thameside this term, children have been reading a variety of books about this skill and taking part in activities – for example Nursery have been looking very carefully for flowers around the school.

This approach is inspired by the work of Guy Claxton – if you are interested, more information can be found here:

[BLPIA A4 v11-sample.pdf \(buildinglearningpower.com\)](#)

Class learning reviews

To find out more about what each year group is learning, please do check out this term's curriculum overviews for each year group.

[Thameside Primary School - Class Pages \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](#)

Year 6

Year 6 have been incredibly busy this week and started the term with great enthusiasm. We had a visit from Thames



Valley Police to complete a workshop on 'protective behaviours, which the children engaged



with and asked lots of interesting questions. Also, we had a visit from IMPs (Injury Minimisation Programme), and we learnt about the recovery position, AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and how to minimise the chance of injuries. Mrs

Youngman was also incredibly impressed with the children's mature discussion

in their first RE lesson of the term, where we were talking about the concept of 'eternity.'

Year 5

Getting back into the swing of things after the Christmas break, Year 5 have been thrown straight into their learning this term! We have been making lots of links between our English, Science and Geography learning, although the children were not impressed when their paper village was flooded and destroyed by melting icebergs!

The next couple of weeks are going to be very busy for us all with swimming every day, Oxford Playhouse script sessions as well as designing and making a floating garden and eco-themed vase in art!



Year 4

These past few weeks, Year 4 have been busy learning all about the life and work of famous pop art artist Andy Warhol, who we will be writing biographies about to accompany our Warhol inspired art pieces. This week we got into character for our spoken language lessons where we had a go at creating a podcast with an Andy Warhol expert who had some exciting news about a discovery of a missing piece of art. The children did an absolutely amazing job and I am sure we have some future podcasters or radio presenters in the class.

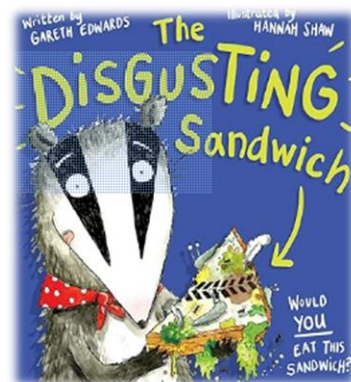
This term, we have also been working really hard with our spelling. By the end of Year 4 there are roughly 100 statutory spelling words that the students are expected to know, these are some of those tricky words that we all struggle to spell. We have been assessing which ones we can already spell accurately and which ones we need to focus on. This will really help narrow down those important words that we often find tricky to spell correctly.



words that
use and
often find
spell

Year 2

Year 2 had a surprise this week - they came into school on Monday to find the most disgusting sandwich ever in the classroom! They worked out that it (possibly) contained mouldy cheese, gummy sweets, tomato ketchup, a spider and some fish paste. After making some posters to put up around the school they eventually worked out that it belonged to Mr Dineen!



Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant start to the year – they have settled in brilliantly and Ms Loudon has enjoyed getting to know them. In Science, they enjoyed an interesting talk from Mrs Hoskins all about the best conditions for growing grass seed – they listened thoughtfully and asked some fantastic questions. They have also been enjoying their gorgeous new text; Mia Makes a Meadow.



Year 1

In English this term, Year One will be making a non-fiction book about animals. It was great fun finding books about specific animals. We also been looked at different texts about animals to see the type of information included



We have carried on our Animal theme in Geography. We are learning about different continents and which animals live there and the habitats they live in. In the photo, Iyla is being an Emperor Penguin in Antarctica. She is trying very hard to keep her egg safe!



Nursery

We have been looking at the story, "We're going on a bear hunt". This book has provided so many learning opportunities for the children. We have been on a bear hunt in the forest, yoga, made bear masks, washed the muddy bears in the water tray, went on a sensory walk, made story maps and learnt about different types of bears around the world to name a few. In Phonics, we have been playing lots of Little Wandle games about initial letter sounds of words and oral blending. In Maths we have also been looking at positional language through fun games and obstacle courses. Next week we will be looking at the story, "On the journey home from Grandpa's".



Our stars of the Week!

Well done to our Stars of the Week!

Year 1: Mylie

Year 2: Esme

Year 3: Hasham

Year 4: Joba

Year 5: Mason

Year 6: Leighton



TTRockstars, Numbots and COMPETITIONS at home!



Well done to everyone who took part in our TTRS competition over the Christmas holidays. We were really impressed with the hard work and dedication of some classes, in particular Year 4 who got an incredible 36506 answers correct! A huge well done to our top three in the competition overall, who were **Estrela** (Year 4), **Remy** (Year 4) and **Jacob** (Year 4).

In Numbots, lots of you were practising hard over Christmas as well. Our focus this time was over the last 30 days, looking at the biggest increase in levels passed. A big well done to our top three **Hendrik** (Year 2), **Saharsh** (Year 2) and **Haniya** (Year 1).

In Numbots news, Numbots have released four new adventures as part of their Numbots Scrapheap Stories, with each story promoting a different growth mindset. Stories are: Flamingo and the Raft, Striker and the Team, Tractor and the Tyre and Penguin and the Mountain. We hope you have fun with them

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



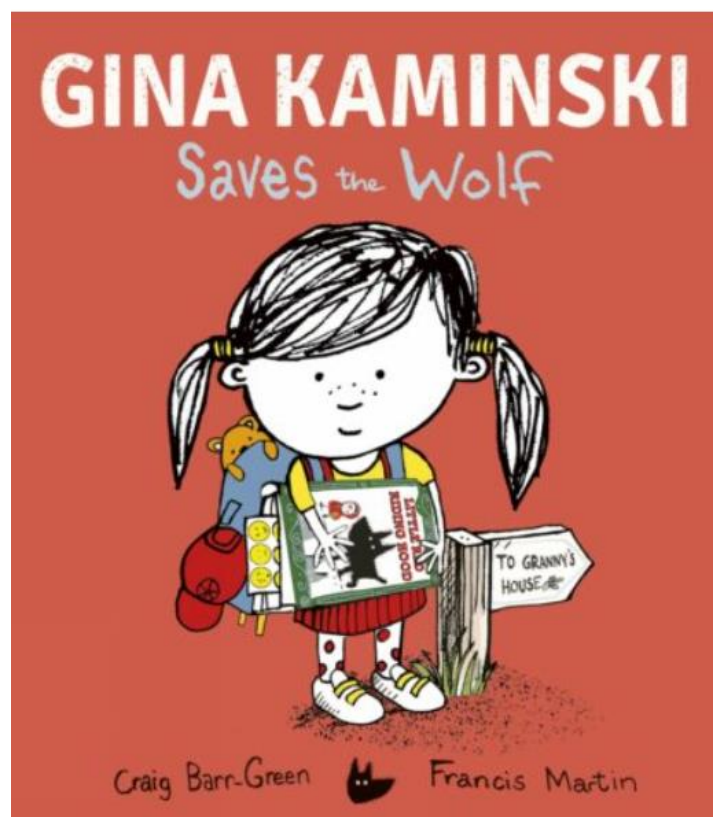
Library Corner

This week, our featured book in Library Corner is '**Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf**'. An empowering retelling of Little Red Riding Hood about challenging the traditional narratives we are told, with a confident, autistic character at its heart.

Gina Kaminski is here to tell you three facts.

- 1 – Little Red Riding Hood is full of BIG mistakes.
- 2 – She is off to fairy tale land to fix them.
- 3 – She WILL save the wolf.

Who's afraid of the big bad wolf? Certainly not Gina as she takes the narrative lead and tells the story in her own distinctive way. With fantastic illustrations, and an innovative use of pictorial emoji language, this is the ideal book to empower every child to be the hero of their own story.



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 for our handy Friday Flyers!

- Week beginning 22nd January and 29th January – Year 5 swimming (letters have been sent out)
- Friday 2nd February – NSPCC Number day
- Tuesday 6th February – Safer Internet Day
- Week beginning 5th February – **Year 6 ONLY parents'** evenings (see letter for details). Other year groups after half term.
- Open classrooms and learning celebrations– Thursday 8th February 2.00pm
- Friday 9th February – end of term 3.15pm
- Half term holiday – Cleal's Wheels Holiday Club at TS – see the flyer at the end of this newsletter!

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!

Nurture

If you nurture something such as a young child or a young plant, you care for it while it is growing and developing.

Nurture is a word that has been used in English since the Middle English period. It comes from the Old French norture, nourreture, which means "food, nourishment; education, training".



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

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



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

FEBRUARY HALF TERM



12TH - 16TH FEBRUARY 2024



ELITE ACTIVITIES

- Bubble Football
- Crazy Golf | Nerf Wars
- Soft Archery | Laser Tag
- Glow-In- Dark Dodgeball
- Seasonal themed arts & crafts and so much more...

for the full list of activities please visit the camp locations page on our website. Age restrictions apply

Find Us On    

LARKMEAD SCHOOL

In Abingdon, OX14 1RF

call us

01235 415 846

www.eliteyouthsports.co.uk





HOW TO BOOK....!

special offer!

Boys & Girls | Ages 5 to 13

Timing : 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Extended hours 08:30 - 17:00 are also available for an extra £5 per day.

Half day sessions available for children age four years old.

All sessions can be booked online via our website or by calling the office

SAVE 10%..

with our **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT** off February half term with code...
"FAB10"

Expiry 01.02.2024



We accept childcare vouchers

BOOKING OPTIONS

via www.eliteyouthsports.co.uk

email us: info@eliteyouthsports.co.uk

Find Us On



call us

01235 415 846

www.eliteyouthsports.co.uk



Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

PARENT WEBINAR

Parents are the most important part of young peoples lives and hold the key to helping them. Let us, help you, to help them.

CAMHS

Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Service

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



SUBJECTS INCLUDE

- TEEN ANXIETY
- SELF HARM
- LOW MOOD
- HOW TO TALK TO YOUR DISTRESSED CHILD

WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/OXON/SIR/WEBINARS

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



Abingdon Youth under 10 girls are looking to expand our fantastic squad as we look to move to 9 a side. All abilities welcome, we focus on including everyone, progressing players with their football skills and knowledge as well as creating a close team bond through optional extra activities/opportunities together. Player enjoyment and happiness is massively important and is key to a successful team.

We train Monday evenings and play matches Saturday mornings in the Oxfordshire girls league. Our age group is year 5. If interested and for more information please contact Becky at beckyponting1992@outlook.com



PIC•COLLAGE



Every half term and school holiday

We entertain, educate and develop skills of every child with sport, crafts, experiments and play all day!



1 day - £30 2 days - £28
3 days - £26 4 days - £24



MR CLEAL'S Holiday Club



www.mrclealsclub.co.uk