

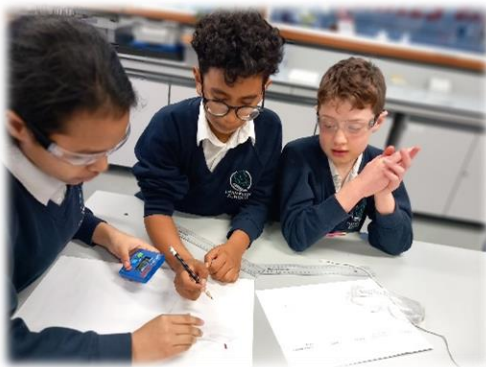
Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 28: 9th February 2024

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary



Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that it is already the end of this term! It has been very short, but that has meant we have fitted even more in than normal. We are very proud of the resilience that our children have shown this term – as normal in Winter, there have been lots of colds and bugs around, which has also meant that some of our staff have been poorly too; the children have embraced the changes

amazingly! Well done – our 5Rs in action each and every day!

Over the last few weeks, our children have been provided with lots of opportunities to represent Thameside in events outside of school and they have been an absolute credit to us – this included our choir singing at the Vale Academy Trust 10th Anniversary celebration in front of a variety of schools; a Science event involving maggot racing (!); some slippery visitors from Radley Zoo, and also our NSPCC Numbers Day hosted by Abingdon School. We are incredibly proud of how our children behaved and engaged in these activities – well done!



Some of your children may have mentioned that we have had some filming taking place – our new school video is almost ready and we can't wait to share it with you next term. We feel it captures the real essence and joy of Thameside. **Watch this space for the reveal next term!**



This term, we also welcomed Sandra North and Paul Thompson, two of our governors, to complete some 'pupil voice' monitoring. Members of the LGB visit regularly so that we can evaluate the impact of our teaching and learning approaches and seek some student feedback about how they feel about their school:

*The whole school was calm and purposeful.....some children were **fizzing with excitement** as we visited on a day when Radley College had brought animals from their zoo to share with Years 3 and 4, and Oxford Playhouse were working with Year 5 on their playscripts performances.*

Paul's conversation with a Reception Child also made us all smile:

*A group of the boys were keen to demonstrate to me that they could count to 100. They were all confident and outgoing. When we finished talking, they decided that I would need help to get up from the very low chair. They joined hands to pull me to my feet. **They had clearly taken on board the Thameside policy of kindness to others.***

Finally, it was also lovely to see so many parents attend our open classrooms and join in with our children's learning – it is one of our termly highlights! Thank you to everyone who was able to pop in. Please do look at Facebook for lots of photos!

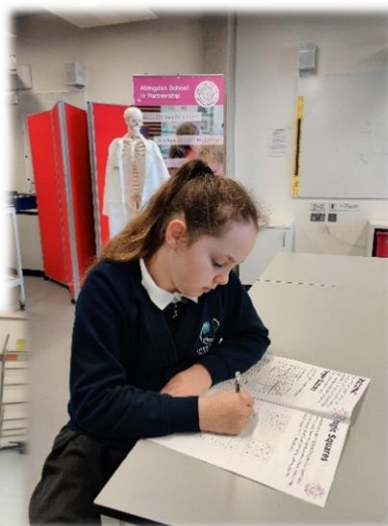
Wishing everyone a wonderful half term break when it arrives – let's hope for some sunshine! Hopefully Spring is on its way! Please do keep reading and practising number facts with your children over the half term break – it really does make a difference! There are some great links on our website too for learning activities so please do take a look!

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

In this edition:

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



Focus on....

Attendance – EVERY school day counts!



Attendance continues to be a huge priority for us at Thameside, as in all schools nationally – thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting us in ensuring that all of our children attend school regularly.

Good attendance is important because statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school and children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically. With the focus and development on the curriculum that has taken place at Thameside, children who are absent are likely to develop gaps in their knowledge over time. For our younger children, both attendance and punctuality are doubly important as they move straight into their phonics teaching after the register has been taken.

As your children will tell you, we always aim for **96%** or more; we also analyse all children's attendance carefully in line with our attendance policy. At the moment our termly attendance is **92.3%** so we still have some work to do together to increase this figure! Teachers and Inclusion Staff are contacting

families who are below this figure to offer support to increase their child's attendance.

The table below demonstrates how much school children miss if they are absent and it is surprising how this adds up. We are fully aware that the circumstances around Covid-19 and subsequent other illnesses that children have contracted are mainly responsible and unavoidable for the majority of absences.

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is....	over 13 years schooling
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Over 8 years

Finally, as you may have seen, this term, we also had a visit from the Oxfordshire County Council attendance team who were looking specifically at children arriving late to school – thank you to those parents who spoke to the attendance officer. The County Attendance Team will continue with their unannounced visits throughout the term. Being on time in school is essential to ensure that children can settle well into school and do not miss learning time – every time your child is on time, they will also earn a raffle ticket in our weekly class raffle! **A reminder that school starts promptly at 8.40am.**

Personal Development update

This term our pupil parliament met with Mrs Youngman to discuss the school development plan – they came up with some amazing ideas for the future, including:

- **Reading Buddies and playtime buddies across the school (Mrs Youngman is going to look into getting some special hi vis vests!)**
- **Sports Leaders supporting PE lessons as role models**
- **Local community litter picking**
- **A school recycling project 'drive'**
- **More sports equipment for the playground – Mrs Youngman has asked our lovely PTA to support**
- **Mental Health ambassadors – Sonny and Evaldo**

In other personal development news.....

- Bikeability is coming up on 13th March. Thank you to everyone who is signed up for this!
- Oxford Playhouse sessions in Year 5 have been going fantastically – the children are certainly budding actors and actresses!
- Next term we have a number of exciting events including the VAT Music Festival; International Day of Languages and the Science Festival! Watch this space for photos!



An AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR PARENTS AND CARERS!



Maths Support for Parents

Do you find supporting your child at home with their Maths tricky?
You are not alone! At least **29%** of parents in the UK feel the same!

We are offering Maths sessions for parents (one to one or in small groups) who want to boost their own confidence in Maths. We can offer slots during the afternoon, or even after school (we might even be able to help with childcare).

All we ask is:

- You don't already have a GCSE grade C or above in Maths
- You are willing to come for 2 hours total of 1:1 or small groups sessions

In return:

- The first 20 parents to sign up and attend the sessions will receive a **£20** supermarket voucher
- You will feel more confident in supporting your child at home with Maths and in turn, your child will grow in confidence!

If you are interested, please contact the school office or speak to Mrs Putt.



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.

Year 6

This term, we have been working on our Science Fair project where Miss Bourne gave us a real-life issue which we had to design a solution to. Our real-life issue was, 'How can we clear oil spills from the oceans?' We used our scientific skills to; research, problem-solve, set-up tests, make predictions and observations.



Year 5

Phew, the last couple of weeks have been busy, busy, busy! Not only have Year 5 survived two weeks of swimming, finished their time with Oxford Playhouse and created their clay vases, but they are still working hard on their persuasive speeches!



Both Miss Clark and Mrs Russell are extremely proud of the children's resilience and determination - even when the going was tough - a huge well done to all who have helped Year 5 this term!



Year 4

In Year 4 this term, we have been busy being engineers, getting ready for this year's Science Fair. The children have been applying their recent learning from our electricity unit to create working burglar alarms. The burglar alarms will need to protect my cupboard and secret supply of sweets!



The children have been coming up with ingenious ways to create switches that close the circuit when the door is open. I have been blown away by the ingenuity and problem-solving that have been demonstrated throughout this project, and we can't wait to share our builds with parents when we host the school Science Fair.

Year 3

Year 3 Percival Class have had a busy few weeks! A massive highlight was our 'Rocket Reward' last Friday. We got creative with papier mâché, starting our globe models. When finished, these are going to help us remember key knowledge from Geography about the poles, Equator and continents. Our afternoon of fun activities concluded with some fruit platters and circle time. Who knew Year 3 could eat so much melon?!



Year 2

Year 2 have finished writing their own instructions on how to make a disgusting sandwich. We are now just waiting to see which recipe Mr Dineen thinks is the most disgusting of them all! Year 2 have also been learning about the artist Henri Rousseau this term and what style of paintings he created. This week they put all they had learnt towards designing and making their own 'Henri Rousseau' style painting of an imaginary world. The results are fantastic!



Year 1

We have been great engineers in Year One. Our challenge was to build a landing module so our 'eggsrtonauts' could land back safely on earth. We used foam, cotton, polystyrene, straws and balloons to create some amazing

models. We loved testing them for egg safety and most of our eggstronauts survived uncracked!

Mrs Youngman has also been blown away by Year 1's writing and phonics – the children have worked so hard and she is delighted that her Headteacher stickers have almost run out! Keep it up!!!



Reception

It has been a brilliant end to the term in Superworms class. We have been very busy finding out who helps in our local community and then thinking about what job they would like to have in the future.



We were very fortunate to have special visitors in the form of Police Officers and PCSO's to show us a real police car! We've also learnt about Scientists, Astronauts, Fire Fighters, Vets and more! Superworms also showed they can work together to fill up their Pom-Pom jar to earn a class reward - they

loved having hot chocolate in the school forest area!



We look forward to welcoming your children back after half term when we will be starting our new topic, 'The world around me'.

Nursery

We have been looking at journeys in Nursery and the two main books we have focused our learning on are: 'The journey home from Grandpa's' and 'Little Red Riding Hood'. While looking at the journey home from grandpa's we looked at lots of different vehicles including cars, trains, cranes, diggers, boats, fire engine and trucks. The children enjoyed a large art project making their own train and enjoyed making tickets to go to the jungle. We also explored lots of messy play and loved pushing the cars through the paint to make patterns.

We enjoyed looking at the colour red and reading Little Red Riding hood. We made a story map about the story and discussed if we thought the wolf was good or bad. The children came up with some amazing answers for both sides. This week we have also covered Chinese New Year, Pancake day and Valentine's day. We made a Chinese restaurant where the children explored wool noodles and coloured rice. We made our own playdough pancakes which we enjoyed flipping. Then we thought about who we loved and made Valentine's Day cards.

I think you will agree we have been very busy, and the children deserve a rest over half term.





Our stars of the Week!

Well done to our Stars of the Week from last week!

Year 1: Robin
Year 2: Oliwer
Year 3: Elsie
Year 4: Lucas
Year 5: Ronja
Year 6: Phoebe



TRockstars,
Numbots and
COMPETITIONS at
home!



Well done to our TTRS stars this week: Iruna (Year 4), Isabella (Year 4) and Lucas (Year 6) who are top in the school for improving their studio speed.

Over half term, we have a Battle of the Bands commencing! Years 3-6 will be playing against each other to see which year group comes out on top! Please do encourage your child to take part!

Mr McDowell is still the speediest teacher but he still cannot knock our children off the top spot!!

In Numbots this week, well done to our stars: Ana (Year 2), Darina (Year 2) and Tommy (Year 1), who are top in the school for having the biggest increase for number of levels passed.

Learning at home resources

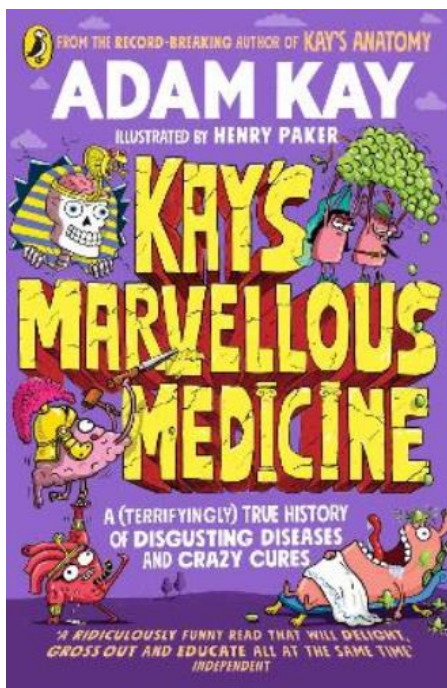
Please do check out our website which is continuing to grow! We have included lots of information about our curriculum and resources to help support you at home on the following pages:

[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's recommendation comes from **Mrs Youngman's daughter, Alana!**

'I love this non-fiction book because it has loads of really interesting facts about medicine and how they used to cure the body long ago. Also, it is very funny and would be good for ages 7-11. My favourite chapter is called, 'the fart that kills ten thousand people' which is all about the gut! My mum said this was disgusting!

By the time you have finished reading it, you might even know more facts than the teachers!!

By Alana.

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 4 - 2024!

Please also keep an eye on the website online Calendar and for our handy Friday Flyers for even more dates later this term.



- Half term holiday – Cleal's Wheels Holiday Club at TS – see the flyer at the end of this newsletter!
- Parents' evenings for Nursery – Year 5 (Year 6 took place last term) – week beginning 26th February
- Tuesday 20th February – VAT Mini speaks (selected children)
- Friday 1st March 2.45pm – 3.15pm – in-school Engineering Fair. **Parents welcome!**
- Wednesday 6th March – VAT Music Festival (selected children)

- Thursday 7th March – World Book day (**letter to follow**)
- Tuesday 19th March – 3.15pm **Year 6** Parents SATs briefing

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!

Eclectic

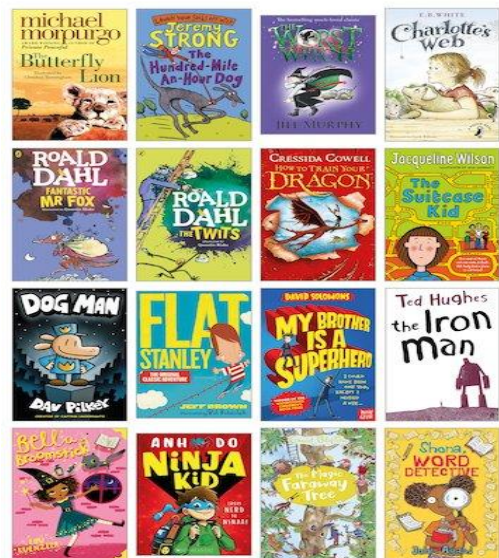
Eclectic (adj)
ek-lek-tik

Defntiion: Deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources.

Late 17th century (as a term in philosophy): from Greek eklektikos, from eklegein 'pick out', from ek 'out' + legein 'choose'.

Miss Polley has a very eclectic taste in books.

Mrs Putt enjoyed the eclectic range of songs on the radio.



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





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

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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