



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 29: 8th March 2024

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had such a fantastic term so far at Thameside! This has included a wonderful 'Come Dine with Me' Year 6 event for parents (and Mrs Youngman was very grateful for her late lunch too!); our internal school 'Science Fair' as well as a very well-attended set of parents' evenings. Thank you to everyone who came along - it was lovely to speak to many of you about your children and how they are enjoying their learning across the curriculum.



It was also a real privilege this week to watch our children perform at the VAT Singing Festival – they have been rehearsing enthusiastically with Mr Campbell each week and did us proud at the evening performance. Well done to Team Thameside! There was not a dry eye in the house!

This week's annual World Book Day festivities were enjoyed by all (photos are on our Facebook page with more to follow). Most importantly a love of reading was shared across the school with our reading buddies and a wonderful assembly led by Ms Daniell – we also celebrated a number of fantastic reading milestones, including AR quizzers and 'Word Millionaires.'

Year 3 and 4 also walked to Mostly Books in Abingdon and were praised for their excellent behaviour which made us all feel so proud! It was fantastic to see some wonderful 'word' costumes from staff and children alike – for example Mrs Hendry was 'hatching' and Miss Cross was very 'vibrant!' Thank you to parents and carers for helping us celebrate our loves of books at Thameside.

Please can I remind parents and carers that if you have not already done so, to please fill in our annual survey at the link below. We are always grateful for feedback – lovely comments are always very appreciated by staff!

<https://form.jotform.com/240322589973364>

Thank you as always for your support – have a wonderful weekend!

Laura Youngman

Headteacher



In this edition:

- Focus on.... Sports and PE at Thameside
- Class learning reviews!
- Stars of the week
- TTRockstars update
- Library corner
- Diary dates
- Word of the week



Focus on.... PE and Sport at Thameside!

It was fantastic last year to start our school games journey with a Bronze award! This demonstrated, that as a school, physical activity and sport is an important aspect of everyday life. It is our aim this year to grow that bronze and achieve even more – go Team Thameside!

This year has already got off to a great start with our new PE scheme from TA Sports. All teachers have received training and support; it has been great to see the impact that this is starting to have in our PE lessons – our children are really embracing the new range of activities and sports. We have also had teams representing Thameside in Cross Country and Football competitions, with lots more to come. Thank you to the PTA for running a tuck shop and providing refreshments at a chilly pitch-side - a huge thank you for their continued support for sport at Thameside.



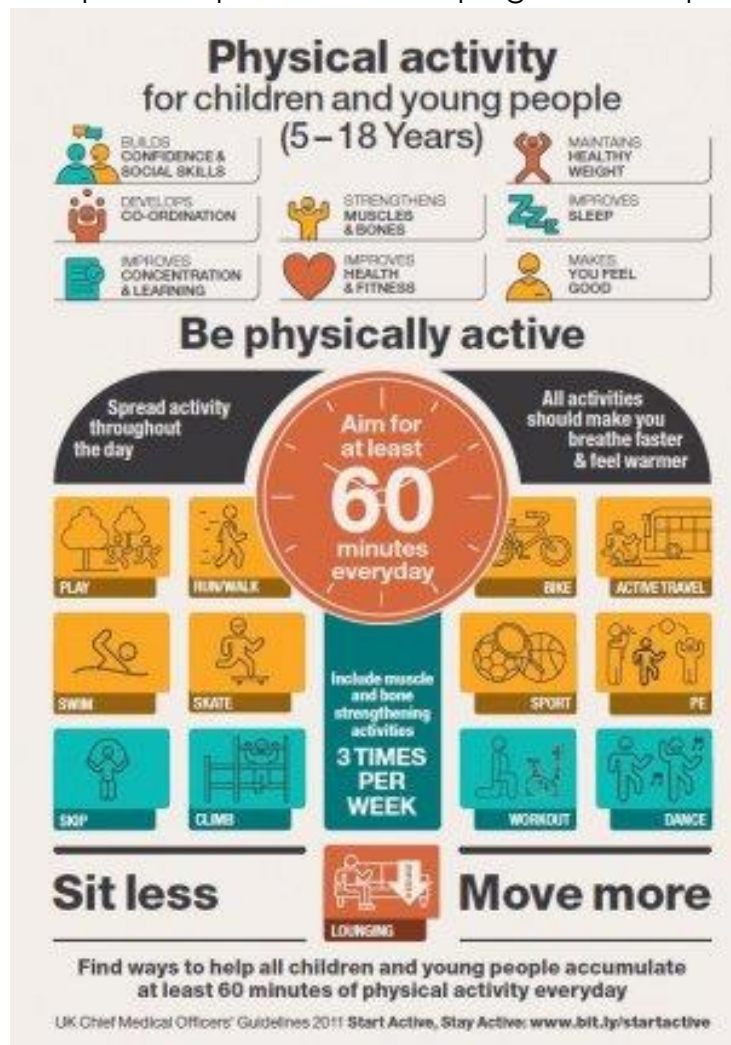
This month we have a Netball festival, a Football festival and another Football league fixture coming up. We believe in offering a range of clubs, to a range

of age groups and this year we have broadened our offer even further - so far this year we've already offered: KS2 Football club, Cleal's Wheels bike riding club, and Yoga club run by Tatty Bumpkins Yoga. It was great to have Cleal's Wheels offer opportunities to all of KS1 and KS2, as well as have balance bike lessons with Reception - another example of great progress. This term children can take part in Yoga club and KS1 Multi Sports, with our sports leaders being offered the opportunity to support on these sessions as part of their wider pupil leadership responsibilities.

Sports and Play leaders are an important part of developing leadership qualities in our KS2 children, it has been a pleasure to see Play leaders support play in Early years. The children love it when they come to play at lunch times. Thank you to all our young people that volunteer to support others, really showing our school rule of showing kindness. We look forward to the coming weeks, where we will see brand new play equipment for the playground to further support the 60 minutes a day of physical activity recommended by the chief medical officer.

Finally, we are delighted that our newest volunteer, Mr North, has been supporting our children with football at lunch times; this has included being a referee and supporting them to manage their emotions when the score does not go their way, which is hard even for professional footballers – Mr North is an experienced mentor having worked in a secondary school for 20 years.

We have loads still to come this year with Sports and PE so watch this space and as always thank you for supporting Thameside and our young people. Mrs Youngman has also placed a grant request with a local company with the hope that they might sponsor a new competition kit – please keep everything crossed!



Hot off the sporting press!!!

Finally, we were delighted with how well our children performed at the Netball Festival today – great sporting behaviours shown by everyone. Go Team Thameside!





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.

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

Year 6

This term, Year 6 have become 'almost' professional chefs. The children worked in pairs and competed in 'Come Dine with me'. We had to create and innovate recipes which included peppers, salmon or pineapple.

The winners were:

Starter - Evaldo and Jaymes
Main- Bluebelle and Phoebe
Dessert - Finn and Matthew

Also, we thoroughly enjoyed going to Abingdon School for a science workshop where we practised and learnt about laboratory skills! We even got to see a fireball created from lighting hydrogen !



Year 5

Wow, what a start to a new term - we have been busy, busy, busy! Already, we have discovered some new, budding chefs among Year 5 as we created and made our own Bolognese sauce - there were expert recipe designers, perfect peelers and choppers, as well as head-chefs overseeing the whole process.



Also, we have been working hard to prepare and present our Science projects - the parents who joined us for the presentation afternoon were extremely impressed with the confidence and knowledge of everyone.

Year 4

In Year 4, we have been learning all about our local food bank in preparation for a persuasive writing leaflet, encouraging people to donate and support the Abingdon Food Bank. This week has involved us, first, being researchers, investigating the cost of living crisis and the continued rise in food bank use and reliance. Then, having a heated and passionate debate, discussing if food banks are a positive solution or whether the fact that food banks even exist is a sign of failure within the system.

Within our Science lessons, we are exploring animals including humans and began this topic by investigating different teeth and why we have them. This linked to exploring why some animals, such as carnivores, have very different teeth compared to other animals like herbivores. We were able to get hands-on as we looked at the different teeth remaining in some animal skulls. We examined what we believe to be a fox skull and some sheep skulls. The children were fascinated to notice the differences while finding similarities with our own teeth.



Year 3

At the start of term, Year 3 enjoyed learning about the carnival traditions in Spain as part of their Spanish curriculum. In Science, we have been finding out about the importance of the skeleton for humans and other animals. The children have been practicing their vocabulary from this unit, so please do ask them about 'vertebrates' and 'invertebrates'. Thank you too for coming in last Friday to see their prototype grass seed distributors from last term's Science unit. We were so impressed by the children's creativity and resourcefulness.



Year 2

Year 2 have just begun a new unit in computing where they will be learning how to create digital music. They have listened to different examples of music and expressed how it makes them feel and then enjoyed the chance to use Chrome Music Lab Song Maker to begin exploring how to make beats and a melody of their own. They also enjoyed their trip into Abingdon to look at the features that make Abingdon welcoming to visitors. They are now full of ideas of ways to improve this and are going to start writing letters to the Mayor next week with their suggestions!



Year 1

On Thursday, the children in Year 1 met an explorer! He told them about his adventures and showed them all the things he took with him! Everyone had great fun in the tent!



Reception



"Fe fi fo thumb, I smell smelly children". I'm so sorry if you have heard this at home a hundred times, but the children have been fantastic at learning the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. We've made beanstalks, retold the story with puppets, and of course played the Giant and Jack game in our garden 100 times. The children have also shown a keen interest in how the bean grows 'in real life', not in a fiction story. We planted our beans in week 1 and have been tracking their progress with our weekly bean diary. The children's writing has really impressed us and their determination to make progress is brilliant in our secret writing club, shh! Keep up the great work Superworms!

Nursery

We are very excited about spotting the signs of Spring around our school and cannot wait for some warmer weather to help us explore the environment around us even more. We have been looking at the traditional tale of 'The Ugly

Duckling' over the last few weeks and thinking about how calling our friends

names can really hurt them and

how we should all be kind to each other.

The children enjoyed acting out the story, marking duck masks, creating story maps

and exploring a blue gloop duck pond. In Maths we have been looking at different concepts including big and small, tall and short and heavy and light. In Phonics we have been looking at nursery rhymes in greater detail in line with the Little Wandle programme. In the coming weeks we will be looking at baby animals and Spring!





Our stars of the Week!

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

Year 1: Robin

Year 2: Hendrik

Year 3: Evan

Year 4: Jacob

Year 5: Harvey

Year 6: Amoy



**TTRockstars,
Numbots and
COMPETITIONS at
home!**



Well... it's been an incredible for week for TTRS. This week we look at an improvement in accuracy and for the first time in weeks, the leaderboard is not dominated by Year 4! A huge well done to our TTRS stars this week: Imogen (Year 2), Dushane (Year 3) and Mrs Collins who are top in the school! It's the first time a member of the teaching team has made the top three!

Mr McDowell is still the speediest teacher and he has finally become a rock hero! Well done Mr McDowell.

In Numbots this week, well done to our stars: lyla (Year 1), Amelia (Year 1) and Molly T (Year 1), who are top in the school for having the biggest increase in accuracy. What superstars!

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

PERCY JACKSON AND THE LIGHTNING THIEF

Leighton Smith X Finn Rockall

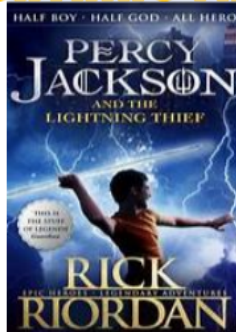
This book is about ancient mythology. It is the first in the series. The book is based around a teenage boy that finds out he is the son of Poseidon.

My favourite part was when they went to the underworld and fought Hades (One of the big three gods) at the end

'My name is Percy Jackson. Until a few months ago I was at a private school for troubled kids in New York. Am I a troubled kid? Yeah. I guess you could say that...'

Does **six schools in six years** count as troubled? Does finding out that the **Greek Gods are alive and living in America** count as troubled? Does **being No.1 on their hit list** count as troubled? And discovering that you're the only half-blood **alive** who **can stop a war of the Gods** count as troubled?

If Percy fails in this test, forget trouble – there's going to be **Hades** to pay



Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse – Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When

Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he go to the one place he'll be safe. She sends Percy to Camp Half Blood, a summer camp for demigods (on Long Island), where he learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea.

A mystery unfolds and together with his friends—one a satyr and the other the demigod daughter of Athena – Percy sets out on a quest across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld

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.

- Thursday 14th March - Year 5 at Vale Academy Trust Languages Celebration
- Wednesday 13th - Friday 15th March – Bikeability for Year 5 and 6
- Tuesday 19th March – 3.15pm **Year 6** Parents SATs briefing
- Wednesday 20th March – Mini Grey Author visit for whole school (National Storytelling Day)
- Wednesday 20th March – Nursery CLOSED in afternoon only for staff training
- Thursday 21st March – after school artist session for parents (details to follow)

- Wednesday 27th March – Vale Academy Trust Science Festival
- Star of the term assembly – Thursday 28th March 9.00am
- End of term – 1.30pm on Thursday 28th March

Cleal's Wheels once again will be running an Easter Holiday Club at Thameside – details can be found on the banner on our gate and at the link below:

[Holiday Club - Cleal's Wheels](#)

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!

Humble, Humility

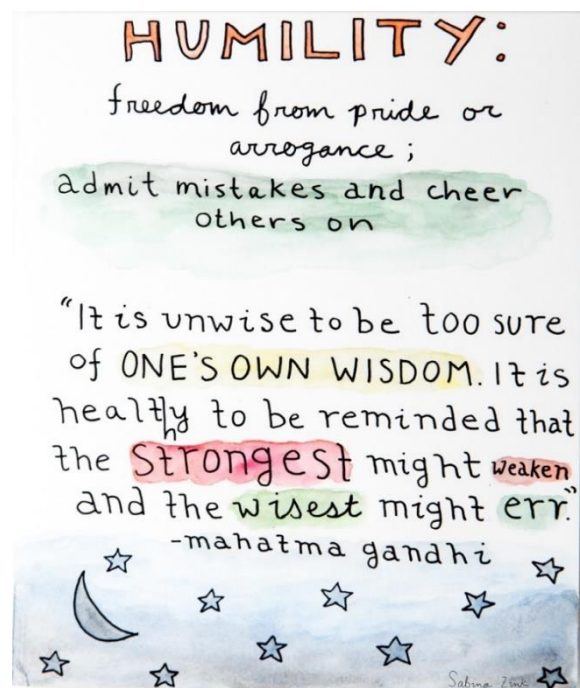
Definition: Being humble (showing humility) means acknowledging both your strengths and weaknesses, and not thinking that you are better than others because of them.

It's about being aware of your place in the world and treating others with kindness and respect.

Examples:

Mr McDowell was humble when he won the Times Table Rockstars Competition.

Showing humility is very important at Thameside.



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



RADLEY

Easter Fun Sessions



2:00pm - 3:30pm

Thursday 4th April

Friday 5th April

Tuesday 9th April

Thursday 11th April



Ages 8 - 12

£8 per child

Book now via our website or ask at reception for
more details





Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

PARENT WEBINAR

Parents are the most important part of young people's 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