



# Thameside Primary School

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Headteacher: Anna Grice

**“Every Child Every Chance Every Day”**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

A reminder that the summer term ends at 1.00pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

## Staffing

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to some other members of staff at the end of this school year.

Mrs Vanessa Chung is leaving to take up a promotion as a business manager at a larger school. Mrs Chung has been connected with the school for 21 years firstly as a parent then as a governor before taking on the role of chair of Governors. Mrs Chung returned to Thameside in 2016 as our business manager. It is very difficult to put into words just how much she has done for the school. Her calm, quiet efficiency together her amazing organisational skills have ensured that the day to day running of school continues smoothly. Mrs Chung is the master of finding a solution – no problem ever seems too great. She will say that she is not an IT expert – however the queue of sad-faced staff and children clutching laptops and other items of malfunctioning electronic equipment who leave her smiling, with working devices would suggest otherwise! Every premises development and building project sees Mrs Chung going well beyond what she is expected to do in order to ensure that the school is safe and ready for use. I know how lucky I have been to have Mrs Chung as our business manager and every single day she has made my job easier. I don't think the school will realise just how much we rely on her until she is no longer here.

Mrs Taylor has worked at Thameside for 13 years. She is leaving to work at a school closer to home. Although she is sad to be leaving Thameside, I know she won't miss her commute along the A34 and the time she has spent stuck in traffic! Mrs Taylor is an extremely dedicated and hard-working teacher. Her passion is maths and as the school maths lead she has helped the staff get to grips with the changes in curriculum and developments in the subject; she has made us all better maths teachers. Many of the children she has taught started their time with her saying they didn't like maths, but often by the end of the year would declare maths their favourite subject!

Mr Larkin is leaving Thameside to travel, with a view to teaching overseas. He is hoping to start by travelling to and working in Japan. Mr Larkin has worked at Thameside for 6 years. He is a passionate and dedicated teacher. His positivity and kindness make his classroom a great place to learn. Pupils are constantly encouraged and supported, enabling them to be confident, caring individuals who are keen to develop their skills. As well as leading geography and art, Mr Larkin has been instrumental in establishing our school eco-council and has encouraged children to be passionate about their world and has encouraged them to take responsibility for and to challenge what is happening to the environment around them.

All three members of staff have made huge contributions to the school throughout their time at Thameside. We wish them all good luck, they will all be sorely missed! Thank you all!!

## Summer Fayre

Last Friday's summer fayre was a really well attended and a lot of fun. The children had a great time trying different games, having a go on the bouncy castle, watching the magician and sampling lots of sweet treats. The PTA have dedicated hours and hours of their time to ensure the fayre took place and I would like to say a huge thank you to them for all their work preparing, setting up, running and then clearing up the fayre. Thanks also to the Year 6 children for running a selection of games and to all the other helpers who ran stalls and helped with the setting up and clearing away.

### Sports Day

On Wednesday the weather was kind to us – dry and not too hot – for our sports day. It was lovely to welcome parents/carers back as spectators. The children arranged into house teams, competed in a range of activities which called on them to use a wide range of skills. It was lovely to see the children supporting and encouraging each other. Thank you to Miss Bourne for organizing the morning and to Mrs Russell and all the other staff for setting up and running the events. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents/carers who so kindly helped with the clearing up – you saved us so much time! Congratulations to: Ella G, Henry, Bailey B, Leighton, Marshall, Felicity, Amelia and Harvey C who took home the gold medals!

Yours sincerely,

Anna Grice  
Headteacher