



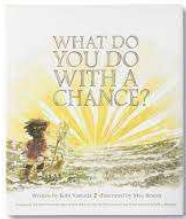
Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

Thameside In-touch!

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome to the first edition of our **new-style fortnightly newsletter**, **'Thameside in Touch'**! We have been incredibly impressed with how brilliantly our children have settled into the new year and we hope that you received our little 'montage' of the first day back, full of smiling faces and lots of learning. It really has been such a wonderful start – I am not sure I have stopped smiling! Well done Team Thameside! It has been such a delight to see our new staff settle in so well too – Mr Dineen and Mr McDowell even got involved in an impromptu breaktime football match with our children!



It was a pleasure last week to lead my first assembly linked to our school motto 'Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day'. In the assembly, we shared the book 'What do you do with a chance?' and thought about how we can work together this year to embrace every chance presented to us; aspire to achieve great things and to make Thameside a wonderful place to learn; grow and work.

Wiktor in Year 6 gave the most amazing explanation of our motto, which I will be adding to our website – **'it means that at Thameside and across the world, we give everyone the opportunity to learn and get better every day'**.

Last week we also started the year by talking about our **'Learning to Learn'** focus of **perseverance** which is very apt for starting a new year full of new and exciting experiences. We shared a variety of inspirational books across the school and children reflected maturely on what it means to persevere and what they can do if they find a task or experience challenging – this was celebrated in our assembly this week!

We did also receive the very sad news this week that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had passed away. We took the time last Friday to discuss her life; celebrate her achievements and supported children to share any thoughts or worries that they may have had. As you may have seen on the media, schools will be closed on Monday 19th September as a mark of respect on the day of her funeral; **as such Thameside will also be closed to pupils and staff on this date.**

Thank you for your kind words of support already when I have seen parents and carers at the gate in the morning – I hope that you enjoy reading this edition of Thameside in Touch; over the weeks we will be providing lots of updates on various areas of school life. Please do let us know any feedback!

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

In this edition:

- ❖ Building Works update
- ❖ Curriculum update from each class
- ❖ Introducing.... Mrs Putt!
- ❖ Our stars of the week!
- ❖ Library corner
- ❖ Diary dates
- ❖ Other key updates – safeguarding and attendance

Building Works Update



Thank you for your patience during our building work – we are pleased to share that it is all progressing well and should be completed very soon. We will naturally keep you updated about progress and any changes to entry points. We have included a sneaky peek of what has been happening and some of the completed projects, such as our new signage and internal artwork!



Once the building works are complete, we look forward to welcoming parents and carers to take a look inside our lovely school; more detail to follow!

Curriculum Update

- This term we are pleased to share that children in Key Stage 2 will be taught in individual year groups for Maths each day – these groups will be taught by Miss Bourne; Mr McDowell, Miss Clark and Mrs Putt/Miss Polley.



- Homework will also come home today – we would greatly appreciate your support in encouraging your children to reflect on their learning this week and to practice the key skills learnt....and most importantly **read!**
Thank you!



- Please see below for an overview of what else our children have been up to already this term from our class teachers!

Nursery

Children in Nursery have settled in brilliantly! They really enjoyed listening to 'The Gruffalo' story and decorated snakes, owls and Gruffalos. They also made the Gruffalo out of clay and loved making Gruffalo crumble! Children acted out how the characters in the story moved (slithered like a snake, squeaked like a mouse).

Reception

This week Reception have been exploring their new environment, both indoors and outside. They have learnt some class rules and have been talking about what makes a good listener. They have also been busy making new friends and learning each other's names!

Year 1

Year 1 have been reading 'Harry and the Dinosaurs go to school.' We have thought about what happens in the story and looked at the different characters. We are getting ready to write our own stories about toys at school!

Year 2

It has been a great start to term in Year 2! It has been great to get to know the children and have lots of fun learning, striving to always try our best. So far, we have got stuck into Winnie the Witch from our class author Valerie Thomas, started to learn about place value in Maths, seasons in Geography along with lots of other exciting topics. Thank you in advance for your support with homework and please catch me at the door if you need to chat!

Year 4/5

Last week, Anthony Horowitz class spent some time getting to know one another through various team building activities and challenges focusing on our learning to learn value of perseverance. The students were tasked with the challenge to make a self-supporting bridge (Da Vinci Bridge) only using wooden dowels (no string, glue or anything else just wooden dowels) – this certainly took perseverance after it collapsed several times!

This week, Year 4s were learning about states of matter in Science. Together we learnt about solids, liquids and gases. We learnt how volume and shape vary depending on the different states. The students worked scientifically to identify and classify different materials, grouping them if they believed the material was either a solid, liquid or a gas.

Year 5/6

Year 5/6 have been entering the world of crime this week! The class have been solving 'Who Done It' puzzles using inference skills, as well as getting to know Nik and Norva, the main characters in our class reader *High Rise Mystery*. Using the learning power of *perseverance*, the children have been tackling some challenging learning in English, Maths and Science, which has made Miss Clark and Mrs Russell extremely proud!

Introducing..!



This week our 'introduction spotlight' is on our new Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Putt!!
For a bit of fun and to allow us to learn a bit more about her, we have asked her some quick-fire questions!

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

I don't eat chocolate anymore, but if I did then definitely a Wispa!

2. Place of birth?

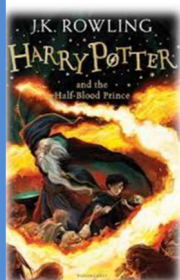
Plymouth

3. Favourite place in all the world?

At home with my daughter... or on a beautiful beach somewhere hot!

4. Favourite book?

It's so difficult to choose just one! If I had to pick then I would choose The Book Thief.



5. Favourite film?

Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince.

6. Favourite song?

The whole Pitch Perfect soundtrack!

7. Last meal on earth is likely to be?

Something with lots of pasta!

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

An author or a teacher.

9. Unlikely interesting fact about you?

I'm a big fan of Lego... I pretend it's my daughter's but really it's mine!

Our stars of the week!

Well done to our very first amazing 'stars of the week' for 22/23

Year 1: Effie

Year 2: Daisy

Year 3/4: Henley

Year 4/5: Lochlan

Year 5/6: Ilayda

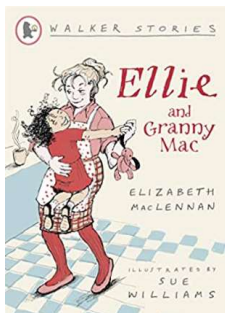


Library Corner!



At Thameside, we have spent lots of time enhancing our reading areas in school to inspire a love of reading! We wanted to share some lovely book recommendations that you may like to explore at home! As the nation has looked back on the amazing life of the Queen this week, we've been reminded of how she was a grandparent and great grandparent, as well as a public figure.

Our book recommendations are about other inspiring grandparents!



Fiction recommendation: 'Ellie and Granny Mac' by Elizabeth MacLennan

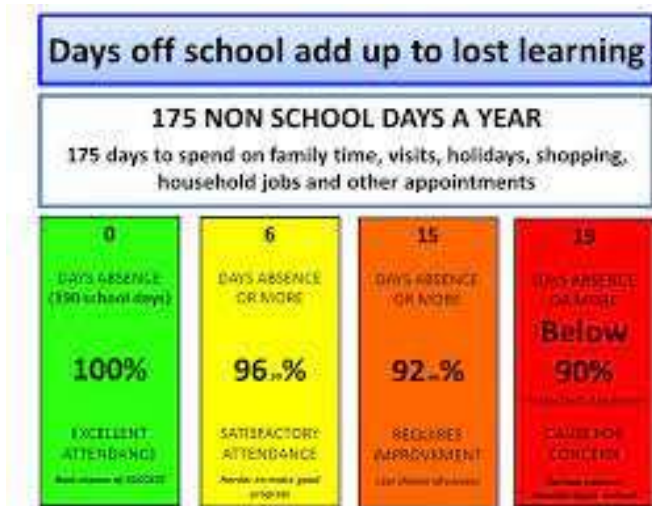
The Walker Stories are great for children who are beginning to get more confident with reading. This book contains three short stories about the fun Ellie gets up to with her Granny when she visits her in Scotland. (AR: 3.3 / 1,882 words)

Non-Fiction recommendation: 'One Hundred Steps', illustrated by Adam Larkum

This is a beautifully-illustrated biography of Captain Tom Moore who raised millions of pounds for charity during the lockdown doing laps of his garden. Our 'Learning to Learn' value at Thameside this term is Perseverance, something that Captain Tom Moore definitely demonstrated during his life. (AR 5.0 / 1,572 words)



Attendance reminders



As mentioned in our start of the year letter, attendance is a key priority at Thameside and all schools nationally.

Please ensure that absences from school are reported by a phone call or email to the School Office on the first day of absence and the school informed daily until the child returns.

In line with DfE requirements, holidays cannot be taken during term time due to

the adverse impact on children's learning. Any requests for absence will only be considered in very exceptional circumstances.

Contacting you



Please make sure that we have the most up to date contact details for you. If your details have changed recently, please let the school office know.



Safeguarding and online safety – what you can do.

Parents and carers play a vital role in safeguarding children in their community.

If you have any worries or concerns about a family or child, no matter how small, you can raise it with the school safeguarding team, contact the office (and speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads) or get advice from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

This safeguarding hub seeks to enable the sharing of information so that risks to children can be identified at an early stage. It is a link between universal services, such as schools and GPs, and statutory services, such as police and social care. If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on 0345 050 7666.

This website is a useful place to find out about lots of support and information about a range of issues that may be worrying you:

[#https://fisd.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/oxfordshire/directory/practitioner_toolkit.page](https://fisd.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/oxfordshire/directory/practitioner_toolkit.page)

Keeping children safe online is a key priority of our school; we teach children how to safe online through assemblies, their PSHE and Computing lessons. We will soon be hosting an 'online safety' information evening for parents and carers (more details to follow) but in the meantime, more information can be found via the online safety section of our new website (which is under development):

[Thameside Primary School - Safeguarding \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](https://thamesideschool.co.uk)

Key website and our new social media links:

- **Website:** [Thameside Primary School - Home \(thamesideschool.co.uk\)](https://thamesideschool.co.uk)
- **Facebook:** @ThamesidePrimary
- **Twitter:** @SchoolThameside

Key Diary dates

- **Monday 19th September – School closed (bank holiday)**
- **Thursday 20th October – last day of term**
- **Monday 31st October – INSET Day**
- **Tuesday 1st November – Children return to school**