



Every child, Every Chance, Every Day

Thameside In-touch!

Edition 2: 25th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

What another fantastic week it has been! I can't believe how fast this term is already flying by. We have continued to feel very proud of all of our children – it has been wonderful to hear them share what a great start to the year they have had. Thank you also for all of your kind and supportive feedback at the gate – it really does mean the world to all of the staff.

This week a huge amount has been happening across the school, including a Science workshop for Year 3 and 4; Head Pupil interviews as well as a huge amount of fantastic learning! We have captured the 'best bits' in our newsletter this week!



Alongside these events, we were so proud of our children during Miss Polley's assembly about how to keep their bodies safe as part of our PSHE curriculum. All of the children approached this session with such maturity and asked some very thoughtful questions. Well done!

In our newsletters, we also want to share with you what we are working on as a school to make Thameside even better– in this edition, we have included an update on our work to develop our curriculum so far this term and we will continue to update on our priorities over the course of the year.

In staffing updates, Mrs Alina Russell (Office Manager) is leaving Thameside this week due to family reasons; she has only been with us a short time but we thank her for her hard work and wish her luck in the future. Recruitment is underway and temporary administration support is in place to ensure that operations continue to run smoothly.

We hope that you enjoy reading this week's newsletter!

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

In this edition:

- ❖ Positive Behaviour at Thameside
- ❖ Curriculum development update
- ❖ Head Pupils
- ❖ Introducing.... Mr Dineen
- ❖ Our stars of the week!
- ❖ TTRockstars!
- ❖ Library corner
- ❖ Diary dates

Positive behaviour Thameside

At Thameside our ethos is focused around rewarding positive behaviour; nurturing every child and recognising children who are making positive choices both inside and outside of our school community.

We have a range of ways to recognise positive behaviours and we wanted to share the rewards that you may hear your children talking about or receiving! We have introduced some new rewards this year too to celebrate the achievements of our children even more.



We always love to hear about children who have been showing our Thameside values in the local community as well; so please do let us know so that we can celebrate them in school!



- NEW: Team Thameside stickers to recognise children who are working hard; modelling our school values and showing kindness
- NEW: Hot chocolate with the head – for children who have 'stood out' each week
- Weekly 'Star of the Week'; 'Reader of the Week;' and 'Writer of the Week' certificates awarded in assembly
- Class 'rocket' to celebrate children showing and demonstrating our 5Rs during the school day.
- Postcards and positive phone calls home to parents and carers
- Class Dojo points – these are currently being trialed and we will review later this year

Curriculum development Update

So far this term we have been looking carefully at our school curriculum and identifying all of the wonderful things that we focus on in school and the next steps to make our curriculum even better!



We have already been refining our Geography and History themes for the year, as well as introducing a new PSHE scheme 'You, Me, PSHE' to ensure all of our children know how to keep themselves safe.

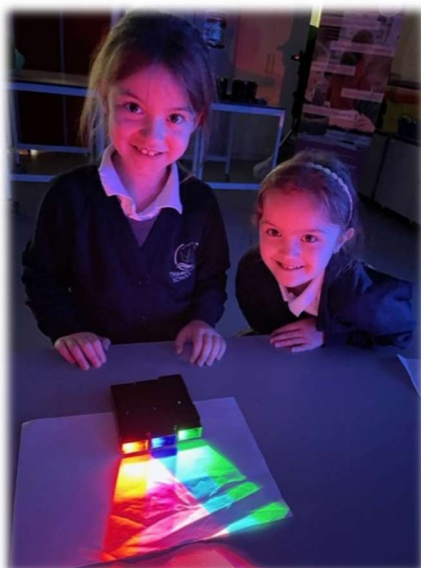
Look out for further updates on our website coming soon!

Abingdon School Science Workshops



Year 3 had a delightful morning during their light workshop at Abingdon School's laboratory. The children made their own shadow puppets to investigate how shadows change

depending on the position of the light source. They enjoyed investigating how two mirrors put at different angles changed a reflection of an object. For the final activity, they used three coloured lights to make other colours. It was great fun exploring the colours and talking about how our eyes can only see three colours.



Year 4 were in for a 'shock' with their electricity science workshop! The workshop began with students using balloons to create static electricity. As you can imagine this led to lots of crazy hairstyles. They learnt how static electricity can attract other objects. The next activity involved charging a balloon and a straw, which when placed near each other caused them to repel.

A huge thank you to Abingdon School – Year 2 can't wait for their workshop next week!

Our Head Pupils for 22/23!



After a robust application and interview process with Mrs Youngman and Mrs Putt, we are also delighted to announce our new Head Pupils: Stanley and Lois. They will be supported by their deputies Chloe-May, Bailey, Noah and Wiktor. We were so proud of all of them and know our school is in great hands! We will be sharing updates of their work and future projects with parents and carers – so watch this space. They had a huge number of fantastic ideas to share with our new Pupil Parliament so we cannot wait for them to get started.

We also wanted to share some the amazing feedback and answers they gave about our school with you – some of the comments made us all feel a little teary!

'It is a community - Thameside doesn't feel like a school; it's a family' – it's a safe space where I am pushed to be the best I can be.'

'Thameside gives children a bright future.'

'I am passionate about making Thameside the best it can be; it's a happy school and I want to encourage people to come here! We have so many great things like our fields; our timeline and the teachers!'

'I want to help other people in school to learn and have fun.'



Introducing..! Mr Dineen!

This week's spotlight is on our Year 2 teacher, Mr Dineen!



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

Kit Kat Chunky or Cadburys Creme Egg

2. Place of birth?

Banbury, Oxfordshire

3. Favourite place in all the world?

My house, a football pitch or Italy.

4. Favourite book?

Winnie the Witch; I love reading this to my class!



5. Favourite film?

Any Batman film; he is definitely the best Superhero!

6. Favourite song?

Currently, 'Green, Green Grass' by George Ezra and for all time, 'Angels' by Robbie Williams

7. Last meal on Earth is likely to be?

Nandos! Half chicken medium spice, chips, garlic bread and a corn on the cob or Spaghetti Bolognese; I can't decide!

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

A footballer for Newcastle United.



9. Unlikely interesting fact about you?

I have a cat called Joey and a dog called Cheddar. The boys!

A little Nursery update!



We thought it would be nice to share a special little update about the youngest members of our Thameside family!

Children in Nursery have been discussing families and they made a group pictogram to show how their families are different.

Children worked hard to be 'Perseverant Parrot' and after listening to 'Giraffes Can't Dance', they talked about how Gerald in the story didn't give up and kept

trying. They wrote down what they were proud of and produced this lovely class giraffe!

We are super excited to be opening our new Nursery play area next week!

Our stars of the week!



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

Year 1: Charlie

Year 2: Lily-May

Year 3/4: Haroon

Year 4/5: Sonny

Year 5/6: Phoebe



TTRockstars!

Last week, we relaunched Times Table Rock Stars in a very exciting assembly with some special rockstar guests who looked very familiar!

We know how important it is for our children to be confident with their times tables and we relaunched with a 'Battle of The Bands' tournament, where the children were able to compete against everyone in the school. All children should have received their logon details (Years 2-6) and we have a lunchtime club on Fridays for children who have had difficulties accessing TTRS at home.

Well done to everyone who has taken part so far. We will let you know the winners of our first battle very soon!



Achievements outside of school!

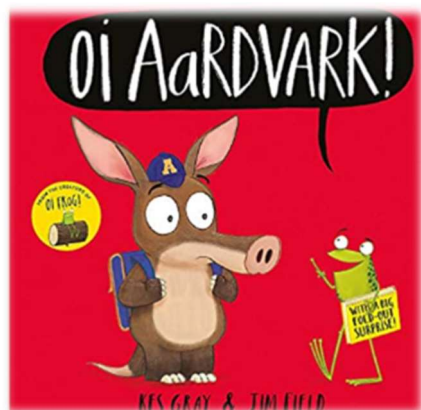
Mrs Youngman was incredibly proud to hear about Lily-May's achievements outside of school in her dance group – she achieved a certificate and was quite rightly feeling very happy! Well done!

We love to celebrate achievements outside of school so please do let us know if your child has achieved something special!

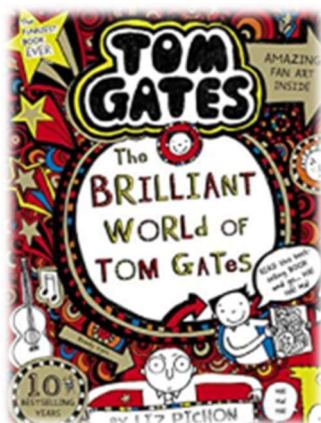
Library Corner!

Reading has got off to a flying start this term, with lots of great stories shared and some fantastic independent reading done too. On Accelerated Reader, **KS2 pupils have already quizzed on nearly 200 books, totalling over 400,000 words!** Look out for more information in the next newsletter about how they can quiz at home too.

The book recommendations this week are two books to make you laugh!



'Oi Aardvark' by Kes Gray is a very funny story about a frog who is trying to write an A-Z of different animals. Entertaining and silly – great for sharing!



For young people who like loads of illustrations alongside the text, we highly recommend the Tom Gates series by Liz Pichon. Tom gets up to all sorts of laugh-out-loud mischief which will keep you grinning to the last page.

(AR: 4.0 / 15,304 words)

Watch this video if you'd like to find out more about the Tom Gates series:

[Tom Gates Brilliant World - YouTube](#)

Key Diary dates

- Week beginning 10th October - Parents' Evenings (letters have been sent out)
- Thursday 20th October – last day of term
- Monday 31st October – INSET Day
- Tuesday 1st November – Children return to school
- School Photographs – Friday 4th November 2022
- Children's flu jabs – Tuesday 8th November (more information to follow)

Do you know anyone looking for a Reception school place in September 2023? Please spread the word!

**Tours of our lovely school can be booked via the school office on
01235 527600!**

We would love to meet you!

Website and our new social media links:

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

Support for parents:

Please do take a look at the following website for some excellent information and support for parent from baby to preschool:

[Support for parents from baby to preschool | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Support for parents from baby to preschool





**OXFORDSHIRE
MUSIC SCHOOL**
Presents

GUITAR LESSONS in Abingdon

-  **NEW:** Courses starting **November 2022**
-  **Guitars are Provided**
-  **Group Lessons** for all ages and abilities
-  The Old Anchor Inn, **Abingdon**

To book visit:
www.oxfordshiremusicschool.co.uk





Abingdon Tennis Club

Coaching at Abingdon Tennis Club runs on the following days.

- Monday – 3.30pm to 4.30pm – Players aged 8 to 10 years old and 11-year-old beginners.
- Monday – 4.30pm to 5.30pm – Players aged 5 to 8 years old.
- Monday – 5.30pm to 6.30pm – Players aged 11 to 18 years old.
- Wednesday - 4.00pm to 5.00pm – Players aged 5 to 10 years old and 11-year-old beginners.
- Wednesday – 5.00pm to 6.00pm – Players 11 to 18 years old.

Coaching courses run alongside school term times with breaks for half term.

All standards are welcome. If you are at a local Primary School, please arrange contact via your school as we may be able to offer preferential course fees for local families.

The coaching is run by Craig Amison-Smith, an LTA level 3 coach and Bart Wisniewski, an LTA level 4 coach.

Alternatively contact the clubs Head Coach Craig Amison-Smith on
craig@abingdontennisclub.com