



*Every Child, Every Chance, Every
Day*

Thameside In-touch!

Edition 4: 11th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our first newsletter of term 2! It was lovely to end last term with the Halloween disco; the outfits were amazing and the dance moves even better (and that was just the staff!)

We are looking forward to the term ahead and have included the key dates below for your information; we have very much enjoyed welcoming our parents and carers into school this week for our SEND and EYFS parents' evenings. Thank you for all of the lovely feedback we have received!



Over the break, more work was completed to continue to improve our school environment– this included a new grass floor in our peace garden, new canopies in our Reception playground area, new toilets in Early Years and the final touches to our lovely re-furbished classrooms!

Some new clubs are also now up and running – it has been great to see so many children joining in and we look forward to expanding our range of clubs and activities further over the course of the year. I absolutely loved meeting my Book Club for the first time this week!

For remembrance this week, we also held a special assembly to discuss what remembrance means to us as a school. Our 'reading hub' display has also been updated to share some lovely texts linked to this incredibly important topic and I know that children have been borrowing these to further their knowledge. Year 5 and 6 also joined the local community in Abingdon to pay their respects at the annual service in the town centre.

In staffing updates, we would also like to formally welcome Ms Stacey Hampson to the Thameside team as our new office manager. We are also currently recruiting for a Nursery Manager – please do spread the word!

Finally, please do look out for our '**ask me about boards**' on classroom windows to help provide some prompts for what you could ask your children about their learning; what they have remembered and what they have enjoyed.

We hope you enjoy the latest edition of our newsletter.

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

In this edition:

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School development update



This term we have continued to work hard to make our school even more special – our focus has been on developing our curriculum and we were delighted to welcome a team of leaders from the Vale Academy trust



this week to provide some feedback on the work we have done so far this year, particularly linked to Reading and Geography.

We were delighted with the comments and wanted to share some of them with you:

- **There is a 'buzz' and 'sparkle' in school alongside a clear shared vision**
- **Children spoke positively about their learning and could explain their 'journey' using their books**
- **Classrooms were calm, purposeful and ordered; staff have warm and nurturing relationships with pupils**
- **There is a culture of celebration and praise**

Focus on.. assemblies!

At Thameside, our assembly programme is a key part of how we support our children to be kind and respectful citizens, who can go out and make a positive difference in the world. As part of our weekly assemblies, children experience a wide range of opportunities to discuss and share ideas about important and current topics.



On Tuesdays, our assemblies are led by Mrs Youngman, Mrs Putt and Miss Polley. The aim of these assemblies is to provide an opportunity for children to learn about a wide range of themes and issues affecting their lives today. We have already covered assemblies linked to keeping our bodies safe, World Mental Health Day, Black History Month and our 'Learning to Learn' focus of Perseverance.

We have been hugely impressed with the mature views and ideas that the children have shared and can't wait for the term ahead!

Class reviews of the term so far!

Year 5/6

Year 5 and 6 began a new English learning journey this week with a focus on persuasion; we have been very impressed with their skills in this area! We have learnt a wide range of vocabulary, and the children are ready to include this in their final pieces later this term. We have also started to investigate our topic of conflict and have spent time discussing the importance of remembrance.

Year 4/5

Last week, we had a really exciting launch of our new reading and writing book; *The Great Food Bank Heist*. A lady called Hilary, who volunteers at the food bank, came to talk to us about their fabulous work. Since then, we have been focusing on vocabulary and emotive language as part of our English lessons, as we will be using persuasive writing to create a leaflet all about the local food bank.



In Science we have started our new topic: Electricity! It has really 'sparked' children's curiosity. Students worked in groups to create Venn diagrams classifying different household appliances and whether or not they were electrical, non-electrical, battery powered or a combination. This week we had a go at

creating simple circuits. It was fantastic to see what the students remembered from the Abingdon school workshop!

Year 3/4



In Year 3/4, we have been learning all about magnets and forces this week! We have been so impressed with the fantastic questions that children have asked to further their knowledge: **Are big magnets more powerful than small ones?**

Are magnets just as powerful underwater as they are through the air?

How many sheets of paper can a fridge magnet hold?

Year 2

It has been lovely to have the children back at school over the last few weeks. Year Two continue to shine and try their best in all we do. We've started looking at the Gunpowder plot and if Guy Fawkes was a hero or villain. The children think he's a villain! In Maths, we continue to add and subtract. We have also been busy preparing a Fire safety poster for you, so watch this space!

Year 1



We love English in Year 1! This week we have been using magnetic letters to help with our spelling and we have read words and matched them to pictures. We have also written some sentences to describe ourselves.



Reception



This week Reception have started thinking about things that happened long ago - in particular, dinosaurs!! We read 'Stomp, Dinosaur, Stomp!' and then practised moving like dinosaurs moved, as well as doing lots of dinosaur crafts.



Nursery



Nursery have been super creative since returning to school. We have been exploring colours and patterns and have created rainbows, collages, fireworks, flags, bunting and more. Finnlay worked so hard on creating a huge rocket. This was over a few days; he used lots of different materials and painted it too!



Our stars of the week!

Well done to our 'Stars of the Week' for this week and well done to every single star so far this year!

Year 1: Daniel

Year 2: Daria - Nicole

Year 3/4: Alfie

Year 4/5: Tilly

Year 5/6: Daniel



TTRockstars and Timestables at home!

Well done to everyone who has been busy practising at home... some of you have worked hard to improve your speed and fluency. **Currently no-one is beating Mrs Putt on the leader board, so your challenge for this week is to try to beat her time!** To do this, you will need to go on 'Studio' and record some fast times.

Well done to those of you who have made it on to our TTRS display in the hall – if you are a rock hero, rock legend, rock star or headliner, then your name automatically makes it on to our leader board in the hall. Again, you will need to keep practising in the 'Studio' to earn more points to achieve rock status!

Remember to also check the 'Rockslam' section... here you can invite other people to a times table challenge and see who has challenged you to a Rockslam.

Library Corner

Following on from the theme of remembrance, this edition our recommendations are books which sensitively explore the theme of remembering lost loved ones. Bereavement can feel like a tricky thing to talk to children about; sharing a book together can be one way to start a conversation. We have copies of these recommendations in school – part of a growing mini-library of books which deal with all sorts of complex emotions and issues, including anger, disability, low income and neuro-diversity.



'The Heart and the Bottle' by **Oliver Jeffers** is a touching picture book about a little girl who put her heart in a bottle to protect it after suffering a painful loss. After a time, however, she meets another girl who reminds her of what she has been missing by retreating into herself and the story ends on a hopeful note. (AR: Book Level 2.5 / 278 words / Age 5+)

'Mum's Jumper' by **Jayde Perkin** is another simple but thoughtful picture book about how you can feel after losing a loved one, as a little girl and her dad make sense of the loss of their mum/wife. These tricky emotions are dealt with sensitively and the book is a great springboard for talking about how we remember those who have passed.

'You Will Be Okay' is an information book written by **Julie Stokes**. She is a clinical psychologist who founded 'Winston's Wish', a childhood bereavement charity. I can't recommend this book enough for anyone going through a tricky time with loss or seeking to support a friend or family member. Written particularly for young people, it explains – in an easy-to-understand way – the different stages and emotions of grief. There are also helpful practical ideas to try to and a brilliant list of other resources/websites to access.

Accelerated Reader

A big 'well done' to everyone who has quizzed on a book since our last newsletter. The total read by Years 3-6 has now shot past **two million words**, which is an incredible achievement!

A particular mention this time to Maisie W., Evaldo, Iris, Sarika, and Logan T. who have done the most quizzes so far.

The link you need to quiz from home is: www.tinyurl.com/dk98jpc

Supporting your child to read at home

Practising reading at home is key to every child's success and to ignite a life-long love of reading. Later this year, we will be offering some parent workshops to provide some ideas for how you can support your child at home. We have provided some useful links below to get you started, but if you would like further ideas and support, please do get in touch!

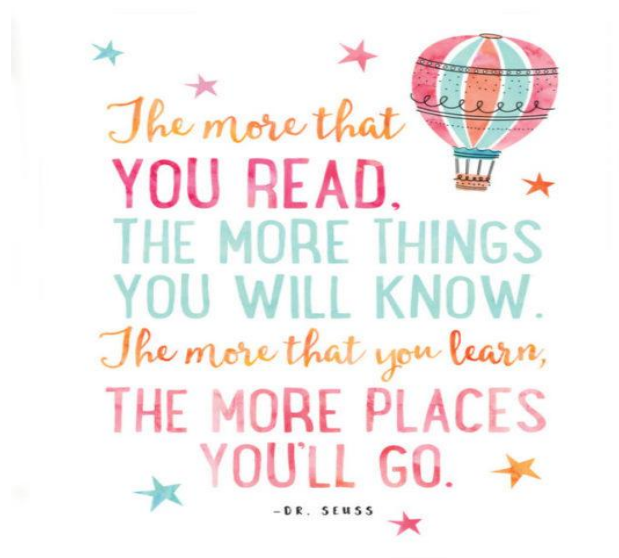
[10 top tips for parents to support children to read - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Top tips to support your child's reading at home - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Bookfinder: find children's books for every age | BookTrust](#)

[Reading at Home - Oxford Owl for Home](#)

[Learning to talk | 3 to 5 years | Start for Life \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)



School admissions information

Applications for a place in Reception for September 2023 and can be made at the following link [Reception applications | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Please remember that if your child is in our Thameside Nursery, you still need to apply for a place via the link above.

If you would like a tour, please do contact the office and we would love to show you around!

Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Primary school place – you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2018** and **31 August 2019**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2023**.

Apply online at

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

– it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.

For help and information:

Web: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Email: admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Tel: **0345 241 2487**



PTA update



Thank you for everyone's support at the Halloween Disco – it was a fantastic event! A huge thank you to the PTA who do such an amazing job and work incredibly hard for our school – please do get in touch if you would like to be part of this fabulous group of parents and carers!

Please do come along to our cake sale after school TODAY!!

Key Diary dates

- **Friday 18th November – Children in Need – Spotacular! Please see the letter for more detail!**
- **Week beginning 14th November – Anti-bullying week and National Nursery Rhyme week (for Early Years)**
- **Friday 25th November – non-uniform day for Christmas Fayre donations**
- **Wednesday 30th November – author visit kindly funded by the PTA (more detail to follow)**
- **Friday 9th December 3.00pm – 5.30pm -PTA Christmas Fayre**
- **Wednesday 14th December – Christmas dinner**
- **Thursday 15th December – KS1 Christmas performance (am)**
- **Friday 16th December – KS1 Christmas performance (pm)**
- **Tuesday 20th December – Last day of term (early finish)**

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