



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



Thameside In-touch!

Edition 34: 25th July 2024 End of Year Extravaganza!!

Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of another year at Thameside! As much as I know that everyone is ready for the summer break, it has been another year of so much to celebrate and be proud of. We have received lots of external feedback this year validating the high quality of education and inclusion offer at Thameside, as well as some wonderful feedback from visitors. For example, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the trust commented after a recent meeting and presentation from the Senior Leadership Team:



It was inspiring to see for ourselves, and to get a feeling for what a strong and supportive team you have. I know all my colleagues came away with the same warm feeling - we really appreciate all that you and your team are doing for your school.

This year there have been many successes at Thameside:

- **Fantastic reviews of our provision – quotes from which have been shared on our newsletters**
- **Excellent Year 4 Multiplication check results (the highest in the trust) and above national figures.**
- **An extended range of clubs, including yoga, bike classes, gardening to name but a few!**
- **The introduction of whole class violin lessons**
- **Taking part in a wide range of external events such as Sports Awards, Citizenship Awards, Music Flood and many more.**
- **Secured a number of number of grants to develop various areas of the school – for example our murals, new Acorn Room and Calm Cave.**

There have also been so many wonderful events to end the year, including our sports days, Nursery picnic, Year 6 Leavers' Party (kindly funded by our wonderful PTA) and various performances! We hope that you enjoy some of the photos and thank you to everyone for supporting these events.

As the end of the year draws near, I would like to take a moment to thank our incredible staff team as all of these successes would simply not be possible without them – everyone works tirelessly to ensure the very best for our children, giving huge amounts of their own time as well, to plan and run clubs and events. Thank you as well to our office staff Ms Hampson and Mrs Bayliss who ensure that everything is brilliantly organised and our governors and PTA who again, do so much for Thameside out of goodwill and a passion for ensuring excellence for our children. It can also be very easy to forget that everyone has their own lives beyond their school 'personas' and I am very grateful to each and every member of our staff team for their incredible commitment to school; I am sure that parents and carers will join me in sending them a huge thank you!

Children have now spent time in their new classes for next year, and we hope that you enjoyed reading their end of year reports; reading every child's is a special job for me each year and it never fails to make me smile, reading about how our staff have captured each individual pupil's strengths, talents and personalities. **Our staffing letter has also included all of the details about the new classes and the fantastic new staff that are joining the team for the new year!**

As explained in more detail in our recent staffing letter sent out already, we are saying a (temporary!) goodbye to Mrs Putt who will going



on her maternity leave and Mr Dineen, who moves to a post closer to home. We look forward to welcoming Miss Amber and Miss Krawiec to the teaching team, and Mrs Hannah Russell as Interim Assistant Head. Miss Polley will be the Interim Deputy Headteacher, and I will remain Headteacher, alongside completing school improvement work for Oxfordshire County Council for part of the week.

Goodbye to our incredible Year 6 children too – we will miss you but we know you are ready to shine brightly at secondary school and beyond!

Finally, we wish everyone a wonderful break – thank you to everyone for your support and kindness this year; it remains an absolute privilege to lead such a wonderful school and I am looking forward to another great year ahead.

We look forward to seeing all children back on Wednesday 3rd September (Monday and Tuesday are INSETs) – look out for our welcome back letter with key reminders which will be sent out just before the children return.

Here's to some summer sun! **Do check out our Facebook Page for even more photos of summer events!**

Take good care,

Laura Youngman

Headteacher

In this edition:

- **Focus on....our new head pupils**
- **End of term gallery**
- **Reading update – 23/24!**
- **Class learning reviews!**
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- **TTRockstars update and summer challenge time!!!**
- **Library corner**
- **Diary dates**
- **Safeguarding and holiday support links**
- **Word of the week**

End of term Gallery!







Focus on.....our new pupil leaders

We were absolutely overwhelmed with the sheer number and quality of our applications for Head Pupils this year. A huge well done to everyone who applied, you should all be so proud of yourselves! After a rigorous interview process with Mrs Youngman and Mrs Putt, we are delighted to announce that our new Head Pupils are **Flint** and **Sarika**. They both have big plans for helping to make Thameside even more wonderful, so watch this space! Well done as well to our Deputy Head Pupils **Miyah** and **Mason**. They are going to be supporting the Head Pupils in their projects and working closely with the Pupil Parliament.

We were also really pleased to be able to appoint some new roles for children who had shown a real passion for something in their application and interview. Well done to **Grace** (our new Head Librarian), **Peter** (our new Lead Peer Mentor) and **Harvey** (our new Lead Sports Captain).

We will be giving out further roles in September and each class (Ys 2-5) will have the opportunity to vote for two Pupil Parliament representatives.



Reading Update

Four pupils from each class received a special book prize as an award for their progress and achievement in reading this year.

A massive well done to you all and we hope that you enjoy your books. We are very grateful to St John's College,

Oxford University, for the funding to buy the books and to

Mostly Books in Abingdon for the discount to help the budget stretch even further!

We also gave away 150 books to families on 'Free Book Friday'! We hope that you enjoy reading those over the summer.



Finally, all the classes had a visit from Abingdon Library, encouraging the children to join their Summer Reading Challenge. It's completely free and there are prizes, stickers and a certificate for completing the challenge. As an extra incentive, Ms Daniell is offering 10 dojo points for anyone who brings in their certificate in September! Pupils can also tick off 'reading challenge' on their Citizenship Award checklist if they complete their reading with the library.



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

What a brilliant end to the year; from a football match to Darwin Rocks, and a fun-filled leavers party. This class have shown all of the 5 R's but most of all they have shown collaboration, kindness and a fantastic sense of humour! It has been amazing to have taught them in Year 1 and Year 6 and see them grow! I wish them all the best on the next part of their journey! You will all be missed.



Year 5

We have come to the end of a very busy year! Well done to the year 5s on their part in the KS2 performance, striving for greatness throughout the year and keeping myself and Mrs Russell on our toes! Here's to a well-earned summer break to rest, relax and recharge - enjoy!

Year 4

Over the past few weeks, Year 4 has been super busy! We've had so much going on, from puppet workshops to sports day, and even our first-ever violin recital. A huge thank you to everyone who came to the recital— it was amazing to see so many of you there supporting us. It really meant a lot and was a great way to celebrate all the progress the children have made.

As the school year wraps up, we're almost done with our class story, "How to Train Your Dragon." It's getting really exciting, and we can't wait to see if Hiccup will save the day!

In P.E., we have been making the most of the nice weather by learning to play rounders. Our batting is getting better every week, and we are getting the hang of some fielding tactics. We have also been enjoying our tactical invasion games, especially the various versions of capture the flag, which has become a clear favourite, particularly when we have added a jail and multiple different teams.

Year 3

Year 3 are having a very busy end to the term, revisiting topics from all the previous terms. They have particularly enjoyed some art time, creating pointillism paintings and botanical/architectural drawings while sitting in the shade under the trees!

Another highlight was helping Ms Daniell out with the UKLA Book Awards. Ms Daniell is on the judging panel again this year for the information books category, so Year 3



enjoyed a morning looking through some amazing, brand-new non-fiction books, giving their opinions to help her with her judging. The flags book was a definite favourite, as were the books on sharks and weird/wonderful facts!

Year 2

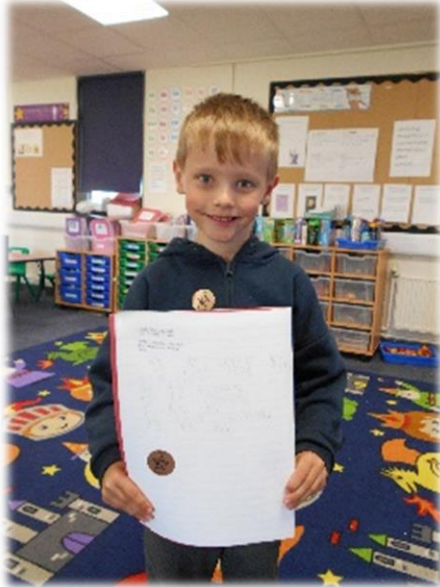
Year 2 have spent this term thinking about how to make Baby Bear a chair that won't break! They looked at the structure of a chair and tested out different shapes and materials. Then in pairs they worked to build a chair out of paper, using all they had learnt to make it safe, sturdy and strong. Finally this week we tested them



with Baby Bear. Every chair looked different and there were lots of chairs for Baby Bear to choose from at the end!

Year 1

In Year One, we have been thinking about what we have learned in Year One and getting ready to move into Year Two.



Earlier in the term we read the poem, 'Ten Things in a Wizard's pocket' and then we wrote poems about our teachers at school. We used all our knowledge to write list poems about what we have done in Year One. We wrote these poems independently and didn't need any help from Miss Cross. We are very proud of our poems!!

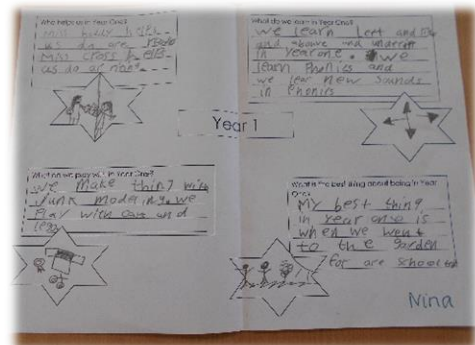
For the past week we have been thinking about how we can help the Reception children learn about moving into Year One. We made some posters explaining what we do in Year One. We hope our poster help the

younger children move into Year One as we move into Year Two.

Year One

We do adding up.
We read books.
We do quarters.
We do Maths.
We do PE.
We sing songs.
We do RE.

By Peter



Reception

What a week! What a term! What a year! What a class!

It has been my absolute pleasure to teach Superworms this year and get to know each one of your little ones and their families. It really does take an army to develop children and I want to thank all of the TAs that have supported in Superworms this year; big thanks especially to Miss Higgins, Miss Nobrega and Miss Smithson - your kindness, support and positive attitude has brought so

much to all of our lives in Superworms this year. Thursday will be an emotional day as we wish you all a brilliant summer and I personally say goodbye to many special people at Thameside.

The children's creativity and resilience has impressed me so much recently, making us all proud of the progress they have made, demonstrating they are ready for Year 1. We've had so much fun recently with our story the 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' and our topic, water. Their puppet shows and movies have been amazing and it has been lovely to see the sense of real achievement when they watch themselves back.

I hope you all have a fantastic summer and I wish the children many happy years of school.



Nursery

Well, what a fantastic final few weeks we have had in Nursery. We have been thinking about kindness and enjoyed reading 'Kindness is my superpower'. We



went to the forest and made a kindness tree. The tree looked amazing, and it was so great to hear the ideas from the children about how they have been or will be kind. We then moved onto the story of 'The Little Red Hen' - following this we looked at the idea of 'teamwork makes the dream' work and thought about things



we could do as a team and how this would make the end product better, or how it would help us to have more fun during in the process. Last week, we had our Leavers Picnic which was fabulous. Thank you for bringing so much yummy food - we all had a feast. I really enjoyed all the cuddles and kind words. I hope the children leaving really liked their awards. I am so proud of them all and I will miss them so much, but I am very pleased I will still see so many of you at Thameside next year.



Well done to our Stars of the Term!



Reception: Valerie

Year 1: Kazia

Year 2: Saharsh

Year 3: Jacob

Year 4: Joey

Year 5: Shane

Year 6: Kiara

Headteacher star: Matthew



TRockstars, Numbots and COMPETITIONS at home!



BATTLE OF THE BANDS SUMMER HOLIDAYS!

For children in Years 2-6, we have set a Summer Holidays Battle of the Bands on TTRS. This includes teaching staff in school, so we are hoping lots of you will get involved! It's really important to keep up the TTRS and Numbots practise over the Summer Holidays... these are skills that can be quickly forgotten if not used regularly and it is important to retain them over the holidays, ready for more learning in September.

Just a quick reminder that children should be attempting to answer the questions on Numbots and TTRS independently. This means that you can of course support them in reading the questions or helping them to work out the answer. However, please do not complete this for them, or ask older siblings to do this, as we then do not have a true picture of what each child is able to achieve independently. If your child is struggling with either TTRS or Numbots,

please speak to their class teacher as we can adjust the difficulty and adapt the timetables that are available to them.

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

THE BUTTERFLY LION

By Michael Morpurgo

This book is about the protagonist adopting the lion cub and having to leave to go to school; leaving the lion alone. The lion gets sold to a circus while the main character is at a boarding school in England.

Review by Finn Beckall and Lily Ann O'Ster

"My favourite part of the book is when the Lion cub gets adopted by Bertie - The main protagonist

The lion cub escapes the circus by running away. He escapes and goes back to the Savannas



Summer reading recommendations!

Please do keep reading every day over the summer and keep quizzing on AR!

It is also worth visiting the library and taking part in the summer reading challenge which the children heard all about in assembly.

The links below also provide some fab ideas for books about summer!

[Brilliant books about summer \(younger children\) | BookTrust](#)

[Brilliant books about summer \(older children\) | BookTrust](#)

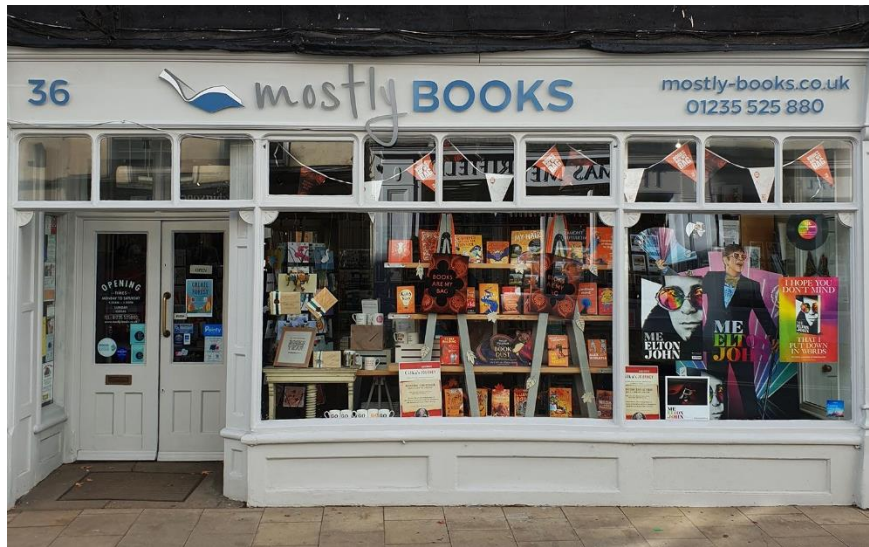
Supporting our school!

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 \(mostly-books.co.uk\)](https://www.mostly-books.co.uk)



Diary dates for Term 1 - 2024 - 25!

**Please keep an eye on the website online calendar for key dates
- coming soon!**

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

Safeguarding and Family Support links

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/cost-of-living-crisis-advice-and-support/>

Local community Support Service.

LCSS@oxfordshire.gov.uk 0345 2412 705

Food bank

[How to get help | Abingdon Foodbank](#) 07562247443
info@abingdon.foodbank.org.uk

Community Fridge

Abingdon Community Fridge helps fight food waste by providing education on food storage and cooking. Additionally, we collect food from local businesses and redistribute it to members of the community, primarily through three weekly open sessions. Further information on our activities and our current opening times can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/abingdoncommunityfridge. (You do not need have a Facebook account to view this page)

Hadland Road Community Centre, OX14 3YH

Monday: 4pm - 4.30pm

Thursday: 1pm-2pm

Saturdays: 10.30am-11.30am

As always, there may be bonus days, so keep an eye on our Facebook page

Word of the week!

Word of the week - **INQUISITIVE**

Meaning: having or showing an interest in learning things; curious.

Etymology:

from Late Latin *inquisitivus* "making inquiry, or to seek information".

Quis means to seek in Latin.

This can be found in:
acquisition, exquisite,
inquisition.



inquisitively, adverb

inquisitiveness, noun



Marvellous Makers



Get creative this summer with a
FREE children's reading challenge at
your local Oxfordshire library!

6 July to 7 September 2024

Read library books and meet the Marvellous Makers, a creative club who are making amazing things for a festival at their local library. Unfortunately some objects have mysteriously gone missing from the club's creative toolbox...



Finish the challenge and get your own medal and certificate!



Look out for fantastic new books and activities at your library!

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Allied Health Professional



Return to Practice



Are you ready to return? We would like to support you to make this happen.

- ✚ Are you an Allied Health Professional (AHP) and left your profession?
- ✚ Are you ready to use your valuable skills and experience again?
- ✚ Would you like to explore your AHP Career again?
- ✚ Would you like to re-enter and gain your HCPC Registration?

If you've answered yes and not sure where to start, then check out the

[BOB Return to Practice \(RtP\) Padlet](#)

This includes all the resources that you need to include:

- ✓ Help to assess how many hours you need to complete to re-register
- ✓ Funded Return to Practice courses
- ✓ Details to accessing funding to support your RtP journey
- ✓ Our trust organisations and local authority across **Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire west** contacts details available to discuss placements
- ✓ RtP can be made via education, private and voluntary organisations and email

Sajida.hanif@nhs.net to explore further.



"Anyone considering returning to practice should definitely give it a go, it is never too late to get back into the work place, I am proof of that!"

Mark, Diagnostic Radiographer and returner after 29 years

