



*Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day*



## Thameside In-touch!

**Edition 29: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



**Facebook: @ThamesidePrimary**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the end of another eggstra-ordinary term! I am sure that everyone is ready for a well-deserved Easter break, but there have been a huge number of highlights to celebrate this term. Notably, we finished the term with our Star of the Term and Citizenship Awards assembly where we celebrated our pupils who had gone above and beyond this term; it is always a very emotional occasion for staff and parents alike. Thank you for supporting these events.

As well as this, the last two weeks have been full of exciting curriculum opportunities, to broaden horizons for our pupils – these have included a Year



5 trip to the Oxford Playhouse to showcase their playscript projects that they have been working on this term; the VAT Science Festival at Williams Racing and also an amazing author visit by well-known children's author, Mini Grey!!

We have also been celebrating 'random acts of kindness' with our new heart stickers – showing kindness is one of our school rules and it has been lovely to see children wearing their stickers with pride!

**We also welcomed the Headteacher of John Blandy School, who carried out a review of our teaching. Suzanne commented:**

*Thank you so much for this morning. I have really enjoyed being part of your review and came back with lots of enthusiasm speaking so highly of your leadership and school.*

*Other feedback included:*

- ✓ *All children could identify what to do when they were stuck using friend first and then their teacher. They also said that the working wall helps them.*
- ✓ *Modelling was a strength of all teachers*
- ✓ *In lessons, the Thameside Ten (teaching strategies) was visible in practice in all lessons*
- ✓ *Teachers were able to speak of their research driven pedagogy and spoke highly of it.*

We finished the term with a fantastic Easter Egg hunt designed by Mrs Hendry (and our Nursery children!) – our local PCSO's even joined in with the fun!

**The parent survey will also end today – please do complete this if you have not already done so (the link has been emailed)** – we will share a summary of results and feedback once it has been analysed.

Thank you as always for your support – have a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing you raring to go for the Summer Term and hopefully, some lovely sunshine! We are excited about seeing our Year 6 children on 2<sup>nd</sup> April – we are delighted that ALL 18 children will be attending. The eggs are at the ready!

*Laura Youngman*

Headteacher



## In this edition:

- Focus on.... School Development priorities
- Nursery Community Mural Project!
- Class learning reviews!
- Stars of the week
- TTRockstars update
- Library corner
- Diary dates
- Word of the week



## Focus on.... School development priorities update!

We are always looking to improve and grow our school in order that we can provide the very best education to our pupils. In this end of term edition, we wanted to share some examples of the work that we have done this year so far:

- ✓ Our Early Years Team have worked with the trust Early Years lead to continue to make our Early Years the very best it can be – this has included implementing some new ideas into the classroom and attending the latest phonics training
- ✓ Our staff have benefited from working with National Experts to develop the quality of teaching – this has been through the White Knights Phonics and BBO Maths hub. Staff have really valued this coaching and support.



- ✓ We have secured grants to help us further develop our learning environment – this includes a grant to enable us to repaint the murals near the field. We can't wait to get started; Mrs Shiraz is currently reviewing all of our children's amazing ideas to create two final designs!

- ✓ We have invested in lots of new phonics resources – we were delighted that so many parents have bought flashcards to use at home!
- ✓ We have continued to extend our curriculum enrichment and clubs – this has included work with the Oxford Playhouse for Year 5; visits from Radley Zoo; a variety of visiting speakers and author visits. Our clubs have also been well attended – origami and chess have been firm favourites!
- ✓ We have continued our focus on wellbeing – this has included a staff wellbeing charter and a pupil version, created by our Year 6 pupils (led by our



Mental Health Ambassadors, Evaldo and Sonny). These can be found on our website and were shared as a model of best practice in the trust!

## Nursery Community Mural project!

We had a lovely time working with **MakeSpace** last week and worked together to create pieces of art around our school. Hopefully, you have seen our new creations in the school grounds. The nursery mural was a collaboration of children's designs and the local artists, Jordan, Jess and Tom and had the focus of community. Children from years 1-6 were involved with the painting. Have a look at our photos!

You may have noticed a range of beautiful flowers on our school gates and fences. Jess, worked with small groups of children to create their own flowers to decorate our grounds using material. After school, it was a delight to see so many children involved with Tom's street artwork in the hall. We had the best week and we are very excited to work with MakeSpace again!



# 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)

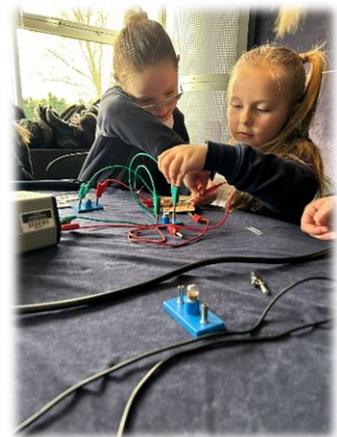
## Year 6

Over the last couple of weeks Year 6 have been doing lots of revising. The children have been really resilient when tackling tricky concepts. This resilience has been wonderful to see and will put them in a good mindset for completing their SATs in May. I hope that all children will show responsibility for their learning and practise over the holidays! I have sent some reading and SPAG prep! **I look forward to seeing you for our Easter revision day on the Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 9-2pm! There will be chocolate.....**



## Year 5

What a crazy, busy term it has been and once again, the Year 5s have stepped up to lots of different challenges! But it has not all been hard work without the fun; we have been to the theatre to watch the Primary Playmaker performances - comedy and drama galore! Thameside even got a chance to showcase our brilliant singing skills, giving everyone in the theatre a performance of Sweet Caroline (unofficial school song!). Over the last few weeks, we have also been delving into the history of medicine and have learned some interesting, yet gruesome facts - be careful at home though as they may try to make their own folk treatments! We wish everyone a Happy Easter with lots of fun, rest and most importantly...chocolate!



## Year 4

It has been one of the busiest few weeks for us in Year 4. We have had an amazing time learning how to make biscuits. First, we had the difficult job of doing some market research, which involved trying a selection of popular biscuits. After that, it was time to think about how we could adapt a biscuit recipe, making it more interesting and tastier. Finally, we spent the day making our delicious biscuits, which came out better than any of us had expected. The children were all so proud of their biscuits, and hopefully, they did share at least one with family at home.

## Year 3

Year 3 have shown how much they learn from some of the extra activities in school over the last few weeks. Their trip into Abingdon on World Book Day



included the opportunity to choose a free book with their World Book Day vouchers. It's been lovely to hear the children then recommending titles to each other. Another highlight has been the D&T food technology project. All the children participated with enthusiasm in the taste testing of ingredients for their seasonal vegetable tarts. It was a delight to see so many children trying lesser-known



vegetables, like red beetroot, and then safely peeling and chopping them for their own seasonal creations. **Hot off the press..... Year 3 also met the author of the book they have been exploring as part of their writing unit; she even set them a challenge!!**

## Year 2

Year 2 have had a really busy week. They finished typing up their letters to the mayor explaining what they each think could be improved about Abingdon. The children are very excited to send these off and fingers crossed we get a reply! In Maths, they have learnt about measures – measuring length, weight and capacity. The children have learnt all about how to use a ruler for measuring the length of something accurately and how to use scales to check the weight of an item.

## Year 1

Wow! What a busy time we have had in Year One. We have loved our phonics lessons and have been 'cracking' the reading code! That means we have been learning lots of new sounds. Sometimes we learn two sounds in

one day! We are all getting really good at remembering all the different sounds and thinking about which sounds the letters make when they are in a word.

We are very proud to say that we know over 100 sounds now!

Keep practising with your phonics cards at home. If you did not buy a set at parents evening and would like a set, they are still available from Miss Cross for £5. The pack includes all the sounds the children need to know to pass the phonics screening check.



**Miss Cross hopes you all have a lovely Easter break – don't forget to complete your phonics booklet. Remember if you complete it, you get 50 Dojos AND a Headteacher sticker from Mrs Youngman!!**

## Reception

What a brilliant term in Superworms! It has been brilliant to see the children's progress, especially with writing in our secret writing club! This term the children have been learning about life cycles and most recently we have been observing frogspawn grow into tadpoles. The children's curiosity and development of questioning has been brilliant to see. The Tadpoles will now be returned to their pond to grow into Froglet's and then Frogs. Thank you, Mr McDowell, for allowing us to have them for a little while.



I hope you have a good break and lots of family time. Our new topic on return is Amazing Animals. Happy Easter!

## Nursery

In Nursery we have been looking at spring and Easter. The children have enjoyed lots of fun tuff trays and making Easter cards and crafts. We have been looking at the signs of spring around our school and painting pictures of daffodils. The children have been telling us what they know about Easter, and they all seem very excited about getting some chocolate eggs.



## Our stars of the TERM!!!!

Well done to our Stars of the Term – a huge achievement!

Year 1: Robyn

Year 2: Sarah

Year 3: Katie

Year 4: Remy

Year 5: Sarika

Year 6: Bluebelle

Headteacher Star: Esme (Year 2)



TTRockstars,  
Numbots and  
**COMPETITIONS** at  
home!



We have been really proud of the children in all their work in TTRS and Numbots over the term. In TTRS this week, we have looked at the biggest improvement in studio speed over the course of the term. A big well done to **Isabella** (Year 4), **Harvey** (Year 3) and **Lucas** (Year 6) for being our top three!

In Numbots, we have looked at the highest accuracy over the course of the term. A big well done to **Iyla** (Year 1), **Cassius** (Reception) and **Amelia** (Year 1) for being our top three!

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, please speak to their class teacher as we can adjust the difficulty and adapt the timestables 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

## An Easter themed book corner this week!

For fans of the Supertato series, join Supertato and his friends on an eggs-cellent adventure for Easter! Full of fun, laughs and of course, a mystery to solve. Can the missing eggs be found?



## 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](mailto: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)

## Key Diary dates for Term 5 - 2024!

**Please also keep an eye on the website online Calendar and for our handy Friday Flyers for even more dates later this term.**

**Summer dates will follow early next term.**

- End of term – 1.30pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March
- Term begins: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April
- KS2 SATs week – week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May

**Cleal's Wheels once again will be running an Easter Holiday Club at Thameside – details can be found on the banner on our gate and at the link below:**

**[Holiday Club - Cleal's Wheels](#)**

# Word of the week!

Word of the week - **BLOOMED**

Bloom means the process of becoming a flower or to grow well.

The beautiful blossom trees bloomed overnight.

**After a week in the classroom the** children bloomed.

Synonyms: flower, open, grow.

Antonyms: wither, fade

Etymology: it comes from the old Norse 'blomi' meaning to grow.



Join us for

# Stay and Play

at Abingdon Library



For babies and toddlers

Every Thursday

9:30–11:00am

Free drop-in sessions

Children must be accompanied by an adult

# ParentLine 5-11 years

New School Health Nursing messaging service for parents and carers of children 5-11 years attending a state school in Oxfordshire

**Text** **07312 263227**  
to message a school health nurse



Text School Health Nurses for advice on issues such as:

- diet & healthy lifestyles
- toileting
- sleep
- bullying
- support with behaviours
- general and emotional health

Or scan QR code here to start a chat



# The Nurturing Programme



A **FREE** 10-Week programme for parents and carers.

Over the 10-weeks, we will look at lots of different topics, including:

**Understanding...** why children behave as they do

**Recognising...** the feelings behind behaviour (ours & theirs)

**Exploring...** different approaches to discipline

**Finding...** ways to develop co-operation and self-discipline in children

**Learning...** the importance of looking after ourselves

**Where?** Abingdon Carousel Family Centre, Caldecott Chase, Abingdon, OX14 5GZ

**When?** Tuesday mornings from 9.30-11.30am

**Starting?** Tuesday 16th of January 2024

**Cost?** Free

**Interested?** To book a place, please email [m.etienne@abingdoncarousel.org.uk](mailto:m.etienne@abingdoncarousel.org.uk) or call (01235) 526691



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TERM TIME CLASSES + HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS + PRIVATE TUITION

# CYGNETS ART SCHOOL

## *Easter Holidays 2024*

ABINGDON & DIDCOT

Ages 5-13

Traditional drawing, painting, and sculpture, combined with unique projects, experienced teachers, & professional quality materials. Each workshop covers a new, exciting subject or technique.

07411666035 | [ABINGDON@CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM](mailto:ABINGDON@CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM)

[WWW.CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM/ABINGDON](http://WWW.CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM/ABINGDON)

Spring Fair

Woodland Crafts at

**HARCOURT  
ARBORETUM**

**27 April 2024**

Open all Day, last entry 3pm



Save the 00 made in Britain  
Book your car parking in advance  
at Park & Ride from Redbridge





RADLEY

# Easter Fun Sessions



2:00pm - 3:30pm

Thursday 4th April

Friday 5th April

Tuesday 9th April

Thursday 11th April



Ages 8 - 12

£8 per child

Book now via our website or ask at reception for more details





Oxford Health  
NHS Foundation Trust

# PARENT WEBINAR



Parents are the most important part of young people's lives and hold the key to helping them. Let us help you, to help them.

## CAMHS

Child and Adolescent  
Mental Health Service

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS FOR  
PARENTS AND CARERS

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### SUBJECTS INCLUDE

- TEEN ANXIETY
- SELF HARM
- LOW MOOD
- HOW TO TALK TO YOUR DISTRESSED CHILD

[WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/OXON/SIR/WEBINARS](http://WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/OXON/SIR/WEBINARS)

## Let children know you're listening

A **safeguarding resource** to help you show children and young people that, whatever they want to share, you're ready to listen.

**There are three simple directions to remember...**

### ➤ **Show you care, help them open up**

Give them your full attention and keep your body language open and encouraging. Be compassionate, be understanding and reassure them their feelings are important. Phrases like "you've shown such courage today" help.

### ➤ **Take your time, slow down**

Respect pauses and don't interrupt them – let them go at their own pace. Recognise and respond to their body language. And remember that it may take several conversations for them to share what's happened to them.

### ➤ **Show you understand, reflect back**

Make it clear you're interested in what they're telling you. Reflect back what they've said to check your understanding – and use their language to show it's their experience.



#### + Find out more

For more training and resources to help protect children visit  
[nspcc.org.uk/listen](https://nspcc.org.uk/listen)