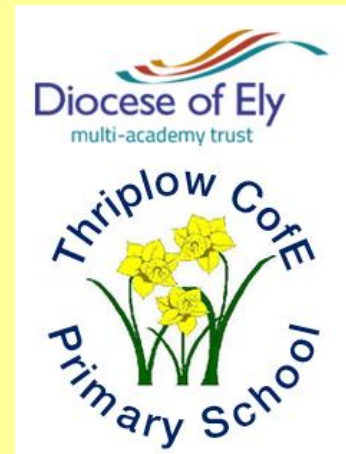


Thriplow School Newsletter

12th December 2025



We were so proud of our Ants and Butterflies children for their FABULOUS nativity play this week. The children worked so hard. I was so impressed by their singing, dancing, acting and clear delivery of lines. It was so entertaining and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone! Many thanks to the adults in school who worked tirelessly to put it all together and parents and families for helping the children to learn lines, providing costumes and ultimately being a fantastic audience!

It has been so lovely to see all the children looking so festive today. Many thanks for the contributions to The Blue Cross. We have raised £82.20p

Yesterday I took our school choir down to the village hall to sing carols to the local community. Mrs Walker and I were so pleased with how beautifully they sang and we have had lots of positive comments from people who were there.

Next week is a busy week as we approach the end of term! Please do not forget to send an orange in to school on Wednesday for the children's Christingle making. On Tuesday we look forward to showcasing our musical talent in the Key Stage 2 concert. You are all invited to our end of term carol service in church on the last day of term at 2.30pm.

As part of my role, I am required to analyse the attendance of each child on a regular basis. Next week, at the end of this half term, I will be issuing letters to parents of children whose

attendance has dipped below 96%. I know that these letters can sometimes be quite emotive so I would urge you to take them as they are intended – to provide information on your child's attendance and to support you if you feel your family needs to support. As the letter will outline, you are always welcome to come and talk to me with any concerns about anything to do with your child's attendance.

Further down the newsletter you will see information about our Christmas reading challenge which may help your children to engage with reading over Christmas. Please let us know after the holidays if your children took part – even if they don't manage to do it all!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend,

Best wishes,

Lucy



**MAT of
the Year
2024**



<https://www.facebook.com/thriplowschool>



<https://x.com/thriplowschool>



<https://www.instagram.com/thriplow.school>

In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:16*

You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with kindness. *Colossians 3:12*

16 th December	KS2 Concert – 2pm. All KS2 children will be performing and family and friends are welcome to attend.
17 th December	Christingle (children need to bring an orange)
18 th December	Christmas lunch
19 th December	Carol Service in church. 2.30. Everyone welcome
20 th January	Young Voices
WB 2 nd February	Relationships and Sex Education Week
24 th February	Parent Consultations
26 th February	Parent Consultations
5 th March	World Book Day
WB 9 th March	Science Week
21 st – 22 nd March	Daffodil Weekend
27 th March	Year 3/4 Bikeability level 1
WB 11 th May	SATS week
WB 18 th May	KS2 Residential (Year 5 and 6)
Fortnight beginning 1 st June	Multiplication Check fortnight (Year 4)
5 th June	DEMAT Art Exhibition
WB 8 th June	Phonics Screening check week (Year 1)
WB 15 th June	Poetry Recital Competition
24 th June	Sports day (First thing – will finish 11.15ish)

Term Dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term	
End of Term	Friday 19 th December

Spring Term	
Start of Term	Monday 5 th January
INSET Day	Friday 13th February
Half Term	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February
End of Term	Friday 27 th March

Summer Term	
Start of Term	Monday 13 th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May
Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May
INSET Day	Monday 1st June
End of Term	Friday 17 th July
INSET Day	Monday 20th July

If you would like to donate a book to our library to celebrate your child's birthday, then we would be so grateful. Please follow this link to see a list of books that we would like.

<https://amzn.eu/ez2OYOf>



Safeguarding at Thriplow

Lucy How and Melissa Hardege are the designated safeguarding leads at Thriplow School.

If you have a concern about a child, please come and speak to or email either of us. Alternatively please speak to any member of staff who will be able to pass on information.

If you feel that a child is at immediate risk of harm you can access further advice and guidance here.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection>

House Points

Our totals for this week!

	Total this week	Total this term
Bacon	45	924
Barenton	50	846
Bury	41	848
Bassett	49	1074



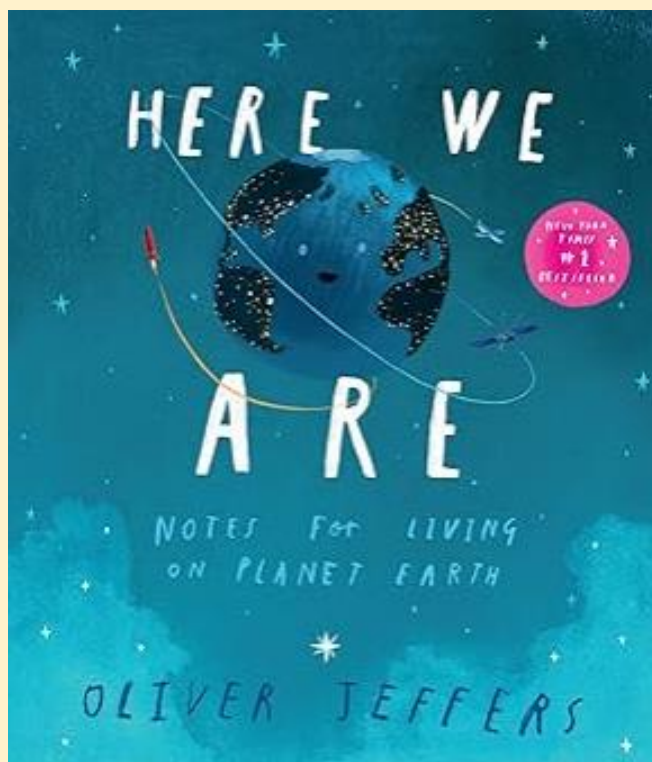
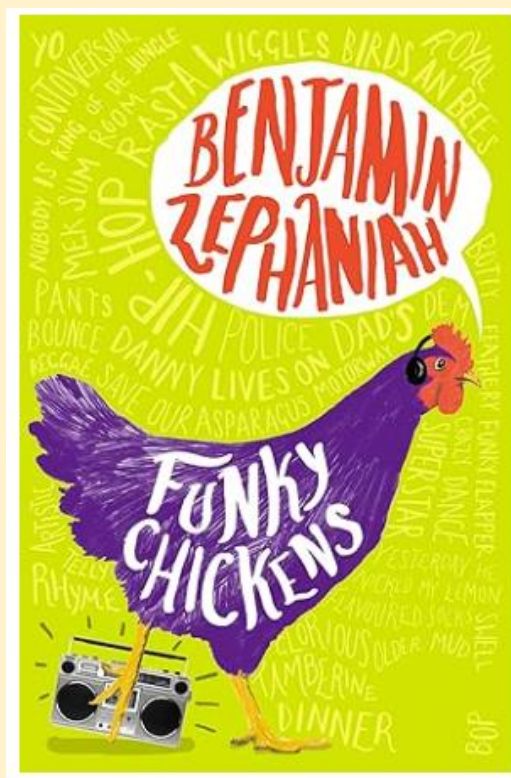
Don't forget we have our post box available for posting Christmas cards.

Children are welcome to bring in Christmas cards for their friends and teachers to post in the box. Year 6 will empty it regularly and deliver to classrooms.

Please make sure your child puts the full name and class of the recipient on the envelope.

Birthday Books

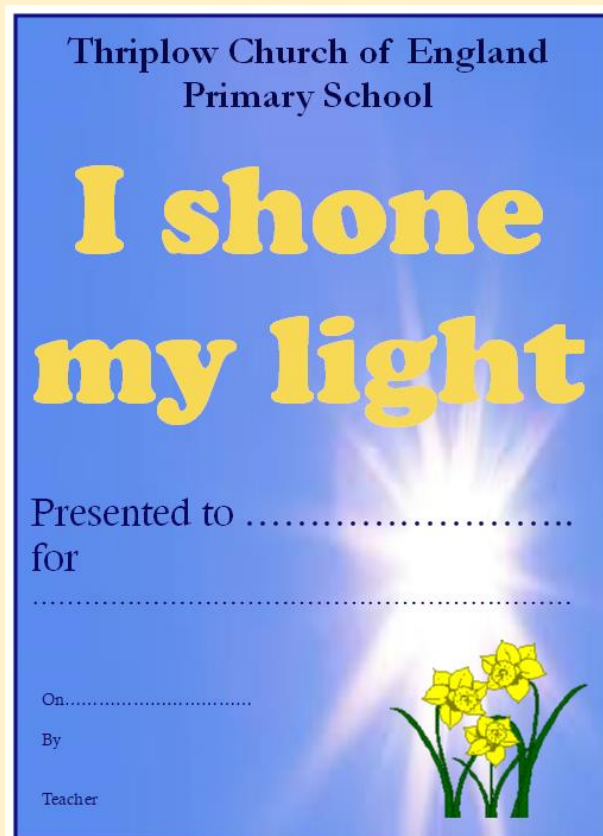
Many thanks to Thomas
for donating this book on
the occasion of his 7th
birthday.



**Many thanks to Monty for
donating this book on the
occasion of his 8th
birthday.**

Our certificate winners this week are: -

- All of Ants
- All of Butterflies
- Percy (Year 1)
- Charles (Year 2)
- Connor (Year 2)
- Freddie (Year 2)
- Josie (Year 2)
- Hudson (Year 2)
- Harrison (Year 2)
- Max (Year 3)
- Josh (Year 4)
- Nelly (Year 5)
- Tobias (Year 6)



The following children were added to the 'Vision and Values' tree for living out our Thriplow and DEMAT values.

- Walter (Community)
- Jessica M (Ambition)
- Sophia (Achievement)
- Ants (Confidence)

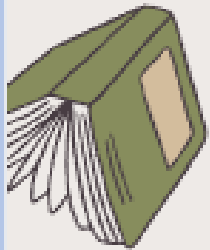




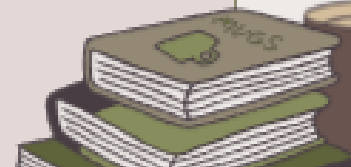
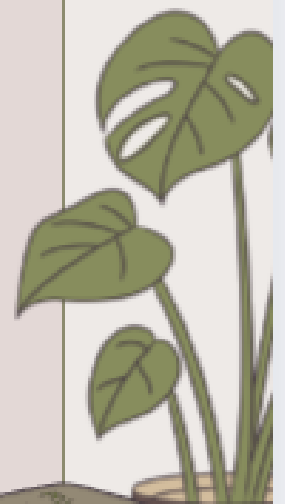
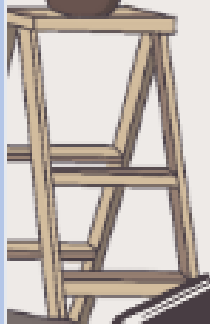
Thriplow Primary School Library



**Open on
Thursdays and
Fridays after
school.**



**Please pop in
and visit!**



Information on your child's learning

Ants

What a busy week it has been!

Ants have really enjoyed dressing as sparkly stars and performing for many of you over the past few days. I think we can all agree that they did brilliantly!

In phonics each day we have been building and forming new CVC words and the children have been writing their dictated sentences each day.

In Maths we have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes. We have discovered what different shapes feel like, named some of their features, and have used different shapes to make some pictures - we have had rockets, robots, and cars!

This morning Ants joined Butterflies for our PE lesson and practiced their ball skills by dribbling the ball around various obstacles, working in pairs and in teams.

Next week we will be finishing the Owl Babies story in Literacy by creating our own story maps and making our own little books. In Maths we will continue our exploration of 2D and 3D shapes, looking at what shapes we can find in our environment, and begin to look at positional language.

Have a lovely weekend!

Butterflies

Wow! What an amazing and busy week for the Nativity! I'm sure you will agree that Ants and Butterflies class put on a wonderful Nativity performance. We are very proud of them, and it was great to see how their confidence grew each time. Thank you for the time you spent supporting your child to practise their lines.

Amongst all the busyness, the children have still been working hard with their learning. In Maths, the Y1 children worked out amounts using 1p coins only. They then progressed to using 2p coins only. The Y2 children worked out amounts with only using £5 notes, then progressed to working out amounts using only £10 notes. If you have any coins and notes at home, it will be great for them to work out different amounts with them.

In English, we read a bit more of 'A Christmas Carol' and the children used expanded noun phrases to describe Scrooge. In RE we learned about Sikh worldviews and in science we have been learning about food chains.

Please remember that your child will need to bring in an orange on Monday to make their Christingles on Wednesday. We are looking forward to festive activities next week. Have a lovely weekend.

Bees

Bees Class have had an exciting week packed full of learning. On Monday, the children really enjoyed learning about two settlements in Mediterranean Europe (Athens and Venice). The children were especially interested in the Venetian Lagoon. Later that afternoon, the children became botanists as they drew diagrams of flowering and non-flowering plants in Science. On Tuesday, the children finished their art projects. I was so impressed by their painting skills. They have created some really lovely cardboard landscapes. On Wednesday, the children finished their dances based on Alice in Wonderland. There were some excellent representations of the Queen of Hearts! The children also found RE very interesting as we learnt about different shrines that Hindus have in their homes. Today, in hockey, the children continued to learn about how to score a goal. I look forward to a mini-hockey tournament that we will have next week. Throughout this week in Maths, we have continued our learning on multiplication. I am really impressed with how confident the children are with their times tables. Please do keep practicing at home on TTRS once a week. This is especially important for year 4 children who will have their multiplication check in the summer. In English, the children wrote their letters from Fagin to Oliver. They produced some wonderfully descriptive work. To finish up our work on Oliver Twist, we have begun watching the film adaptation of the book which has been very entertaining! Next week there will be many festive events happening such as the KS2 music concert on Tuesday, a Christingle service on Wednesday, Christmas dinner on Thursday and finally our Carol Service on Friday. I hope to see many of you on Tuesday or Friday at one of these events.

Dragonflies This week has been another exciting and busy one! We started our week on Monday with PE, further developing our skills in hockey. In particular, we focused on finding space and making the right pass. In our maths learning, we have begun to think about measures. We started by working on how to convert metric measures. In English we have been focusing on relative clauses and the use of the passive voice. We have also been continuing to write our history report on Baghdad. In art, we have been looking at art from Western Africa. We looked at a traditional Malian headdress and then sketched this carefully using different types of pencil. In geography, we used atlases to investigate the topography of East Anglia and considered how this impacts on the climate in the region. Yesterday, many of the children in the class went to the village hall to perform with the school choir. Today, we enjoyed celebrating festive Friday. A highlight for me today, was reading T'was the Night Before Christmas as a class. Next week, will be our final week of term with lots going on. I know the children are all very much looking forward to performing at the KS2 concert and at the carol service. I hope to see many of you in church on Friday.



CHRISTMAS READING CHALLENGE

THE 12 CHALLENGES OF CHRISTMAS

Read a Christmas themed book



Have a whole family bedtime story



Create a puppet show of a book



Read a story by the Christmas tree



Read a book that is older than you



Build a den and share a story in it



Read a story about an animal



Read a book about kindness



Share a story with someone over Zoom



Draw a picture from your favourite book



Share a poem with someone



Read a book that makes you laugh



TIS THE SEASON TO GET READING!



Christmas Hampers

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/christmas-hamper-raffle-1>

*Raffle Draw -
16th December*

WIN a hamper!
**Buy raffle tickets
online**

**Please donate an item
based on house colours**

Bassett - Green

Bacon - Yellow

Bury - Blue

Barenton - Red

A reminder that we are a nut-aware school. Please ensure that your child's lunchbox does not include any nuts.



- Let your child help you pack their lunch box and choose what to include from a list of options.
- To keep children fuller for longer, give them a 'main' lunch item that includes carbohydrates, such as whole grain bread, rice or pasta.
- Try pasta salads, stir-fried rice, wraps or crackers and low-fat dips as alternatives to sandwiches.
- Choose lean meats, such as chicken breast as sandwich fillings, and try to include oily fish like tuna once or twice a week.
- Include vegetables such as cherry tomatoes, carrot or celery sticks or home-made vegetable crisps (slice vegetables like sweet potato or beetroot, toss in olive oil and bake).
- Always put salad (lettuce, cucumber) in sandwiches - it all counts towards their five a day.
- Swap the crisps for plain popcorn or vegetable crisps (see above).
- Pre-peel citrus fruits like oranges or satsumas to make them easier to eat.
- Include tinned fruits but make sure they are in juice not syrup which is high in sugar.
- Fruit bars are generally not healthy - try dried fruit like apricots or sultanas instead.
- If your child insists on having crisps or chocolate in their lunchbox, try to limit this to one day per week and let them choose what their 'treat' will be.

According to the NHS, the perfect lunch box for a child should contain:

- a serving of starchy foods (wholegrain bread or pasta, brown rice);
- a protein (lean meat, egg or oily fish);
- a dairy item (low-fat cheese or sugar-free yoghurt);
- a portion of vegetables (celery sticks, carrot pieces);
- a portion of fruit (berries, grapes, melon, apple slices);
- water.

We've put together five balanced lunch boxes here - one for each day of the school week. You can copy them exactly, swap items around or get rid of them all together - whatever works for your family is fine.



Attendance Reminders

Days off school add up to lost learning			
175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, household jobs and other appointments			
0	6	15	19
DAYS ABSENCE (190 school days)	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE
100%	96%	92%	Below 90%
EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE	SATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE	REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT	Persistent Absentee
Best chance of SUCCESS	Harder to make good progress	Less chance of success	CAUSE FOR CONCERN
			Serious concern Possible court action

Three-Year Period

First Term Time Leave

10 sessions (5 days) or more.

£80 for each child per parent.

E.g. if two parents take 3 children away, the fine would be $£80 \times 3 = £240$ per parent.

The total would be **£480**.

If you pay after 21 days it rises to **£960**.

If you don't pay after 28 days = a prosecution.

Second Term Time Leave

10 sessions (5 days) or more.

£160 for each child per parent.

E.g. if two parents take 3 children away, the fine would be $£160 \times 3 = £480$ per parent.

The total would be **£960**.

If you don't pay after 28 days = a prosecution.

Third Term Time Leave

10 sessions (5 days) or more.

Prosecution.

Apply now



for a Reception school place for September 2026

If your child
will be aged 4
by **31st August**

You need to
apply **NOW**
for a School
place



**Apply by
15th January
2026**

For further information please visit
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions
or contact your local School

Contact the Admissions Team by telephone 0345 045 1370

School Admissions ALC2605, PO Box 761, Huntingdon, PE29 9 QR or
email admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Breakfast Club at Ladybird



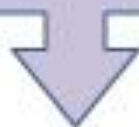
Open to Thriplow School
Children & Ladybird
Children from 3 Years



Breakfast may vary



Opens at 8:00am




Early Starters from 8:30



Contact for more information:

Email: ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

Phone: 01763 208055



Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow

Family
CHRISTMAS
Quiz

**BUY YOUR COPY OF A FUN FILLED
CHRISTMAS THEMED QUIZ FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY TO ENJOY**

**AVAILABLE FROM LADYBIRD
PLAYGROUP OR THRILOW VILLAGE
SHOP**

**100 QUESTIONS,
INCLUDING A PICTURE
ROUND FOR CHILDREN
AND ADULTS**

FOR ONLY: £2

**ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO
LADYBIRD PLAYGROUP**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screentime. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

1 WORK TOGETHER

Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.

2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES

Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online. If they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins: does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.

3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY

Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.

4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE

To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices – especially smartphones – are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.

5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY

Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family: discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key – so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.

6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any information they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.

7 BE RESPECTFUL

Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online – such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lend themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.

8 "NO TECH" ZONES

Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example: bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.

9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES

As a family, discuss why the rules are important: to balance their screentime, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.

10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS

To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.

