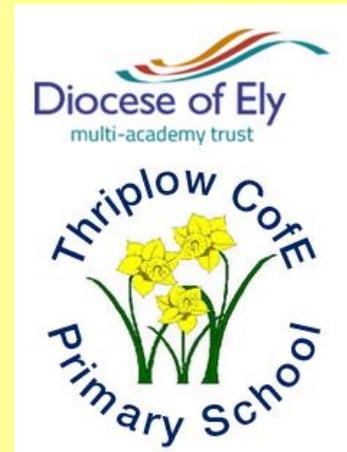


Thriplow School Newsletter

13th February 2026



Happy Half Term! What a busy last week it has been!

On Tuesday, Tom from Fauna and Flora (the children's chosen charity this term) came in to talk to the children about the charity's work with pangolins. They launched our fundraising activities for this term.

- 1) Paint a Pangolin. Your child will have brought home a black and white picture of a pangolin earlier this week. Their challenge is to paint (or any other medium) the pangolin as creatively as they would like. If your child would like the chance to win a cuddly pangolin (currently being cared for by Mrs Sandford in the office) then please return the picture, together with £2, by Monday 16th March.
- 2) Party for Pangolins! On 24th February, the children of Thriplow Primary School will be taking part in a 'Party for Pangolins'. The children will be taking it in turns to dance and our aim is to ensure that our party lasts all day, from 9am until 3.25pm. You are very welcome to come and join in the end of the party on the playground from 3.15pm.
You can sponsor the children to dance by following our Just Giving link -
https://www.justgiving.com/page/thriplow-primary-school-5?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Please share the link with family and friends!

Today we have said a sad goodbye to Miss Hunter and Miss Medway who have been with Bees and Dragonflies since the Autumn. The children in Key Stage 2 have really enjoyed their teaching and we wish them well as they move on to their next schools.

A highlight of my half term has been running Book Café for Key Stage 2 on Mondays. Further down the newsletter, you can read Alice and Izzy's reports further down. At the bottom of the newsletter, you can see some of the amazing work that the children have done.

Today Mrs Forde took our hockey team to a tournament in Cambridge. Many thanks to Mr Kitley for accompanying the team. The children did so well and came 5th out of 20 teams which is fabulous!

I hope you all have a fantastic half term and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 23rd February.

Best wishes,

Lucy



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



<https://x.com/thriplowschool>



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

**MAT of
the Year
2024**



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*

24 th February	Party for Pangolins
24 th February	Parent Consultations (Years 1-6)
26 th February	Parent Consultations (Reception – Year 6)
March (Date TBC)	Netball tournament
4 th March	Year 5/6 girls' football tournament
5 th March	World Book Day
WB 9 th March	Science Week
17 th March	Bees Class Viking Day
18 th March	Tag rugby tournament
20 th March	Non-uniform day– BRING A CAKE!
21 st – 22 nd March	Daffodil Weekend
26 th March	Dragonflies Trip to the British Library
27 th April	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

Spring Term 2025	
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Friday 13th February</i>
Half Term	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February
End of Term	Friday 27 th March
Summer Term 2025	
Start of Term	Monday 13 th April
<i>Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 4th May</i>
Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Monday 1st June</i>
End of Term	Friday 17 th July
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Monday 20th July</i>

Autumn Term 2026	
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 1st September</i>
Start of Term	Wednesday 2 nd September
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Friday 23rd October</i>
Half Term	Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October
End of Term	Friday 18 th December
Spring Term 2027	
Start of Term	Monday 4 th January
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Friday 12th February</i>
Half Term	Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February
End of Term	Thursday 25 th March
Summer Term	
Start of Term	Monday 12 th April
<i>Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 3rd May</i>
Half Term	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Monday 7th June</i>
End of Term	Tuesday 20 th July
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Wednesday 21st July</i>



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>

P.E. Days

Ants	Wednesday and Friday
Butterflies	Monday and Thursday
Bees	Wednesday and Friday
Dragonflies	Monday and Thursday

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>



**Happy Birthday
to Lois who has
celebrated her
birthday this
week.**





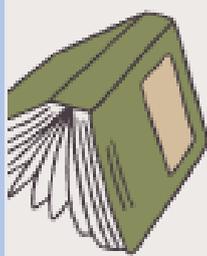
Thriplow Primary School



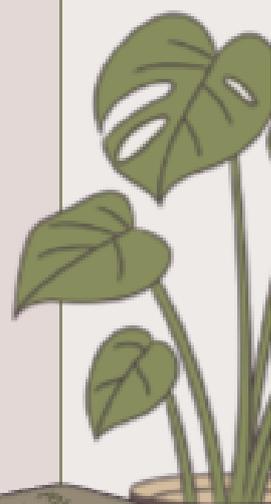
Library



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



**Please pop in
and visit!**



Book Café – By Alice F

In Book Café it is very and it is nice just relaxing with my friends. I like to just talk to my friends and read. Some people like to do other things. Mrs How is really nice and said it's ok to do what you like. She sets up lots of activities to do.

YUM YUM you get a snack – it's called Book Café for a reason! You have a small snack of a biscuit and hot chocolate.

At Book Café... (by Izzy)

- We have got chocolate/squash/water**
- We do book journalling**
- I've read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**
- We do a double page spread**
- We read books**

A sponsored
Party for
Pangolins

24th February

Donate via [justgiving](https://www.justgiving.com).



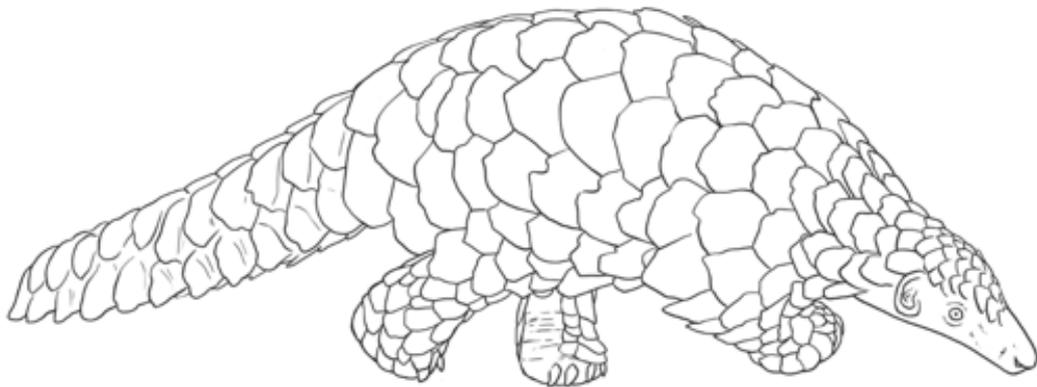
**Fauna
& Flora**
Saving Nature Together

Paint a Pangolin!

Paint your pangolin template in any style. The winner will receive their own cuddly pangolin!

£2 entry.

Please give your painting and entry donation to your class teacher by Monday 16th March 2026.



**Fauna
& Flora**

Saving Nature Together



Daffodil Weekend



Don't forget to sign up to help in the tearoom using the following link!

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RjvC1Z9HpBZPve8t2we00Jgf6BgLSCg91uBGJS1LJvU/edit?usp=drivesdk>

Each helper will receive one free ticket for the day that they help.

Please note that we will be performing as a school at around 11am in the village on Saturday 21st March. We will confirm details nearer the time (exactly where in the village to meet etc) but for now, please pop it in your diaries. It would be wonderful to see everyone there – from Reception to Year 6.

If your child performs on the 21st, you will receive a free ticket for them and for one adult for the 21st.

Thriplow
Daffodil Weekend
& Country Fair



21 & 22 MARCH 2026
10am to 5pm

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

www.thriplowdaffodils.org.uk

*Fun and fresh air for
all the family*

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2026

World Book Day

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2026

At Thriplow, we value reading and books all year round. We encourage children to 'read, read, read' as we recognise that reading unlocks learning and understanding of the world for children.

We mark World Book Day not as a 'one-off' to encourage children to read books, but to celebrate our ongoing love of books, of reading and of language.

This year we are encouraging the children to dress as a book character. This is not for a few weeks, but I know that parents appreciate knowing about these things in good time. If your child does not enjoy dressing up, then there is no pressure to do so.

We are also encouraging the children to make 'toilet roll book characters' at home to bring in on World Book Day for a display in the entrance hall. This could be a good rainy day activity over half term! There is lots of inspiration online.



Information on your child's learning

Ants

It has been an exciting week in Ants class!

In phonics the children have been continuing to learn and recap on different sounds and practicing reading CVCC words. Each day we have read a new sentence together on the board and the children have practiced writing dictated sentences in their phonics books.

In Maths we have begun looking at sharing and finding and making amounts. The children have been listening carefully to word problems and using manipulatives to work out the answers. We will be continuing more with this after half term!

In PE on Wednesday the children were very excited to explore the gymnastic equipment for the last time this half term. The children have all grown in so much confidence and love seeing how high they climb, jump and swing!

In PSHE we have been continuing on with our RSE lessons. We have looked at the differences between a girl and boy baby and learnt the doctor names for these parts, as well as thinking about all the things we can do now that we are older that we could not do when we were babies! The children have also explored why it is important to wash our hands throughout the day and keep ourselves clean in order to stay healthy.

After half term our new topic will be Growing & Changing. We will be looking at nature and how plants grow as well as planting some of our own seeds. We will explore the four seasons and how people and places have changed over time, as well as learning about life cycles and where our food comes from.

I hope you all have a lovely half term!

Butterflies

The children have continued to amaze us this week with their learning.

In Geography, many have remembered the countries that make up The British Isles and could recall a fact about each country. They learnt about Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

As part of our RE learning, Rev'd David visited the class and talked to the children about how the church helps people in the community.

In English we have been writing a postcard from Persephone in the Underworld to her mother, Demeter on the Earth telling her what has happened. The children have also learned the Spike Milligan poem On the Ning Nang Nong- you could ask them to recite it to you.

We would like the children to practise writing sentences correctly and regularly at home. Please use the list of the Common Exception words that we had given out in the Autumn Term, as a guide for your child to put into sentences. The children should be able to spell most of these words accurately.

The children have enjoyed using Phonics Play, please use the link below for your child to practise reading words and sorting them into 'real' or 'fake'

words. <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/5/buried-treasure>

All of the children should be able to log onto PurpleMash independently, please practise and check that your child is able to do this.

We are noticing that some children are becoming quite restless and we have had to remind them to show 'Shine' (Sit/stand up straight, Hands still, In your own space, No noise, Eyes on the speaker). Please can you remind your child of these expectations, especially when returning back to school after half term.

For Phonics this week, we have been practising the /u/ sound. Please encourage your child to read the book attached.

We hope that you and your family have a lovely, restful half term break.

Bees

Bees Class have had a great week. Sadly, we have said goodbye to Miss Medway who has been with us for a considerable time from the University of Cambridge. The children gave her a huge thank you for all the teaching she has done. They were also very grateful for their keyrings which Miss Medway kindly handmade for them!

On Monday, the children continued their series looking at the history of Ely Cathedral. Over the school year, the children are finding out about famous figures in the cathedral's life and they watched the next video this week. The children also **finished their learning on Ecology in Science by looking at how our local environment has changed over time. The children specifically focused on the Fens which they found very interesting.**

On Tuesday, the children finished up their Geography learning on Eastern Europe by learning about the war between Russia and Ukraine. The children found this very topical lesson thought-provoking. The children also finished up their learning on Ancient Egyptian Art by drawing their pictures of Egyptian Gods onto papyrus paper. I was so impressed by their detail!

On Wednesday, the children finished up their gymnastics unit by creating sequences using bridge balances and jumps. The children also did some Latin learning on a soldier's life learning words for centurion.

Throughout this week, in Maths, we have continued our topic on fractions. The children have learnt about equivalent fractions. This learning will continue after half term where yr4 will also start moving onto decimals. In English, the children have continued writing their narrative based on Odysseus' journey through the Sea of Monsters. The children learnt about how to punctuate dialogue and exclamations. We will finish this piece of work after half term.

Thank you to all those who have signed up to Viking Day! We now have enough volunteers - thank you so much to those who have stepped forward.

Please do also continue completing your Pangolin Paintings and return them with your £2 donation. Have a lovely half term!

Dragonflies It has been an exciting last week of half term in Dragonflies. In maths we have been focusing on finding percentages of an amount, we have use bar models to represent finding the part and the whole amount.

In English we have enjoyed reading our class text, Boy in the Tower. In our writing we have written a narrative, incorporating dialogue to advance the action. We have carefully redrafted and

edited this work, thinking about the impact of our choices on the reader.

In our History learning we began our new learning about the Transatlantic Slave Trade, whilst in Geography we begun learning about Australia. In RE, we learned about how Muslims use technology to enable the to more effectively carry about charitable work.

In PE the children created a final sequence of counter balances, tying together their learning from previous weeks to create a routine incorporating different balances and elements.

A reminder that children should only have water in their water bottles and no juice or squash. A note that children have received their homework as normal this Tuesday - this needs to be completed and in school to mark on the first Tuesday after half term.

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Hunter this week, who will be returning to the University of Cambridge ahead of her final teaching placement at another school. The children have very much enjoyed having her in the class and sent her off with a lovely card.

Please look out for information about our school trip to the British Library, which will be sent out in the first week back. There are lots of exciting things to look forward to in the upcoming half term, please do make sure you keep up with the newsletter and emails for key information.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break and look forward to seeing you all after half term.

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.

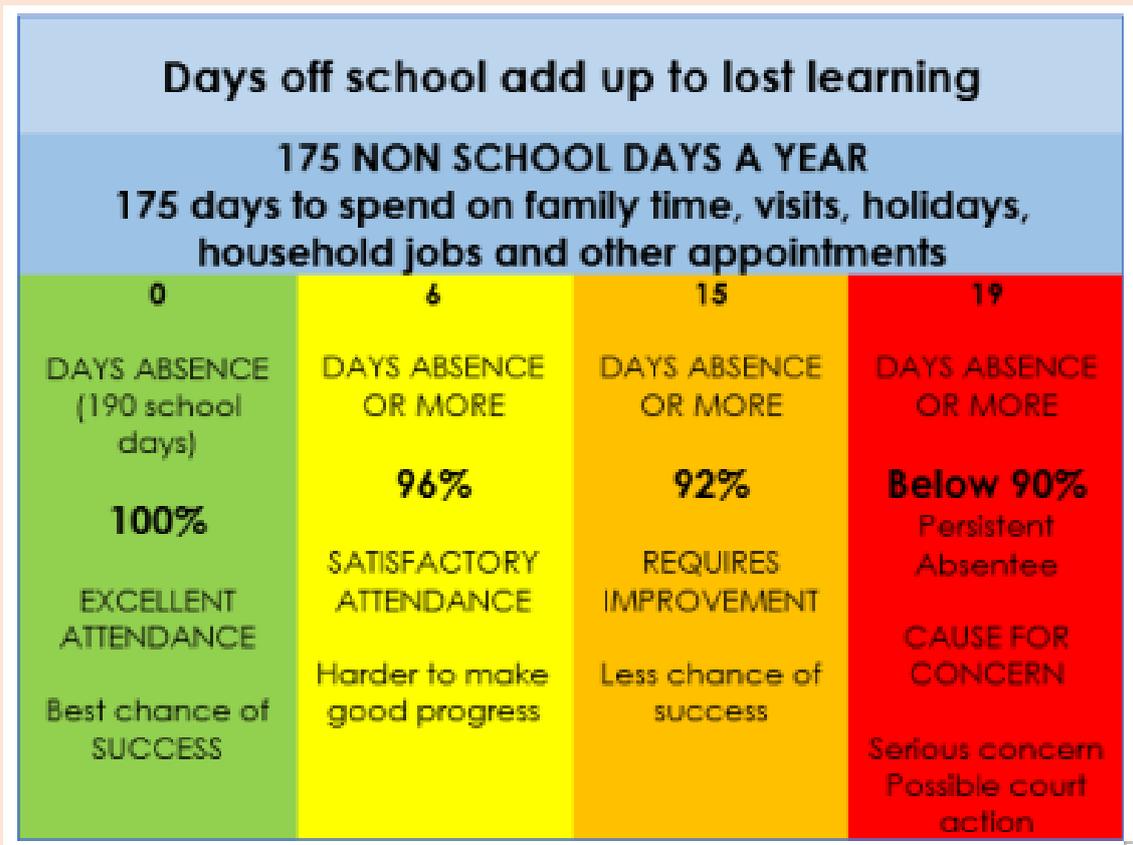
According to the NHS, the perfect lunch box for a child should contain:

- 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



← **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.

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

Fundraising

by **Ladybird Playgroup**

at **Daffodil Weekend**



21st & 22nd March

We Need Your Help



Jar Tombola

Glass or Plastic jars – filled with toys, pencils, sweets etc

Book & Puzzle stall

Books & complete puzzles (both child & adult)

Donations please to:

Ladybird Playgroup 01763 208055 ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

Daffodil Weekend gives Ladybird Playgroup the opportunity to raise funds for the children and the profile of the setting.

Signup sheet to help run the stall will be in place very soon

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

follow

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important – in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly strangers.

UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online: how they look, how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media. However, most people only share the positives about their lives online and many use filters when sharing pictures of themselves. A constant comparison with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

GOING LIVE

Livestreaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real time. Risks increase if the account is public, because that means anyone can watch the broadcast, which could result in further contact from strangers. Additional dangers of going live include an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more viewers, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post such content, it often says 'paid partnership' above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over a quarter of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, accepting their endorsement of products wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this kind of content.

PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms: not receiving as many 'likes' as expected; not being tagged in a friend's photo; being unfriended; not receiving a comment on their post or a reply to a message they sent. Being excluded online hurts just as much as offline. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

Advice for Parents & Educators

AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user wants to share their clothing style, make up or similar and use product tagging to show off the items in their post, they may be tempted to change their settings to public. This leaves their profile visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a child's account to private and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings will ensure only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a child continuously uses filters on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they don't need it.

MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the total likes on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over that number in the corner. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes a person gets. This can be done by going into Settings > Notifications > Posts > Likes > Off.

USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a mechanic called 'Moderators', meaning that creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and remove the ability for certain viewers to comment at all. Consider this if a child in your care wants to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in communal spaces so you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell them a product when they make a video endorsing it.

BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. Make sure children sign in to the platform with the correct age, as Instagram's 'Teen Accounts' afford much more control for parents and carers over how long they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



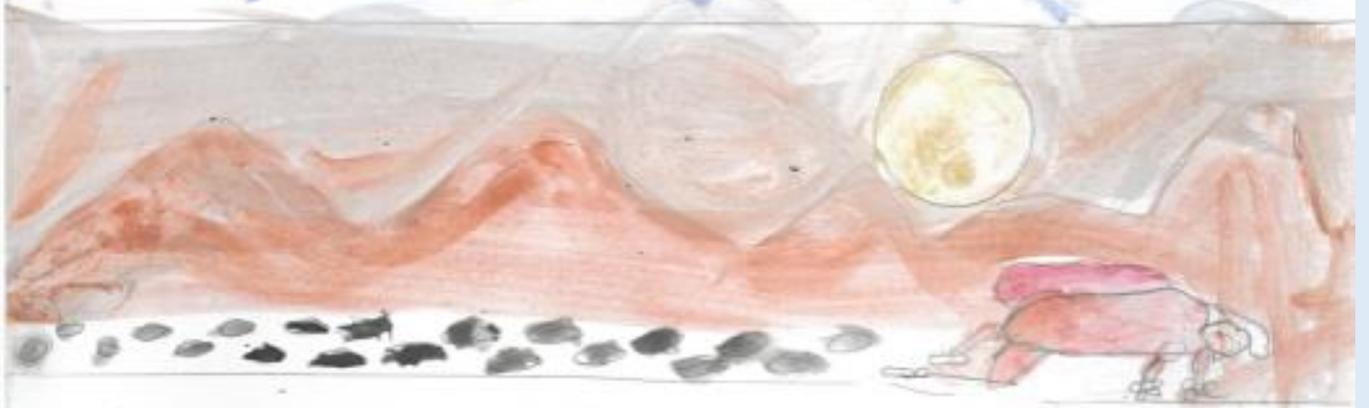
The National College

For AS long AS people Have Looked for Adventurers,
Some Have Also Found Danger.

WINNER - Blue Peter Book Award



SURVIVORS



EXTRAORDINARY TALES FROM THE WILD AND BEYOND



DAVID LONG

KERRY WYNDMAN

SHIPWRECK ISLAND

The Enemy is everywhere...



The Boy The
Moule the Fox and the horse



Bob White

Charlotte's Web



THE *Accidental* PRIME MINISTER



TOM McLELLIN

SURVIVORS

(Pacific Ocean, 1983)

My junior chapter is 'The women who sailed into a hurricane!'
She was twenty-three-year-old and named Taimi Oldham
and her fiancé Richard Sharp. They were sailing a luxury
yacht from Tahiti in the South Pacific to the American
port of San Diego. It should have taken a month, and good weather
forecast the pair were looking forward to enjoying some excellent
sailing.



The Amazing story of Adolphus Tips

Adolphus Tips is a brave cute cat who
is always disappearing. she is black and white
but green eyed. She's very curious and
wonders what's going on when war happens
(Why is there big bangs?). She has babies unex-
pected place a crushing building!!



