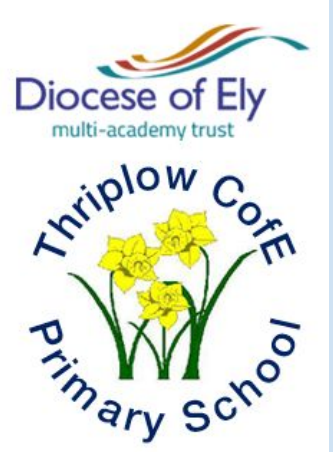


# Thriplow School Newsletter

17th April 2026



Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday. I have really enjoyed hearing about all the things that the children have been doing. We were delighted to welcome Thomas and Owen and their family into Year 3 this week!

Some of the children in Ants and Butterflies enjoyed their very first Book Cafe in the library. We enjoyed reading 'Paddington' together and making marmalade sandwiches!

Reception had their first Balanceability session Wednesday. Unfortunately the weather was not on their side but they enjoyed learning about the part of a bike and how to be safe. Fingers crossed they get outside next week!

Congratulations to Emily N, Oliver N, Emily W, Kitty, Amy and Josie who have completed the 20 Books Challenge.

It was so lovely to welcome parents, grandparents and siblings to our Open Classroom event this afternoon. We hope that those of you who were able to come enjoyed yourselves!

During the summer term, we ask that the children have a sun hat in school everyday. This is to ensure that it becomes habit as we do not let children go outside without a hat in sunny weather in the Summer Term. Please ensure your child's hat is named.

When the weather gets warmer, we would advise you to apply an 8 hour sun cream on your child before school. If you feel your child needs a top-up at any point during the day, you will need to bring sun cream in its original bottle (i.e. not a 'solar buddy' or equivalent) and give it to your child's teacher to be stored securely. Children will need to be able to apply the suncream themselves at a set point in the day. Because of a severe allergy in school, please ensure that the sun cream does not contain ***prunus amygdalus dulcis***. This is an almond oil present in some creams.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,  
Lucy How



"Nothing beats kindness," said the horse. "It sits quietly beyond all things."



MAT of the Year  
2024



[www.facebook.com/thriplowschool](https://www.facebook.com/thriplowschool)



[www.instagram.com/thriplow.school](https://www.instagram.com/thriplow.school)



[x.com/thriplowschool](https://x.com/thriplowschool)

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 yourself with kindness. *Colossians 3:12*

# Important Dates

<b>22nd April</b>	Litter Pick for Earth Day
<b>22nd April</b>	Tudor Day (Butterflies)
<b>23rd April</b>	A-Team Plate Netball finals
<b>27th April</b>	Year 3 Bikeability level 1
<b>29th April</b>	Hautbois information evening for parents (3.30pm in Dragonflies Classroom)
<b>1st May</b>	EYFS and KS1 Farm visit
<b>WB 11th May</b>	SATS week
<b>WB 18th May</b>	KS2 Residential (Year 5 and 6)
<b>22nd May</b>	No Celebration Collective Worship
<b>Fortnight Beginning 1st June</b>	Multiplication Check fortnight (Year 4)

# Important Dates

<b>5th June</b>	DEMAT Art Exhibition
<b>WB 8th June</b>	Phonics Screening check week (Year 1)
<b>10th June</b>	Year 5/6 Cricket Tournament
<b>WB 15th June</b>	Poetry Recital Competition
<b>18th June</b>	Information evening for parents of Reception September 2026
<b>23rd June</b>	Bees Trip to St. Paul's
<b>24th June</b>	Sports day (First thing - will finish 11.15ish)
<b>30th June</b>	Year 3/4 Cricket Tournament
<b>3rd July</b>	Reports out
<b>8th July</b>	Key Stage 2 Summer Production 2.30pm
<b>9th July</b>	Key Stage 2 Summer Production 7pm
<b>16th July</b>	Transition morning
<b>17th July</b>	Leavers' Service. Parents of leavers welcome to attend

# Term Dates

## Summer Term 2025

Start of Term	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>
Half Term	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>INSET Day</b>	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>
End of Term	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>INSET Day</b>	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>

## Autumn Term 2026

<b>INSET Day</b>	<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>
Start of Term	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September
<b>INSET Day</b>	<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>
Half Term	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October - Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October
End of Term	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December

## Spring Term 2027

Start of Term	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>INSET Day</b>	<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>
Half Term	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
End of Term	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March

## Summer Term

Start of Term	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>
Half Term	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May - Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>INSET Day</b>	<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>
End of Term	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>INSET Day</b>	<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>



## 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.

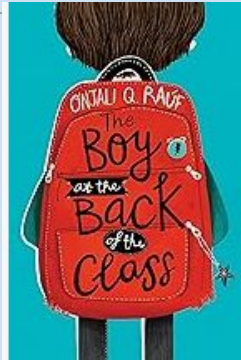
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection>

# Birthday Books

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.

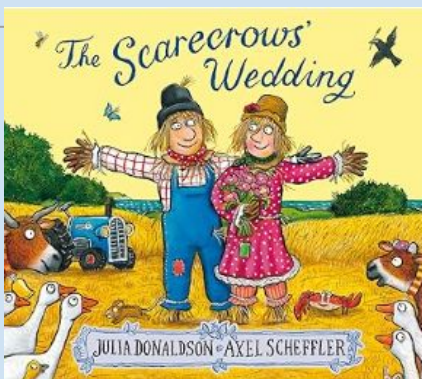
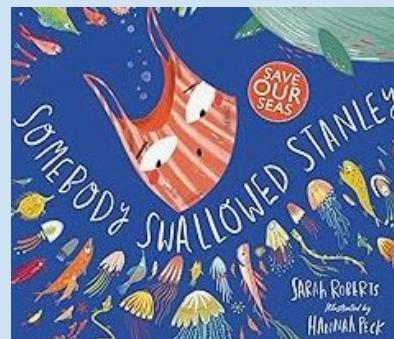
<https://amzn.eu/ez2OYOf>

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



Many thanks to Ruby for donating this book on the occasion of her 10th birthday.

Many thanks to Olivia for donating this book on the occasion of her 5th birthday.



Many thanks to Esca for donating this book on the occasion of his 5th birthday.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**Happy birthday to Esca, Finn, Lily-Anne  
and Annabelle who have celebrated  
their birthdays recently!**



# House Points

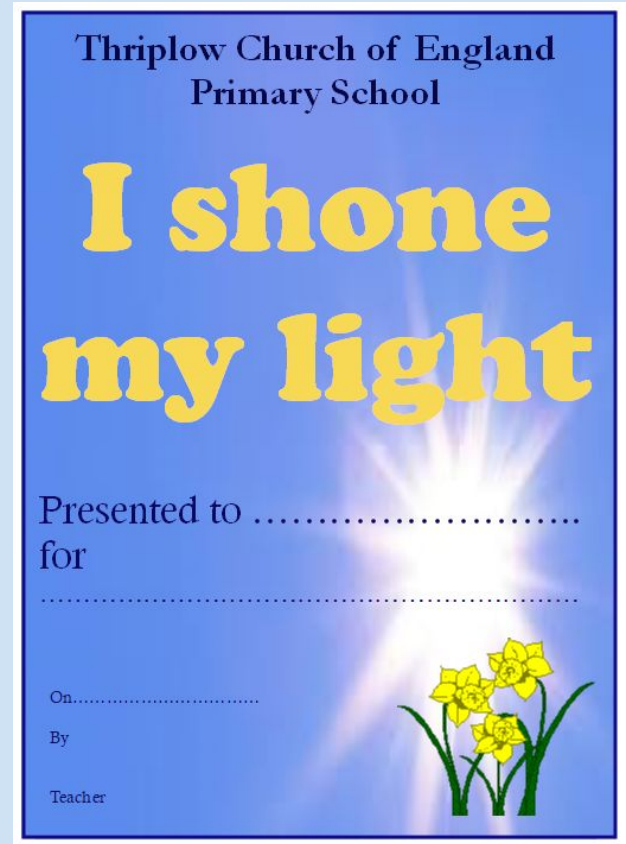
	<b>Total this Week</b>	<b>Total this Term</b>
<b>Bacon</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Barenton</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Bassett</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Bury</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

**Well done Bacon!**

# Certificate Winners

Our certificate winners this week are:

- Lois (Reception)
- Reggie (Year 1)
- Elias (Year 1)
- Owen (Year 3)
- Freddie (Year 3)
- Lila (Year 4)
- Betsy (Year 5)
- Nelly (Year 5)



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

- Zack (Respect)
- Emily W (Confidence)
- Finn (Achievement)
- Thomas B-S (Confidence)
- Robyn (Kindness)



**Thriplow Primary School**



**Library**



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



**Please pop in  
and visit!**



# Your child's learning

## Ants:

It has been a lovely first week back in Ant's class and I have very much enjoyed hearing what everyone has been up to over the Easter holidays!

Our topic for this half term is Kings & Queens! We have begun this week by learning about King Charles and the royal family. We looked at some pictures and videos of the royal family and looked at our past kings and queens, as well as learning what the Royal Cypher is. We also explored our countries flag, the Union Jack, and had a go at creating our own!

In phonics this half term we have move onto unit 11. Each week we will be focusing on 2 sounds from unit 11, with a recap of the sounds learnt the week before through our sentences writing. Each day the children practice reading words, word building, writing words, and reading sentences as well as twice weekly sentence writing in their phonics books. For handwriting this half term, the children are practicing writing 2 CVC words a day in their phonics books. We practice and model it all together on the carpet first before the children go to the tables and have a try. we practice writing each word repeatedly at least 3 times on a line.

In Literacy we have started our story for this half term, The Rainbow Fish. This week we have been exploring the story and focusing on the key emotions in the books.

In Maths we have explored conceptual subitising to and within 5 and 7. The children have been using their subitising skills to recognise numbers on a variety of resources such as flashcards, dice, and rekenreks, as well as using five frames and tens frames to show different representations of numbers.

In PE on Wednesday's this half term the children have balanceability. Balanceability is a structured balance bike programme for young children that teaches them how to ride a bike safely and confidently, without stabilisers. It focuses on the fundamental skills children need before they move on to a pedal bike.

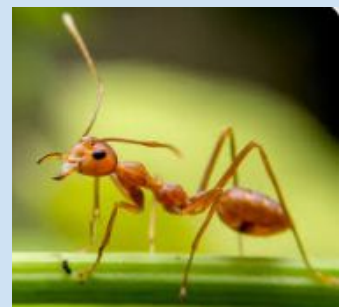
In the sessions, children learn through fun, practical activities how to:

- balance on a bike
- steer and control speed
- develop coordination and spatial awareness
- build confidence and independence
- understand road safety basics in an age-appropriate way

On Friday's this half term we will be focusing on Ball Skills. This week we explored how to push the ball but still making sure it is close to us and under control. We practiced pushing just using our fingers, pushing the ball up into the air before catching it.

In PSHE our topic for this half term is Emotions. This week we read the story How do you feel? by Anthony Browne. We discussed each feeling as it came up in the story and identified the key things in someone's face/body that tell us they are feeling this way. We shared our own examples of when we have felt a certain way e.g. happy, and what made us feel that way and why.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend!



## **Butterflies:**

**Welcome back, we hope that you and the family had a lovely Easter. The children were very keen to share what they have been doing. It has been great to welcome the children back. They have continued to amaze us with their work this week.**

**Our focus for Maths for the next few weeks will be on addition and subtraction. The Y1 children have been writing addition facts, using their knowledge of number bonds to 10. The Y2 children have been focussing on subtraction facts, and have also been using their knowledge of number bonds to 10. Please practise some facts with your child.**

**For Geography, the children have started the new topic 'Northern Europe' and were very keen to share the places that they have been to. We named the five countries that are in Northern Europe and labelled these on a map. Please encourage your child to name the five countries that are in Northern Europe. If your child has visited these places, please share some photos on Tapestry.**

**In English the children have been practising a performance poem, 'Duck's Ditty,' by Kenneth Grahame. Please encourage your child to perform this to you.**

**In Phonics, we have been focussing on the different ways to spell the sound /air/**

**We hope that you enjoy the weekend, as the weather is becoming warmer. Please remember that your child needs to bring in a sun-hat every day to school.**



## Bees:

Bees Class have enjoyed a great first week back to the summer term. It has been lovely to welcome Thomas and Owen to our class. We have started lots of new topics this week and the children have been enthusiastic about our learning.

On Monday, in Science, we started our learning all about the water cycle. We focused on the three states of matter - solids, liquids and gas - and conducted an experiment to see what happened when ice heated up. In RE, the children started learning about pilgrimages. To begin our learning we made a poster all about the River Ganges, a popular Hindu pilgrimage destination.

On Tuesday, we enjoyed labelling a map of the South East of England (the area we will be learning about this term). We also began our Art topic where we will be considering monuments from the Byzantine Empire. We started our unit by focusing on a mosaic of Mary, Constantine and Justinian that is found in the Hagia Sofia.

On Wednesday, the children learnt about fire safety in PSHE. We discussed the importance of knowing what to do when we hear the fire alarm. We plotted routes out of a house. We also began our Athletics topic in PE by focusing on the difference between throwing for distance and throwing for accuracy.

Today, the children really enjoyed our cricket lesson that we completed after beginning our learning on the Stuarts in History. The children learnt all about how James VI of Scotland became James I of England with the union of crowns.

Throughout this week, in Maths, we have started a new topic of measurements. The children have learnt about mass and capacity so far. We will think about length next week. In English, we have really enjoyed starting our new book - *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. A highlight was when the children drew a picture of Edward based on the description from the book. We have also started to learn different techniques that we can use when writing a biography. Next week, we will use these techniques to start writing our own biographies about Kate DiCamillo (the author of our book).



## Dragonflies:

We have had a busy first week back!

In English, we have begun reading our new class text, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis. In our writing, we are spending each week looking back at our previous writing learning from this academic year and redrafting these to show off our improved writing skills! This week we rewrote our narrative where Michael and Mina meet Skellig in the garage.

In maths we have been working on Algebra. We have been writing expressions and formula as well as using substitution to calculate different algebraic problems. Next week, we will begin revisiting previous learning on written division and multiplication methods.

In Science we have been learning about life cycles. This week we looked at the life cycles of newts and chimpanzees. In History, we learning about the automation of cotton spinning during the industrial revolution, including the conditions of the factories and the impact of the move to mass production had on the world.

On Thursday, we enjoyed some time outside playing cricket as part of our PE learning. On Monday, we worked on our throwing technique focusing on accuracy and distance.

Also on Thursday, we were lucky enough to be joined by Mrs Fisher who helped us with some gardening. Each child planted a 'harlequin' sun flower seed. These are now living at the back of the classroom to be looked after as they begin to grow. We are excited to plant these out around the school later in the summer term. We are very grateful to Mrs Fisher for her helped and enjoyed spending time with her again

On Friday, we continued our geography learning about New Zealand. We found out about the history of New Zealand and the culture of the Maori people.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our open afternoon today. I know the children really enjoyed sharing books with you and welcoming you to our class. We are very much looking forward to our netball team competing in the netball final on Thursday afternoon.



# Attendance

365 days in a year

190 days in a school year to support pupils to maintain and even exceed expected attainment outcomes.

175 days for other activities like holidays, appointments, days out, family events

100% attendance	zero days missed	Perfection!
99% attendance	Two days of absence across the year	Excellent!
97% attendance	Five days of absence across the year	Good
95% attendance	Nine days of absence across the year: one week and four days of learning missed. Lost learning is likely to start affecting pupil performance, confidence and self-esteem.	Satisfactory
90% attendance	Twenty days of absence across the year; four weeks of learning missed. Pupils will find it difficult to keep up with work and achieve their best.	Concerns
85% attendance	Thirty days of absence across the year: six weeks of	Serious

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



## Keep them fuller for longer

Base the main lunchbox item on foods like bread, rice, pasta and potatoes. Choose wholegrain where you can.



## Freeze for variety

Keep a small selection of different types of bread in the freezer so you have a variety of options – like bagels, pittas and wraps, granary, wholemeal and multigrain.



## DIY lunches

Wraps and pots of fillings can be more exciting for kids when they get to make them. Dipping foods are also fun and a nice change from a sandwich each day.



## Cut back on fat

Pick lower-fat fillings – like lean meats (including chicken or turkey), fish (such as tuna or salmon), lower-fat spread, reduced-fat cream cheese and reduced-fat hard cheese. And try to avoid using mayonnaise in sandwiches.



## Mix your slices

If your child does not like wholegrain, try making a sandwich from 1 slice of white bread and 1 slice of brown bread.



## Always add veg

Cherry tomatoes, or sticks of carrot, cucumber, celery and peppers all count towards their 5 A Day. Adding a small pot of reduced-fat hummus or other dips may help with getting kids to eat vegetables.



## Ever green

Always add salad to sandwiches and wraps too – it all counts towards your child's 5 A Day!



## Cheesy does it...

Cheese can be high in fat and salt, so choose stronger-tasting ones – and use less of it – or try reduced-fat varieties.



## Cut down on crisps

If your child really likes their crisps try reducing the number of times you include them in their lunchbox, and swap for homemade plain popcorn or plain rice cakes instead.



## Add bite-sized fruit

Try chopped apple, peeled satsuma segments, strawberries, blueberries, halved grapes or melon slices to make it easier for them to eat. Add a squeeze of lemon juice to stop it from going brown.



### Tinned fruit counts too

A small pot of tinned fruit in juice – not syrup – is perfect for a lunchbox and easily stored in the cupboard.



### Swap the fruit bars

Dried fruit like raisins, sultanas and dried apricots are not only cheaper than processed fruit bars and snacks but can be healthier too. Just remember to keep dried fruit to mealtimes as it can be bad for teeth.



### Switch the sweets

Swap cakes, chocolate, cereal bars and biscuits for fruited teacakes, fruit breads or fruit (fresh, dried or tinned – in juice not syrup).



### Yoghurts: go low-fat and lower-sugar

Pop in low-fat and lower-sugar yoghurts or fromage frais and add your own fruit.



### Get them involved

Get your kids involved in preparing and choosing what goes in their lunchbox. They are more likely to eat it if they helped make it.



### Variety is the spice of lunch!

Be adventurous and get creative to mix up what goes in their lunchbox. Keeping them guessing with healthier ideas will keep them interested and more open to trying things.



### Plan to Eatwell

The guide shows how much of what we eat overall should come from each food group to achieve a healthy, balanced diet. It can be really useful when thinking about what goes into kids' lunchboxes.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/food-guidelines-and-food-labels/the-eatwell-guide/>

# 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](mailto:ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com)

Phone: 01763 208055



