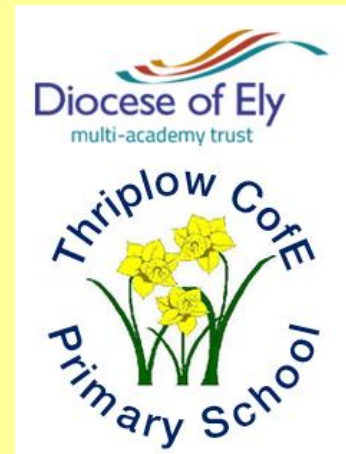


Thriplow School Newsletter

12th December 2025



As we come to the end of a very long term, can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this term. September feels a long time ago and I am so proud of everything we have achieved as a school community. I do believe that Thriplow School is an incredibly special community.

We've had some wonderful festive moments this week. Lucy Beeton's actors and her KS1 singers performed so confidently to an audience after school on Monday. Our Key Stage 2 children then showcased their musical talents on Tuesday. I was so impressed by the breadth of musical talent.

The children enjoyed making Christingles on Wednesday and learning about the symbolism of the Christingle. We had a special Christingle Collective Worship in the afternoon. Many thanks for providing your child with an orange and to the Children's Society for providing candles and tape.

Next week I will be delivering 4 very full hampers to Winter Comfort. Many, many thanks for your generosity in supporting Winter Comfort this Christmas.

We so enjoyed celebrating the end of term at our Carol Service this afternoon. It was a lovely way to end our term. Thank you for being such a wonderful congregation.

Don't forget the Christmas Reading challenge! Details of the challenge are further down the newsletter. It would be wonderful if your child complete some of all of the challenges and hopefully you'll find them helpful to enable some quality time reading over the holidays. Please feel free to record books in any way that suits you – either creatively or a simple tick list. You can submit what your child has read on paper or via the office email. We'll award certificates in Celebration Collection Worship after the holidays.

I hope you all have the most wonderful Christmas,

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*

20 th January	Young Voices
WB 2 nd February	Relationships and Sex Education Week
12 th February	Hockey Tournament
24 th February	Parent Consultations
26 th February	Parent Consultations
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
21 st – 22 nd March	Daffodil Weekend
26 th March	Dragonflies Trip to the British Library
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



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.

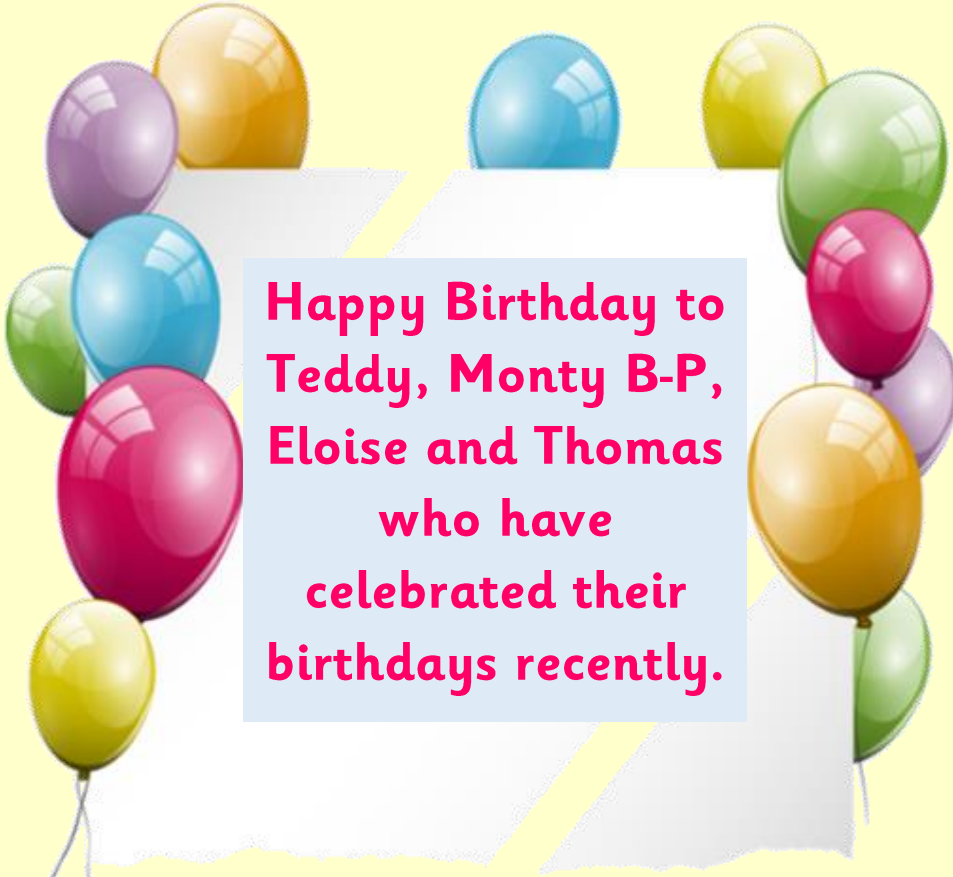
If you feel that a child is at immediate risk of harm you can access further advice and guidance here.

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

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
Teddy, Monty B-P,
Eloise and Thomas
who have
celebrated their
birthdays recently.**

House Points

**Our winning this house
this term are Bassett!
Yesterday we gathered in
the hall to award Bassett
House the cup, but also to
celebrate with all the
children the many, many
house points they have
achieved this term.**

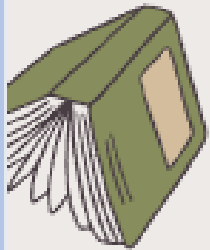




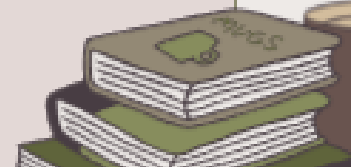
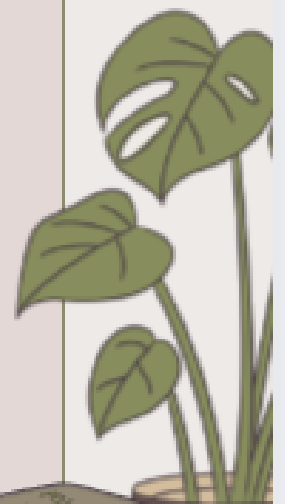
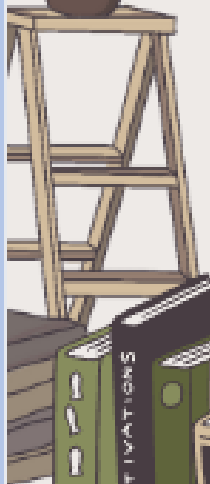
Thriplow Primary School Library



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



**Please pop in
and visit!**



Information on your child's learning

Ants It has been a lovely last week of term in Ant's class!

The children very much enjoyed making their Christingles and learning about why we make one at this time of year. We also created our own Christmas hats to wear during Christmas lunch, which got a big thumbs up from all of the children! It was lovely going down to the church today for the carol service, which the children were all very excited about, and it was nice to see some of you there.

When we come back after Christmas our class topic will be Space. We will be learning all about space, our planet, and the jobs that astronauts do within our understanding the world lessons. In Phonics we will be moving onto unit 6, looking at the sounds j, w, z, and continuing to practice our handwriting every day and write dictated sentences. In maths we will start by looking at positional language and learn how to direct each other to different parts of the school. In Literacy our new story will be 'We're going on a bear hunt'! In the first week we will be exploring the book, creating actions to go with the repeated refrains, and going on our own 'bear hunt'!

It has been a pleasure getting to know you and your children this term. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and I will see you in the new year!

Butterflies What a wonderful end to the term. This week, the children have enjoyed making their Christingles and their party hats for their Christmas lunch.

It has been wonderful to see so many children wanting to share their experience of Christmas with their families. Thank you for supporting your child with either uploading photos onto Tapestry, or encouraging them to bring something in, to help them with their discussions. We also finished our remaining lessons for the term. In History, the children enjoyed learning about the Roman Towns, and where they are in Britain. If you are able to visit any of the main towns: London, Colchester, St Albans or Bath, then please make a point to look for clues of Roman influence. In RE we listened to some stories from Sikhism and thought about how we can show kindness in the world.

We would also like to say thank you for the support that you have shown us and to thank you all for your kindness of gifts and cards.

We hope that you have a lovely Christmas with your families and are looking forward to welcoming the children back into the New Year of 2026.

Merry Christmas

Bees Bees Class have had a lovely last week of term before the Christmas break. On Monday, the children really enjoyed finishing the Oliver Twist film. They also thought about their own spiritual places in RE. On Tuesday, I was so proud of all the children as they performed in the Key Stage 2 Concert. Individual and group performances were all so well-rehearsed and wonderful to watch. On Wednesday, the children enjoyed learning about Christingles and making them. We also had a great hockey tournament outside to finish up our learning in PE. Throughout this week in Maths, we have finished up our learning on multiplication. The children are now really confident

with written multiplication methods. Please do keep practicing on TTRS over the holidays. In English, the children have been learning a poem entitled "Crying my little one, footsore and weary" by Christina Rossetti. They did a great job at memorising it today before the lovely Christmas Carol Service to end our term. I have been so impressed by how the class have risen to the challenges of Key Stage 2 this term. It has been an excellent start to the academic year. Thank you all for your very generous Christmas gift. I hope you have a restful Christmas break and I look forward to welcoming all the children back in January.

Dragonflies It has been a very busy and festive final week of term. In our maths learning we have been looking at converting metric and imperial measures. In English, we have planned, written and edited our final history report on Baghdad. In RE, we began our new topic where we learned about the Book of Kells and the Lindisfarne Gospels. In science, we first looked at different animals (the mayfly and elephant) before we compared the similarities and differences in their life cycles. On Tuesday, the children did a fantastic job at the KS2 concert. They performed beautifully as a class, both singing and playing the recorder. There were many excellent individual performances as well. On Wednesday, we learned about the significance of the Christingle. We made our own Christingles and lit some in a whole school service in the afternoon. Yesterday, we enjoyed a very tasty Christmas lunch in the hall wearing our hats that we made in the morning! Please don't forget that your child will need their own copy of our class text for next half term in school on the first day back (*The Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen). I hope you all have a restful holiday and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



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!

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

Festive Tips for a SCREEN-FREE CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, why not unplug and rediscover the simple joys of spending time together? Here are some festive, screen-free ideas to help families laugh, create, and connect in the old-fashioned way.

1 GET CREATIVE AND CRAFTY

Bring out the glue, glitter, and imagination to make your home sparkle with handmade cheer.

- **Make decorations:** Try paper snowflakes, salt-dough ornaments, or pinecone garlands for the tree.
- **Christmas card workshop:** Design and decorate cards for friends, family, or neighbours.
- **DIY gifts:** Craft photo frames, bath salts, or 'kindness coupons' offering hugs, chores, or treats.

2 BAKE, BUILD, AND TASTE TOGETHER

The kitchen is the heart of Christmas, and it smells divine when everyone's baking.

- **Festive baking:** Bake and decorate cookies, mince pies, or cupcakes together.
- **Gingerbread challenge:** Build a gingerbread house and let the kids take charge of decorating!
- **Sweet treat swap:** Wrap up homemade goodies to gift to friends or neighbours.

3 SLOW DOWN AND BE PRESENT

The greatest gift you can give is your attention.

- **Digital Detox Day:** Choose one day to switch off all screens and enjoy each other fully.
- **Gratitude Gathering:** Share what you are thankful for from the past year.
- **Memory Moments:** Take photos with a disposable camera or sketch favourite holiday scenes.

4 ENJOY COSY, INDOOR FUN

Cold outside? No problem, turn your home into a festive retreat.

- **Family game night:** Play board or card games, from Uno to festive trivia.
- **Hot chocolate bar:** Set up a 'cocoa station' with marshmallows, cream, and candy canes.
- **Puzzle power:** Work together on a big jigsaw puzzle — slow, calm, and wonderfully mindful.

5 HOLD A FAMILY TALENT SHOW

Let everyone shine with a little Christmas sparkle and imagination.

- **Perform together:** Sing, dance, tell jokes, or stage a short Christmas play.
- **Make costumes:** Use household items to design festive outfits or props.
- **Award the stars:** Give fun prizes like 'Best Performance' or 'Most Festive Outfit.'

6 READ, WRITE, AND IMAGINE

Nurture creativity and quiet time with stories that come to life.

- **Story hour:** Read holiday tales aloud by the tree or under a blanket fort.
- **Write a story or comic:** Create Christmas adventures starring your family or pets.
- **Book swap:** Exchange favourite books and read each other's choices.

7 EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Wrap up warm, breathe the crisp winter air, and find magic in nature.

- **Winter nature walks:** Spot birds, berries, and frosty patterns while collecting natural treasures.
- **Christmas light hunt:** Take an evening stroll to admire twinkling lights in your community.
- **Scavenger hunt:** Hide small surprises around the garden or park.

8 GIVE BACK AND SPREAD KINDNESS

Christmas feels even warmer when shared with others.

- **Kindness countdown:** Do one good deed a day, from helping at home to writing thank-you notes.
- **Donate together:** Collect food, toys, or clothes for a local charity.
- **Neighbourly cheer:** Deliver homemade treats or cards to someone spending Christmas alone.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUp
Wednesday®

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