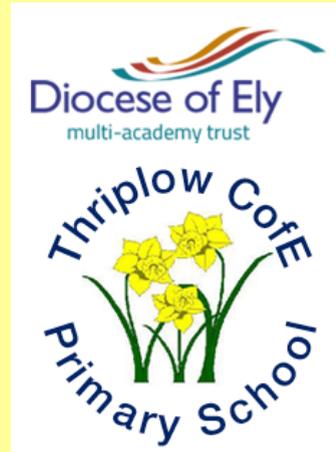


Thriplow School Newsletter

20th March 2026



It has been wonderful to see the sun shining this week and seeing the village getting ready for Daffodil Weekend. We are so looking forward to seeing as many children as possible tomorrow in 'Taste of Thriplow' at 11am. There will be members of staff near to the stage - please bring your children to us and we will get them organised. A reminder that they can wear their own clothes but with a school sweatshirt/cardigan over the top. Maypolers need to make sure that they can dance in whatever they choose to wear.

I want to say a huge thank you to the group of parents who helped us out by doing tip runs this week. We are so grateful for giving your time to get our school ready for Daffodil Weekend. A huge thanks in advance to everyone who is volunteering in the tea room this weekend. We are so grateful. A big thank you in particular to the PTA Core Committee for all you have done so far.

Bees Class had a wonderful day on Tuesday immersing themselves in a Viking Day run by History off the Page. The children commented "I enjoyed Viking Day because we got to dress up as Vikings and we really enjoyed it", "Viking Day was fun because we learned how to use shields and bows. We learned that the Vikings used horns to drink mead", "I liked Viking Day because I learnt that archaeologists found out so much from digging a village" and "I enjoyed Viking Day because I learned that the Vikings used horns to drink from and that they found a whole Viking village in York. There were lots of activities so we could learn more". Many thanks to the parents who volunteered to help. You were all wonderful!

We were thrilled to see so many children entering our 'Paint a Pangolin' competition. The standard was so high and the pangolins are now displayed in the hall for all to

see. We have chosen a 'Highly Commended' for each year group. Well done to Maya (Reception), Elias (Year 1), Connor (Year 2), Izzy (Year 3), Edward (Year 4), Ellie (Year 5) and Maddie (Year 6). Our overall winner was Freddie in Year 6. Well done everyone! The competition raised over £100 for Fauna and Flora

Well done to Ralph in Year 1, Amy in Year 6 and Leo in Year 6 who have completed the 20 Book Challenge. A fantastic achievement!

Our Trust, DEMAT, are looking to re-design the logos of the schools within the trust. They have asked schools and communities to identify an image that is most closely linked with the school. I am fairly confident that this is a daffodil! If you disagree or have other ideas, then please do let me know over the next few days.

I hope you all have a wonderful Daffodil Weekend.

Best wishes,

Lucy



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



<https://x.com/thriplowschool>

**MAT of
the Year
2024**



<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*

21 st – 22 nd March	Daffodil Weekend
26 th March	Dragonflies Trip to the British Library
27 th March	Church Service (2.30pm). All welcome.
15 th April	Balance Bikeability starts for Reception
16 th April	Holy communion - 9.10am. All welcome.
17 th April	Open Classroom event – 3pm
22 nd April	Tudor Day
23 rd April	A-Team Plate netball finals
27 th April	Year 3/4 Bikeability level 1
29 th April	Hautbois information evening for parents (3.30pm in Dragonflies Classroom)
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)
17 th July	Leavers' Service. Parents of leavers welcome to attend

Term Dates

Spring Term 2025	
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
Bank Holiday	Monday 3^d May
Half Term	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June
INSET Day	Monday 7th June
End of Term	Tuesday 20 th July
INSET Day	Wednesday 21st 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>

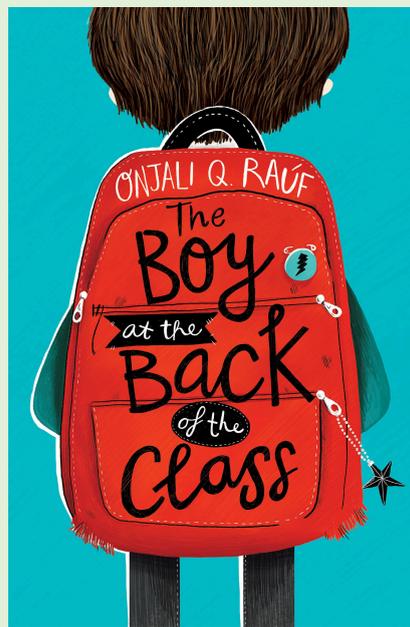


Happy Birthday to
Sophia,
Jenson,
Ruby
and
Olivia

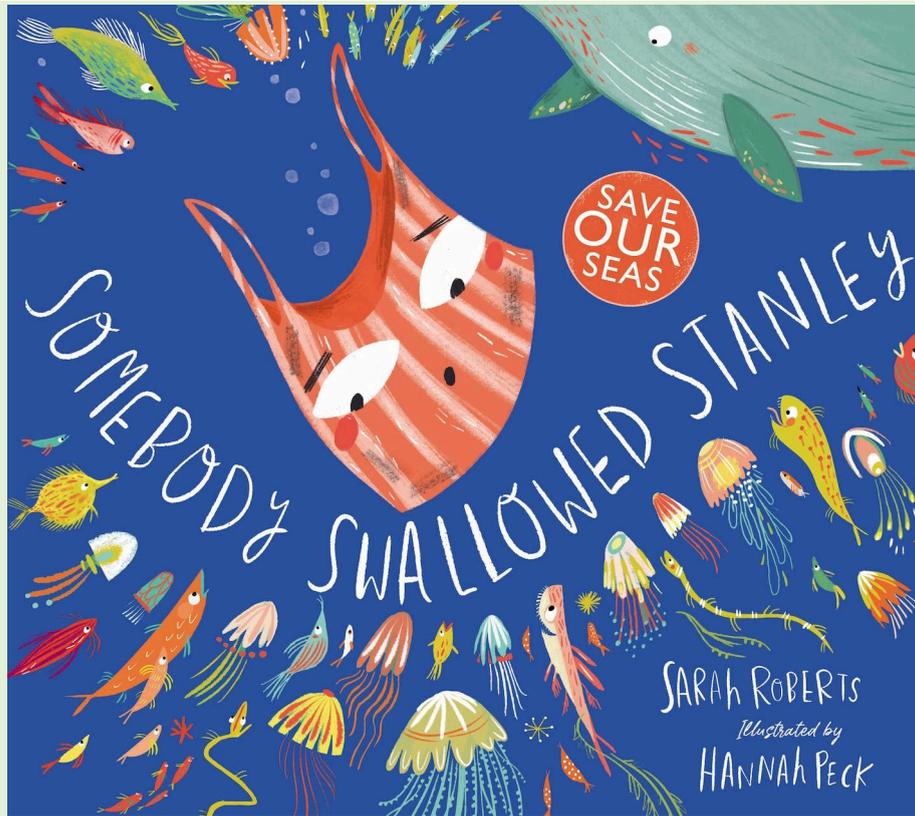
who have celebrated
their birthdays this
week!



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.



House Points

Our totals for this week!	Total this week	Total this term
Bacon	176	801
Barenton	156	687
Bury	190	740
Bassett	172	664



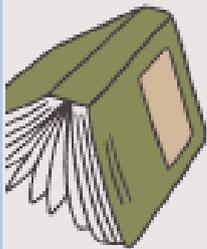
Thriplow Primary School



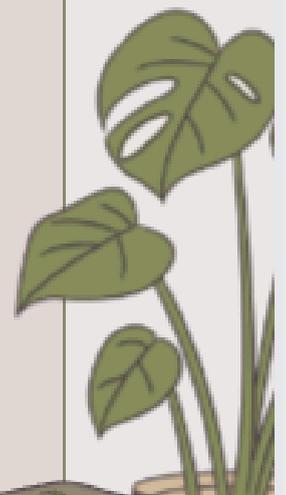
Library



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



**Please pop in
and visit!**





Ants and Butterflies

Book Café

IN THE LIBRARY

13TH APRIL, 20TH APRIL, 27TH APRIL AND 11TH MAY



Places are limited and will be awarded on a 'first come, first served' basis - book via MCAS from 6pm 2/3/26



FREE Easter Crafts Workshop for Children!

on Good Friday, 3rd April,
at St. Mary's Church Fowlmere
10:00 – 12:00

Have fun making Easter gardens, Easter treat boxes, colourful pen pots, Easter decorations and lots more!

Enjoy refreshments with hot cross buns and home baked cakes.

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE using this QR code



Or this link <https://forms.gle/pqTMajt5zaEcZtCh6>

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Information on your child's learning

Ants It has been an exciting week in Ants class!

For our topic, **Growing and Changing**, the children have been learning all about fruits and vegetables and where they come from. We explored fruits and vegetables that grow on trees and bushes, underground, and on top of the ground. We read the story of the **Ginormous Turnip** before having a taste of some different fruits and vegetables!

In phonics the children have been continuing to learn and recap on different sounds and practicing reading CVCC and CCVC words. Each day the children practice sound swapping, word building, writing, and reading words and sentences. We have also continued to practice our handwriting using whiteboards.

In Literacy we have been continuing on with our story of this half term, **Little Red Riding**. This week the children have been focusing on writing instructions for **Little Red Riding Hood** so she can stay safe next time she goes out into the woods, and coming up with our own story endings.

In Maths we have been practicing our perceptual subitising skills to 5. The children are getting very quick at seeing subitising patterns and have been creating their own, as well as playing subitising games, and collecting the correct amount of objects to go with a given number.

In PSHE we have been continuing on with our Identity and Diversity topic. This week we were focusing on families and the different outings they go on. We also had a go at answering the question 'If you were going to the moon, what one thing would you bring with you from home?'

For Art this week we all had a go at creating our own animals using clay. We had some ladybirds, chicks, snakes, cats, a butterfly, penguin, an octopus, and a dog!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend!

Butterflies

Bees

Bees Class have enjoyed a fun week, a highlight being Tuesday's Viking Day. The children loved going back to the year 878 and experiencing life as it would have been. The children were fantastic and awarded 20 house points each by Lisa from History off the Page. Thank you for your effort with the costumes - the children looked amazing!

As well as Viking Day, we have had a busy week with lots of other learning. On Monday, in our History lesson, we learnt about the Norman Invasion. The children were fascinated to find out about the Battle of Hastings and William the conqueror. In Art, the children neatly painted their Anglo-Saxon style illuminated letters. They are very bright and eye catching!

On Wednesday, we learnt all about the Marble Arch Caves in Northern Ireland. We learnt about stalagmites and stalactites. Please do ask your child the difference between the two! We also did our final gymnastics lesson where the children created sequences where they changed both direction and level.

Today, the children really enjoyed our Science lesson where we conducted an experiment all about pitch. We used a ruler and 'twanged' it. We altered the length of the ruler each time to hear the pitch of the sound and how this changed depending on how long the ruler was. In our tennis lesson, we alternated shots between the backhand and forehand. This is in preparation for our final lesson next week when we will try small rallies with each other.

Throughout this week, in Maths, we have started to learn about money. This has linked nicely to our recent topic of decimals. We have learnt how to add and subtract money and how to find change. In English, the children have started to learn how to write a report based on our Geography learning on Northern Ireland. We have learnt about the difference between facts and opinion and then how to use formal language. We will write these next week!

Next week is the final week of term when we will be making Easter Cards and finishing many of our topics off. There will be no PE on Friday due to the Easter service - please send your child in school uniform. I look forward to seeing many of you tomorrow at Daffodil weekend and then next week at church.

Dragonflies

It has been a very busy week in Dragonflies.

On Monday to Thursday Morning this week Year 6 have been sitting their 'mock SATs'. They have worked hard during these and are feeling ready to tackle their real SATs soon! For those who have asked how best to support their child to prepare my advice continues to be to ensure that your child is really confident with multiplication tables, including the corresponding division facts and to be able to confidently and quickly mentally add and subtract 1 and 2 digit numbers. It continues to be really important for children to read aloud everyday in order to build their fluency as this supports comprehension.

In class we have been redrafting our report on the landscape of England and have begun to work on writing a letter from Ade to Gaia, the main characters in our class text. In particular we have been working on creating mood and using our grammar and punctuation knowledge effectively for this writing style.

In our maths learning, we have begun our learning on statistics. On Friday, we worked on calculating the mean and looked at more complex worded problems involving the mean.

In PE, we have been working hard on our tennis technique. We have been working on both a forehand and backhand and have been trying to improve our aim when using these. In gymnastics, we worked on incorporating our jumps into a routine and considered whether to perform each jump in canon or in unison before performing them to another pair. I was impressed by the progress the children made with the execution of their jumps.

This week, we once again made use of the wonderful weather by spending 20 minutes outside reading for pleasure. The children really enjoyed this time to be outdoors and to get stuck into the books that they are reading. It is wonderful to see how enthusiastically they talk about their books. We also spent some time recommending books to each other.

Next week is going to be extra exciting for our class as we go on our school trip to the British Library. Please do refer back to the letter sent out earlier this term with all key information included. An extra thank you to those parents who have volunteered to accompany us on the trip.

I look forward to seeing you all this weekend at the Daffodil Weekend for singing, poetry and maypole dancing.

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



Tips for a Healthy Lunch Box

- 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.

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGible.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College