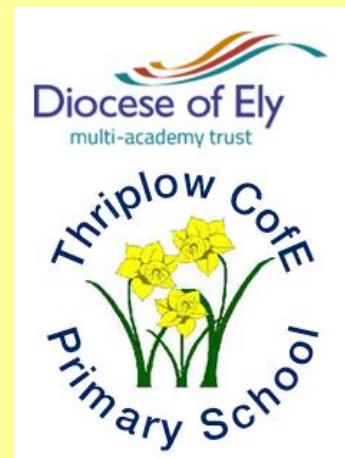


# Thriplow School Newsletter

21<sup>st</sup> November 2025



It's been so exciting to start to hear little glimpses of Christmas from the hall as KS1 begin work on their nativity. Such an exciting time of year! You will have noticed how cold it is getting as well – please do ensure that your child has a proper coat in school throughout the winter.

You will have received an email about our Reverse Advent Calendar yesterday. Please ask if you have any questions about it.

Next week is Decoration Day to which you are all invited. When you have dropped off your child, please come round to the front entrance. Parents will be asked to sign in and gather in the hall whilst the children are being registered. A reminder that the PTA will be holding a Christmas jumper swap – please drop off any pre-loved jumpers at the office.

Next half term I will be running a Book Café on Mondays after school. In this club, children will have the opportunity to read and explore books and take part in book-based craft. The club is for KS2 and booking opens Monday at 6pm. Spaces will be limited. There will be a KS1 opportunity later in the year.

Don't forget that we are busy filling our PTA Christmas hampers. Please bring donations to the office to go in either the blue, red, yellow or green box. Please also remember to buy raffle tickets!

(<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/christmas-hamper-raffle-1>) Could you make sure, if your children is bringing something in, that they are clear whether it is for the Reverse Advent Calendar, mince pie donation or the hamper. There has been confusion in the past!

Please note that there is no Celebration Collective Worship on Decoration Day.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend,  
Best wishes,

Lucy



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



<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*

28 <sup>th</sup> November	Decoration Day. Parents welcome in the morning. NO CELEBRATION COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
1 <sup>st</sup> December	DEMAT Carol Service (Year 6)
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Cross Country (children who are running have been notified by email)
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity Dress rehearsal (KS1) Family members, including pre-schoolers are welcome.
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity Performance (KS1) 2.30pm Two tickets will be issued per family in Ants and Butterflies. No pre-schoolers.
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity Performance (KS1) 6pm Two tickets will be issued per family in Ants and Butterflies. No pre-schoolers. Ants and Butterflies will need to be in school by 5.15pm to get ready.
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Festive Friday Children will be invited to wear Christmas jumpers and Christmas accessories to raise money for the Blue Cross. Please see information below about the Christmas jumper swap.
16 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Concert – time TBC but likely to be 2pm. All KS2 children will be performing and family and friends are welcome to attend.
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle (children need to bring an orange)
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service in church. 2.30. Everyone welcome
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices
WB 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Relationships and Sex Education Week
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations
5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
WB 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Daffodil Weekend
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 Bikeability level 1
WB 11 <sup>th</sup> May	SATS week
WB 18 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 Residential (Year 5 and 6)
Fortnight beginning 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Multiplication Check fortnight (Year 4)
5 <sup>th</sup> June	DEMAT Art Exhibition

WB 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Phonics Screening check week (Year 1)
WB 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Poetry Recital Competition
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports day (First thing – will finish 11.15ish)

## Term Dates 2025/2026

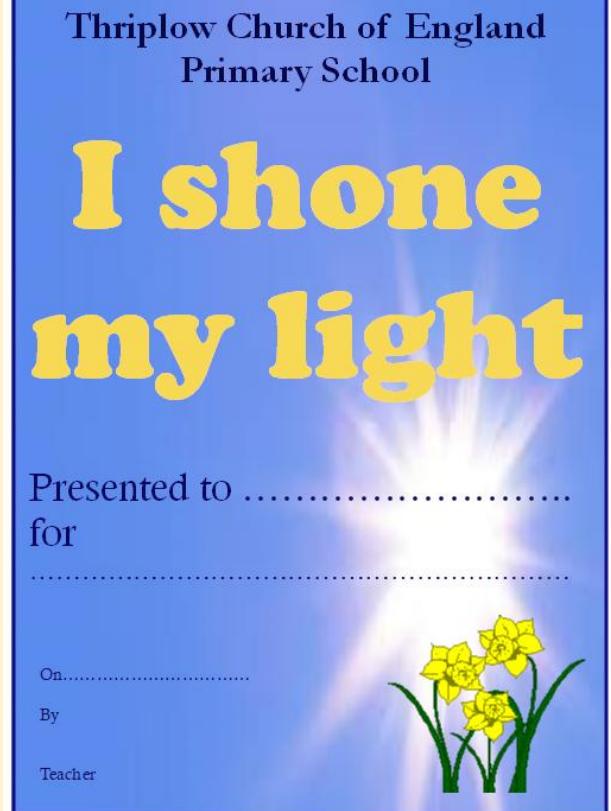
Autumn Term	
End of Term	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December

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

Summer Term	
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>

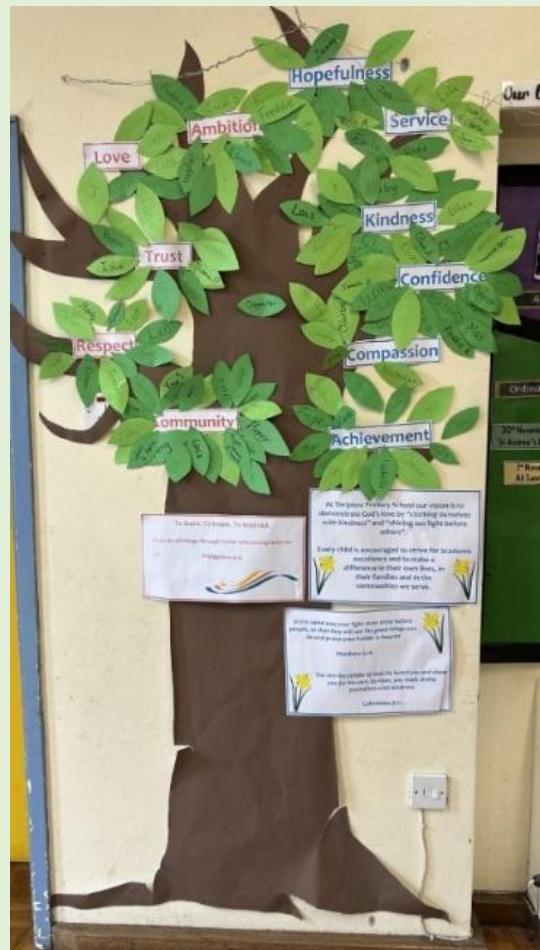
## Our certificate winners this week are: -

- **Lily (Reception)**
- **Reggie (Year 1)**
- **Kitty (Year 1)**
- **Oliver (Year 3)**
- **Leo (Year 4)**
- **Ruby (Year 6)**
- **Lola (Year 6)**



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

- **Oliver (Achievement)**
- **Freddie (Kindness)**
- **Zanna (Service)**
- **Harvey (Respect)**
- **Betsy (Confidence)**



## House Points

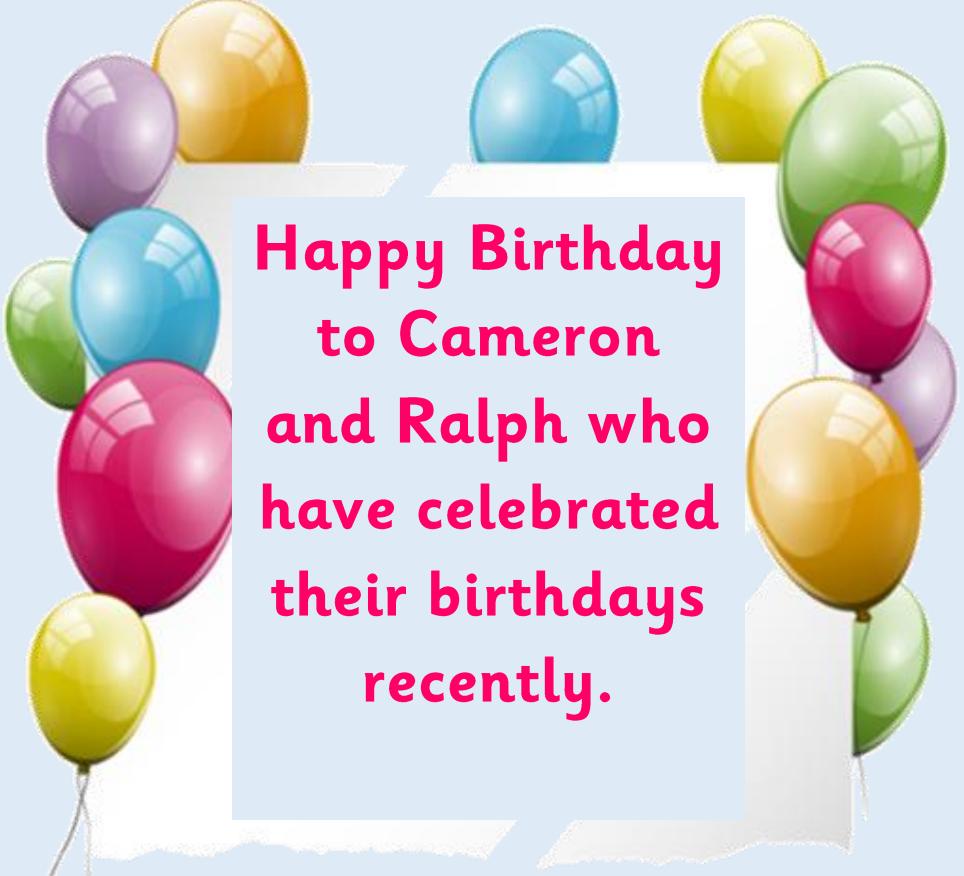
**Our totals for this week!**

	<b>Total this week</b>	<b>Total this term</b>
<b>Bacon</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>775</b>
<b>Barenton</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>707</b>
<b>Bury</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>676</b>
<b>Bassett</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>952</b>

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 Cameron  
and Ralph who  
have celebrated  
their birthdays  
recently.**

### Safeguarding at Thriplow



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

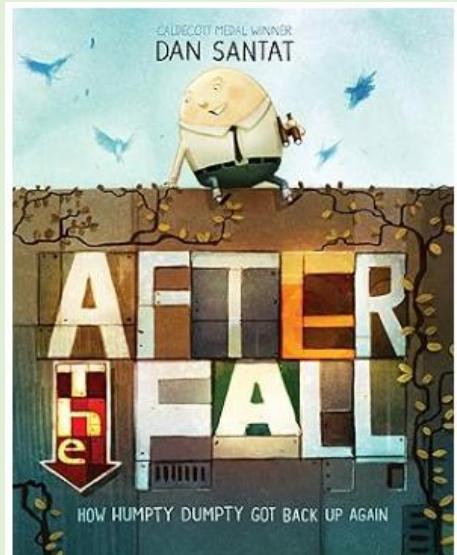
If you have a concern about a child, please come and speak to or email either of us. Alternatively please speak to any member of staff who will be able to pass on information.

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

Many thanks to Ralph for donating this book on the occasion of his 6<sup>th</sup> birthday.



### Information on your child's learning

**It has been another busy week in Ant's class!**

**Ants** The children have been enjoying rehearsals for the Nativity and getting to go on the stage for the first time! They are getting very good with all the songs and actions too.

In phonics we have continued to learn the sounds d, f, e, v, and have learnt two brand new tricky words; for and of. The children have been doing some lovely dictated sentence writing in their books.

In Maths we have been exploring parts and wholes. The children enjoyed singing lots of 'head, shoulders, knees and toes' and learning that these are a part of us, not the whole of us. We played a little game where half of an object was hidden behind a shape and the children had to see if they could guess what the object was.

In Literacy we have continued our story of Owl Babies and retold the story as a whole class. The children had a go at reading and writing some words from the story such as 'sad', 'sat', and 'mum'.

In understanding the world we have looked at transport from the past, learning that engines didn't exist and most people had to get around on a horse and cart!

In RE the children began making their own diva lamps and will paint them next week!

## Have a lovely weekend.

**Butterflies** Butterflies class have continued to work hard this week.

In Maths this week, Year 1 children have been learning about the different parts of the day: morning, afternoon, evening and night time. When you are doing activities with your child, it will be great to use this vocabulary with them. The year 2 children have been learning to tell the time, 'quarter to.' Please encourage your child to look at an analogue clock and encourage them to tell you the time.

The children have also started to practise for the Nativity, and they have made a good start. We have attached the script so you can continue to practise the parts with your child. We will be expecting the children to have learnt their lines from memory.

In English we have started our new text, *A Christmas Carol*. The children started with some background learning about Charles Dickens and what life was like in Victorian London and have been introduced to the main characters in the story including Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit and the three ghosts. During the next few weeks we will be building up to the children writing a character description of Scrooge before and after the ghosts' visit.

In science we have continued our learning about habitats and microhabitats by looking more closely at desert and rainforest habitats. The children have been learning about the layers of the tropical rainforest and the animals and plants that live in the different layers. In RE we continue our learning on Islamic world views by listening to some stories from the Qu'ran about taking care of the Earth.

The children are working so hard at their phonics and are making great progress.

**Bees** Bees Class have had a busy, fun week packed full of learning. On Monday, the children really enjoyed trying some more food from the Mediterranean in Geography - the olives seemed particularly popular along with the grape juice! The children learnt how grape vines and olive trees grow particularly well in the Mediterranean because of their long roots. On Tuesday,

we started our Art projects. The children cut out their base layer and background layer for their cardboard landscapes. Over the next few weeks, we will be adding the middle ground and foreground and a layer of paint! On Wednesday, in dance, the children learnt different ways to create body percussion. We then used these beats to dance in the style of the Mad Hatter from the Royal Ballet's version of Alice in Wonderland. Today, in hockey, the children learnt how to successfully push pass. We also looked at the Parthenon (Elgin) Marbles and had a great debate about whether the marbles should stay in the British Museum or be sent back to Greece. Throughout this week in Maths we looked at formal methods of subtraction. I am really impressed with how confident the children are becoming with this operation. In English, we have started to learn how to write a letter. The children are pretending they are Fagin writing to Oliver. They are apologising for all the horrible things that Fagin did. Next week will be a very exciting week as we have a DT day on Tuesday. We will be spending the whole day making key rings from felt, thread and stuffing! Next week is also Decoration Day - a highlight of the school year. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Friday for the festivities.

**Dragonflies** We have had a busy and exciting week in Dragonflies. In English we have written our balanced argument based on the book Skellig. On Friday, we spent time carefully considering how to improve our first draft of our argument in order to make it more effective. In maths, we have started our learning about fractions. We have been looking at converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and have begun to work on adding and subtracting fractions. In PE we have been working in dance on isolating different muscles, like our shoulders, in order to create effective movements - a key element of street dancing. In our PSHE learning, we considered the feeling of loneliness. Inspired by a quote from The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse, the children created their own page about what we can do when we feel lonely. They came up with lots of great ideas, including spending time with pets and doing some drawing. Next week, will mark the beginning of the festive period as we enjoy Decoration Day on Friday; I am very much looking forward to seeing you all on the day. A reminder that there will be no PE on Monday next week.

# Book Café

## KS2

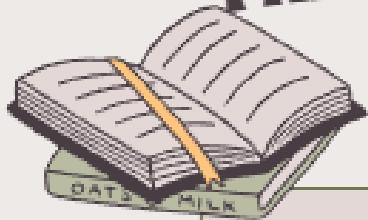
Mondays | 3.30-4.30pm

5th January - 9<sup>th</sup> February

## Thriplow School Library

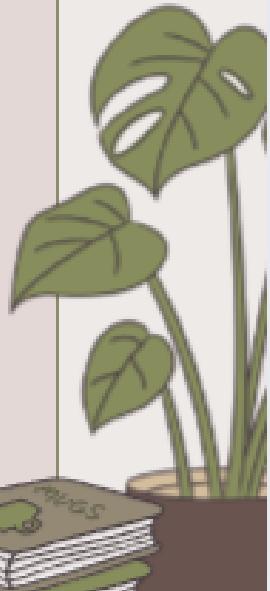
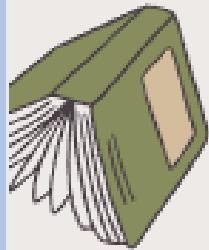
BOOK ON MCAS FROM 6PM - MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER





# Library

Open on  
Thursdays and  
Fridays after  
school.



Please pop in  
and visit!

## Decoration Day!

**Decoration Day will take place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November.**  
**Parents are very welcome to join their children for the morning to help them make Christmas decorations.**  
**Please note that we cannot accommodate pre-schoolers.**

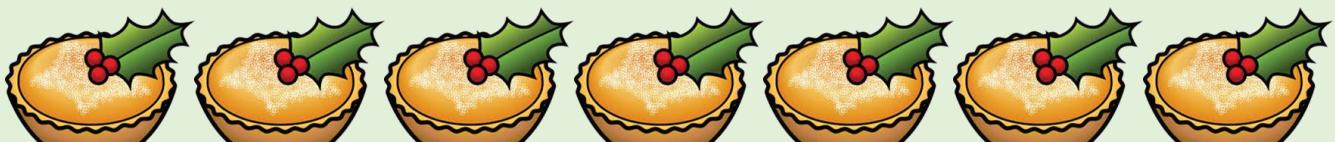


## Mince Pies!

**The PTA would love donations of mince pies to serve at Christmas events such as Decoration Day and the Nativity Play.**

**Please bring donations to the office!**

**Thank you!**





## **FREE Christmas Crafts Workshop for Children**

This year's Christmas Crafts Workshop will be on  
**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November**, just in time for Advent!

**At St. Mary's Church Fowlmere**

**2:00 - 4:00 pm**

There will be lots of lovely craft activities for children to enjoy. We'll be making advent candles, badges, book marks, Christmas tree decorations, and lots more.

Delicious refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon.

**BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE** by emailing

Kate, Rev David's wife, at [katelee36@gmail.com](mailto:katelee36@gmail.com)

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



# 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**



# Christmas Jumper Swap

on decoration day

28th Nov

Just like uniform swap but with Christmas jumpers! Please feel free to start bringing in any old ones you wish to donate and hand to

Harriet Howell or Natasha Burford in the playground (we will stand by bees class). Or bring them to the hall on the day. We will be in the hall from 8:45 to do the swap before decoration day starts

# 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.

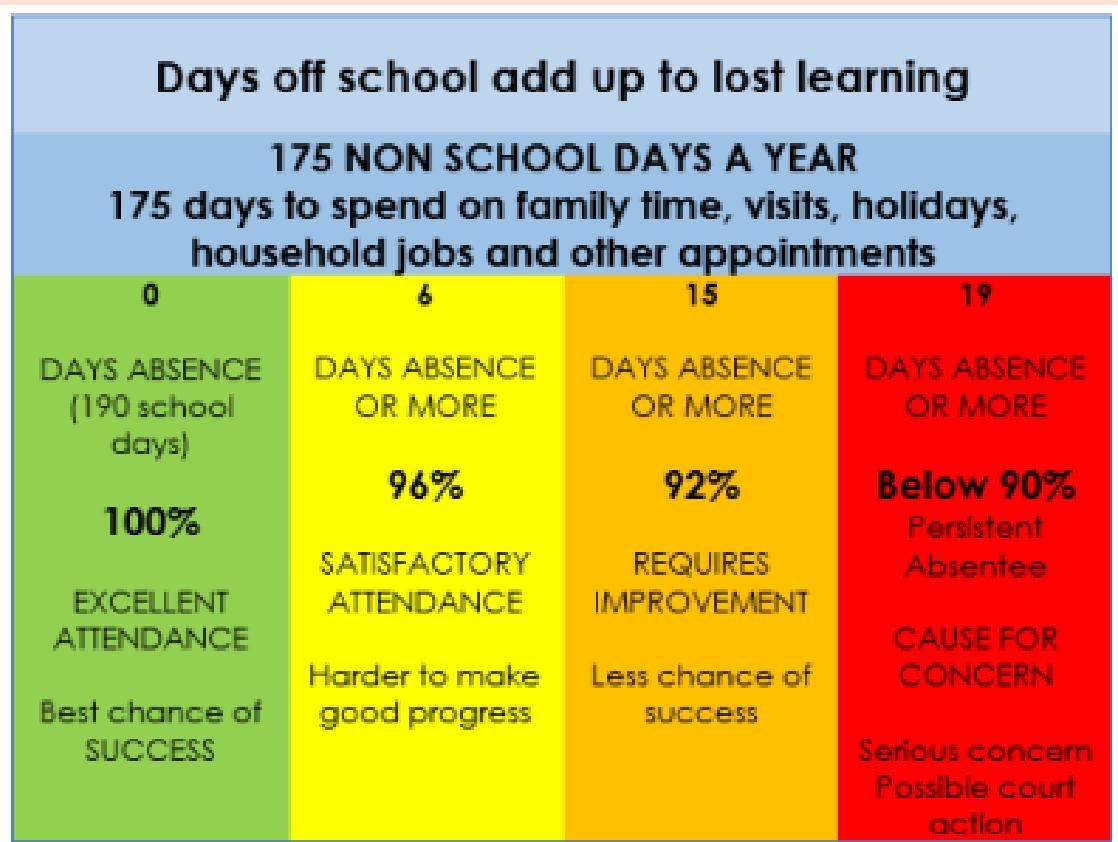
According to the NHS, the perfect lunch box for a child should contain:

- 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  $\text{£80} \times 3 = \text{£240}$  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  $\text{£160} \times 3 = \text{£480}$  per parent.

The total would be **£960**.

**Third Term Time Leave**

10 sessions (5 days) or more.

Prosecution.

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

# Apply now

for a Reception school place for  
September 2026

If your child  
will be aged 4  
by **31<sup>st</sup> August**

You need to  
apply NOW  
for a School  
place



Scan me to make an application

**Apply by  
15<sup>th</sup> January  
2026**

For further information please visit  
[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://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](mailto:admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

# Breakfast Club at Ladybird



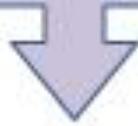
Open to Thriplow School  
Children & Ladybird  
Children from 3 Years



Breakfast may vary



Opens at 8:00am



Early Starters from 8:30



Contact for more information:

Email: [ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com](mailto:ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com)

Phone: 01763 208055

# DONATIONS

for  
Breakfast Club and Ladybird Playgroup

Any Pre-loved toys and games, in good condition wanted.

Including: (for children aged 3- 11 years)



Outdoor toys: *Board games*  
Balls, hoops etc. *Craft supplies*  
Toys *Building blocks*

Please drop off any donations at  
*Ladybird Playgroup - School Lane,  
Thriplow, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 7RH*  
*Or call 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 THRIPLOW 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**



Made with PosterMyWall.com



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

Navigating the complexities of childhood and adolescent friendships can be challenging – but with the right guidance, children and young people can cultivate meaningful, supportive relationships, some of which may last for many years. These top tips provide a comprehensive approach to fostering healthy friendships among children and young people. It's important to remember, however, that each child is different, and will require an individual approach to relationship support.

## 1 GRANT FRIENDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Encouraging children and young people to join extracurricular activities can foster healthy friendships by providing shared interests and common ground. Engaging in these pastimes offers a platform for interaction, sometimes alleviating the social pressure of knowing what to say, and helps children develop meaningful connections.

## 2 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

The children and young people in our lives see how we behave, the connections that we've made and the interactions between us and others. When we model healthy friendships, we set an example and help youngsters to understand what healthy friendships looks like and how to navigate them.

## 3 HELP THEM LOVE THEMSELVES

Healthy friendships aren't just about dynamics with other people. They're about our relationship with ourselves. For overall wellbeing, it's important for a child to have the space to build their self-esteem and a positive self-image, as these factors can have a notable influence on the friendships they form throughout life.

## 4 MONITOR SCREEN TIME

Too much screen time can affect some children's wellbeing in general, but it can specifically impact friendships if it results in fewer positive social interactions. In some cases, reducing screen time and encouraging children and young people to find ways to interact face-to-face can have positive results. It's also important to remember that young people can make positive friendships online, but they will require support to do this safely.

## 5 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Inevitably, friendships can run into problems. However, this is also an opportunity to support children and young people to work through any difficulties that may arise. It can be tempting to intervene and try to fix these issues for those involved, but helping them consider ways of resolving conflict or managing difficult situations for themselves can help them create stronger friendships.

## 6 EMPOWER THE CHILD

When we give children and young people the confidence to choose their friends, navigate interpersonal boundaries and consider how they want to interact with the different people around them, we empower them to take control of the friendships they have. When young people feel in control of these things, they're more likely to make positive choices and remain aware of the signs of a negative relationship.

## 7 TEACH EMPATHY

'Healthy friendships' doesn't always mean perfect. Sometimes, disagreements can happen. When we teach children and young people to have empathy, we help them to see both sides of a relationship; to be mindful of the challenges a friend might be facing or whatever else might be going on. This can help children and young people to build stronger friendships.

## 8 BE OPEN TO QUESTIONS

Talking to young people about their friendships, who they spend time with and who they interact with can open the door to questions if they have concerns. Initially, these queries may be straightforward, but if we are receptive to discussion from the outset, young people are more likely to come to us for help when they are older as well.

## 9 UNDERSTAND BOUNDARIES

One of the keys to a healthy friendship is honouring boundaries. This can include anything from respecting personal space and belongings to acceptable language and behaviour. Understanding the importance of setting these limits and upholding those set by others can help children stay safe. If young people figure out their boundaries and feel comfortable enforcing them, they're more likely to call someone out if they go too far.

## 10 SPOT THE SIGNS

We can't always supervise young people: sometimes, we need to step back and give them some space. However, it's important to consider any indicators that they may be struggling in their friendships. Are they becoming increasingly irritable? Does their behaviour alter when they've been with their friends? Are they becoming withdrawn or reluctant to take part in certain activities? These could all be signs that they're finding things difficult, and we should remain alert to such changes.

## Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an experienced educator who has worked in primary and secondary schools for 20 years. She is a facilitator, consultant and coach working with young people and the adults who work with them, with a focus on developing understanding and skills around mental health, wellbeing and safeguarding.



#WakeUp  
Wednesday®

The  
National  
College®