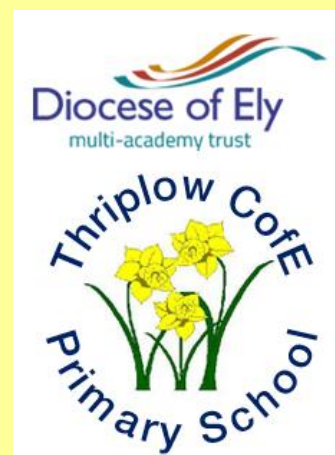


# Thriplow School Newsletter

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026



We have had a very busy week. The highlight of our week was our trip to the O2 on Tuesday. We took our school choir of 45 children to take part in Young Voices. Together with over 8000 other children, they performed in front of a huge audience. They had a wonderful time and we were so proud of their exemplary behaviour, enthusiasm and resilience – as well as their fantastic singing! A big thank you to Mrs Maloney, Mr and Mrs Baron, Miss Hardege and Mrs Forde for giving up their time.

Don't forget to sign up for the tea-room on Daffodil Weekend (link below). We particularly need volunteers on the Sunday afternoon!

If any Year 6 children would like to help out, do please pop their names on the spreadsheet at the bottom of each section.

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

Our library is looking great! We are so grateful to Mrs Fisher and Mrs Baron who come in most weeks to keep the space tidy and organised. They have made some beautiful snowdrops to enhance the environment. Please do visit the library – it is open to families after school on Thursdays and Fridays. If the white door is not open, you can come via the front entrance. You can take home as many books as you like. When they are finished with, they can be placed on the trolley by the lift.



We are considering moving our Celebration Collective Worship from 3pm to 9am on Fridays. From the children's point of view, we feel that this would be a more helpful time for them. Some of our children (for example our youngest children) find last thing on a Friday a struggle and so we are considering different options to make it a more manageable and positive time for all children. I appreciate that change does not suit everyone, but would value your views on this.

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend,

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*

Fortnight beginning 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Relationships and Sex Education Fortnight (letters will go out next week)
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	New Age Kurling
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Hockey Tournament
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations
March (Date TBC)	Netball tournament
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5/6 girls' football tournament
5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
WB 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Bees Class Viking Day
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Tag rugby tournament
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Non-uniform day– BRING A CAKE!
21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Daffodil Weekend
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Dragonflies Trip to the British Library
27 <sup>th</sup> April	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

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

Autumn Term 2026	
<b><i>INSET Day</i></b>	<b><i>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September</i></b>
Start of Term	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September
<b><i>INSET Day</i></b>	<b><i>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</i></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><i>INSET Day</i></b>	<b><i>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February</i></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><i>Bank Holiday</i></b>	<b><i>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</i></b>
Half Term	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June
<b><i>INSET Day</i></b>	<b><i>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June</i></b>
End of Term	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July
<b><i>INSET Day</i></b>	<b><i>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July</i></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>

## **P.E. Days**

<b>Ants</b>	<b>Wednesday and Friday</b>
<b>Butterflies</b>	<b>Monday and Thursday</b>
<b>Bees</b>	<b>Wednesday and Friday</b>
<b>Dragonflies</b>	<b>Monday and Thursday</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>

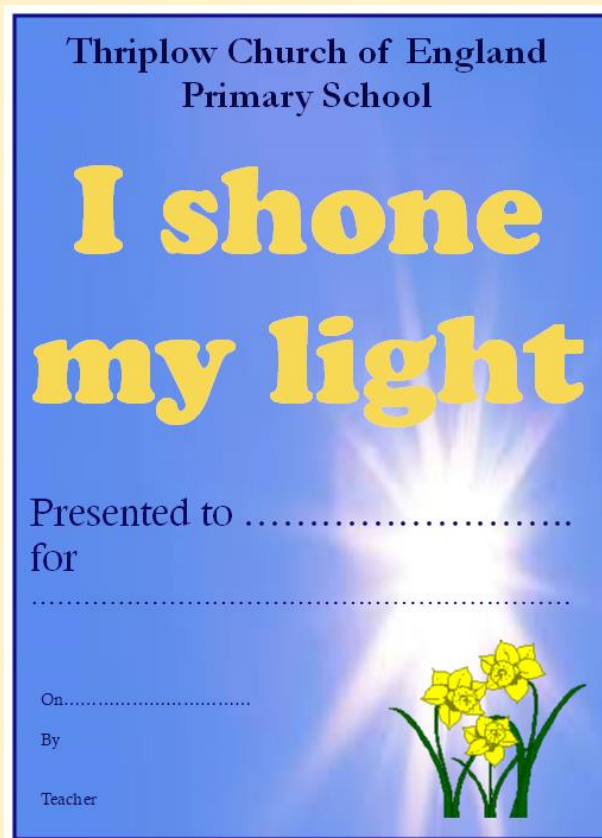


## House Points

Our totals for this week!	Total this week	Total this term
Bacon	68	185
Barenton	41	164
Bury	51	155
Bassett	41	169

## Our certificate winners this week are: -

- Olivia (Reception)
- Josie (Year 2)
- Otto (Year 2)
- Oliver (Year 3)
- Lila (Year 4)
- Harvey (Year 4)
- Eloise (Year 6)
- Robyn (Year 5)



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

- Lois T (Ambition)
- Cameron (Achievement)
- Lucian (Compassion)
- Ruby D (Ambition)
- Choir (Confidence)

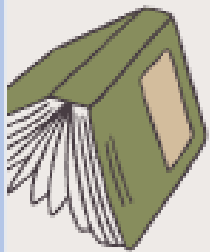




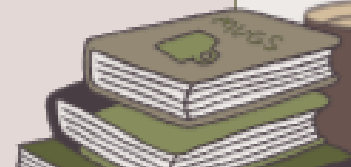
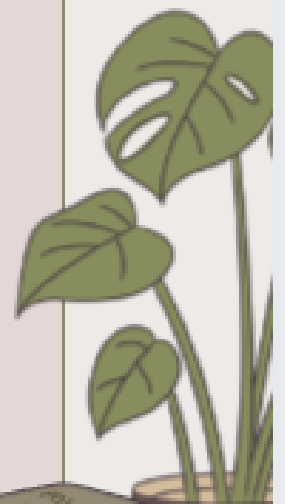
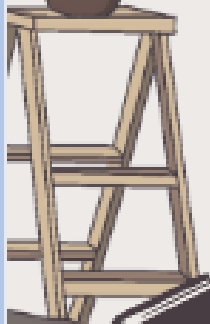
# **Thriplow Primary School Library**



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



**Please pop in  
and visit!**





# 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>, you will receive a free ticket for them and for one adult for the 21<sup>st</sup>.**

*Thriplow*  
**Daffodil Weekend**  
*& Country Fair*



**21 & 22 MARCH 2026**  
10am to 5pm

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE!**

[www.thriplowdaffodils.org.uk](http://www.thriplowdaffodils.org.uk)

*Fun and fresh air for  
all the family*

Dear Families,

Happy New Year!

We wanted to let you know about a recent reshuffle within the PTA core committee.

The Chair role will now be shared by Natasha Burford and Harriet Howell, and we're also pleased to welcome Katie Neal as our new Secretary.

We would like to reassure everyone that the PTA remains a committed, stable group, continuing to work together to support the school and its community.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the PTA and all that we do for the school.

Best wishes,  
PTA Core Committee

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 a fun week in Ants class this week!

This week we have been learning lots about the planets in our solar system. We looked at which planets are close to the sun and which planets are far away. We explored what the different planets look like and learnt why Earth is the only planet we can live on. Next week we will be looking at stars ✨

In phonics the children have been continuing to learn and recap on different sounds and practicing reading CVC words. Each day we read a new sentence together on the board before writing it in our phonics books, and we are starting to work towards doing this independently! The children also take part in a handwriting lesson each day where we focus on one sound and practice writing it.

In Maths we have explored different types of puzzles from inset puzzles to tangram puzzles. We have been looking at the different shapes puzzle pieces make and how we know where a piece goes by looking at the shape it needs to fit into. Today the children have made pictures using coloured shapes.

In PE the children very much enjoyed having all the gymnastic equipment out! We practiced jumping, balancing and climbing and had a go at making high and low shapes using the equipment.

In DT this week we have explored houses and how they can be different. The children created their own houses using cardboard and other arts and craft materials.

In PSHE we have continued to look at our environment and explore what we can do to look after it. In particular, this week we have focused on outside areas such as our playground, and gardens at home.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend!

**Butterflies** Butterflies class have continued to work hard this week. In Maths, we have started our new unit on shapes. The children looked at 2-D shapes and their properties. They were also encouraged to look around the classroom for different shapes. Please encourage children to look for 2-D shapes, around their environment.

In Geography, the children learned about Wales and where it is located within the UK. Please ask them what they can remember about the flag and some facts of Wales.

In English, the children have been encouraged to re-tell the story of 'Pandora's Box.' They have looked carefully at the different parts of a narrative.

For Phonics, the children have been learning the ie sound. Please encourage them to read the book attached.

In art we have continued our self portraits by mixing and painting different skin tones. In PSHE we have thought carefully about the difference between wants and needs in relation to the way in which we spend money, and in PE we have worked on communication by guiding a blindfolded partner around the playground.

We would also like to mention how proud we were of Butterflies class with the moving of rooms earlier in the week. Well done Butterflies class for your patience.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Bees** Bees Class have had a very exciting week. I know a highlight for many was our trip to the O2 on Tuesday to be part of the Young Voices Choir. I know that I had a wonderful time and it was so lovely to see the children singing so enthusiastically and dancing along to the music.

Those who stayed at school also had a great time painting pictures of pumpkins!

On Monday, the children started learning about Humanism in RE. They learnt all about what Humanism is and about David Attenborough - a famous humanist! The children then carefully created clay sculptors of the Sphinx in Art. I was so impressed by how the children took their time making each part of the Sphinx and then joined them together using the score, slip and blend technique.

On Wednesday, the children continued creating bridge balances in gymnastics but this week we moved on to thinking about how we could jump over our partner's bridge balance. We considered the difference between a jump in athletics and a jump in gymnastics. They also learnt about the physical features of Eastern Europe in Geography. We used atlases to consider the different mountain ranges, wetland and steppe country within this varied region.

Today, in History, the children learnt about Anglo Saxons settlements and had a go at drawing one themselves. We also continued our tag rugby learning by starting to combine their tagging skills and their passing skills.

Throughout this week, in Maths, we have started our new topic of fractions. The children have learnt about what a 'numerator' and 'denominator' is and have spent time colouring in fractions and adding fractions. Next week the children will learn about subtracting fractions and will also begin to order fractions from smallest to largest. In English, the children have now met the character of Aeolus and Circe in the Odyssey. They were very amused by Odysseus' men getting turned into pigs! The children also finished their learning about biographies. Next week they will plan , write and edit their own biography about Gillian Cross.

**As well as continuing all of our learning, next week the children will have a DT day on Wednesday. We will be making bread and butter from scratch!**

**Dragonflies** We have had a very exciting week in Dragonflies. Tuesday was a real highlight for me at the Young Voices choir concert at the O2. I was so proud of all the children who attended and hope they enjoyed it just as much as I did. The children in school on Tuesday created some exceptional artwork inspired by Yayoi Kusama.

In maths we have been problem solving using decimal numbers, including more complex multi-step word problems. Next week we will be moving onto learning on ratio.

In English we have continued reading our class text, *Boy in the Tower*. In our writing we have finished our Biography about the author and spent time on Friday carefully redrafting our work. Next week, we will be working on writing a narrative of when Ade and Gaia explore the collapsed warehouse!

In our Latin learning, we continued our work on nouns and considered the position of the subject and object in sentences. We translated sentences based on Pegasus.

In PE we have begun thinking about counter tension balances, next week we will be using equipment to make these more complex. Next week in art we will be creating and painting our insect sculptures. In history, we were learning about the French Revolution; we learned about the Battle of Trafalgar and Nelson's victory.

In RE, we learned about the invention of the printing press. We learned about how the Gutenberg bible was created and thought carefully about how this invention impacted on how religious worldviews have changed over time.

# 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
<b>100%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>Below 90%</b>
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



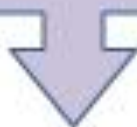
Open to Thriplow School  
Children & Ladybird  
Children from 3 Years



Breakfast may vary



Opens at 8:00am



Early Starters from 8:30



Contact for more information:

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

Phone: 01763 208055

**Ladybird Playgroup, Breakfast Club and After School Club are excited to have the opportunity to observe the development of some chicks kindly brought in by Gisele.**



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
12

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

## ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

## IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

## POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

## CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

## VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

## FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

# Memories of Thriplow from the 1950s and 1960s



Thursday  
26<sup>th</sup> February 2026

*6:30pm for 7.00pm*

**Thriplow Village Hall**

St George's Church is delighted to welcome Caroline MacDonald-Haig (Shaw) who spent her childhood in Thriplow. Hear her bring amazing characters to life in her infectious recollections of the 1953 Coronation Celebrations, hoeing sugar beet, hand milking cows, and hair-raising stories from the single room School. Piped water had arrived and Daffodil Weekend was just beginning.

Thriplow was a very different place then from now and certainly far from modern. What has been lost and what gained? Come and hear Caroline, a recently retired art historian and for 25 years a London Blue Badge Guide and accredited lecturer for the Arts Society, help us make that judgement.

Please join us in the Village Hall for this fascinating talk. ***Children welcome.***

Please confirm attendance before the event at  
Thriplow Village shop or contact Erica Webber

**[erica@cambridge-direction.com](mailto:erica@cambridge-direction.com)**  
**tel/text 07710 452814**

Donations gratefully received

All money raised for St George's

*Complimentary glass of wine and canapés from 6:30pm*

