

Thriplow School Newsletter

24th April 2026



There is so much for us all to feel proud of this week!

Yesterday Mrs Forde and I took the Year 5/6 Netball Team to Northstowe to take part in the finals of the netball league they have been playing in this academic year. The team were amazing. It was hotter than we all expected but the children played brilliantly and didn't let the heat slow them down. They played 7 back to back matches and won 4, drew 2 and lost 1. They came third overall - a fantastic achievement!

The staff working in Butterfly Class were so very proud of the class on Wednesday. The children took part in a Tudor Day run by History off the Page. The lady who ran the day commented to me that she was absolutely bowled over by how great they all were. She said they were engaged, confident and knowledgeable and described their behaviour as "perfect". They had lots of fun as well!

Annabelle in Year 3 wrote to me last term to ask if we could mark Earth Day on 22nd April by doing a litter pick. Together with Erin, our Year 6 Eco Lead, Annabelle organised for the litter pickers to be used around the school grounds on Wednesday to make our little part of the Earth more environmentally friendly.

This week the children have been enjoying practising their skipping skills as they take part in the South Cambs Sports Partnersip Skipping Week! They've had such a lovely time skipping in the sunshine!

Well done to Zack who has completed the 20 Books in Reception Reading challenge! Zack particularly enjoyed reading *Grandad's Island*.

As I said in my email yesterday, it's really important that the children remember to bring in a named hat every day in the Spring Term. As the weather gets warmer, we do not let them outside without a hat for their own safety and we would hate for them to miss out on fresh air.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend in the sunshine!

Best wishes,
Lucy How



MAT of the Year
2024



www.facebook.com/thriplowschool



www.instagram.com/thriplow.school



x.com/thriplowschool

In the same way your light must shine before people so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:16*

You are the people of God: he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourself with kindness. *Colossians 3:12*

Important Dates

27th April	Year 3 Bikeability level 1
29th April	Hautbois information evening for parents (3.30pm in Dragonflies Classroom)
1st May	EYFS and KS1 Farm visit
WB 11th May	SATS week
WB 18th May	KS2 Residential (Year 5 and 6)
22nd May	No Celebration Collective Worship
Fortnight Beginning 1st June	Multiplication Check fortnight (Year 4)
5th June	DEMAT Art Exhibition
WB 8th June	Phonics Screening check week (Year 1)
10th June	Year 5/6 Cricket Tournament

Important Dates

WB 15th June	Poetry Recital Competition
18th June	Information evening for parents of Reception September 2026
23rd June	Bees Trip to St. Paul's
24th June	Sports day (First thing - will finish 11.15ish)
30th June	Year 3/4 Cricket Tournament
1st July	Sawston Village College Transition Day
3rd July	Reports out
8th July	Key Stage 2 Summer Production 2.30pm
9th July	Key Stage 2 Summer Production 7pm
10th July	Fun Run in aid of the RNLI
14th July	Melbourn Village College Transition Day
16th July	Transition morning
17th July	Leavers' Service. Parents of leavers welcome to attend

Term Dates

Summer Term 2025

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

Autumn Term 2026

INSET Day	Tuesday 1st September
Start of Term	Wednesday 2 nd September
INSET Day	Friday 23rd October
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
INSET Day	Friday 12th February
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 3rd 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>

House Points

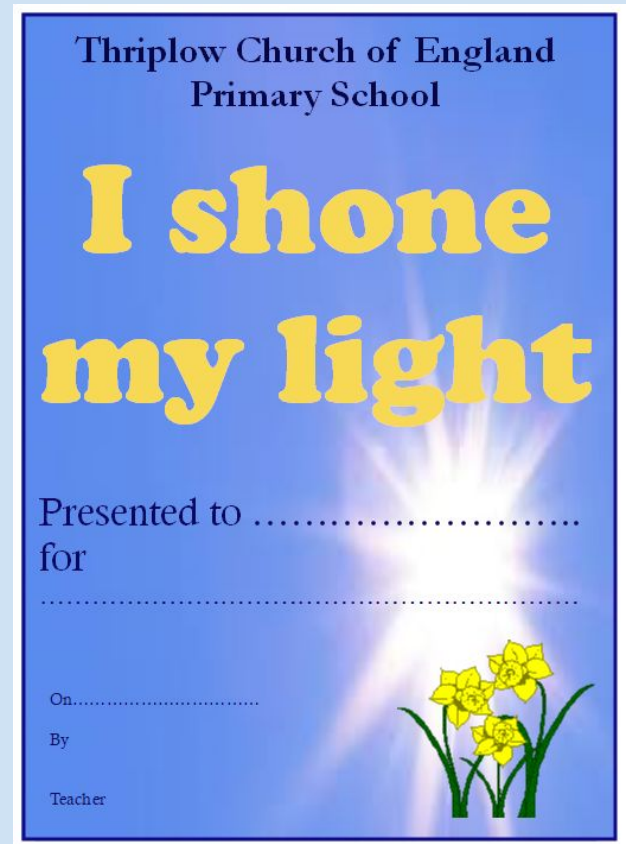
	Total this Week	Total this Term
Bacon	39	75
Barenton	41	63
Bassett	35	69
Bury	29	55

Well done Barenton!

Certificate Winners

Our certificate winners this week are:

- Arthur (Reception)
- All of Butterflies
- Thomas (Year 3)
- Jess (Year 3)
- Harvey (Year 4)
- Chris (Year 5)
- Holly (Year 5)
- Sophia (Year 6)



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

- Ruby S (Ambition)
- Alice (Confidence)
- Henry D (Ambition)
- Leo C (Trust)



Thriplow Primary School



Library



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



**Please pop in
and visit!**



Your child's learning

Ants:

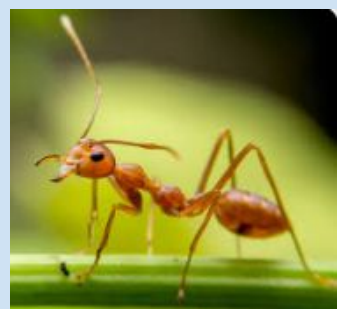
It has been a lovely week in Ant's class!

For our topic, Kings & Queens, we have learnt all about Buckingham Palace! We explored some of the rooms inside the palace and learnt about who lives there now, and who has lived there in the past. We then looked at some other places that the King sometimes stays in too, such as Windsor Castle St James Palace. The children had a search of a simple map of London and we identified where the 3 palaces are. We recapped last week's learning about the Royal Standard, the flag that flies when the king is home, before looking at some photos of the Kings Guard!

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

In Literacy we have continued with our story, The Rainbow Fish. This week we focused on sharing and what this means. We practiced sharing something with a friend and described how this felt, before having a go at writing this as a sentence. We have also been exploring the Rainbow Fish's scales and the children came up with some great description words such as sparkly, shiny, and magical!

In Maths we have been exploring 2D shapes. On Monday the children had a go at making their own picture using different shapes. There were house, rockets, and animals! The children were all very confident at naming a variety of 2D shapes. For the rest of the week, we looked at 2D shapes of different sizes. The children used language such as small, medium and large to describe the shapes and had a go at sorting a variety of shapes into different groups. At the end of the week we played a matching game where the children had to match their given shape to an object around the classroom!



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

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

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

On Friday's this half term we will be focusing on Ball Skills. This week we focused on different ways of rolling the ball, and practiced rolling the ball to a given target.

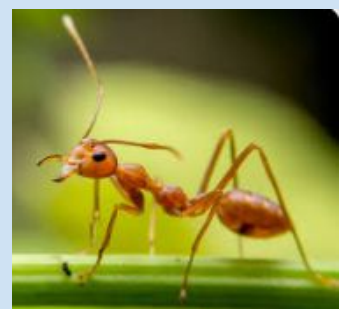
In PSHE our topic for this half term is Emotions. This week we read the story What Makes Me Happy? By Catherin and Laurence Anholt. As we went through the story, we stopped at the various points where the different emotions were introduced. In circle time the children all took it in turns to share when they have felt a particular emotion before. We discussed how some of the children's experience were similar whereas others were different.

Just a little reminder that it is our school trip next Friday, 01st May. All children will need to bring a packed lunch, water bottle and sunhat, as well as a small backpack to keep everything in. If it is raining or due to be wet, your child will also need a waterproof coat. Suncream needs to be applied before school as we will be outside all day.

Please can your child be dropped off at the classroom at 8:40am on this day so that we can leave promptly at 9:00am. No book bags will be required in school on this day.

If you have any questions, please email or come and find me.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend!



Butterflies:

The children have continued to amaze us with their work this week. We are definitely seeing an improvement with children becoming more independent. For English, we have continued to write parts of our Non-chronological reports about the Tudors. They have also been encouraged to use adjectives in their learning. Please can you encourage your child to practise their handwriting weekly at home, as we are noticing that some children are not forming the size of the letters accurately.

In Maths, the children have continued to work on subtraction facts and have used these to identify other facts. For example, if they know that $3-2 = 1$, then they also know that $13-2 = 11$. Please go over these facts with your child.

In Science, the children looked at seeds and bulbs. They drew these really carefully and labelled them.

The children loved Tudor Day this week and could recall lots of facts that they had learnt.

We hope that you have a lovely weekend.



Bees:

Bees Class have had a lovely, sunny week. We have informed the children that our summer production for this year is 'Wonderland' and we are excited to start rehearsals for this after half term, especially as the children know the story of Alice so well from our Spring dance unit.

On Monday, in Science, we continued our learning about the water cycle. This week we focused on evaporation and the children produced some detailed, labelled diagrams explaining how liquid turns to gas. In RE, we created a class definition of the word 'pilgrimage' before discussing both religious and non-religious examples of pilgrimages.

On Tuesday, the children found our Geography learning very interesting as we looked at the history of London from 50CE to today! We considered how the River Thames has been important ever since the founding of 'Londinium'. We also continued our Art topic by drawing a Byzantine pattern. It was a tricky design but the children did so well and we are looking forward to painting them next week.

On Wednesday, the children learnt about how to deal with emergency situations in PSHE. We practiced making calls to 999 before creating posters about 'What to do in an emergency'. In PE, we thought about how to throw a javelin and practiced so we are ready for sports day!

Today, the children really enjoyed our History lesson when we learnt about the gunpowder plot. They found it very interesting to find out the history behind our 5th November celebrations. In cricket, we started to think about bowling. Today we tried to accurately bowl to hit the wickets.

Throughout this week, in Maths, we have continued our topic on measurements. The children learnt about length and time. In English, we have started to write out biographies about Kate DiCamillo. We will continue this piece of writing all next week so I'm sure by Friday the children will be very proud of this extended piece of work. Next week is also Bike Ability for Yr3 on Monday. All children need to be in PE kit on Monday as PE has been swapped for next week only.



Dragonflies:

It has been a great week in Dragonflies.

In English we have continued to read our class novel *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. We have been thinking carefully about the development of the characters over each chapter, considering their relationships and how CS Lewis has portrayed their personalities. In our writing, we have been thinking about using dialogue effectively in a narrative.

In maths, we have been revisiting previous learning on multiplication and division. We have focussed on short and long multiplication as well as short division. Next week Year 6 will be revisiting long division as well as fractions. Year 5 will be focusing on fractions.

In our RE learning, we have been thinking about the Buddhist worldview. We looked at quotes from the Buddha contained in the *Dhammapada* and considered what these meant and how they may be interpreted.

In Science, we have continued our learning on Living Things, this week we focused on the life cycles of birds and insects. We were particularly interested to learn about the life cycle of bumblebees.

In PE, we were working on our throwing skills within athletics. This week we worked on our technique for throwing the javelin. I was so impressed by how much everyone was able to improve their distance and accuracy throughout the lesson.

As part of our Art learning on printmaking this half term, we created mono-prints. We used a laminated piece of paper to roll on our ink, blotted the ink with scrap paper, then covered the ink in some thin card and drew our design. When we peeled the card away, we were left with a print of the design we had drawn! The children worked so hard on these and they look amazing.

Earlier this week, I shared an email with all Year 6 parents with some information in preparation for Year 6 SATs week, including information about the Year 6 end of SATs tea party that Year 6 parents are invited too. Please do remember to follow the link in the email to sign up.



Attendance

365 days in a year

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

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

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

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



Keep them fuller for longer

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



Freeze for variety

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



DIY lunches

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



Cut back on fat

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



Mix your slices

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



Always add veg

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



Ever green

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



Cheesy does it...

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



Cut down on crisps

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



Add bite-sized fruit

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



Tinned fruit counts too

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



Swap the fruit bars

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



Switch the sweets

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



Yoghurts: go low-fat and lower-sugar

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



Get them involved

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



Variety is the spice of lunch!

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



Plan to Eatwell

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

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

Breakfast Club at Ladybird



Open to Thriplow School
Children & Ladybird
Children from 3 Years



Breakfast may vary



Opens at 8:00am

Early Starters from 8:30



Contact for more information:

Email: ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

Phone: 01763 208055









