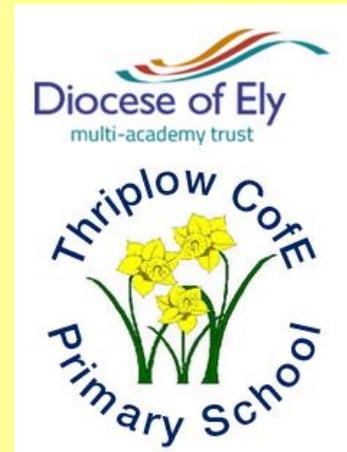


Thriplow School Newsletter

27th February 2026



We've had a wonderful first week back at school and it's been lovely to see the sun shining!

We had such a fun time on Tuesday during our Party for Pangolins. We have raised over £250 so far but it's not too late to donate via our Just Giving link https://www.justgiving.com/page/thriplow-primary-school-5?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

It's also not too late for your child to enter the 'Paint a Pangolin' competition. Please don't forget to send it £2 with the art work if they'd like to enter by 16th March.

The teachers really enjoyed meeting with you all at Parents Consultations this week. I hope you found the conversations really valuable. Your child will bring home a summary of the conversation in the coming days.

A quick reminder that families should not be coming on to the playground before 8.45am in the mornings. This has slipped a little bit recently but we would appreciate it if you could wait by the gate until 8.45, unless your child is attending Breakfast Club.

As more and more daffodils appear in the village, we are getting excited for Daffodil weekend! The maypolers started their practising on Monday and we have started practising our songs and poems for the event.

The children will be performing at 11am on Saturday 21st March on the stage in Taste of Thriplow, which is in a field further down school lane. We do hope that as many children as possible will be there to perform. Details about passes for those performing will be issued soon.

Many thanks to those who have already put your name down to volunteer in the tea room. There are some gaps still, particularly on the Sunday afternoon so do help if you can! There are also gaps when the children are performing at 11am.

I so enjoyed running Book Café for Key Stage 2 last half term. Next term I will be running Book Café for Key Stage 1. There are limited spaces and you will be able to book from Monday evening.

Well done to Arthur who has completed the 20 book challenge for Reception. Well done, Arthur!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

Lucy



<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*

4 th March	Year 5/6 girls' football competition
5 th March	World Book Day
WB 9 th March	Science Week
11 th March	Netball tournament
17 th March	Bees Class Viking Day
20 th March	Non-uniform day– BRING A CAKE!
20 th March	No Celebration Collective Worship
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.
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)

Term Dates

Spring Term 2025	
End of Term	Friday 27 th March
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>

P.E. Days

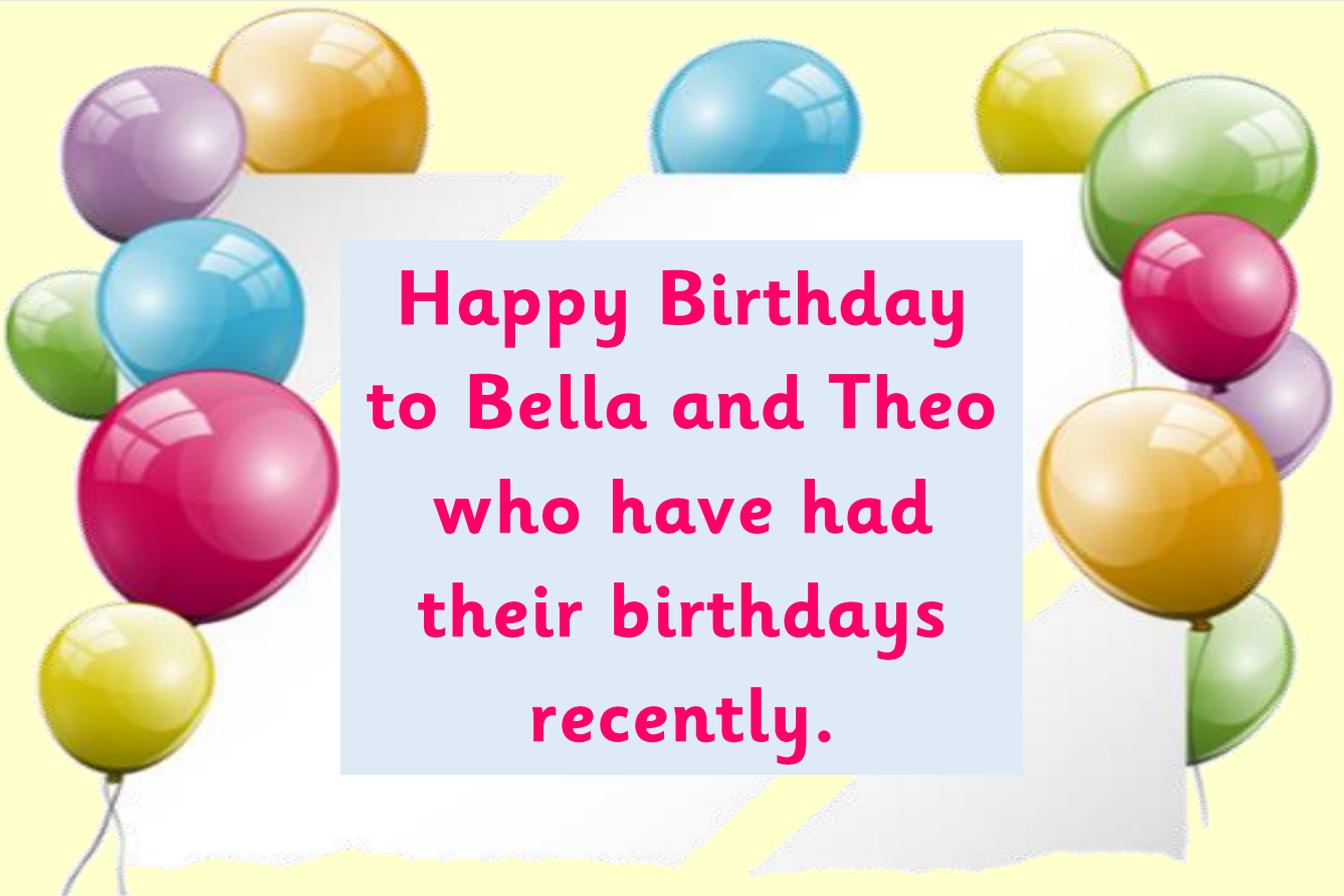
Ants	Wednesday and Friday
Butterflies	Monday and Thursday
Bees	Wednesday and Friday
Dragonflies	Monday and Thursday

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.

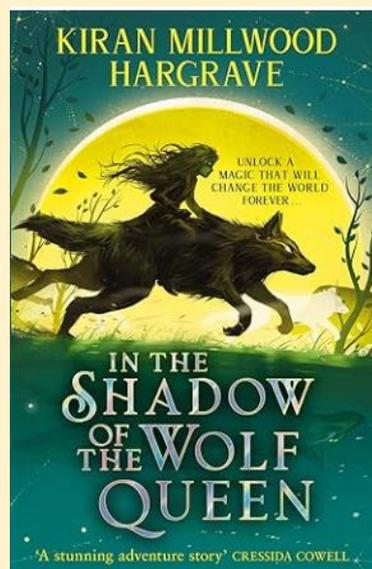
<https://amzn.eu/ez2OYOf>



**Happy Birthday
to Bella and Theo
who have had
their birthdays
recently.**



Many thanks to Lois for donating this book on the occasion of her 10th birthday!

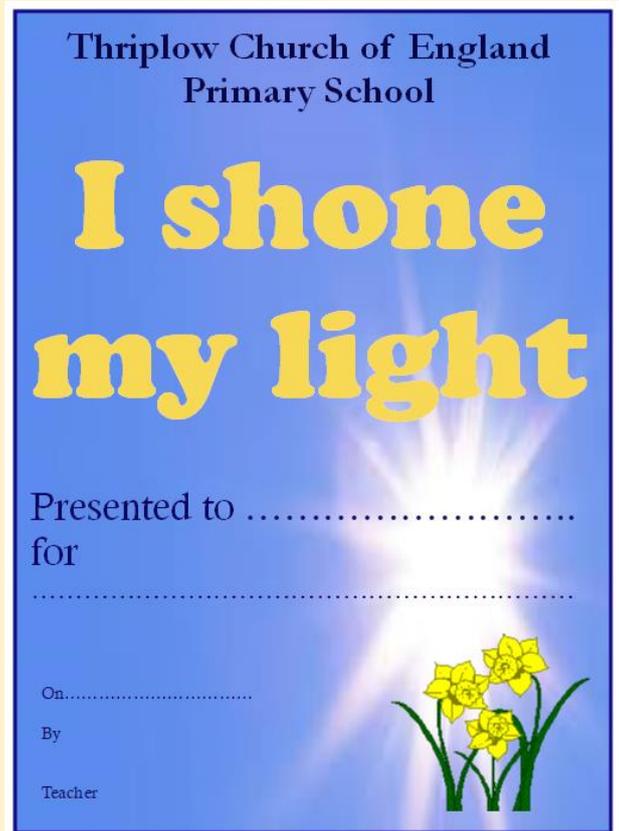


House Points

Our totals for this week!	Total this week	Total this term
Bacon	438	363
Barenton	436	346
Bury	399	326
Bassett	403	316

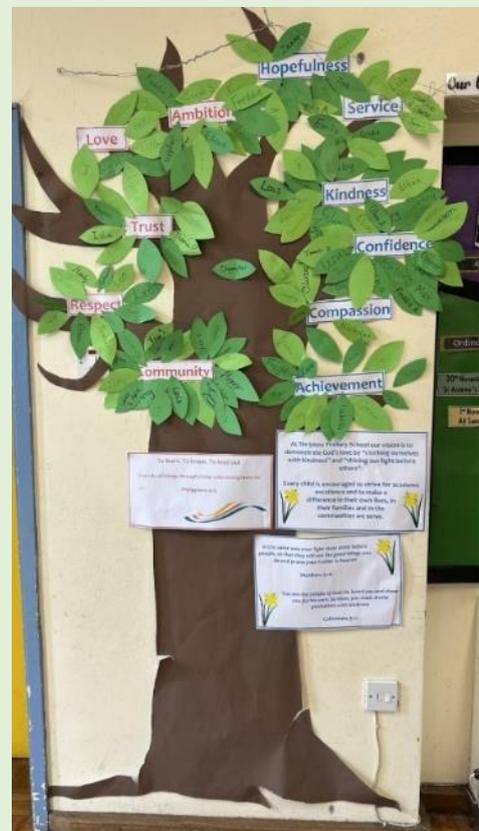
Our certificate winners this week are: -

- Sophie (Reception)
- Kitty (Year 1)
- Emily (Year 2)
- Alex (Year 3)
- Nancy (Year 4)
- Kyan (Year 4)
- Leo (Year 4)
- Alice (Year 5)
- Millie (Year 6)



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

- Arlo (Community)
- Hudson (Confidence)
- Alex (Hopefulness)
- Nelly (Love)





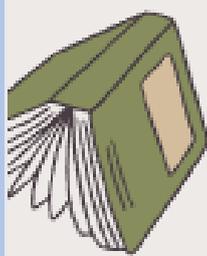
Thriplow Primary School



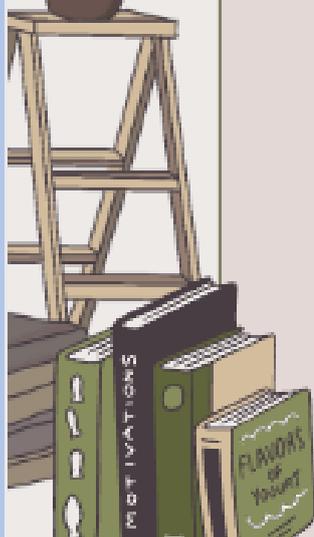
Library



**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

Non-uniform day!

20th March 2026

**Wear your own clothes in exchange
for cake to sell at Daffodil Weekend!**

*Please include a list of ingredients
if your cake is homemade.*

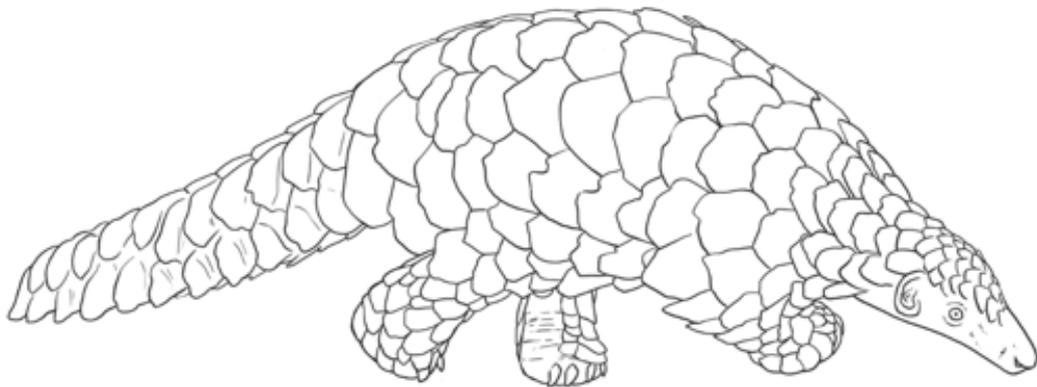


Paint a Pangolin!

Paint your pangolin template in any style. The winner will receive their own cuddly pangolin!

£2 entry.

Please give your painting and entry donation to your class teacher by Monday 16th March 2026.



**Fauna
& Flora**

Saving Nature Together



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 21st 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 21st, you will receive a free ticket for them and for one adult for the 21st.

Thriplow
Daffodil Weekend
& Country Fair



21 & 22 MARCH 2026
10am to 5pm

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

www.thriplowdaffodils.org.uk

*Fun and fresh air for
all the family*

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. There is lots of inspiration online.



Information on your child's learning

Ants It has been an exciting week back in Ants class, and it's been so lovely to hear what everyone got up to in half term!

We have started our new topic, Growing and Changing, by learning about the different seasons. We have explored what the different seasons look like, how things, people and places change overtime, and went on a Spring hunt around the school grounds to see what signs of spring we could find. Next week we will be learning all about plants, what they need to grow, and planting some of our own!

In phonics the children have been continuing to learn and recap on different sounds and practicing reading CVCC 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, ready to progress to our books next half term.

In Literacy we have found out our new book for this half term is Little Red Riding Hood! We looked at some different objects and clues to see if we could work out what the book was. This week we have read the story, explored the characters and practiced retelling the story through sequencing.

In Maths we have been exploring more, fewer and same. We have learnt what these mean and have practiced representing them with a variety of objects and resources.

In PE we have started our new lessons in Gymnastics and Rackets and Balls. On a Wednesday afternoons we are exploring moving in different ways using various body parts, and looking at how we can make a balanced shape using different body parts. On Friday afternoons we are learning how to use rackets, bats, balls and balloons. This week we explored pushing and hitting a balloon with control.

**In Art this week we have been learning about the Artist Van Gogh. We looked at his painting called Four Cut Sunflowers and then had a go at creating our own by studying some real flowers!
I hope you all have a lovely weekend!**

Butterflies Butterflies have had a lovely first week back after half term and have been full of enthusiasm about all the things they got up to over the holiday.

We have begun our new English unit on Aesop's Fables, starting with the fable of Woolly Wolf. They have learnt that fables have a moral attached to them- in Woolly Wolf the moral is that a cheat will always get found out in the end. The children have been practising writing exclamation sentences and writing in speech bubbles what they think the characters would say.

In Maths we have begun our unit on multiplication and division by looking at doubling and halving. The Year 2 children have started looking at the 2 times tables, and recognising that it is double - please encourage your child to recite these to you. The Year 1 children have been counting in 2s, then used a number line to stop at different steps. They moved on with counting in 5s at the end of the week.

In Science we have started our unit on astronomy and the children are learning the names of the planets in our solar system and their order. The children were very excited to learn that on 28th February all the planets in the solar system will align and be visible in the night sky shortly after sunset. If it is a clear evening we would really encourage you to have a look at the sky and see if you can spot them (there are a number of apps for your phone which can help you to identify what you can see).

During PE this week we have continued our gymnastics learning and started our unit on bat and ball skills. In art we have started learning about landscapes and symmetry.

In Phonics we have been looking at the /u/ sound, and have looked at the spelling of the following words: hunt, trouble, double, blunt - please practise these with your child, and identify any other words with them.

It was lovely seeing you all during Parents Evening, we hope that you found this useful and have seen how much progress your child has made.

Bees Bees Class have enjoyed a great first week back after half term. The children have worked hard across the curriculum.

On Monday, we started our learning on sound in Science. As a class, we conducted an experiment about how the volume of sound changes over distance. In our rows, we clapped and measured the volume of the clap on a decibel meter. We learnt that the shorter the distance sound has to travel, the louder the volume of the sound. The children enjoyed this very practical lesson.

On Tuesday, we started our new Geography topic on Northern Ireland by labelling a map with its six counties, the famous lake 'Lough Neagh' and the capital Belfast. We also started our Art learning which links to our History topic. The children looked at an Anglo-Saxon shoulder clasp and carefully copied the symmetrical pattern. We will paint these next week!

On Wednesday, we started our RE unit which is going to focus on inter-faith groups. We learnt about what the word 'inter-faith' means and looked at the work of Cambridge Inter-Faith Network. The children also began to think about how we might use levels in gymnastics to make our routines

more interesting. They came up with one high balance and one low balance.

Today, the children really enjoyed our tennis lesson where we learnt how to hit a forehand. We also continued our learning on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in History when we found out information about King Alfred the Great.

Throughout this week, in Maths, we have continued our topic on fractions. The yr3 children have learnt about equivalent fraction problems. They have had to convert fractions so that they all have the same denominator before comparing and ordering them. The yr4 children have started to learn how to write tenths and hundredths as decimals. In English, the children wrote their narratives about Odysseus' journey on the Sea of Monsters. They did an excellent job and I was especially proud of their re-drafting skills on Thursday when the children challenged themselves to improve their work. Next week, the children will start their final piece of writing based on 'The Odyssey'. They are going to write a letter from Penelope to Odysseus begging for him to come home!

The children really enjoyed their party on Tuesday and we had a class dance just before lunch. It was lovely to see the children all coming together to have fun. Please do keep donating and also completing your pangolin paintings! Next week is World Book day on Thursday. I am very excited to see all the children's wonderful costumes!

Dragonflies We have had a wonderful first week back in Dragonflies. It was great to be able to meet with parents on both Tuesday and Thursday for parent consultations. Your child should have come home from school today with the notes from our meetings.

In our maths learning this week we have been learning about geometry. In particular we have been thinking about

finding the perimeter, area and volume of shapes. Next week we will be thinking about coordinates and transformation of shapes. In English we have enjoyed reading more of our class text *Boy in the Tower* and considering what might happen next. In our writing we have begun to think about writing a discussion piece about the landscape of England based on our geography work last half term. Our grammar focus in our writing was using bullet points to present and highlight key information for a reader.

In PE we have continued our work in gymnastic; this half term our focus is on 'flight' where we will be linking jumping movements together to form sequences. On Thursday we enjoyed our first tennis lesson where we revisited our previous learning to play some tennis games.

In science, we have begun our new unit of work about astronomy. On Tuesday we learnt all about the Big Bang Theory and our expanding universe - we were all shocked to think about how tiny we are compared to the whole universe!

In art this week we used traditional Chinese paint brushes of varying sizes to create ancient Chinese style calligraphy work. We had to think carefully about how we held our brush and how to make small, controlled movements to effectively vary the weight of our lines. I was really impressed with how carefully the children all completed this work.

This week you will have received an email with details regarding our upcoming trip to the British Library in London, which includes key details about making payment for the trip. Please do let us know if you are having any issues setting up on MCAS to make the payment.

A reminder that there will be no PE next Thursday due to World Book Day. I look forward to seeing everyone's costumes!

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.

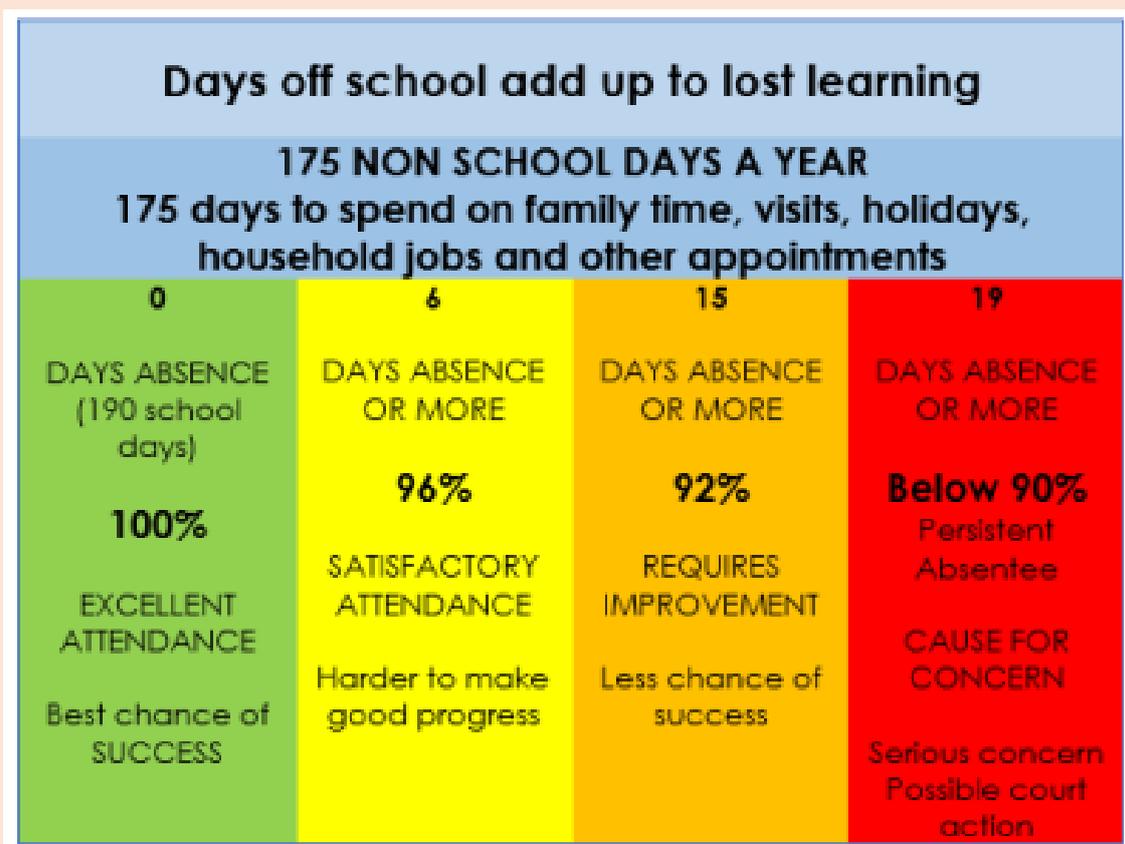
According to the NHS, the perfect lunch box for a child should contain:

- 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 £80 x 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 x 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

Fundraising

by **Ladybird Playgroup**

at **Daffodil Weekend**



21st & 22nd March

We Need Your Help



Jar Tombola

Glass or Plastic jars – filled with toys, pencils, sweets etc

Book & Puzzle stall

Books & complete puzzles (both child & adult)

Donations please to:

Ladybird Playgroup 01763 208055 ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

Daffodil Weekend gives Ladybird Playgroup the opportunity to raise funds for the children and the profile of the setting.

Signup sheet to help run the stall will be in place very soon

Helping children and young people with MANAGING DEVICE STRESS AND ANXIETY

The internet and advances in the capability of digital devices have afforded us arguably the fastest period of technological and social evolution in living memory: creating opportunities for us to interact with people anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. It's also, however, blurred safety boundaries and added new stresses for young people, who are often less aware of the hidden hazards. With almost half of 10-15-year-olds experiencing bullying online and algorithms pushing content in front of our children every day, it's important to know how to address some of these challenges.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LIVING ONLINE

The internet is awash with sophisticated algorithms that learn from our online behaviour and try to predict our wants and needs. That's very helpful in some respects, but it can make the online world difficult for children and young people to negotiate. Content can be brought to them at any time – it may not always be appropriate, and children may not have the ability or the support to deal with it.

PUSHY NOTIFICATIONS

Content is also directed at us through notifications from our apps: letting us know we have a new message or social post to read, for example. While that's useful in some circumstances, it conditions us to keep going back online (and is designed to do so) and can be a near-constant demand on your child's attention. As such alerts become more common, are we experiencing an 'attack of the pings'?

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

There are now so many ways we can communicate online in real time (like instant messaging apps) or with a delay (such as on social media) that it's possible to be constantly in conversation. Young people often prefer quickfire exchanges of text – but using fewer words can cause distressing miscommunications through the lack of non-verbal cues like facial expressions or tone of voice.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

As devices allow access to immediate external help in challenging situations, it's a concern that children may not be developing the inner confidence to work things out for themselves. Likewise, group membership is hugely important to young people – both in digital and 'real' life – and being excluded from online conversations can cause damaging feelings of loneliness and isolation.

DISGUISED DISTRESS

Children often haven't yet developed the emotional resources to deal with many of the setbacks of everyday life, so identifying when it's specifically something online that's worried them can be tricky. A certain level of stress is a normal response to a problem: it spurs us into action to keep ourselves safe. If the stress is excessive, though, it can feel overwhelming and potentially lead to anxiety or depression.

ANTI-SOCIAL SOCIALS

Social media can bring people together in hugely positive ways. Sadly, it does also have a darker side, including 'flame war' arguments which can escalate quickly and have hurtful consequences. With so many people looking on, 'group shaming' situations are also common – while there are continual opportunities for young people to compare themselves negatively with other social media users.

Advice for Parents & Carers

LEARN THE BASICS

It's impossible to keep up with every online change or every new app. The best option is to make yourself aware of the fundamentals of how the internet operates, so you can help your child to grasp how – and why – content reaches them. Devices and the digital world can be confusing, so learning to understand them better will give you the confidence to talk to your child about them.

PUSH DISTRACTIONS AWAY

Notifications to our phones and tablets can be helpful, but they sometimes make one wonder who's really in charge: the person or the device? Checking our phone as soon as it goes off is an easy habit to fall into – especially for young people. Try switching off non-essential alerts on your devices and encourage your child to do the same; you should both feel less triggered and more in control.

KEEP CHECKING IN

Healthy emotional regulation balances three systems: threat, drive and grounding. Down the various rabbit holes of the internet, however, that balance can easily slip away – so it's important to help your child manage their emotions when they're online. Check in with them regularly when they're on their device, and remember that 'distraction' and 'relaxation' aren't always the same thing.

TALK IT OUT

If a child mentions a comment that's been directed at them in a text chat or on social media, it may sound minor but can actually have a much bigger effect than we realise. In our evolved brains, any perceived threat can get internalised while our body reacts as if we were in physical danger – raising stress levels. It's always worth encouraging your child to get any concerns out in the open.

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

This is tricky – and may depend on the child's age – but any sudden change in behaviour is worth looking out for. If your child seems to be checking their phone or tablet more, doesn't want to be parted from them, or appears unusually secretive, anxious or withdrawn, it could be a sign that something is amiss in relation to their device – and, possibly, that they're in need of extra support.

BE KIND: UNWIND

Be kind to yourselves as parents and carers. Remember that we're all in the same boat, trying to safely guide our children through this complex, fast-moving digital environment. Getting into the habit of having natural, relaxed conversations with your child about their online life (and yours) can level the playing field and make it far easier for them to open up to you about any concerns.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with and offers bespoke training to businesses and organisations, supporting positive and effective online communications – often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the various mediums.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.childrens-commissioner.gov.uk/report-the-big-task-big-problem/>
<https://www.oia.gov.uk/people/population-and-community/children-and-young-people/child-protection-and-safeguarding/parental-control-and-monitoring/> 2020



