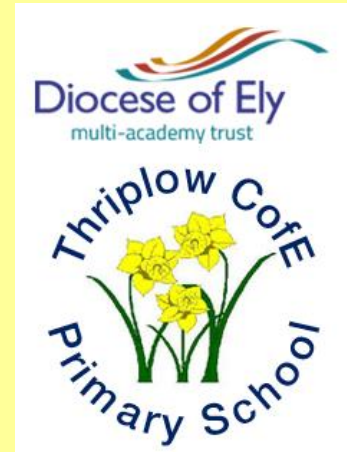


Thriplow School Newsletter

5th September 2025



Welcome Back to School! I hope you have had a wonderful summer. It is so lovely to have our school filled with children again and to see them settling in to their new classes. We welcome in particular the families of Monty, Emily, Oliver, Florence, Alex and Emilia who have joined us in Year 1 and Year 3. A special welcome also to those of you who are new to the school with children in Reception.

Thank you for adapting so well to the changes at the beginning and end of the day. It seems to be running smoothly so far!

Many thanks to those of you who came to the Class Information Evening last night. I hope you found it useful. Please do make sure you read the letter from your child's teacher if you were not able to make it.

As is always the case in the Autumn Term, there is a lot going on this term! You will find important dates listed below. Please make a careful note of them.

Best Wishes,

Lucy How (Headteacher)



**MAT of
the Year
2024**



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



<https://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 yourselves with kindness. *Colossians 3:12*

WB 8 th September	Bikeability for Year 5
18 th September	Holy Communion. 9.10am in the hall. Everyone welcome
22 nd September	Parent Consultations – sign up via MCAS next week
25 th September	Parent Consultations – sign up via MCAS next week
29 th September	MacMillan Coffee Morning. 9am in the hall. Everyone welcome. NOTE CHANGED DATE
7 th October	Harvest Festival in the church. 9.15. Everyone welcome.
15 th October	Flu Vaccinations
23 rd October	Individual photos for all children
6 th November	Holy Communion. 9.10am in the hall. Everyone welcome
WB 10 th November	Anti-bullying week
28 th November	Decoration Day. Parents welcome in the morning.
1 st December	DEMAT Carol Service (Year 6)
9 th December	Nativity Dress rehearsal (KS1)
10 th December	Nativity Performance (KS1) 2.30pm
11 th December	Nativity Performance (KS1) 6pm
12 th December	Festive Friday
16 th December	KS2 Concert
17 th December	Christingle (children need to bring an orange)
19 th December	Carol Service in church. 2.30. Everyone welcome
20 th January	Young Voices
WB 2 nd February	Relationships and Sex Education Week
24 th February	Parent Consultations
26 th February	Parent Consultations
5 th March	World Book Day
WB 9 th March	Science Week
21 st – 22 nd March	Daffodil Weekend
27 th March	Year 3/4 Bikeability level 1
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 2025/2026

Autumn Term	
INSET Day	Monday 1st September
Start of Term	Tuesday 2 nd September
INSET Day	Friday 24th October
Half Term	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October
End of Term	Friday 19 th December

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

Summer Term	
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



Safeguarding at Thriplow

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

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

If you feel that a child is at immediate risk of harm you can access further advice and guidance here.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection>

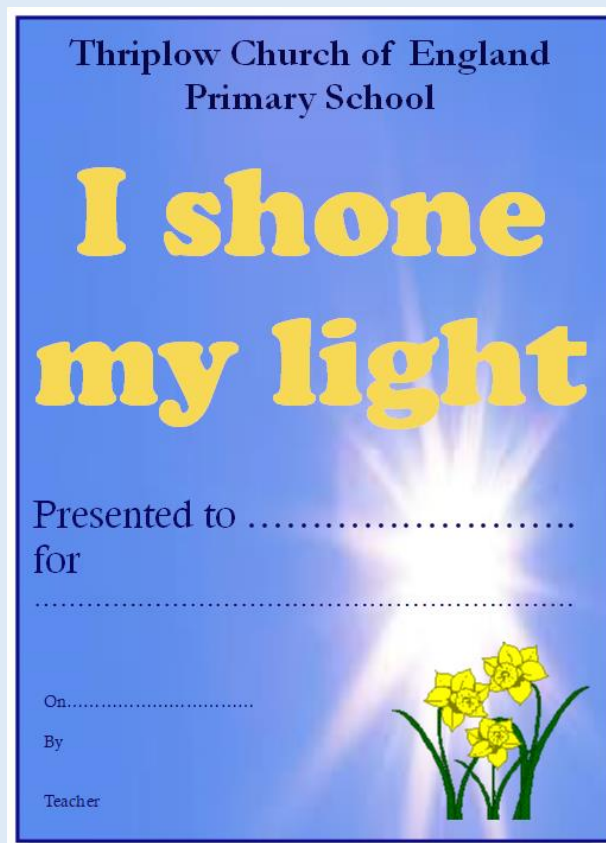
If you would like to donate a book to our library to celebrate your child's birthday, then we would be so grateful. Please follow this link to see a list of books that we would like.

<https://amzn.eu/ez2OYOf>



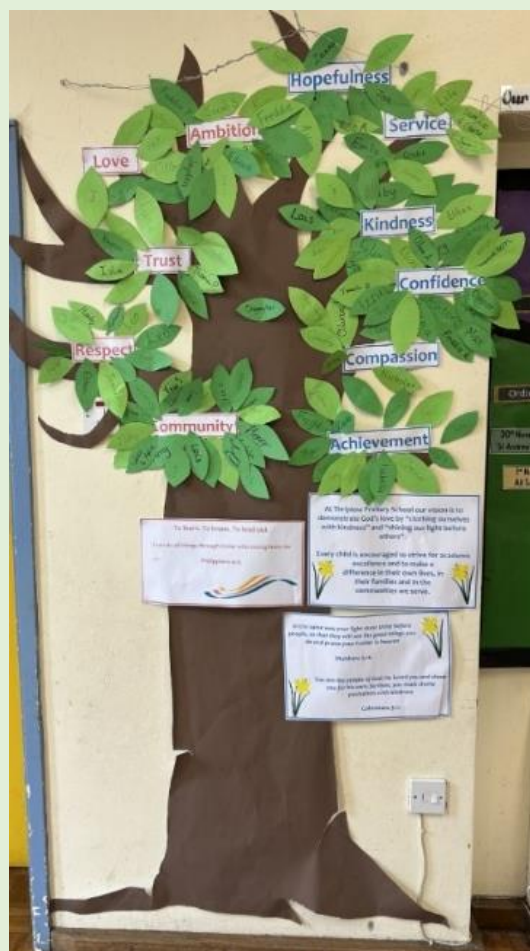
Our certificate winners this week are: -

- Finn (Year 1)
- Luna (Year 3)
- Lucian (Year 3)
- Bella-Mae (Year 4)
- Holly (Year 5)
- Millie-Rose (Year 6)



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

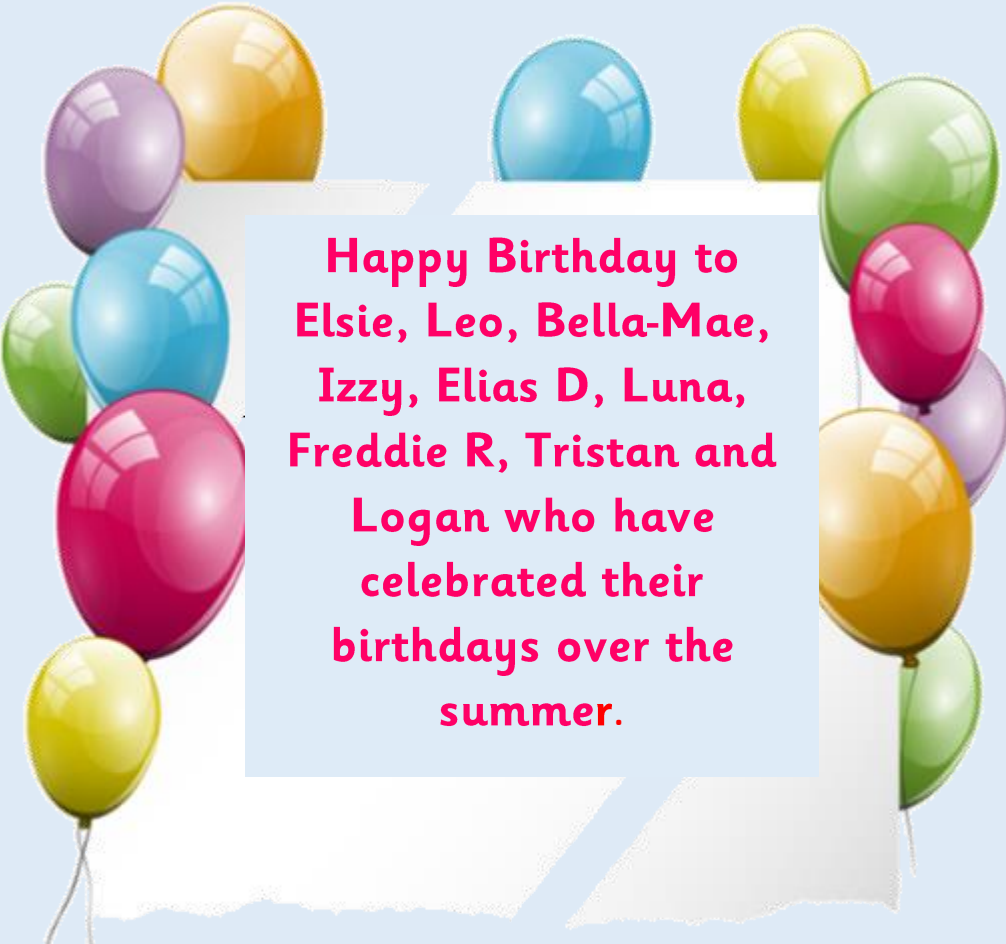
- Emilia B-P – Confidence
- Lila – Kindness
- Jess – Hopefulness
- Eloise - Trust



House Points

Our totals for this week!

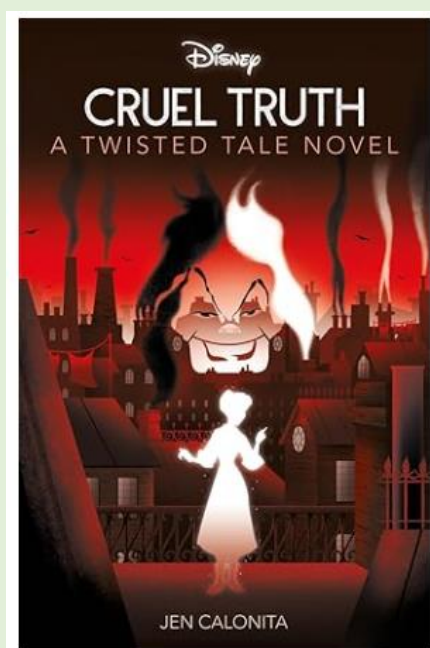
	Total this week	Total this term
Bacon	41	41
Barenton	15	15
Bury	19	19
Bassett	40	40



**Happy Birthday to
Elsie, Leo, Bella-Mae,
Izzy, Elias D, Luna,
Freddie R, Tristan and
Logan who have
celebrated their
birthdays over the
summer.**

Birthday Books

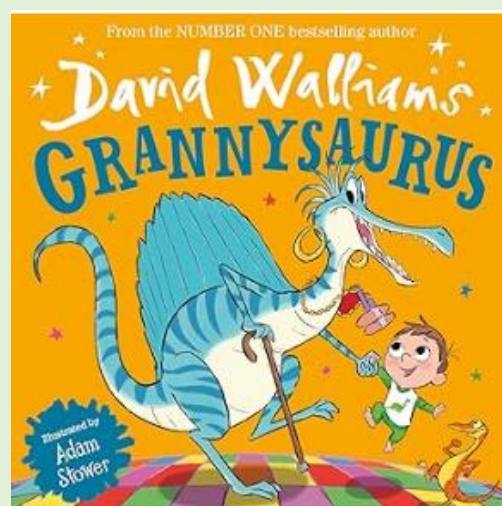
Many thanks to Leo for donating this book on the occasion of his 10th birthday.



Many thanks to Leo for donating this book on the occasion of his 10th birthday.



Many thanks to Elsie for donating this book on the occasion of her 9th birthday.



Your child's learning

Ants

It has been so lovely to see all the children settling in well to school life! The children have enjoyed becoming part of the school by attending Collective Worship each day, break time and lunch times, and exploring the school.

In phonics we have been taking part in listening games to see what we can hear and will move onto the Sounds Write phonics programme next week, beginning to look at the sounds a, i, m, s, t.

In maths we have been exploring how we combine objects within the natural world. The children have greatly enjoyed using the mud kitchen area outdoors as well as the water tray, and have become great colour detectives by sorting coloured objects into their correct coloured pots. Next week we will continue to explore this area of maths as well as starting Maths Mastery, focusing on subitising.

Starting next week the children will be attending the Wild Space every Tuesday afternoon. Please can I ask that all children have in school wellies, splash suit or trousers, a long sleeved top and a rain jacket. Every child has their own wild space peg as well as their normal class one which means that wild space clothes can stay in school each week.

Butterflies

Welcome back Butterflies families! We hope you had a lovely summer break and it has been wonderful to see the children happily back at school and settling in so well. The year 1s are adjusting well to the new

routines and expectations and the year 2s seem to be enjoying being the more grown-up ones this year!

We started off the term's English with the text "Owl Babies" and the children have been enjoying re-telling the story and thinking of some brilliant adjectives to describe the owls' feathers. They have been getting on well in maths, starting off with counting skills forwards and backwards and number recognition to 50 for year 1s and 100 for year 2s. In Science we have started our unit about the Human Body by looking at essentials for survival and in Art the children had a wonderful time mixing primary colours to make secondary colours and then using this skill to make paintings in the style of Paul Klee.

We are looking forward to starting our PE lessons next week so please ensure that children come to school in full PE kit on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Bees

This week in Bees we have enjoyed learning about muscles in Science and running techniques in PE. In English we have started writing a biography about Charles Dickens, the author of 'Oliver Twist' (our class text). Next week in class we will be starting our Geography learning about globes.

Dragonflies

This week in Dragonflies we have enjoyed playing netball in PE. We have started reading our class text Skellig and are writing a biography about David Almond, the author of the book. Next week will be very exciting for year 5 in particular because they will be taking part in Bikeability training. In class we will be starting our RE learning about how religious worldviews have changed throughout time.



Well done to Freddie P for completing the 20 Books Challenge over the summer!

Hopefully your child will know all about the 20 Books Challenge. We have carefully selected 20 Books for each child to read in each year during their time at Thriplow. When they have read them, send us an email and we will be able to celebrate this with your child.

If your child would prefer to listen to an audio version or an adult reading to them, then this is absolutely fine.

Breakfast Club at Ladybird



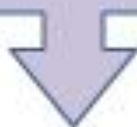
Open to Thriplow School
Children & Ladybird
Children from 3 Years



Breakfast may vary



Opens at 8:00am



Early Starters from 8:30



Contact for more information:

Email: ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

Phone: 01763 208055

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform, which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Claire Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



**Ants Class visited our
new library!**

**Butterflies enjoyed learning
about compasses**

