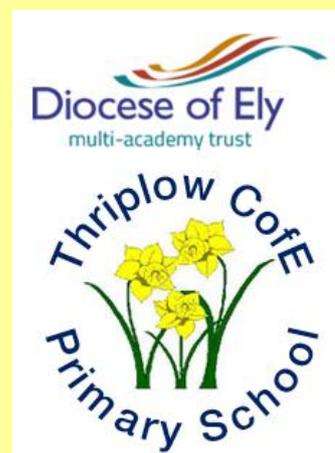


Thriplow School Newsletter

6th March 2026



What a busy week! It was wonderful to see the children's amazing costumes yesterday on World Book Day. We took plenty of photographs which you can see at the bottom of the newsletter. Thank you so much for supporting your children with their costumes, and for the amazing toilet roll book characters which are now displayed in the entrance hall.

I was so proud of the Year 5/6 footballers who I took to Cambourne Football Club on Wednesday for a Girls' Football Development Competition. The girls gave it their all and played with such enthusiasm. They were so encouraging of each other as well as the girls they played against and we had such a fun afternoon!

Many thanks to Mr Flanagan and Mrs Poole for coming with us and being so helpful and enthusiastic.

On Tuesday, we had a whole school RE day during which we focused on what people of different faiths believe about looking after the world and why. The children engaged in craft, painting and gardening as part of their learning and had a wonderful time.

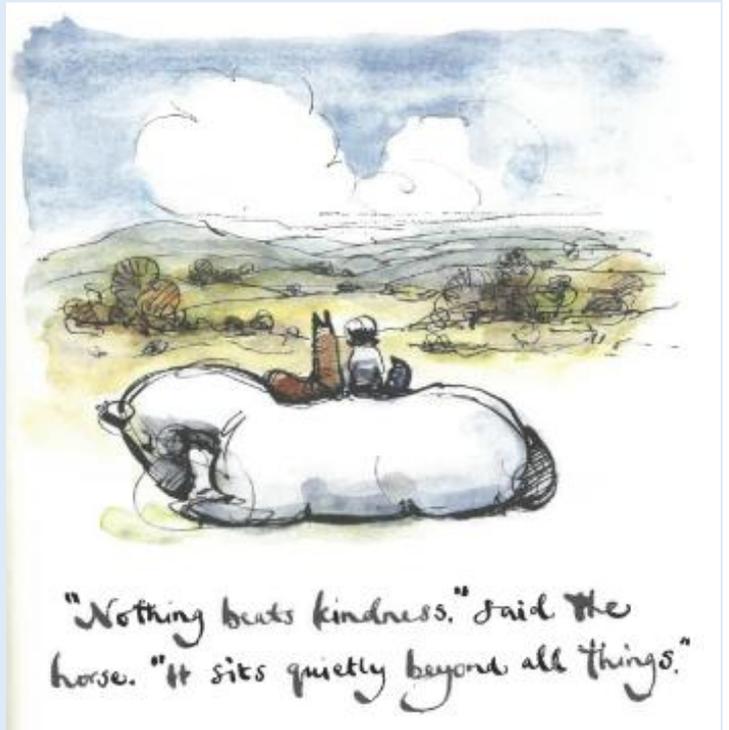
A reminder that there is no Maypole Club on Monday 9th. Also, there are still spaces in next half term's KS1 Book Café which will be on selected Mondays after school in the library until 4.30. Sign up via MCAS.

Finally – an important reminder that we are a nut aware school and ask that your child does not bring any food into school containing nuts.

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*

WB 9 th March	Science Week
9 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
<i>Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 4th May</i>
Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May

<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Monday 1st June</i>
End of Term	Friday 17 th July
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Monday 20th July</i>
Autumn Term 2026	
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 1st September</i>
Start of Term	Wednesday 2 nd September
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Friday 23rd October</i>
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
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Friday 12th February</i>
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
<i>Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 3rd May</i>
Half Term	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Monday 7th June</i>
End of Term	Tuesday 20 th July
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Wednesday 21st July</i>



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

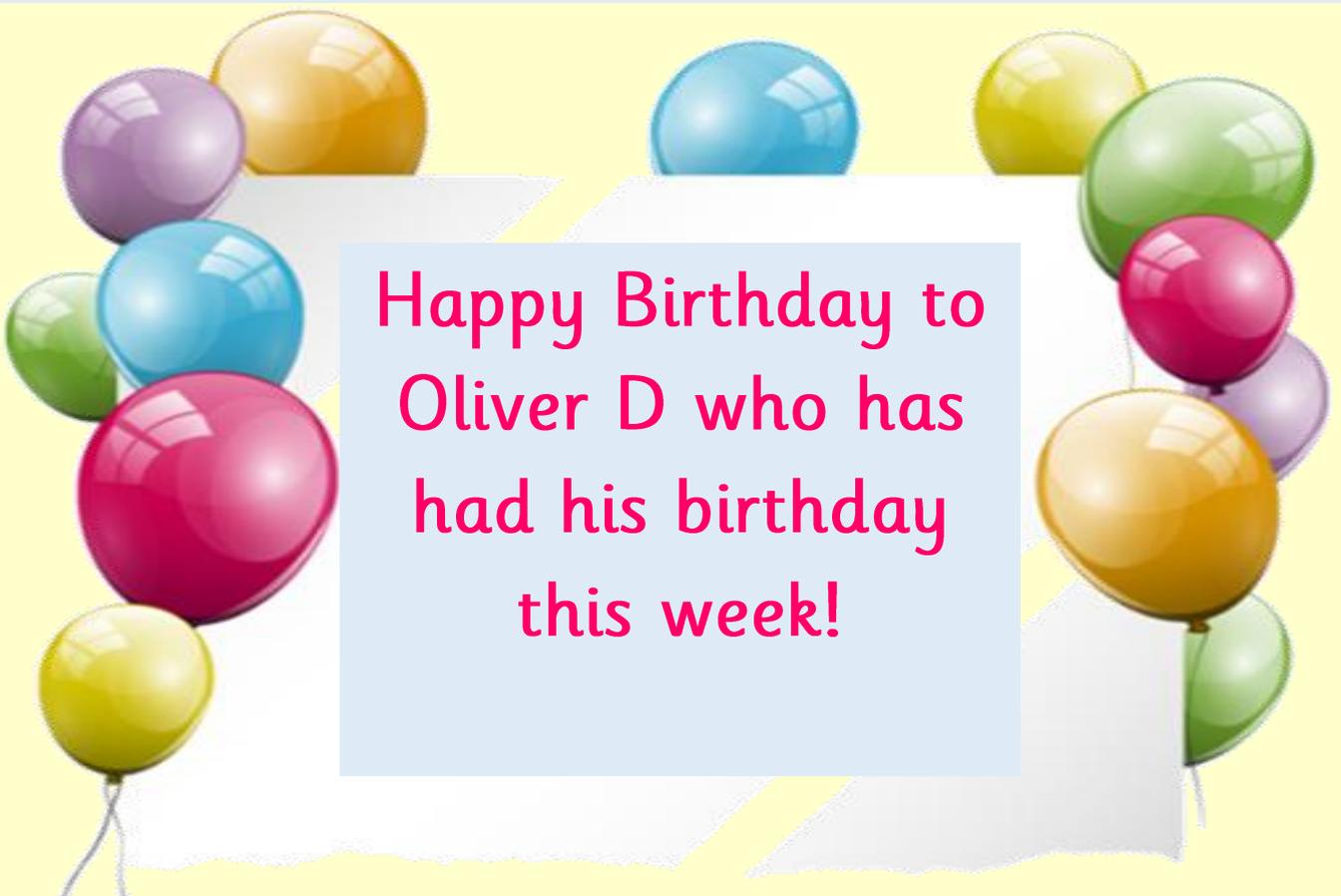
Ants	Wednesday and Friday
Butterflies	Monday and Thursday
Bees	Wednesday and Friday
Dragonflies	Monday and Thursday

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.

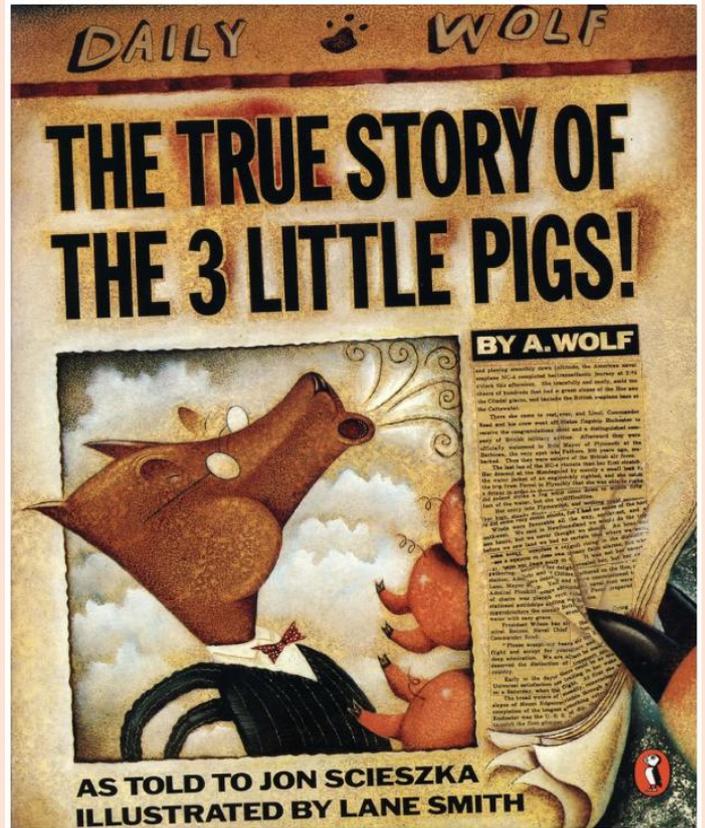
<https://amzn.eu/ez2OYOf>



Happy Birthday to
Oliver D who has
had his birthday
this week!



Many thanks to
 Oliver D for
 donating this book
 on the occasion of
 his 7th birthday

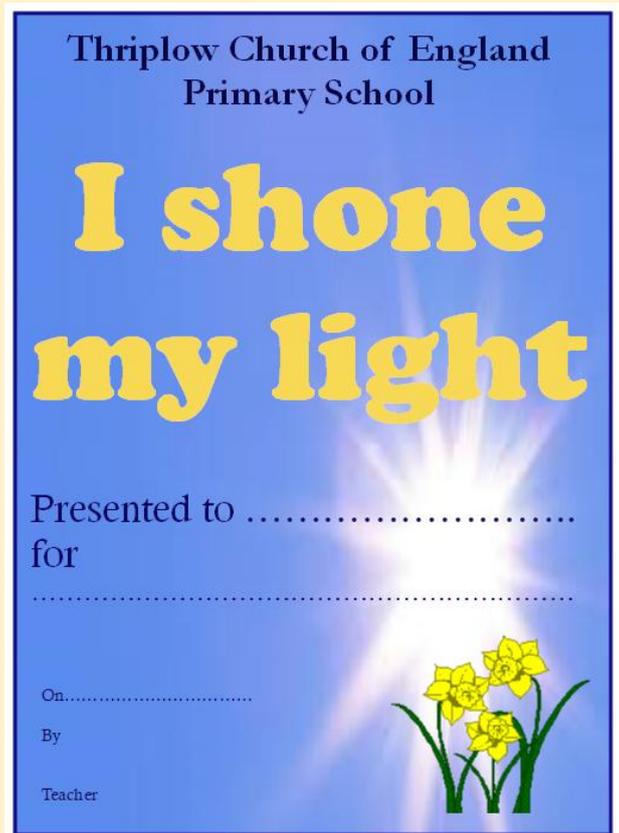


House Points

Our totals for this week!	Total this week	Total this term
Bacon	58	496
Barenton	32	468
Bury	37	436
Bassett	35	438

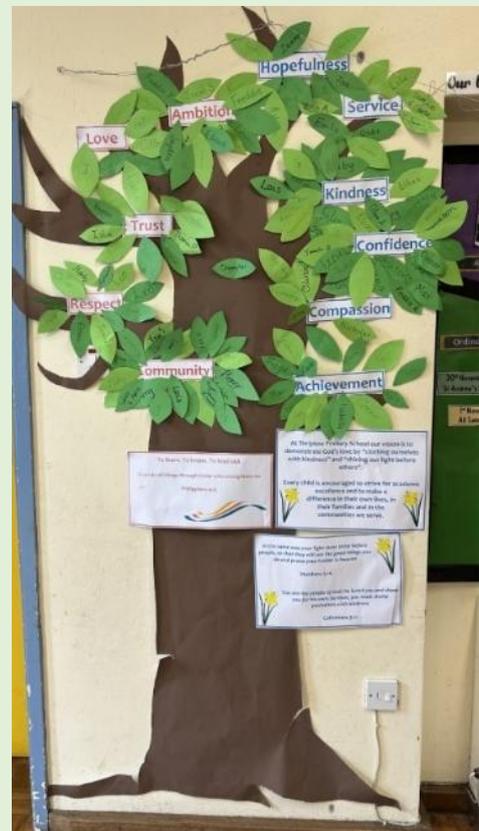
Our certificate winners this week are: -

- Teddy (Reception)
- Percy (Year 1)
- Eliza (Year 1)
- Emily (Year 3)
- Florence (Year 3)
- Luna (Year 4)
- Hollie (Year 4)
- Barney (Year 5)
- Sophie (Year 6)



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

- Lily (Trust)
- Finn (Achievement)
- Monty B-P (Respect)
- Monty J (Community)





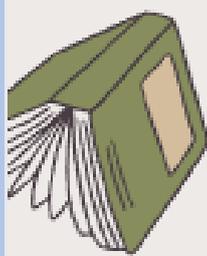
Thriplow Primary School



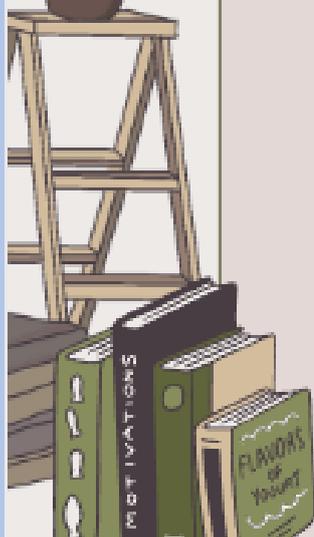
Library



**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



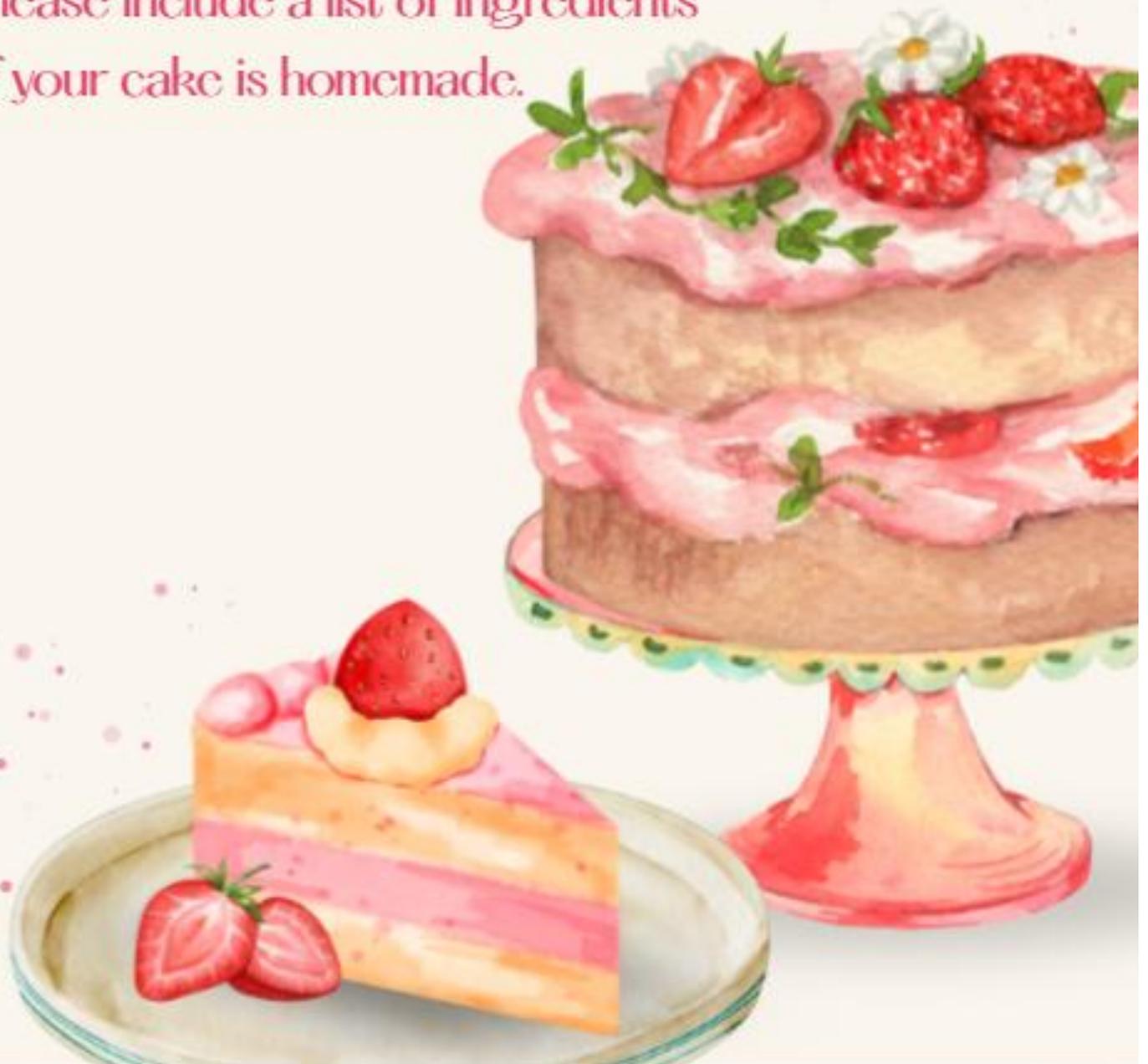
Places are limited and will be awarded on a 'first come, first served' basis - book via MCAS from 6pm 2/3/26

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.*

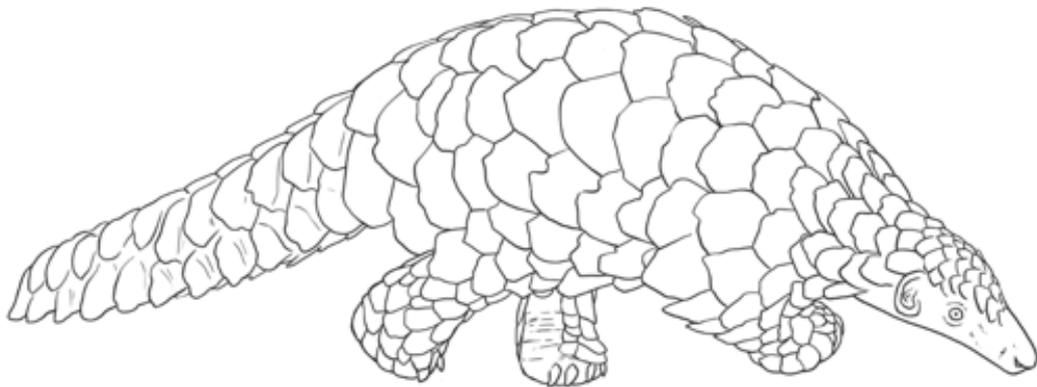


Paint a Pangolin!

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*



FREE Easter Crafts Workshop for Children!

on Good Friday, 3rd April,
at St. Mary's Church Fowlmere
10:00 – 12:00

Have fun making Easter gardens, Easter treat boxes, colourful pen pots, Easter decorations and lots more!

Enjoy refreshments with hot cross buns and home baked cakes.

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE using this QR code



Or this link <https://forms.gle/pqTMajt5zaEcZtCh6>

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Information on your child's learning

Ants It has been an exciting week in Ants class! The children all loved dressing up for world book day and they all looked brilliant! We had lots of fun reading books, making our own bookmarks, and designing our own books 📖

We have been continuing on with our new topic, Growing and Changing, by learning all about how to grow plants. The children identified that plants and flowers need lots of water, sun, and good soil, as well as fresh air to grow in. We then all had a go at planting 2 sunflower seeds each in our planters outdoors, and will continue to watch and look after them!

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. Next week we will be looking at CCVCC and CVCCC words!

In Literacy we have been continuing on with our story of this half term, Little Red Riding. The children each chose a main character from the story and we explored how they might be feeling and what they might be thinking throughout the story. We all had a go at drawing a thought bubble and wrote down our ideas.

In Maths we have been exploring the stable order principle. We have sang number songs, played number games, and practiced counting in order from 0-10 and beyond!

In PE on Wednesday we were practicing moving in different ways. We moved round the hall forwards, backwards and sideways before having a go on the equipment. On Friday the children were practicing their team work and partner work through the use of balloons. The children had the job of keeping the balloon off the floor, in the air, and practicing different ways of hitting them to each other.

In Art this week we have looked at the work of Andy Goldsworthy. We explored some of his art work created with natural materials, before having a go at creating our own!

In PSHE we have started our Identity and Diversity topic. This week we were focusing on what colour hair and eyes we have and how that makes us similar and different, before having a go at describing each other.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend!

Butterflies The children had a lovely week with World Book Day and RE Day.

In Maths, the children have worked continued to work in steps of 2, 5 and 10. Year 1 children have started to solve word problems, by drawing amounts indifferent groups and saying how many there are altogether. The Year 2 children have been representing division problems pictorially to work out how many groups there are. All of the children have been encouraged to use the vocabulary equal groups. Practical activities to do at home - ask children to put food items into equal groups, share cutlery out equally between ____ people. Look at examples of arrays - egg box, how many rows, how many in each row, how many eggs altogether?

In English, the children read the end of 'Woolly Wolf.' Please ask your child to re-tell the story in parts: beginning, climax and ending. Also, ask them what the moral of the story was. In phonics, the children have been looking at alternate spellings for /s/

In science we have been learning about how the Earth orbits the Sun, why we have day and night and why we have seasons. The children enjoyed making paper models to show the Earth's orbit around the Sun.

In PE we have been working on our racquet and ball skills, with the children improving their aim by hitting a ball along the ground to hit a target. Our PSHE unit on diversity & community has continued this week with the children thinking about gender and whether things like sport, toys and colour should be attributed to just girls or just boys or whether they are all for everyone.

In History, the children learnt about Tudor life and how this was different for a Rich Tudor compared to a Poor Tudor.

Please see attached the poem to practise for Daffodil Weekend, please continue to practise the words with your child.

We have started our gardening project, and will be planting some lily of the valleys to represent Easter Lillies. We also found some strawberry plants which we will continue to grow. If you have any bulbs or seeds that you would like to donate, we will happily plant them!

The sun is beginning to shine, we hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Bees

Bees Class have enjoyed an exciting week, a highlight being yesterday when the children all dressed as a book character for World Book Day. The children all looked amazing and enjoyed listening to their classmates describe the characters they had chosen.

On Monday, in Science, we focused on the speed of sound. We learnt that sound travels at 343m/s. We also learnt the meaning of 'supersonic' and learnt all about Concord! The children were very excited to watch a video of a sonic boom made by the airplane!

On Tuesday, we enjoyed completing some extra RE work. We were tasked with learning about how Jews look after the environment. We learnt all about the Jewish festival of trees (Tu B'Shevat). In response, the children all enjoyed thinking about their favourite tree and completing a one-page poster. We included information about how to look after our tree and our hopes for our tree's future. This has now been made into a book which the class is really proud of. We also carried on our Geography learning where we thought about tourism in Northern Ireland. We learnt all about Titanic Belfast, Lisburn Linen and Bushmills.

On Wednesday, the children created a poster in PSHE all about how we should react in a dangerous situation. We thought about the idea of 'Stop, Think, Do' and specifically applied this to how to react if someone chokes on some food. We also continued our gymnastics learning on levels and the children re-created their low and high balances on apparatus.

Today, the children really enjoyed our tennis lesson where we thought about racket control and aiming our forehand shots at a specific point on the court. We also learnt about Viking Gods in History. The children were very excited to learn about Gods such as Odin, Thor, Loki and Freja.

Throughout this week, in Maths, we have continued our topic on fractions. The yr3 children have completed different fraction word problems all week. The yr4 children have compared and ordered decimals. In English, the children have finished reading 'The Odyssey'. We really enjoyed this class text and were sad when it came to an end! In our writing lessons we have started to pretend that we are Penelope writing to Odysseus to beg him to come home. The children have really got into character and we will finish this letter next week.

Next week is also Science week where, as a school, we are focusing on our environment. To celebrate, next Thursday (weather permitting), the children will be learning about how bees help our environment and then we will be doing some gardening to plant some flowers and herbs (which hopefully the bees will pollinate in the summer!).

It has been another great week in Dragonflies!

Dragonflies

In maths this week we have been looking at translating and reflecting shapes. Today we have begun to think about different types of angles and have started to measure angles

using a protractor. Next week, we will continue to focus on angles, including calculating missing angles and angles within shapes.

In English, we have been focusing on the active and passive voice, including using these in more complex sentences and considering how these impact on the formality of our writing. We have been writing sections of our discussion with the title: The Landscape of England is very varied. Do you agree? We will be continuing this work next week.

In PE we have been working on our gymnastics skills. We revisited our previous lesson on different types of jumps and considered how to execute these effectively. We also began to incorporating turns into our jumps progressing from 90 degree turns to full turn, before linking these movements together to form a short routine.

On Tuesday, we had RE Day where we looked in more detail at Buddhist worldviews and their beliefs about the environment. In our other RE learning this week, we thought about how the Mormon Church uses modern technology, especially social media, for their missionary work.

On Thursday, we marked World Book Day, it was so wonderful to see everyone's costumes and each child had the opportunity to explain to the class their chosen character and talk about the book the character features in. In the afternoon, we spent 30 minutes sitting outside in the warm, sunny weather and read our books. The children commented on how much they enjoyed this time and we talked about how this made some of us feel 'mindful' and 'spiritual'.

In Art, we continued our work on Chinese Painting and Ceramics. In particular we looked again at the different brush techniques we can use to create different types of lines. We

then applied this to paint some bamboo. I was so impressed with the children's work.

We are also very proud of our footballers for their effort and enthusiasm during the Girls Football Competition on Wednesday.

We look forward to next week where we will be enjoying some learning as part of British Science Week. We also look forward to next week for our Netballers, who will be competing after school on Monday.

A reminder to please ensure you have read key information about our trip to the British Library shared in the letter and to ensure that this has been paid on MCAS. If you have any questions or concerns please do come and speak to me. If you are available to come on the trip as a parent helper then please do also get in touch either at the door or via the office.

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



Tips for a Top Lunch Box

- 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
100%	96%	92%	Below 90%
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

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.



Source: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report-the-big-task-big-problem/>
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/childrenandadults/child-protective-and-safeguarding-features-and-issues>



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday













