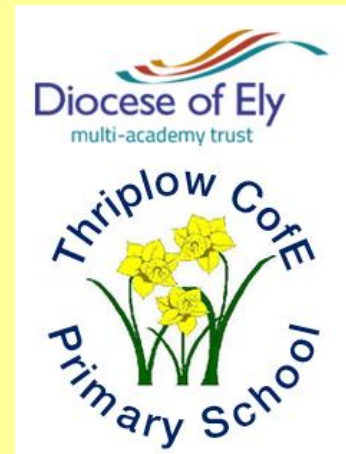


Thriplow School Newsletter

9th January 2026



Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday. It has been lovely to hear from the children about all the things they got up to over the break. We are so pleased to welcome Fitz (Year 2) and his family to our school community this week.

We've had a cold start to the term and had lots of fun in the snow on Monday. Many thanks for equipping your children so well with hats, scarves etc. It would be really helpful if all the children could all have a pair of spare socks in school each day – particularly if this rainy weather continues.

Well done to Otto, Walter, Zack, Hamish, Josie and Oliver T-J for completing the 12 Days of Christmas Reading Challenge over the holidays! If your child has taken part in the challenge and we don't know about it yet, please do let us know so we can give them a certificate.

A reminder that any outstanding Young Voices forms need to be given to the office as soon as possible. If your child is attending Young Voices, please do make as much effort as you can to practise the songs (and the dance moves!) with them at home. If you are attending as an audience member, you should have received

a link to your ticket yesterday. Please let us know if you have any problems regarding your ticket so that we can help you get it sorted.

A reminder that we are a nut-aware school. Please ensure that packed lunch food does **not** contain nuts.

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend,

Best wishes,

Lucy



**MAT of
the Year
2024**



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



<https://x.com/thriplowschool>



<https://www.instagram.com/thriplow.school>

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

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

20 th January	Young Voices
WB 2 nd February	Relationships and Sex Education Week
2 nd February	New Age Kurling
12 th February	Hockey Tournament
24 th February	Parent Consultations
26 th February	Parent Consultations
March (Date TBC)	Netball tournament
4 th March	Year 5/6 girls' football tournament
5 th March	World Book Day
WB 9 th March	Science Week
17 th March	Bees Class Viking Day
18 th March	Tag rugby tournament
21 st – 22 nd March	Daffodil Weekend
26 th March	Dragonflies Trip to the British Library
27 th April	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

Spring Term	
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.

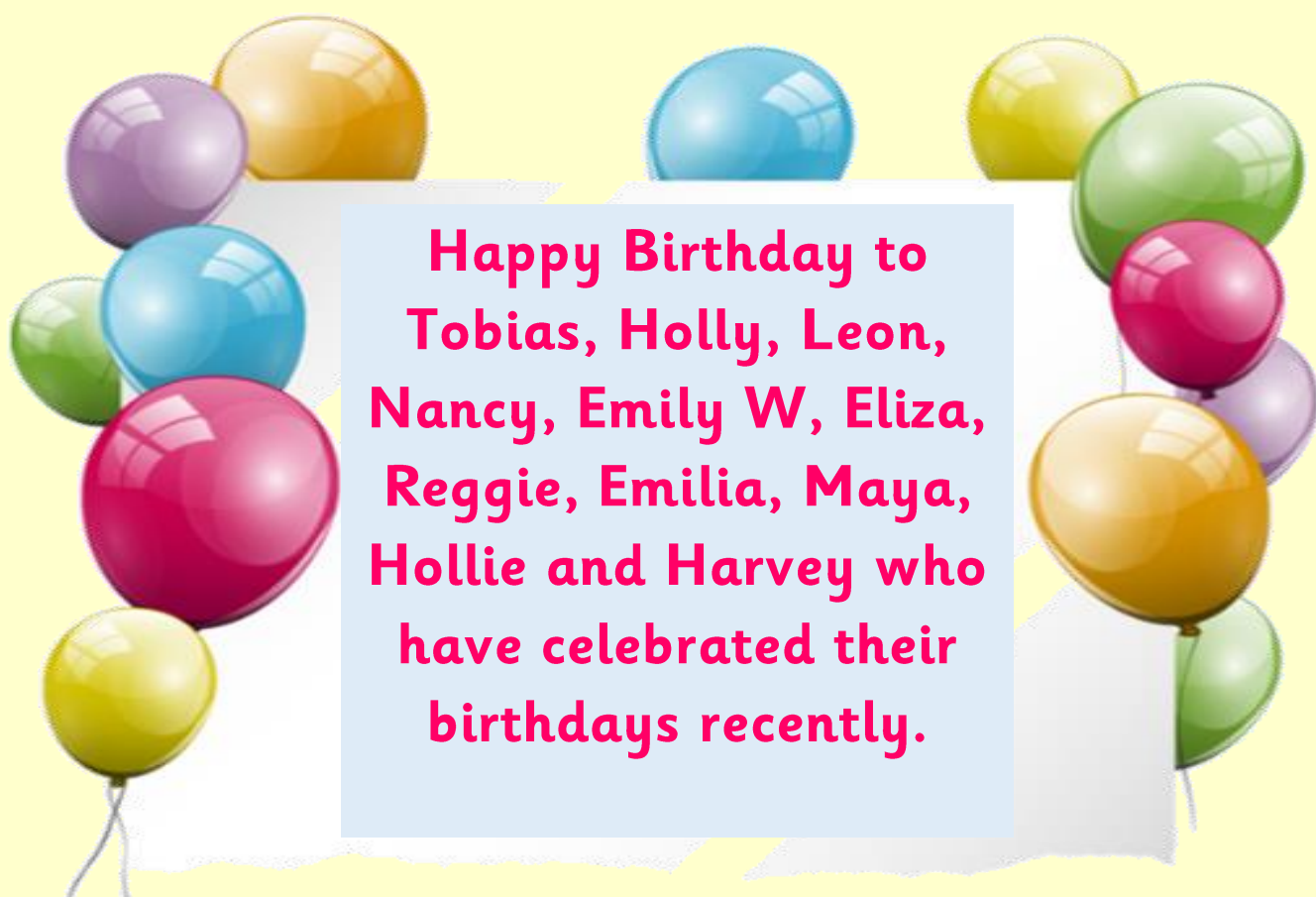
If you have a concern about a child, please come and speak to or email either of us. Alternatively please speak to any member of staff who will be able to pass on information.

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

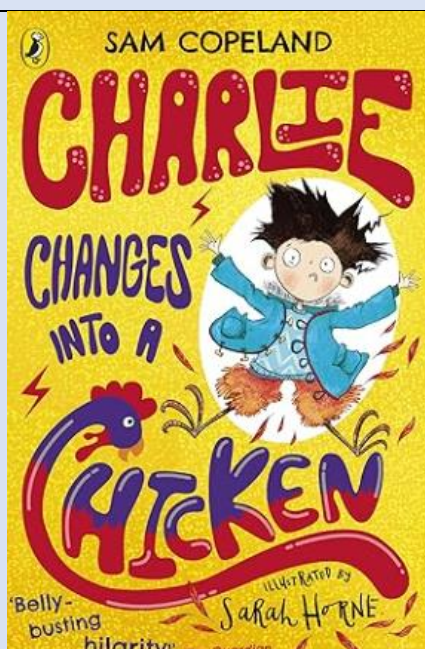
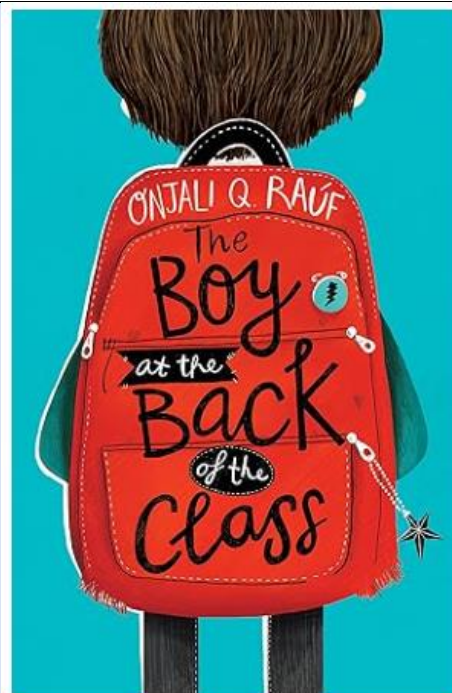
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection>

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>

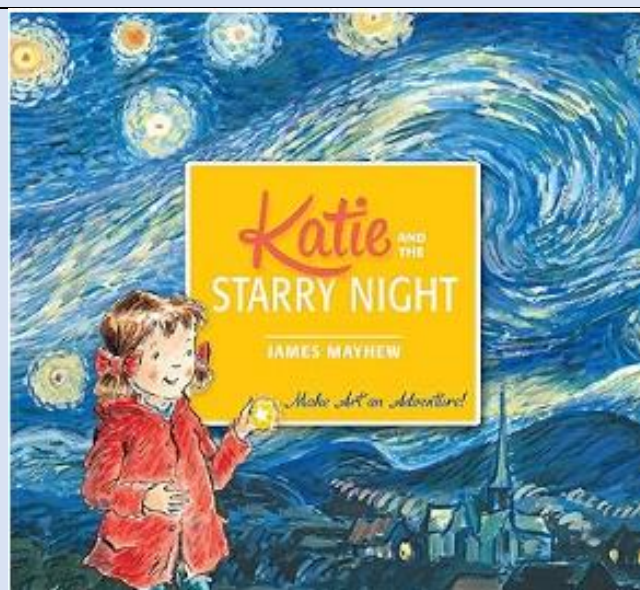


Many thanks to Harvey for donating this book on the occasion of his 9th birthday.



Many thanks to Holly for donating this book on the occasion of her 10th birthday.

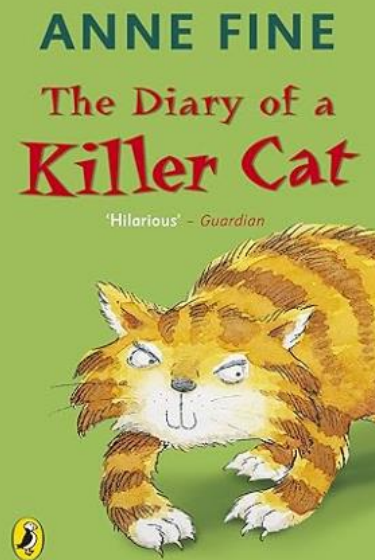
Many thanks to Emilia for donating this book on the occasion of her 6th birthday.





Many thanks to Emily for donating this book on the occasion of her 7th birthday.

Many thanks to Eliza for donating this book on the occasion of her 6th birthday.

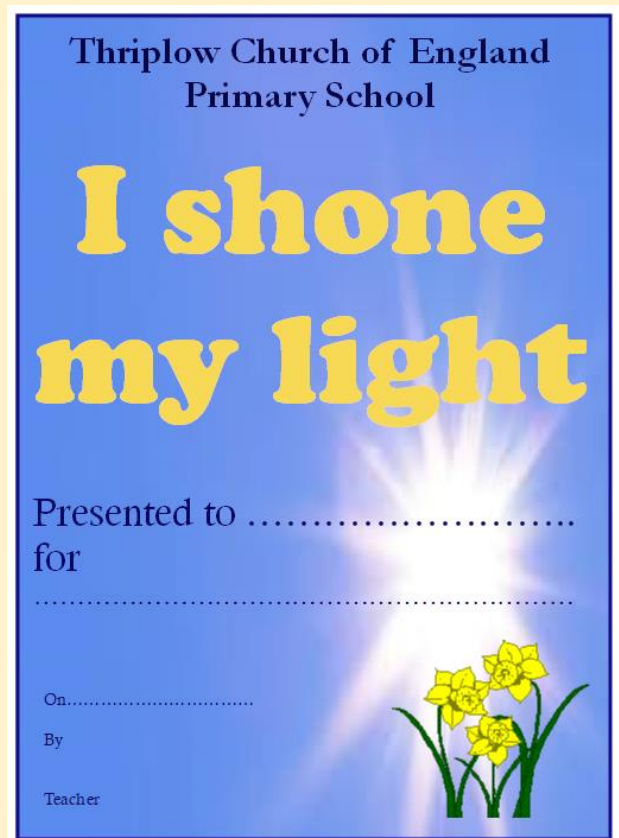


House Points

Our totals for this week!	Total this week
Bacon	49
Barenton	49
Bury	57
Bassett	56

**Our certificate winners
this week are: -**

- Ruby (Reception)
- Henry (Year 2)
- Fitz (Year 2)
- Freddie (Year 3)
- Edward (Year 4)
- Bella-Mae (Year 4)
- Christopher (Year 5)
- Betsy (Year 5)



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

- Teddy (Ambition)
- Thomas (Community)
- Jenson (Achievement)
- Ellie (Achievement)
- Leo S (Compassion)

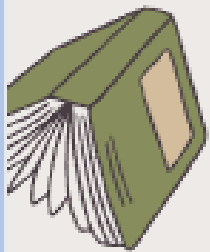




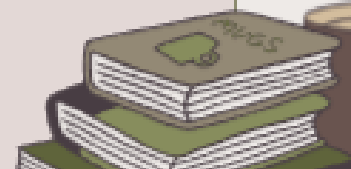
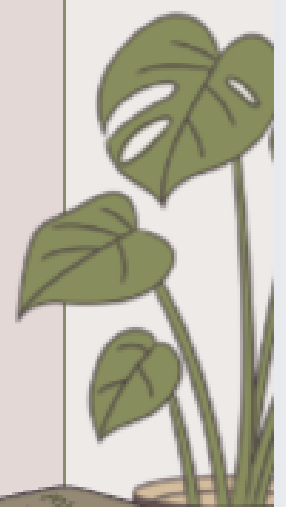
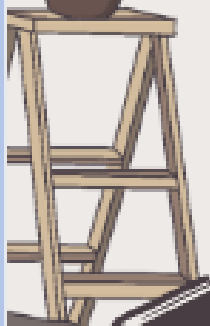
Thriplow Primary School Library



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



**Please pop in
and visit!**



Information on your child's learning

Ants

It has been a lovely week back in Ants class!

It has been great to hear all of the fun and exciting things all the children got up to over the Christmas break, and we have a busy term lined up!

This week we began our new understanding the world topic of Space! We explored the different planets and had a go at painting our own, as well as beginning to learn about our planet earth and what makes it special. The children have come up with some great questions all about space for us to write a letter to an astronomer! Next week we will be learning about the international space station and researching some astronauts who have been up into space.

In phonics we have begun unit 6, looking at the sounds j, w, and z. The children will continue to take part in daily phonics lessons this term focusing on word building, blending and sounding, as well as writing dictated sentences.

In maths we have been looking at positional language and how to follow a familiar route. The children have focused on our route from the classroom to the hall, looking at where we start, what we go past, next to, and down, all before we get the hall. After repeating this a few times, the children drew their own simple maps using shapes and arrows to show each other the route the hall.

In literacy we have read our story for this half term, We're going on a bear hunt! We explored the different characters and settings in the story, and next week we will dive deeper into the different places the family have to travel through.

In PE we have started our topic of gymnastics. This week we have explored ways of making our bodies high by stretching our arms in the air, going on tip toes, and how to jump and land like a 'champion jumper'!

In Art and DT the children drew their own portraits of themselves before cutting them out and turning them into puppets!

Just a little note: if anyone has any recyclable materials at home, particularly different size boxes, and would be happy to donate them to us to make houses, please could you bring them in for us next week? Thank you 😊

I hope you all have a lovely weekend!

Butterflies Happy New Year! We hope that you and your families have had a lovely Christmas Holiday. The children have settled back into the routine very well. We started the week reading some of the story, 'Pandora's Box' from the book, 'The Orchard book of Greek Myths' and have been writing a factual report on the Romans following our history learning last term.

In Maths, the children have been using different equipment to add amounts together. We are impressed with how their number knowledge is progressing. Please encourage your child to recite the number bonds to 10 and use these facts to work out addition facts to 20.

The children have enjoyed their first lesson in Geography - The British Isles- and have learnt the names of the countries that make up The British Isles. They have also learnt what an island is. You may also like to ask your child to tell you the names of the 5 countries that are in The British Isles.

For Phonics, we have been looking at the /oo/ sound. Please find attached a text for your child to read.

In PE we have started our unit on teamwork and the children worked together beautifully in some games designed to test their communication skills and their ability to show kindness and inclusion. In science we have started our unit on electricity and in art we have begun learning about portraiture with the children beginning work on a self-portrait which they will complete over the next few weeks.

In PSHE we are learning about money management and so you might want to talk with your child at home about income and expenditure in your family.

As the weather is becoming quite cold and bitter, we recommend that your child also has a pair of gloves, as many have said how cold their hands have been after playing outside.

We hope that you have a warm weekend.

Bees

Bees Class have had an exciting first week back for the new year. We have started lots of new topics and the children have been so enthusiastic.

On Monday, the children really enjoyed learning about habitats in Science as part of our topic on Ecology. They researched different habitats on the National Geographic Kids website. It is a lovely webpage that is well worth a look at!

On Tuesday, the children began their learning on Eastern Europe in Geography and we had fun writing our names using the Cyrillic alphabet. Later that afternoon, the children produced some beautiful drawings of Tutankhamun's Death Mask to start our Art topic on Ancient Egypt.

On Wednesday, the children began to learn how to create bridge balances in gymnastics. They considered how to do both an individual bridge balance and how to do a pair bridge balance.

Today, in History, the children learnt some initial facts about the Anglo Saxons such as where they came from and when they lived in Britain. Throughout this week in Maths, we have been learning about division. Today we started to learn about short division and we will continue this next week as well. Please do keep practicing times tables at home on TTRS once a week as this really helps with our division lessons. In English, the children read 'The Wooden Horse' so that they understood the Trojan War. We have now started reading 'The Odyssey' where already Odysseus and his companions have come into trouble on an island full of intoxicating lotus fruit! Alongside

our reading, the children have begun to write biographies about Gillian Cross, the author of our adapted version of 'The Odyssey'. Next week, we have lots of fun activities planned to aid our learning such as building food chains in Science and drawing the Sphinx in Art!

Dragonflies It has been a great first week back in Dragonflies! In English we have begun reading our new class text, *The Boy in the Tower*. We have also started learning about the author, Polly Ho-Yen, in order to write a biography. In maths we have been thinking about the place value of decimal numbers up to 3 decimal places. Next week we will be focusing on using the 4 operations with decimals. In RE, we have been finding out about medieval Muslim manuscripts and thinking about how these early written works contributed to the spread of the religion. In PE, we worked on counter balance in gymnastics and started learning about tag rugby. In history, we have been learning about Louis XVI and Marie Antionette. Next week, we will be continuing with our work on our new class text. Please ensure that children have their own named copy in school. If you have any issues with getting hold of a copy of the book then do please let me know.

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



- Let your child help you pack their lunch box and choose what to include from a list of options.
- To keep children fuller for longer, give them a 'main' lunch item that includes carbohydrates, such as whole grain bread, rice or pasta.
- Try pasta salads, stir-fried rice, wraps or crackers and low-fat dips as alternatives to sandwiches.
- Choose lean meats, such as chicken breast as sandwich fillings, and try to include oily fish like tuna once or twice a week.
- Include vegetables such as cherry tomatoes, carrot or celery sticks or home-made vegetable crisps (slice vegetables like sweet potato or beetroot, toss in olive oil and bake).
- Always put salad (lettuce, cucumber) in sandwiches - it all counts towards their five a day.
- Swap the crisps for plain popcorn or vegetable crisps (see above).
- Pre-peel citrus fruits like oranges or satsumas to make them easier to eat.
- Include tinned fruits but make sure they are in juice not syrup which is high in sugar.
- Fruit bars are generally not healthy - try dried fruit like apricots or sultanas instead.
- If your child insists on having crisps or chocolate in their lunchbox, try to limit this to one day per week and let them choose what their 'treat' will be.

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

- a serving of starchy foods (wholegrain bread or pasta, brown rice);
- a protein (lean meat, egg or oily fish);
- a dairy item (low-fat cheese or sugar-free yoghurt);
- a portion of vegetables (celery sticks, carrot pieces);
- a portion of fruit (berries, grapes, melon, apple slices);
- water.

We've put together five balanced lunch boxes here - one for each day of the school week. You can copy them exactly, swap items around or get rid of them all together - whatever works for your family is fine.



Attendance Reminders

Days off school add up to lost learning			
175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, household jobs and other appointments			
0	6	15	19
DAYS ABSENCE (190 school days)	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE
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.

Apply now



for a Reception school place for September 2026

If your child
will be aged 4
by **31st August**

You need to
apply **NOW**
for a School
place



**Apply by
15th January
2026**

For further information please visit
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions
or contact your local School

Contact the Admissions Team by telephone 0345 045 1370

School Admissions ALC2605, PO Box 761, Huntingdon, PE29 9 QR or
email admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Breakfast Club at Ladybird



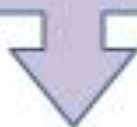
Open to Thriplow School
Children & Ladybird
Children from 3 Years



Breakfast may vary



Opens at 8:00am



Early Starters from 8:30



Contact for more information:

Email: ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

Phone: 01763 208055

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine a week before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school: whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently: so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education easier possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during life's transitions.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: