



# Newsletter No. 23

17<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,



Our Year 4 children had the most amazing time at Danbury on Thursday and Friday. I would like to say a huge thanks to Mr Mackay and all the team who supported this trip - our children at Thundersley are so lucky to have so many staff who are willing to do these trips.

It is hard to believe that it was five years ago this week when we first went into lockdown. I will never forget saying goodbye to children at the gate on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020. When I think of that time, it was the worst of times and the best of times but everyone's experience was unique. In school, we were absolutely overwhelmed by the support we got from parents in our attempts to provide schooling at home and then in school for Key Worker children. The lingering impact of lockdowns has been well documented and tonight a special Panorama programme will be aired 'Lockdown: Five years on.

One of the effects, which had begun to happen prior to COVID, but was exacerbated by COVID was the delay in speech and language skills. It seems shocking, but research now shows that most children have delayed speech and language when they start school. At Thundersley, we have always felt that being able to communicate eloquently and confidently was a key skill. However, this year, we have made oracy a key priority in our School Improvement journey, ensuring we are basing our work on the latest research and on the work of Voice 21 charity which campaigns for oracy to have

higher status within education. Your child may have told you that they take part in a talk task or oracy lesson each week and in the older years, children have been presenting and debating. Each class has a set of guidelines for Talk and the expectation is that children answer questions in full sentences and are able to improve their talk in the same way they would improve their skills in any other subjects. Equally as important as speaking is listening. For many children, actively listening is a barrier to their learning and we also work on that in our lessons. You can help improve your child's communication at home and with this newsletter, I have provided activities you can do at home and also some ideas for questions to ask when you are reading with your child.

Children in Year 3 will be using their communication skills on Wednesday morning at 9.15am when they present their learning about the Egyptians in their year group assembly. We look forward to seeing parents/grandparents and any family members there. We are also looking forward to welcoming nannies and grandads to our favourite event of the year - the EYFS Grandparents' Afternoon Tea events - Tuesday for Chipmunks and Wednesday for Dragonflies.

Have a super week.

**Miss E. Dawson**  
**Headteacher**

### Attendance

For the week ended 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025 there were three classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Robins who achieved 99.7%.

We have a number of children who have medical conditions which mean that they have to have time off school for appointments and therefore their data is not included in these figures.

Attendance figures:-

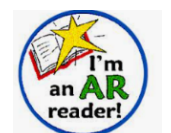
Class	Week
Chipmunks	96.8%
Dragonflies	93.1%
Butterflies	97.0%
Rabbits	72.0%
Ladybirds	97.4%
Robins	99.7%
Fireflies	94.5%
Owls	95.5%
Bears	96.1%
Sparrows	95.0%
Ants	92.3%
Kestrels	95.0%
Badgers	93.6%
Otters	94.5%
Squirrels	96.0%
Whole School	93.9%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners  
**ROBINS**

Aspirational attendance target set for the school for 2024 - 2025 is:  
**97%**

### KS2 Accelerated Reader

For the week ended 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025:-



### Word Count

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kestrels - 610,286
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Fireflies - 466,892
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ants - 406,957

### Quizzes

- 1<sup>st</sup> Fireflies - 95
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ladybirds & Bears 29





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3<sup>rd</sup> Owls 22

Overall:-

### Word Count

1<sup>st</sup> Bears - 12,392,397

2<sup>nd</sup> Kestrels - 6,555,157

3<sup>rd</sup> Badgers - 6,654,816

### Quizzes

1<sup>st</sup> Bears - 1,211

2<sup>nd</sup> Owls - 657

3<sup>rd</sup> Sparrows - 633

### Year 4 Residential to Danbury



On Thursday, some of the Year 4 children had their first residential to Danbury. The children set off on their coach journey very excited and looking forward to participating in lots of activities. Everyone had an amazing time and Ollie Smith (Sparrows) gives details of his experience below:-

"First we went to school. Then we put all our bags and suitcases outside our classes. Then, after that, Mr. Mackay told us to go into the hall to talk about the trip. Then we coloured whilst we were waiting. I was very excited for the trip. Then we got our suitcases and bags to the coach where all our parents were. The coach driver put all the bags into the side of the coach. We got onto the coach and tried to sit next to our friends. I sat next to Aiden my best friend. As soon as everyone got onto the coach we started driving and luckily we beat the rush hour. When we got there we got told to get out of the coach to collect our bags and



suitcases. When we got all our stuff, we got told what cabin we were in and I was with Aiden, George, Norman, Alfie, Daniel and Charlie. We were in Room 10 with Mr. Mackay. We unpacked all of our stuff and laid it on the bed. If we couldn't decide who was on the top or bottom bunk we had to do Rock, Paper, Scissors. I ended up on the bottom bunk even though I wanted the top bunk but as I was disappointed, I'm allowed to go on the top bunk at Grafham Waters. We got into our groups and the teacher was talking about what our first activity was which was trying to make a fire. We had to collect sticks in order. Skinny sticks, medium sized sticks and big ones. There was a place to put all our sticks in order and then we were given a lighter to light the fire. When we eventually got the fire working we got to eat marshmallows and have hot chocolate. I didn't have hot chocolate though as I don't like it. The marshmallows were delicious though! When we finished this activity we headed over to lunch which was a jacket potato. After lunch we went onto the high ropes which were very fun. There were two lanes, one was higher than the other. I went onto the top one. At first I was really scared but when I did it I was really calm and knew what I was doing. I had to do the 'Leap of faith' where I had another harness on and had to hold onto a metal bar and then go across to where we



started from. I was really excited to make it to the end. I just kept hanging as I needed a rest which was really fun. After the high ropes we went back to our cabins to get dressed into our clothes for dinner, which was pasta. The pasta was good. There was a meaty pasta or a tomato pasta and I first I had the tomato pasta but I didn't really like it so I started to eat the meaty one which was better. For dessert we could have muffins, doughnuts and cupcakes. I had a chocolate doughnut. After dinner we got changed into our muddy clothes to go out into the forest and have a fire. We called Mr. Wilson, DJ Wilson, as he kept playing songs which we danced to and sang to. Mr. Mackay danced but he just kept swinging his arms. When



the fire started to lower down we went to the cabins to get our pyjamas on, brush our teeth and head to bed. We stayed up until around 11pm then we started settling down and going to sleep. The beds were comfy and we all slept well. In the morning we started getting dressed and our next activity was the zip line. We all got in order so we could have four turns each on the zip line. It was very fun and we got to enjoy seeing the view. After we finished the zip line we got to do archery. When we got to archery we got shown how to hold the bow and shoot the arrow. I've done archery once when I was in Spain which was two years ago and I remembered how to hold the bow and shoot the arrow. I enjoyed it lots and we got to make a game which was called 'make a pizza'. Most of us only hit the grass which was green vegetables like lettuce. Then Mr. Mackay







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shot an arrow and we had to try and shoot ours further. He shot it a long way away so it was quite hard. Then when we finished the activity we headed over to pack all our stuff and meet in the middle of the centre. We then got on the coach and headed home. My favourite was the high ropes because it was very fun and we got to see what was around us. The whole trip was magnificent and I wish we could visit there again."



## Southend United, National League U11 Cup

In late October our Year 6 team travelled to Garrons in Southend and won the annual Southend United U11 tournament! This then meant that our school got to represent Southend United at the next round of the National League Cup! 1,200



schools entered the competition with over 7,500 children involved and Thundersley had made it to the last 48 schools! The boys travelled to Tonbridge Angels FC on Thursday and took on the best schools across the South East representing their National League Club! The boys faced some tough games against Dagenham & Redbridge, Maidstone United, Tonbridge Angels, Chelmsford City and Aveley FC. The competition was extremely high and competitive throughout!



After an inconsistent group stage the boys managed to squeeze into the semi-finals and play against Chelmsford City. The boys narrowly lost 2-0 against Chelmsford, which meant they went to a 3<sup>rd</sup> place play-off. An extremely close game against Aveley saw us again narrowly lose 2-1 which saw us finish in 4<sup>th</sup> place! A terrific achievement to finish 4<sup>th</sup> at a regional event with many talented players there on the day. Maidstone United managed to win the final and are into the last 8, they are one round away from reaching Wembley!!! Good luck to Maidstone United!

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Jetten are super proud of all the boys for representing Thundersley in the way that they did and also for representing Southend United. A great experience from the day and memories the boys will have for a life-time! Well done to all involved. Lincoln Bellinger (Squirrels) gives his account of the tournament below:-

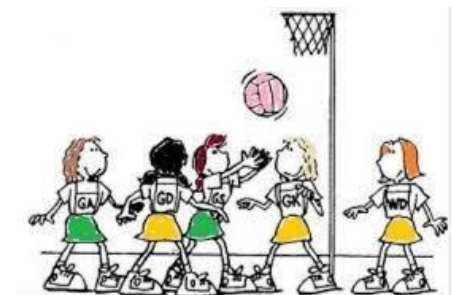
"Our first game was at 10am over in Kent and we lost 2-1. Then we played our second game which we also lost 1-0. Then we played our third game which we won 1-0. Then we played our fourth game which we drew 0-0 and then we lost our final game 2-0. Then we were waiting for the results and another team had to win to go through instead of us but they lost which meant we played in the semi-finals. We lost our



semi-final game to the team who came second overall. We then played in the third and fourth playoffs and we played a team which we won against 1-0 but they played better this time and won 2-1. This meant we came fourth overall. I thought the tournament was well set out but it was a long way to travel. It was definitely really fun even though we came fourth overall. We changed our formation when we were winning to put more in defence to stop them scoring more goals. It finished around 2pm but we didn't get back until 4pm because of the traffic."



## Netball vs. Woodham Ley



Our netball game this week felt different from usual. It started with the team having an unusually good practice at lunch and all seemed a little too calm for game day. Waiting for the opposition to arrive saw the clouds darken and the threat of rain loomed. Our team seemed rattled by the situation, so when we scored our first goal, Mrs Hoeb thought it was going to settle. However, the game continued to be tight and despite a sterling effort particularly in the last quarter, we conceded the game 5 goals to 4. A frustrating result but we dust ourselves off and look to come back fighting in our next game. As always, and without





exception, Mrs Hoeb couldn't be more proud of each and every player. We've got this TPS! Sam Clark gives his account of the game below:-

"In the match I played goal shooter, goal attack and goal keeper. I prefer playing GA because I like to shoot. I scored 2. It was a very close game. We started off in the first quarter down by one so we tried to bring it back in the next quarter. We got unlucky because we didn't score and they did making it 3-1 to them. In the third quarter we managed to score but so did they. We went into the final quarter hoping we could try and make a comeback. We played excellently managing to make it 5-4 to them. We were very unlucky and I think we could have won on any other day. The other team also played excellently and had a few key players. I'm looking forward to the next game, hoping that we can win."

### KS1 Racquets Festival - Butterflies' Class



Butterflies' class had the opportunity to participate in a bespoke Year 1 Racquet Festival organised within the Sports Partnership at

The Deanes. The children were excited to walk to the 'big' school and look at how giant the children and classrooms seemed! Once we arrived, we settled into a carousel of tennis and badminton inspired activities and Mrs Hoeb was delighted to see some real talent emerging despite it often being quite tricky to master. One of our favourite activities was when we tried to hit the shuttlecock over the net for our friends to catch! A super tricky skill! Max Potter tells of his sporting experience below:-

"I smacked a ball with a racquet in the air so high. Then no one could catch it. Next I had a balloon which I had to balance on the racquet. Then I had to bounce it on the racquet. Then I had a drink. I had to roll a ball along the floor and another person had to whack it back on the floor. Then I had to hit a plastic thing to

Thomas and Elijah. My favourite thing was hitting the ball so high."

### Girls' Football Matches (home) vs. Hadleigh Junior School & Kents Hill Junior School



A brilliant game from our Year 6 girls saw them get a big win in the league against Hadleigh. A really dominant performance

from Thundersley saw them get their second league win of the season. A special mention to Isla Reeves with her absolute wonder-strike that went straight into the top left hand corner! Well done girls another brilliant win for our Year 6 Girls' Football team!

Another game in the same week! This one was a big game for the girls as historically in the Benfleet area the Girls' Football League is decided between Thundersley and Kents Hill. A very tense game with both sides having a fair number of chances but it was Thundersley who looked the more likely team of scoring. Both goalkeepers made some terrific saves and kept their teams in the game! The girls managed to get a draw from the game and carry on their undefeated streak... Our Girls' team hasn't lost a league game in 4 years!!! Well done girls a great effort!

Quinn Godfrey gives her account of both games below:-

"On Monday, Mr. Wilson picked us up from class and then we went down to the field. We had a warm up and then we started the game. Their goalkeeper was ok in the first half but we scored a few goals. In the first half I went down to save the ball but it went through my legs and went into the goal. Then there was a penalty as one of our team mates pushed one of the other team right near the box and unfortunately, I couldn't save it. In the second half, we scored 3 making the end score 7-2 to us. The game was really good and they were a really good team and at the end, we did three cheers for Hadleigh and then they did three cheers for us.

On Wednesday, we played Kents Hill. Two of their players were really tall which gave them an advantage. The match was a bit hard and it was freezing cold. I saved lots of goal attempts and this made me feel good. The game finished 0-0 but it was very good and very enjoyable. Our team played very well and the taller girls in the other team were good but we still managed to get the ball from them. We did three cheers at the end too.

### Multi School Council Meeting



The School Council sent representatives to Robert Drake on Wednesday in order to participate in the Multi-Schools Council. The agenda was full and our children were able to offer up new ideas and spoke up eloquently in the meeting. They were particularly empathetic when we were speaking about the topic of ADHD awareness in school. What was just as impressive, was the walk back up the hill in time for lunch! Mrs Sawyer and Mrs Hoeb were out of breath but the children seemed to just get faster! Poppy Steyne (Fireflies) gives her account of the meeting below:-

"We walked there and then we got inside we talked about how to stay safe online and we came up with loads of ideas like apps for kids under 10. We were talking about ADHD. We said that we should get a sensory room in each school for children who have ADHD and epilepsy. We also talked about getting stress balls for each class so that children could use them to focus. We also said that maybe we could get a class pet and one person could take it home at the weekend. We also sat down and had a biscuit and a drink. We weren't







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allowed to eat bananas as they have a child with a severe banana allergy. I thought the meeting was really good because we were talking about people who need help and who need help with their learning. It made me happy to talk to children from other schools to know what they like. Two children from each year group in KS2 went and I was one of them from Year 3."

### Numbots Certificates

Well done to all children in Year 1 and Year 2 that have used NumBots to help support their fluency in Maths. Certificates were given during Celebration Assembly. The following children were our NumBot superstars for the week ended 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025!



Year 1 - Aaron Jenkins (Butterflies)  
Year 2 - Maddox McKinlay (Robins)

Well done to you both!

### Thanks

This week's Thank is:-



**Is it worse to fail at something or never attempt it in the first place?**

### Stars of the Week



**Year 6:-** Sophie Axford, Noah Dyne and Dylan Oakley  
**Year 5:-** Trisha Patel and George Oswald  
**Year 3:-** Percy Keane and Eva Mandizha  
**Year 2:-** Ava Rothern and Ruby Molloy  
**EYFS:-** Henry Underdown and Isabelle Cable

### Playground Stars of the Week

Sonny Grover, Nicolas Ellis, Kai Beale, Joshua Sandford, Edward Payne, Vanessa Lukosevicius, Saul Mhembere, Millie Anderson, Jake Sewell, Olivia Lopes, Joseph Potter, Ziggy Wright-Martin and Amelie D'Aleo

### House Point Scores

The House Point scores for the week are:-

Green Dragons	2812
Red Arrows	2787
Blue Dolphins	1983
Golden Eagles	1773



Well done again Green Dragons!

### Honesty is the best policy!

We would like to congratulate the following for handing in money they found recently.

Ava Nery - Badgers  
Ellen Weeden - Otters  
Louise Martin - Badgers  
Oliver Sylvester - Rabbits  
Ella Abbott - Kestrels  
Phoebe Barron - Ants  
Louie Seymour - Bears  
Darcey Rowland - Ants  
Cattleya Tsvetkovska - Ants

Well done - you should be very proud of yourselves!

### eSchools App

We kindly ask that you to download the eSchools and eSchools Lite apps (free of charge), in order that any messages we send you are not charged to the school and you will be able to access the calendar, newsletter and website easily.



### Twitter

Please keep checking our Twitter feed for various updates/messages:-

@Thundersley\_P\_S

### Breakfast Club & Treetops After School Club

We offer a Breakfast Club (7.45am to the start of school) and an After School Club called Treetops (3.15pm to 6.00pm) each day. If you are interested in a place for your child and would like more information, please speak to Mrs. Hayward in the main School Office.

### Uniform Shops

We would like to advise that we now have two uniform shops as follows:-

Penn UK,  
15-17 Kents Hill Road,  
South Benfleet,  
Essex, SS7 5PN.

Telephone:- 01268 751724

[www.pennuk.com](http://www.pennuk.com)

Danielle's Uniform,  
Claydons Lane,  
Rayleigh,  
Essex, SS6 7UP.

Telephone 01268 967542

[www.daniellesshop.co.uk](http://www.daniellesshop.co.uk)

### PTA News

### Next Meeting

Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

### Community News

### CAVS Job Vacancy

Castle Point Borough Council are delighted to announce that a job vacancy has arisen to appoint a Wellbeing Ambassador Lead and that it is now open for applications.

For more information, please visit the link below:-





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<https://workingforessex.com/apply/wellbeing-ambassador-lead-castle-point-borough-council-19173?source=workingforessex.com>

## **Mega Camps - Easter 2025**

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

## **Barracudas**

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

## **School Calendar - Dates**

<https://www.thundersleyprimary.co.uk/web/home/86964>

or eSchools app Lite

## **Future Term Dates**

07/04/25 to 21/04/25 - Easter Break  
22/04/25 - Start of the Summer Term  
05/05/25 - Bank Holiday  
26/05/25 to 30/05/25 - Half Term  
18/07/25 - Last day of Term

01/09/25 - Start of the Autumn Term  
27/10/25 to 31/10/25 - Half Term  
22/12/25 to 02/01/26 - Christmas Break  
05/01/26 - Start of the Spring Term  
16/02/26 to 20/02/26 - Half Term  
30/03/26 to 10/04/26 - Easter Break  
13/04/26 - Start of the Summer Term  
04/05/26 - Bank Holiday  
25/05/26 to 29/05/26 - Half Term  
17/07/26 - Last Day of the Summer Term  
(due to non-pupil day on 20/07/26)

## **\*\*\*\*NON PUPIL DAYS\*\*\*\***

21/07/25  
22/07/25

01/09/25  
24/10/25  
24/11/25  
23/02/26  
20/07/26

