



Newsletter No. 7

20th October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our wonderful Waddle-On-Sea penguins are home! Each year, Havens Hospices need to raise £207,000 to care for families in the local community and the penguin trail was part of this effort. Donated by the Lake family and decorated by the children in our Year 3 cohort as part of their Antarctic project, they are now adorning our reception area. Do look out for them.

Our weary Grafham adventurers arrived home on Friday with tales to tell - and lots of muddy clothes! I would like to thank the staff team who looked after them so well and gave up time with their families. I am sure they all slept well on Friday night!

Our Year 3 children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Chelmsford Museum on Wednesday and took part in some super activities related to their Stone Age topic. As always, on both these trips, the children's behaviour, was exemplary and they got stuck into everything with aplomb.

This week, thanks to the generosity of Thundersley Congregational Church, we have a theatre group presenting Be Brave! workshops and also our 'Be the best you can be' mural is being given a revamp! Dan Kitchener, internationally acclaimed artist, whose recent work received much praise at the Southend City Jam will be repainting the wall with our motto - we are very excited to see the results!

A reminder that we have a training day on Friday and that our PTA are running their hugely popular Monster Bash Discos on Thursday.

Have a super week and relaxing half term when it comes.

Miss E. Dawson
Headteacher

Secondary School Admissions

Please note that if your child is currently in Year 6, you will need to apply online for a Secondary School place by 31st October 2025. To register your choice please visit:-

www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

Attendance

For the week ended 17th October 2025 there were five classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Kestrels 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:-

	Week
Chipmunks	94.9%
Dragonflies	94.1%
Butterflies	96.1%
Rabbits	95.2%
Ladybirds	96.0%
Robins	96.7%
Fireflies	93.8%
Owls	99.0%
Bears	97.1%
Sparrows	92.9%
Ants	92.4%
Kestrels	99.7%
Badgers	97.4%
Squirrels	97.5%
Whole School	95.9%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners
KESTRELS

Aspirational attendance target set for the school for
2025 - 2026 is:
97%

Girls' Football match vs. Edward Francis

On Tuesday, the Girls' Football team visited Edward Francis for an away match. The game was competitive and the girls played brilliantly to win 2-0. Mabel Evers (Sparrows) describes the match below:-



"I played goalie. I play for a team outside of school as well and play goalie for them too. I really like being goalie because instead of just kicking the ball and trying to get it into the net, you can drop kick it and hold it. The game was really close and I saved all the goals they were trying to score. They had a really, really good player but it came to the point where Ruby gave an assist to Scarlett so she chipped it in and we scored making it 1-0. Then Annie, went down the pitch and tried to kick it in and she scored so it went to 2-0 so we won! I enjoyed the game lots as I've never played for the school football team. It was really exciting as it was the first match we got to play and we won. I'm really looking forward to the future matches because we'll win some and we'll lose some but it doesn't matter."

Mixed Netball match vs. Woodham Ley





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After a successful start in the Girls' Netball League, Thundersley girls were joined by some boys from Year 6 for the first match in the Mixed League. It was a really enjoyable game to watch, with some good passing and moving sequences and determined defending from both teams. After working on shooting at school it was brilliant that Thundersley GA and GS played well in each quarter, scoring in all but the last. The final score was 6-2 to Thundersley - a promising season of netball is ahead. Oscar Wooden (Badgers) gives his account of the match below:-

"We arrived there and the Headteacher of the school led us around to the netball court and we did some practices with Mr. Yorston. Then we said "hello" to the umpire of the game. Then we started and we had a good start. We scored in the first 6 minutes. It was a competitive match but we managed to win it 6-2. We finished it and celebrated with the Woodham Ley team with some biscuits and juice. It was my very first match ever and it was brilliant because the Woodham Ley team were extremely kind and fair."

Year 3 visit to the Chelmsford Museum

On Wednesday, the Year 3 children visited the Chelmsford Museum as part of their topic work on the Stone Age. The children had a packed day of activities such as grinding seeds, weaving, using a bow drill to drill a hole in some flint and making cave paintings using sticks and charcoal. The children had the benefit of working with four educators throughout the day who told them about the history of the area including that there were rhinos, hippos and mammoths in Chelmsford a long time ago. Ronnie Hartman (Owls) and Evelyn Muir (Fireflies) tell of their exciting day below:-

"I had so much fun on the coach and I had my whiteboard and pen. Mrs. Hammond took me to see some toy food, I saw all of the rooms and I took photos on the pink

iPad. I took photos of the swords and the pictures on the walls. I went to the eating room to eat my lunch. Mum packed me a squeezey raspberry yoghurt which was nice and I had a ham sandwich. I did a really nice painting and a picture using black chalk. How much I loved the day was so good." (Ronnie Hartman)

"Firstly I went to see Stone Age tools. We saw some spears, a knife and broken tools which had been dug up out of the ground. Then we made some Stone Age art. We had to use chalk and charcoal to make Stone Age cave paintings. It was fun making everything to go on it. Then we had lunch. After lunch we took some photos of some Stone Age tools and pots which they used. There was also a Roman room which we explored whilst we were waiting for the next activity. We made wheat by grinding oats on a stone. We also made holes in rocks by putting a sharp stick in a rock and then we put an arrow through the string and twisted it and then we moved it side to side and it made a hole in the rock. I enjoyed making the wheat and using the arrow to make a hole in the rock. I enjoyed doing everything. I also didn't know that you could make a hole in a rock but I do now." (Evelyn Muir)

Year 5 Residential to Grafham



Last Wednesday, some of the Year 5 children visited Grafham for a residential. The children enjoyed lots of water activities and Hermione Delf (Ants) tells of her brilliant trip below:-

"When we first got there we got taken to a lounge where we put all our suitcases and our bags. Then we had a tour by one of the ladies who works there called Katie. Then Katie took us around the whole

building to look at the rooms and the kitchen and then she said we could go to our rooms and find out who we were with. I was with Lola, Evelyn, Lacey, Bella, Emily, Izzy and Kitty. The room was really spacious in the middle and there were four bunk beds that we all shared. After we had a look at our rooms we went to our first activity. My first activity was Fun Boating. We got to pick our groups. I was with Lola and Evelyn and then we had to listen to some instructions. First, we had to unravel our sail and attach the sail to the boom. Then we had to get a ferry out to one of the fun boats and we could start to sail our boat. One of us had to pull a black pole which controlled the turning, one of us had to pull a black string to control the speed and the co-worker put one buoy on one side and one buoy on the other side and we had to sail back and forth between the buoys. The third person had to check that we were going at the correct speed and direction. I enjoyed it but at first we were quite nervous because we couldn't undo the hook on the sail but once we got the hang of it, we started sailing really well and it was good fun. After that, we went to have some dinner. For dinner we either had pasta/rice or we had chicken/rice. I chose the pasta/rice and it tasted really nice. The rice was quite sweet and the pasta was delicious! For dessert it was either an option of yoghurt or cake/custard. I chose the cake/custard and the custard didn't taste like I thought it would, it was more chocolatey than custard but it was still nice and the cake was chocolate and that was good too. After dinner we did the Grafham Challenge blindfolded and it was quite scary as we had to put a blindfold on and we were getting sprayed with water doing the obstacle course. I thought it was fun. After that we went up to our rooms to get into our pyjamas and then we got settled down into bed. We were all really tired so





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slept really well. The next morning, we had to get changed and then we went down to the kitchen to have breakfast. For breakfast we had either a bacon bap or beans on toast and I chose the beans on toast with some orange juice. After that we went back up to our rooms to get changed for our next activity which was high ropes and low ropes. Beforehand I was quite nervous as we had to pull a string that was attached to the climbers



who had to climb all the way up to the top. Then it came to my turn and I had to climb a ladder to get

to the top and then climb across a big pole to get to the other side. If you wanted to come down on the first pole you could. You had to step off the pole and they let go of the rope slowly to let you down or you could be let down to the half way mark and you could flip upside down and spin around. I did both. Then because our group finished quicker than the others, we got to go on the low ropes but we had to wear a helmet to protect our heads. I made a game up where there were two ropes and two log pieces on the floor. We had to jump from one log to the other log holding on to the ropes without falling on the floor. After that we all finished and got a shortbread cookie. Then it was lunchtime. For lunch we had spaghetti bolognese or macaroni cheese. I chose the spaghetti bolognese which was really good. After that we went up to our rooms to get changed for our afternoon activity. My afternoon activity was canoeing and kayaking. With canoeing we had three challenges to try and complete to get onto the next activity. The first challenge was that we had to sit on the edge of the kayak and dunk our heads in the water without falling off which I managed to do. The second

challenge was that we had to sit on the back of the kayak and lay down without falling in which I managed to do too. The third challenge was quite tricky. We had to stand up in our boats and paddle in a circle without falling off. I fell off and managed to get back on my boat without losing my shoes. After that we went to have dinner which was fish or veggie nuggets. Once we had our dinner we got to go up to our rooms to get in our pyjamas and then meet down in the lounge. All the chairs were set up in front of a big TV. On the TV we got to watch Ice Age 2 which is one of my favourite films. Then we got a hot chocolate afterwards. After that we went up to our rooms to go to bed. We all slept quite well that night as well. In the morning, which was our last day, we had some breakfast and I had bacon, egg, toast and beans with an orange juice as my drink and I loved that breakfast. After that we had to go to our rooms and get changed for our last activity. My last activity was raft building. My raft was good. We got it into the sea and we managed to sail it out a bit but then on the way back into shore our raft got stuck in the mud. Harry, Izzy and I had to get out of the boat and started pushing it back to shore. That is when I lost my shoe - it got stuck in the mud! Before we went home we went to lunch and I had pasta with a roll and toppings on the side. In my roll I had cheese, peppers and cucumbers. After that we got all our bags and went on the coach to get back home. My favourite activity was kayaking and canoeing because I managed to get out to the first challenge quicker than all my other group and Mr. Mackay. I thought that the whole trip was really, really good. I wasn't as worried about being away from my parents because I've been to Danbury with the school before and that was only one night. I think I would be quite



confident now to go to the Isle of Wight as I've stayed away for two nights from my parents and it's only three nights more and I'm sure I would have a good time!



Harvest Donations

We have received an email from the Southend Food Bank thanking us for the recent Harvest donation. We collected enough food to make 650 meals for the community. How amazing! Please see the certificate we have received to acknowledge our donation below.



Community Kindness

Zachariah Sanders-Mackey Couch (Squirrels) recently volunteered



with his mum to help the local community by attaching knitted poppies to a net to be put up on display in the village to show we haven't forgotten the lives that were lost in war. Zachariah said "Our hands were filthy by the end of it because they were the same display ones used for many years but I enjoyed it and we hope you enjoy seeing them."





Clean Underwear Request

If you have any clean children's underwear (from 4years to 11years) which you are happy to donate, please drop it to the main office and hand it to staff. Please do not leave it in the PTA uniform area. Thank you in advance for your kind donations.

Honesty is the best policy!

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

Freddie Burr - Sparrows
Phoebe Barron - Squirrels

Well done - you should be very proud of yourselves!

Stars of the Week



Year 6:- Olivia Dean and Ella Abbott
Year 4:- Sophia Jarvis and Tommy Pellett
Year 3:- Francesca Podolska-Prince and Gracie Mann
Year 2:- Lacey Gibson and Amelia Betts
Year 1:- Grace Grocott and Annabelle Duggan
EYFS:- Isla Laurie and Elsie-Grace Jenkins

Playground Stars of the Week

Maison Alsela, Scarlett-Grace Cater, Saul Mhembere, Henry Thorne, Isla Lake, Alissia South, Evie Barfoot, Lizzie Hamilton, Harry Oxley and Ivy Phillips

House Point Scores

Scores for the House Point groups are:-

Golden Eagles	2976
Red Arrows	2736
Blue Dolphins	2480
Green Dragons	2181



Well done Golden Eagles!

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

Early Birds 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 either speak to Mrs. Hayward in the main School Office or email her directly on:-



Katie.Hayward@tps.robusmat.co.uk

Treetops:-

We would like to share the email we received this week from Hannah Scrase (parent of Jack Bush):-

I had the privilege of spending time with my son in Treetops last week. I got told off by him for arriving too early because he had just sat down to eat, so I waited and had a lovely chat with the children and staff whilst they ate. The children were sharing a delicious tea of vegetables, wraps, sausages and other healthy picnic style snack food. The manners I overheard were impeccable and they all shared the food kindly with each other. It was lovely that there was a mix of year groups at the table and the older children were chatting to the younger ones, they were laughing, smiling and having a good time together. I knew that my son was already really well looked after at Treetops, and he tells me he enjoys going, but seeing what they got up to was wonderful.

Thank you to all the staff that work in Treetops and Breakfast Club, and the care you have for our children.





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Treetops this week:-

The weather isn't looking too promising this week but our indoor activities will keep us busy with National Apple Day and United Nations Day to think about.

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

Danielle's Uniform,
Claydons Lane,
Rayleigh,
Essex, SS6 7UP.
Telephone 01268 967542

www.daniellesshop.co.uk

PTA

Next Meeting

The next PTA meeting (AGM) is on Monday, 10th November 2025 in the White Hart at 7pm. If you are interested in joining the PTA and making a real difference to our school, please just pop along! Everyone is welcome.

Community News

The Deanes School Sports Centre - Holiday Camps October Half Term 2025

Please find attached flyers in respect of the above.

Bizarre Bible - 4front Theatre

Our children enjoyed performances by 4front Theatre today and they will be performing the above show on Thursday, 30th October 2025 at the Beacon,

Kenneth Road. Please find attached flyers in respect of this.

The Orsett Hall Hotel & Spa - Children's Christmas Events

Please find attached flyers in respect of the above.

You are not alone - Free Parent online drop-in

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Capel Manor Gardens - Halloween Spooktacular

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Mega Camps October Half Term 2025

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

The Hang Out - Halloween Half Term Hangout

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Energy Support and Debt Advice

The Wise Group run a fully funded Home Energy Advice Relational Mentoring Service. With the colder weather upon us and the energy prices still rising they are aware that things are still difficult with the recent price rises and they are looking to support more customers with any winter energy debt they may have. They have a range of support they can offer.

HEAT provides 1-1 mentoring support and advocacy to vulnerable households in England and Wales. Their team of Energy Mentors provide a holistic, independent, tailored advice to fuel-poor households experiencing energy crises.

They provide ongoing support throughout the process, helping customers understand their options and make informed decisions.

This includes:

- Tackling energy emergencies.
- Managing fuel debt and related issues.
- Advocate on customer's behalf.
- Accessing energy grants.
- Optimising energy usage and efficiencies.

Please find attached flyers in respect of this also.

School Calendar - Dates

eSchools or eSchools app Lite

Future Term Dates

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******

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

