



Newsletter No. 15

12th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a wonderful event the Winter Solstice was. I would like to say a huge thank you to all involved - staff, who volunteered to come in early and to the fantastic PTA. These events would not be possible if it was not for the goodwill of so many people who make such a difference to our children. I am sure the children will remember for years to come the day they ate croissants, drank hot chocolate and watched a huge fire on the field whilst the night turned to day.

Another one of our 'ROBUS Promises' is that the children have the opportunity to see a show in the West End. Today, Year 5 parents/carers will receive a letter with details of the trip to see the Lion King in March. Our PTA help us subsidise this event each year, but we still need more help. If you know of any businesses or individuals who would like to support us by giving a donation for this event, we'd be just delighted to hear from you.

Finally, you will know that I feel very strongly about helping our children navigate the world of smart phones and social media. I wanted therefore to tell you about a new book which is coming out at the end of the month by the author of The Anxious Generation, Jonathan Haidt and his co-author, Catherine Price. They have teamed up to talk directly to young people about how they can live a life without screens. The book aims to not only help children and young people break free from phones, but also show them how they can be their most confident and adventurous selves. It can help them be amazing - something we all agree we want our Thundersley children to be!

Have a great week.

Miss E. Dawson
Headteacher

EYFS/Reception Admissions for September 2026

Please note that the Primary School admissions for EYFS/Reception places for

September 2026 are now open. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions and the closing date is **15th January 2026**. Please note that even if your child has a sibling at your chosen school, you still need to apply online by the above deadline,

Attendance

For the week ended 9th January 2026 there were two classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Owls who achieved 97.4%.

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	94.6%
Dragonflies	90.7%
Butterflies	95.5%
Rabbits	96.7%
Ladybirds	96.4%
Robins	96.3%
Fireflies	96.3%
Owls	97.4%
Bears	95.1%
Sparrows	90.9%
Ants	97.1%
Kestrels	96.1%
Badgers	95.8%
Squirrels	95.0%
Whole School	95.2%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners

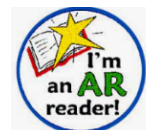
OWLS

Aspirational attendance target set for the school for

2025 - 2026 is:

97%

Accelerated Reader



We would like to congratulate Leo Jackson and Felicity Warren, both from Kestrels, who have become word Millionaires.

Well done to you both!

Picture News - December 2025

Please find attached information in respect of the above.

Year 3 Egyptian Day

Last Wednesday, the Year 3 children were visited by History Off the Page which is a company providing immersive and practical History workshops to schools. The workshop gave the children a feeling of what it was like to be an Egyptian in ancient times. The children experienced life as it would have been during the 14th century BC under the reign of Pharaoh Akhenaten. The children learnt about the issues of the time, with the opportunity to participate in a range of cross-curricular activities and crafts. The children were able to keep the items they made. They were also invited to dress as an Egyptian if they wished to and there were some truly amazing costumes! The children had a great day and one of our parent helpers said it was really fabulous! Leo Waiwaiku (Owls) and Olivia-Grace Nevill (Fireflies) give their respective accounts of the day below:-



"We did some activities like making wax in a pot, sewing, a show about the Pharaohs, we made a mummy, we did a painting of our





Newsletter No. 15

12th January 2026

name with hieroglyphics and crushed up some crystals for the paint. We could all dress up and I dressed as a Pharaoh. I liked making the mummy the best because we had to make it really messy. I did enjoy the day and I learnt lots." (Leo Waiwaiku)

"We went to a stand where we had to make a clay mould. We had to have really tall edges and we made a pattern at the bottom. Then we ground some herbs and then we poured them in the little bowl. The teachers poured wax in. Then we waited for it to dry. Then when it was all dry we smelt it and it smelt really good. We made a little bottle and there was a deep hole inside and we made a little lid but it had to be an animal head. I did a bird's head. Then I went over to the foil drawing and I got a piece of square wood and wrapped a piece of gold/orangey coloured foil around it and then we could draw a picture or trace one of the pictures which was in the basket. I did a sarcophagus which is the coffin the mummy goes in. Then I went over to another stall I did a sunset picture by rubbing all the little holes away and then I grabbed the paintbrush and I dipped it in some water and some powder which made paint and then I drew my picture. I made a cube and had a sharp stick and poked a hole through the middle to the other side and then I wrote my initials in ancient Egyptian language. Then I got a rope and then I put it through the hole and then my teacher tied a knot so it was like a bracelet. I got to keep it. I enjoyed doing the foil drawing the best because it was really fun and all my teachers said it was really good. I dressed up as an Egyptian girl and had a cloak which when I put my arms up looked like wings. I enjoyed the day a lot because it was really fun and I got to be the Queen in the play we did." (Olivia-Grace Nevill)

Winter Solstice

What a wonderful start to our day on Thursday. We were so lucky to finally celebrate the Winter Solstice (albeit a little delayed) with a huge roaring fire

which captivated the children and adults alike. It is such a lovely sentiment for the children to experience that we move past the deepest part of winter and that although the light doesn't return all at once, it does return. Celebrating with friends, breakfast and a hot chocolate certainly ensured we all had a "Lovely Day." George Grigson (Butterflies) tells of his exciting experience below:-

"It was dark when I walked to school. I had to go on the field. The bonfire was on there. It looked orange, yellow and red and it was big but it disintegrated. Mr. Berry lit the fire. I drank four hot chocolates and they were really nice. I had some raisins. I was watching for the sun to come up but I didn't see it as I was watching the bonfire. It was fun!



Stars of the Week

Year 6:- George Oswald and Elsie May

Year 5:- George Mataj and Emily Clayton

Year 4:- Kadey Laver and Mabel Evers

Year 3:- Aiden White and Isla Jackson

Year 2:- Charlotte Morris and Phoebe Burns

Year 1:- George Wise Bell and Ronni Morris

EYFS:- Jude Clark and Hayden Lee



Well done Golden Eagles!

THUNK



Can learning not happen outdoors?

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





Newsletter No. 15

12th January 2026

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 this week:-

Unfortunately the weather is preventing us getting outside at the moment but the children are enjoying playing indoors. At the start of each afternoon all children get the opportunity to read to someone and then all sit together to have a drink and a biscuit. It is lovely to watch the interactions across the year groups. Next weekend sees international World Religion Day and some of activities will relate to this.

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 - AGM

The PTA will be holding their AGM tonight at 7pm in the White Hart. If you would like to join the PTA, they would love to see you there. Everyone will be welcomed!

Community News

Is your child starting Reception in September 2026

Please find attached information in respect of the above.

Toilet Training Guidance

Please find a link below in respect of the above.

<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/toilet-training>

Mega Camps - February Half Term 2026

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Elite Kids Self Defence

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

School Calendar - Dates

eSchools or eSchools app Lite

Future Term Dates

Academic Year 2025-2026

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)

Academic Year 2026-2027

01/09/26 - Start of the Autumn Term
26/10/26 to 30/10/26 - Half Term
21/12/2026 to 01/01/27 - Christmas Break
04/01/27 - Start of the Spring Term
15/02/27 to 19/02/27 - Half Term
26/03/27 to 09/04/27 - Easter Break
12/04/27 - Start of the Summer Term
03/05/27 - Bank Holiday
31/05/27 to 04/06/27 - Half Term
21/07/27 - Last Day of Summer Term

****NON PUPIL DAYS****

23/02/26
20/07/26

5 days for 26/27 to be confirmed

