



# Newsletter No. 19

9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

A reminder that we have 'Open Door' this week when you can pop into class at the end of the day to look at your child's wonderful work. Wednesday is for Years 4, 5 and 6 and Thursday is for EYFS and Years 1, 2 and 3.

On Friday, Mr Mackay retires from his role at Thundersley Primary School after 29 years of dedicated service. I know you will want to join me in saying a huge thank you to him for everything he has given to our school during that time.

Mr Mackay has been a constant in school life — innovative, generous, and always putting children at the heart of every decision. Long before it was the norm, he was already looking ahead. Back in the 1990s, he set up the school's computer suite — a forward-thinking approach that has continued to shape learning right through to today.

Mr. Mackay has been a passionate supporter of our Big Question curriculum, believing strongly in children being curious, thoughtful and engaged with the world around them.

He has played a huge role in transforming our school environment — helping to secure significant funding, driving forward the refurbishment of the swimming pool, and pushing the local authority, when we were asked to take additional classes, to secure facilities such as the Year 6 Badgers' Lodge and Squirrels' Chalet.

Mr. Mackay has always believed in giving children opportunities beyond the classroom — from championing residential trips to securing our much-loved school minibus (and keeping a very close eye on how it is treated!). We estimate that he has spent well over a year of his time here on residential trips!

Mr Mackay has supported generations of pupils and colleagues with care, integrity and a genuine belief in what schools can be. He will be deeply missed by both the

children and his colleagues, who have relied on his calm advice, good humour (sometimes irritatingly!) and unfailing steady wisdom over the years.

Personally, I could not have wished for a better Deputy over the past 15 years. I will miss him terribly.

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

### Attendance

For the week ended 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026 there were four classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Badgers who achieved 98.1%.

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	91.1%
Dragonflies	90.6%
Butterflies	97.4%
Rabbits	97.2%
Ladybirds	95.3%
Robins	90.7%
Fireflies	94.0%
Owls	95.7%
Bears	95.5%
Sparrows	91.8%
Ants	97.6%
Kestrels	94.7%
Badgers	98.1%
Squirrels	94.5%
Whole School	94.6%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners

**BADGERS**

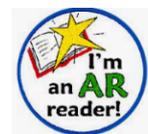
Aspirational attendance target set for the school for  
2025 - 2026 is:  
**97%**

### Accelerated Reader

For the week ended 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026:-

#### Quizzes

Fireflies 30  
Robins 28  
Bears 27



#### Word Count

Bears 1,077,962  
Kestrels 615,515  
Fireflies 353,215

### Girls' Football (home) vs. Brentwood Prep



On Tuesday our Years 5/6 Girls' Team played in the quarter-finals of the Essex Cup against Brentwood Prep School. This is the furthest any of our girls' sides have gone in the competition! The game was a closely fought contest with Thundersley taking the lead in the opening minutes. Brentwood responded in quick succession taking the lead just before half-time. A huge second half was needed from our girls to have a chance of progressing into the semi-finals. A fantastic second half saw Thundersley finish the game 3-3, which saw the game go into penalties...

The two shoot-out heroes were Year 4 goalkeeper, Ruby Trew, who saved 4 penalties in the shoot-out and two-time penalty scorer Poppy Ferdinando-Hemmings, who scored the final penalty to send Thundersley through to the final four in Essex! Can the girls go the whole way? Only time will tell as they face Downhall in the semi-finals on 6<sup>th</sup> March. The last time





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a Thundersley side reached the Essex Cup final was the Boys' Team who won it back in 2004! Well done to all the girls for getting this far in the competition, a brilliant achievement and one that is a first for Thundersley Girls' football! Ruby Trew (Sparrows) tells of her exciting match below:-

"We had to get in our positions and then when the whistle went we started playing. There was a girl from Brentwood who had brilliant skills but my team didn't give up. I was in goal and we did some brilliant passes up the pitch and we finally scored a goal. At the end it was 3-3 so we had to go to penalties. I was nervous that I was going to let my team down but I did some brilliant saves and at the end of the penalties it was still a draw. Then Poppy scored a goal and it was me next to try and save the winning goal and I did it! I didn't know what was going to happen and then the girls started screaming with excitement that we had won. I felt really proud. I thought the match was fantastic and everyone played well and all my team had brilliant skills so well done!"

### Year 6 visit to Duxford



As part of the Year 6 project on World War II and their work on the Battle of Britain, the Year 6 children visited Duxford on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

This exciting day included exploring the different hangars to see the planes involved in World War II and also finding out about Duxford's vital role in the Battle of Britain. The children had a great day and Stanley Evers (Badgers) gives details of the visit below:-

"Duxford was amazing. We went in a coach and when we arrived we saw a



Spitfire and a tank at the front of the building. Inside the first



hangar we saw lots of different planes. Some First World War and some Second but the ones that I found the most interesting were; Concorde - the fastest ever commercial airline; Avro Vulcan - with its massive wings and the Flying Boat - the plane that could land and take off in the water. We even got to go in Concorde. In



the second hangar we saw a crashed Gannet. We even got to see

the inside of a Hurricane and we saw a Doodlebug. We got to see a Lancaster Bomber. It was massive compared to the others. In our final hangar we saw my favourite plane the Blackbird. One of the planes was nearly as big as the whole hangar. After all that fun I would recommend going again. It was great to see our learning in action."



### Year 5 visit to USP College

On Thursday, the Year 5 children were invited to the USP College to watch the Cinderella panto and The Wizard of Oz show performed by some of their students. George Mataj (Kestrels) gives his view of the afternoon below:-

"We got there by walking in register order. The shows were funny and amazing. The costumes were goofy and a little silly. My favourite part was probably the 6-7. I was

a bit impressed and I would love to go back as it was really fun."

### Year 1 Parent/Carer Involvement Session

On Thursday, the Year 1 children were visited by their parents/carers to take part in a session around toys. Parents/Carers were asked to bring in a toy from their childhood and the children were also asked to bring in a toy to make their own toy museum. Ali-Kemal Dogan (Butterflies) and Lenna Prainer (Rabbits) give their respective views of the afternoon below:-

"My mum came in but she didn't have a toy so Emmanuel's dad gave her a toy. I brought in a hot wheels car and the Bat Mobile car had red wheels and the green racing one had brown wheels. We were looking at the history of toys. I spoke to two parents and told them about my toys and then they told me about theirs. One of the toys was a fire truck. On the fire truck you could turn a circle and the ladder went up and down. That was so cool! The fire truck was 40 years old. I enjoyed mum coming in and her having Emmanuel's dad's car." (Ali-Kemal Dogan)

"I remember what the oldest toy was. It was pieces of wood nailed in a cross with strings on and Pinocchio. One of the grandparents made Pinocchio move by moving the wood and the strings. It was 53 years old. It was the oldest toy there. I took in two Pokémon cards which were my dad's. I can't remember how old they were. I spoke to a lady who had a unicorn toy and she let me press the button and it lit up and made a sound. I thought the afternoon was fantastic because it was just so great!" (Lenna Prainer)





## National Year of Reading

2026 is the National Year of Reading which has been organised by the National Literacy Trust to promote reading for pleasure. At school we will be doing various activities throughout the year based on a different theme each month. January's theme was friendship so we took the opportunity to do buddy reading. Classes from different year groups paired up to read with each other. Year 3 were very lucky as they got to do this twice! For the first session Year 3 paired up with Year 6s. The older children read stories to the Year 3s and then the Year 3s read their books to the Year 6s. The children chatted about their books and the Year 6 children enjoyed writing in the younger children's reading diaries. Year 3 then got to be the older children when they paired up with EYFS. All the children really enjoyed this activity and it helped them get to know children from other year groups. It was such fun that we will do this again. This month's theme is 'Feelings'. We won't be organising any special events but will be sharing stories around feelings and linking our theme to Children's Mental Health week.

### Year 1

As part of our National Year of Reading celebrations, January focused on the theme of friendship and in Year 1, they explored this through their class texts *Lost in the Toy Museum* and *Dogger*. Professor Klunk challenged the children to imagine what games the characters might play next in the story. Inspired by this, many of the children went on to play these games together outside. Year 1 are certainly a friendly and imaginative bunch!

### My Future

Throughout the school we are taking part in the My Future programme - please see attached flyer. This project is designed to help raise aspirations and inspire children about future career opportunities. Your child will have had a virtual visit from people in jobs that work in a variety of fields that fall under the

clue 'Can we fix it?' They explained what they do in their job and why they enjoy it. Talk to your children about the jobs they learnt about. You might create a fact file, design a PowerPoint or just talk...

- ❖ Which job did you like best?
- ❖ Who was your favourite professional?
- ❖ How many jobs can you think of that involve catching of some sort?
- ❖ What skills do you think you would need?
- ❖ Do you use some of those skills already at home or school?
- ❖ What do you love doing that you could use in a future career?

### Stars of the Week

**Year 6:-** Griffin Gibson, Daisy Avison, Stanley Evers and Squirrels' Class  
**Year 5:-** Mason Wheeler, Ronny Reid, Evelyn Deal and Dior Sellick  
**Year 4:-** Ava Gladwin, Jacob Crompton, Ramsey Wheeler and Marlee Morris  
**Year 3:-** Roux Bilkey, Ruby Molloy, Aurora Curnock and Emmy-Rose Thompson  
**Year 2:-** Lily Burrill, Thomas Warren, Benas Pavedaika and Oliver Sylvester  
**Year 1:-** Zachary Petrellis, Sienna Angerstein-Lee, Poppy Hawker and Olivia Looker  
**EYFS:-** Edi Crust, Phoebe Davison, Remi Law and Mia Bolden



### Playground Stars of the Week

Jude White, Henry Grover, Jack Wigington, Arbie Beswick, Elliot Hardwicke, Nusrat Miah, Stanley Leer, Jack Muir, Oliver Sylvester, Harper Hooper, Olivia Looker, Kaitlin Bennett, Albert Dickinson, Tony Winston, Patrick Ridgwell, Elsie May, Emily Duggan, Daniel Arram, Rey Higgs, Percy Keane, David Cater, Isla Jackson, Arthur Barclay, Mia Haxhia, Kya Hollington, Adam Sethi, Lenna

Prainer, Arthur Wilden and Ava Barclay-Boundy

### Treetops Star of the Week

Amelie D'Aleo  
**Honesty is the best policy!**

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

Isla Lake - Owls  
 Zach Jackson - Dragonflies  
 Emmy-Rose Thompson - Fireflies

Well done - you should be very proud of yourselves!

### House Point Scores

Scores for the House Point groups are:-

Golden Eagles	3917
Blue Dolphins	2968
Red Arrows	2755
Green Dragons	2502



Well done Golden Eagles!

### THUNK



If elephants ruled the world, what changes would you see?

### 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.





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## 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](mailto:Katie.Hayward@tps.robusmat.co.uk)

## Treetops this week:-

At Treetops this week, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year a little early with some activities and food tasting. The lighter evenings are fast approaching and I know the children can't wait to get outside, weather permitting. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we can after half term.

Mrs. Watts would like to say a huge thank you for a brand new Panini press that has been kindly bought for Treetops by Mrs. Lake. Toasties will be on the menu very shortly!

## 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

### Next Meeting

The PTA will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7pm in the White Hart. If you would like to join the PTA, they would love to see you there. Everyone will be welcome!

## Community News

### Mega Camps February 2026 Half Term

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

### Kidz Camp - February 2026 Half Term

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

### Junior Bake Off

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

### BabyBallers

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

