



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all had a super half term despite the soggy weather! This is a five week half term, so lots to be learned and enjoyed in a short time.

As always, my gentle plea for daily reading. We know that children who read regularly with an adult make the strongest progress, and it really doesn't need to be a long session. If your child finds reading tricky, reading to them, or taking turns to read a sentence or a page each, can be incredibly powerful. My own son, Josh, is dyslexic and we continued sharing the reading until he went to secondary school because reading alone exhausted him. I know it can sometimes feel like a chore at the end of a busy day, but it makes such a difference to their confidence and success. Thank you.

What a wonderful farewell Mr. Mackay had at the end of last half term. He was really overwhelmed and wanted to send this message to you all:-



I was very touched by such a wonderful send-off to start my retired life. I thoroughly enjoyed my final celebration assembly and the wonderful singing from the children. I wish to express my gratitude for the generosity of so many families, for the gifts and cards given to me at the school gate, and also for the gifts purchased from your collection. Throughout my journey as Deputy at Thundersley Primary, I have been part of so many changes as the school has evolved. I have worked hard with a fantastic team of staff to ensure our school continues to grow and be the best place for all of our wonderful children to flourish. Thank you once again. Mr. Mackay.'

Miss E. Dawson
Headteacher

Attendance

For the week ended 13th February 2026 there were four classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Kestrels who achieved 98.7%.

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	93.5%
Dragonflies	92.3%
Butterflies	96.1%
Rabbits	97.6%
Ladybirds	98.0%
Robins	92.8%
Fireflies	92.0%
Owls	95.0%
Bears	91.6%
Sparrows	86.5%
Ants	94.8%
Kestrels	98.7%
Badgers	97.1%
Squirrels	95.2%
Whole School	94.3%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners
KESTRELS

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

Year 2 Fire of London Day



On 10th February 2026, History Off the Page, who provide immersive and practical History workshops to schools, visited the Year 2 children to hold a Fire of London Day. The children dressed up as children of the time and experienced life as it would have been in 1666 London before, during and after the Great Fire. The children learnt about the issues of this period and had the opportunity to participate in a range of cross-curricular activities and crafts. The children also got to keep the items they made throughout the day. What a great way to bring their topic to life! Alissia South (Robins) shares her experience of the day below:-

"First we went into the hall and then the lady who was there told us what to do at each station. The first station was the hammering with nails. We had to hammer



our names into the leather. There was wood under the leather so it protected the table. The next station was making ink. Then we had to get a feather and write what we had done so far. Then the next station was making little pots. We made it with clay. There was a piece of paper under it and then we had to shape it with our fingers and then we could use some shapes to make a pattern on it. Mrs. Lock was at a station and we had to grab a partner and one had to be a doctor and one had to be the patient. There was a little bag with all the sickness and we had to pick one out and we had to pretend that that was what we had and the doctor had to cure us. I was the doctor and the patient had infected blood. As it was 1666 I had to cut her head and see what was happening with her blood - but I didn't cut her head really. The next station was sewing. We had to weave string in and out. The last station was another sewing one but we had to do the first letter of our name and then we had to sew it and then on the outside we had to weave it. I liked doing the sewing the best because I knew how to do it but I wanted more practice. After lunch we had to sit and listen to the instructions. When we were going through they gave us all numbers and I was number 2. Then we got to our tables and there were items in the box and we had to see if the person from 1666 was rich or poor and I was rich. Then there was a box and there were some things in it. There were papers and we had to answer questions as a team. I dressed up and wore a hat which was black and white and a maids outfit. I thought the whole day was good. I learned lots about the Great Fire of London."



Year 1 visit to Hollytrees Toy Museum

On 11th February 2026, it was the turn of the Year 1 children to enjoy a visit to Hollytrees Toy Museum where they had a bird's eye view of the past with the doll's house which was also the starting point for the busy, hands-on day of exploration, learning and fun. Through observation, discussion and play, children learnt how toys and the materials they are made from have changed over time and discovered that not everything they play with today is quite so different from the past as they might have thought! Isabella Rees (Rabbits) tells of her exciting day below:-

"We were learning about what toys were made out of. We had a look and we found out that the toy museum we went to was actually someone's house. We had to colour in a dog and cut it out and then we had a ball which we had to colour in and cut out. Then we stuck them onto a straw and when we moved them between our hands the dog and ball moved. Then we had a sheet with things on to find in the museum. We went and looked around and we found a house with some animals in

and we had to find the baby's rattle. Then we got to play with the toys old and new. I played with a yoyo and a stick with a ballerina on and when I pulled the stick, she moved from side to side and did a loop the loop. My favourite part of the day was playing with the toys. We learned that some of the toys were wooden and some of the toys were new. We had a dragon which was very colourful and a doll which was new. The dragon had batteries in which made his cheeks light up and he also spoke in Spanish and English. There was also a Barbie in a box and it was old. It's eye was flapped down and its hair was really messy. I had a lovely time."

Year 5 Bikeability



Some of our Year 5 children participated in Bikeability before half term where they first learned basic skills on the playground before venturing to the nearby roads to learn how to stay safe whilst riding their bikes. Harry Robinson (Kestrels) gives details of the course below:-

"On the first day we went on the playground and used our arms to accelerate and learnt all the basic skills. Then on the second day, we went to the local road to go around cars and learn how to do 'u' turns. Then on the third day we went back to the same place and at the end we did a little bike ride. Then on the last day we did a loop of the local roads and also we learnt what a minor and major road is. A minor road always comes out onto a major road. A major road is where you have to give way to others. I wanted to do the bikeability as I'm quite good on my bike and I like learning new things. I learnt about things that I didn't know already and





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a lot of new skills. I was quite excited to do the course and I now feel more confident on my bike. I already go on lots of bike rides with my family but I think we will probably do more now."

Football Congratulations



We would like to congratulate Scarlett-Rose O'Dell, Annie Vine, Ruby Trew and Perla Puckey, who are all in Year 4, on their fantastic opportunity to take part in a showcase development match on Tuesday, 10th February 2026 at Charlton Athletic. They all played as part of the **HER Soccer Academy**, gaining valuable experience in a high level development environment. It was a proud moment for the girls and a wonderful recognition of their hard work and commitment to football.

Well done girls, what a fabulous achievement!

House Point Scores

Scores for the House Point groups are:-

Red Arrows	3958
Golden Eagles	3923
Blue Dolphins	3004
Green Dragons	2994



Well done Red Arrows!

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 this week:-

We are really looking forward to some brighter weather and lighter evenings this half term so we can hopefully get outside. This week sees St. David's Day so there will be some related activities available for the children to choose from as well as the usual toys and games.

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 PTA will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday, 24th 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.

Profits for School Funds

Thank you as always for your support with our fundraising efforts. We have recently raised the following profits for our school funds:-

Christmas Present Palace - **£1,118.12**

Christmas Gifts - **£470.04**

January Jive - **£994.67**

School Calendar - Dates

eSchools or eSchools app Lite

Future Term Dates

Academic Year 2025-2026

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)





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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****

20/07/26

01/09/26
02/09/26
22/10/26
23/10/26
22/02/27

Please also find a copy of the term dates
for the academic year 2026-2027
attached.

