



Newsletter No. 23

16th March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope everyone had a lovely weekend and Mothers' Day. I would like to say a huge thanks to our PTA and volunteers, who once again ran such a super Mothers' Day Present Palace. Sadly, this event will not happen next year if more people do not volunteer to become involved. I totally understand, lives are busy and joining the PTA is a commitment, many other schools too have lost their fundraising groups. I just feel sad for the children. There will be a PTA information meeting after Easter, during school time, so please look out for that date and come along if you can. Many of our events depend on it.

We have an exciting week ahead. Year 5 are off to see the Lion King on Wednesday at the Lyceum Theatre in London's West End, subsidised by the PTA. I know they are very excited. A group of Year 2 children are representing the school at the Music Festival on Thursday - an event that is always a hit with children and parents. Finally, our EYFS children are hosting their favourite people at our annual Grandparents' Afternoon Tea - always a wonderful event!

Tomorrow Mr Smith, our new Deputy, will be visiting to start to get to know us. He will be popping in and out of classrooms and getting to know staff and children. We are looking forward to welcoming Mr Smith after the Easter break.

Have a super week.

Miss E. Dawson
Headteacher

Attendance

For the week ended 13th March 2026 there were five classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Ladybirds who achieved 100%. They will receive a £10 Amazon voucher to spend on something for their class.

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	89.3%
Dragonflies	96.5%
Butterflies	96.5%
Rabbits	96.6%
Ladybirds	100%
Robins	94.1%
Fireflies	99.0%
Owls	97.3%
Bears	94.7%
Sparrows	90.3%
Ants	92.8%
Kestrels	96.3%
Badgers	97.4%
Squirrels	97.4%
Whole School	95.6%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners
LADYBIRDS

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

This is a fantastic opportunity to play a vital role in shaping the future of our school, ensuring that every child receives the best possible education and support.

If you are passionate about our school's success and want to represent the views of fellow parents, we would love to hear from you. No previous experience is necessary, just a willingness to get involved and help make positive changes.

If you're interested or would like more information, please contact the MAT's Governance Manager, clerk@robusmat.essex.sch.uk, or speak to the Headteacher.

Office Opening Times

Please note that the new Office opening times are:-

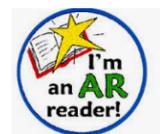
- Monday - 7.15am to 5pm
- Tuesday - 7.15am to 5pm
- Wednesday - 7.15am to 4.30pm
- Thursday - 7.15am to 5pm
- Friday - 7.30am to 4.15pm

Accelerated Reader

For the week ended 13th March 2026:-

Quizzes

- Fireflies 25
- Robins 25
- Owls 20



Word Count

- Badgers 592,526
- Kestrels 453,440
- Owls 198,093

Parent Governor Recruitment

Join Our School Community and Make a Difference

We are currently seeking an enthusiastic and committed parent to join our Governing Body.

We would like to congratulate Oliver Rees (Kestrels) on becoming a word millionaire and Brayden Nyama (Sparrows) on becoming a double word millionaire. Well done to you both.





My Future Programme - Inspiring Ambitions at Our School

This term, our children took part in the My Future programme—an exciting initiative designed to raise aspirations and open young minds to the many career possibilities that await them. The project aims to broaden children's understanding of the working world and inspire them to think about the skills they already have and how these might shape their futures. As part of the programme, pupils enjoyed a virtual visit from a range of professionals whose careers linked to the clue "Bright Spark." These visitors represented a wide variety of fields and shared insights into what they do, why they enjoy their work, and how their roles make a difference. The children were enthusiastic and curious, asking thoughtful questions and discovering new ideas about what a future career might look like.

Follow-Up Activities at Home

To keep the inspiration going, we encourage families to continue the conversation at home. Here are some prompts and ideas you might explore together:

Which job did you like best?

Who was your favourite professional and why?

How many different jobs can you think of that involve catching of some sort?

What skills would you need for the jobs you learned about?

Do you already use some of those skills at home or in school?

What do you love doing that could be part of your future career?

You might create a fact file, design a simple PowerPoint, draw pictures, or simply enjoy a conversation. The goal is to keep children curious, confident, and excited about the future.

We look forward to seeing how their dreams grow!

Roots to Food



On Thursday, Darren Tinkler, from Roots to Food, visited the children in Years 4 and 6. The children had a great time preparing ingredients to make Tandoori Chicken and Bombay Saag Aloo, cooking them and then eating the final dishes. Please find

attached the recipe if you would like to cook this dish at home.

Percy Keane (Bears) tells of his experience below:-

"We got our aprons on and we got our hats on so we didn't have any hair in the food. Then we put the chicken and garlic in the frying pan and then we cooked it. We put some spinach in and some red onion and yellow pepper. Then it started smoking and it was 100 degrees. After that we put in some spices and some yoghurt. Then we tasted it and it tasted really good. It was really fun and it was my first time cooking at the school and I liked it. I hope that I will be able to cook it at home with my mum and dad."

Dylan Williams (Badgers) also gives details of his experience below:-

"We went in and we put the chicken in with the spices straight away and mixed it. We then put it in a cooking pan and then crushed the garlic between two plates. Then we took the chicken out and cut the vegetables which were peppers, spring onions and red onions. The chicken was taken out so that the spices could soak into it. Once the vegetables were cut we put the chicken back in with the vegetables, garlic and yoghurt. Then we put more water in and stirred it around and then put it on a plate. Then we put some potatoes in with some curry powder and spinach and then we stirred it around for 5 minutes with some cooking oil and water and then put it on the plate, ready to eat! It was really good and we were 'fighting' over it as it was so nice. I would recommend cooking it at home and hopefully I'm going to do that too. I had so much fun doing the cooking as I love baking and making food at home."

Jude Marnham (Sparrows) loved the food so much he cooked it for his mum for Mother's Day. Jude made his own chef's hat and apron and followed the recipe.

Wow Jude, we bet your mum was over the moon with her special treat!





Hi5 Netball Rally



The netball courts at Deanes were buzzing on Wednesday as the District Rally took place. 24 teams were put into groups of 6 and the matches were relentless over the course of the day! Thundersley's Gold team finished 4th in their group, showing real determination and resilience as a team. Thundersley's Black team were undefeated in the group stage - winning four games and drawing one. They went on to play Great Wakering in the quarter-finals. Sadly the match ended in a narrow 4 - 6 defeat, but the team gave it their all and did the school proud, in fact, the umpire complemented the team on their attacking play after the game. Well done to all involved - we now wait to hear the final Girls' and Mixed league standings!

Poppy Ferdinando-Hemmings (Squirrels) and Louella Church (Squirrels) give their respective accounts of the tournament below:-

"I was in the black team. We played our first game and we had a good win. Then we went to watch the Gold team to support and encourage them.

Unfortunately they lost. We then gathered around Mr. Wilson to find out the team and where we were playing next. I was playing centre and Ethan scored. I had a load of assists from passing. Then we went to watch the Gold team again and after they finished we all gathered as a team and we were putting our bibs on to find out what position we were playing next. I scored one goal in that game along with a couple of other people scoring quite a few. Then we had a little nibble on our lunch and moved on to the next game. I was playing GK and Harley and I made some great interceptions. In that match it was a tough game but we managed to get a win as a team. Then we all gathered up with the other schools, with the Golds coming 4th and the Blacks coming 1st. This meant that we went to the quarter finals and we all gathered up to try and work out how to intercept so we could win to go through to the semi-finals. We were losing 2-0 but then came up to 2-1 by me scoring my first goal. Then we got back into action and we did really well getting to 3-2 and made some great passes and moving but just as the whistle was blown we lost to the other team by 4-6. Although we were out at this stage, we all played really well and were pleased with each other. It was a really good experience for all of us and we enjoyed ourselves." (Poppy Ferdinando-Hemmings)

"I was in the Gold team. In the first match we lost and in the second match we were drawing until the last minute when I scored which meant we won that game. Then for the game after that we lost by quite a lot to a really good team. Then we had some lunch to get ourselves refreshed. We then played one more game and we got beaten by a couple of goals. Then we went to see where we placed and we were 4th. Then we watched the Black team and they played really well and I saw my friend there. It was a really good day because we had lots of fun. I enjoyed playing centre the most because I got to play everywhere apart from the semi-circles. I also like playing GS because I get score goals." (Louella Church)

Dance at The Deanes



On Tuesday, the Deanes School organised a community event for older people and people with learning disabilities and children from local schools entertained them together with children from The Deanes School. A contingent from Thundersley attended and performed a dance and Emily Harvey (Squirrels) gives details of the event below:-

"First we watched one dance performance from the Deanes and then we had lunch. We handed out sandwiches, fruit, crisps and drinks to the audience watching us; people with disabilities and the older people. Then it was our turn to perform. We have been practicing dance performances with Miss Lane every Wednesday lunchtime. The song was 'Shut up and dance with me' by Walk the Moon. Then we watched the Deanes do the rest of the performances. I liked the solo by Amelia because it was really creative and she choreographed it herself with her sister. The audience joined in clapping with the songs they knew. I thought it was absolutely amazing with all the talented dancers working together. I love dancing!"

Swimming Gala Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Ruby Moorcraft (Kestrels) and Ronny Reid (Ants) on attending their first swimming gala at the London Aquatic Centre with Runnymede Swimming Club. Ruby and Ronny have been with the club for just under a year and were excited to take part in this event. Both children give their respective accounts of the event below:-



"It was my first swimming gala on Sunday, 8th March with my swimming club at the London Aquatic Centre. It was fun. I did front crawl and back stroke. I got disqualified on my first race because I went too early on the buzzer but I would have finished 2nd place if that hadn't happened. The next race was back stroke and I was so excited for this race because I like back stroke and I finished in 1st place! I am very excited for my next gala now!" (Ruby Moorcraft)

"On Sunday, 8th March, me and Ruby went to a gala at the London Aquatic Centre Olympic Pool, with our swimming club which is Runnymede. I was feeling very excited and a little nervous. The pool was 50 metres long and freezing cold. We had to do a 30 minute warm up. My first race was 50 metres freestyle and I came 1st. I felt really proud of myself. My second race was after lunch which was breast stroke. We had to do another 30 minutes warm up and I came 6th. I was racing my older friend in that one. My third race was back stroke and I came 3rd. It was so good to see my name up on the big screen. It was a really fantastic experience and I can't wait until my next one. (Ronny Reid)

Stars of the Week

Year 6:- Trisha Patel and Ethan Fitzmaurice

Year 5:- Olivia Cable and Harry Burns

Year 4:- Perla Puckey and Archie Whitaker

Year 3:- Kya Hollington and Isla Lake

Year 2:- Lenny Little and Theodore Darling

Year 1:- Emilia Larbey and Ziggy Wright-Martin

EYFS:- Aubrey Curnock and Tony Winston



Playground Stars of the Week

Finley Barber, Daisy Avison, Jake Clapton, Renley Baker, Aiyah Miah, Tilly Bolden, Rosie Hogsden, Lilly Morgan, Lily Roberts,

Joseph Potter, Isabella Rees, Olivia Lopes, Connor Hill and Hudson Morris

Treetops Star of the Week

Jeremy D'Aleo

Honesty is the best policy!

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

- Isabelle Hawkins - Ants
- Evelyn Deal - Ants
- Lacey-Belle Fenemore - Ants
- Isla Lake - Owls
- Evie Barfoot - Ladybirds
- Freddie Burr - Sparrows
- Stanley Hamilton - Owls
- Aiden White - Fireflies
- Mrs. Honey - LSA

Well done - you should be very proud of yourselves!

House Point Scores

Scores for the House Point groups are:-

Red Arrows	6971
Blue Dolphins	6822
Green Dragons	6811
Golden Eagles	6131



Well done again Red Arrows!

Thank



If you were a flower, where would you want to grow?

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:-

At last we were able to get outside at Treetops. The children really enjoyed being able to play on the back playground and use the tyres. We all have our fingers crossed that we will be able to get outdoors more and more as the weather warms up.

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,





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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

To be confirmed.

PTA Mothers' Day Present Palace

Thank you to everyone who supported this event. We made **£581.66** profit for school funds.

Community News

ACL Courses

Please find attached flyers for the following courses:-

- Zones of Regulation - 25/3/26
- Zones of Regulation - 26/3/26
- Raising Boys
- ADHD/Raising Boys 16 & Beyond
- Setting Clear Boundaries
- Understanding Children's Anxiety
- Sleep Workshop
- Support your Child's Journey into Reception

Girls 4 Football - 7th April 2026

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Easter SEND Session at the Megacentre Community Space

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Easter Fun Day at The Beacon

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

The Great Gnome Escape

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Free Family Fun Day at Hadleigh Old Fire Station

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Essex Fire Museum - Open Days

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

The Hang Out

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

- 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******

20/07/26

01/09/26

02/09/26

22/10/26

23/10/26

22/02/27

