



Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 2 had a terrific trip to Hyde Hall last week to enhance their learning in class. As always, they were a credit to our school and seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Last week, in their Picture News weekly assembly, children celebrated the remarkable life of Sir David Attenborough. I know our children are as keen to look after our planet as he has always been - who knows, perhaps the next Sir David is sitting in one of our classrooms?!

On Thursday, our wonderful PTA have organised the annual bounce! I look forward to seeing lots of the children enjoying themselves and hope that lots of parents can come along to help at this annual fantastic event.

Finally, we wish all of our Year 6 children the best of Luck in the Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) this week. Each year, I am impressed by the determination, resilience and effort that our children in Year 6 show towards learning in their final year - and this year is no different. Year 6, we are already very proud of you! Be 'The best you can be' this week!

Have a super week.

Miss E. Dawson,
Headteacher

Attendance

For the week ended 8th 2026 there were four classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Fireflies and Badgers who achieved 99.2%

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	88.4%
Dragonflies	88.0%
Butterflies	98.0%
Rabbits	91.8%
Ladybirds	98.4%
Robins	94.8%
Fireflies	99.2%
Owls	93.8%
Bears	94.2%
Sparrows	91.9%
Ants	94.0%
Kestrels	96.1%
Badgers	99.2%
Squirrels	92.7%
Whole School	94.3%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners

FIREFLIES & BADGERS

Aspirational attendance target set for the school for

2025 - 2026 is:

97%

Polite Reminder

Gate

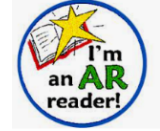
We kindly ask that, if you come in through the main gate during the day, please ensure that you close it after yourself to keep our children safe - thank you.

Accelerated Reader

For the week ended 8th May 2026:-

Quizzes

Fireflies 24
Sparrows 17
Robins 17



Word Count

Kestrels 321,636
Sparrows 269,703
Owls 249,040

Year 5 visit to SEEVIC



On Thursday, the Year 5 children visited SEEVIC to watch a production of Aladdin by some of the students there. The children had a wonderful time and really enjoyed it. After watching the performance, the children were able to ask any questions they had. Nellie Gaskin (Kestrels) tells of her experience below:-

"I really enjoyed it and I think everyone else really enjoyed it. The performers seemed happy and they made it look almost how the film looked. We got to ask them questions about the show and what they did and we had a photo taken with all the cast. They told us that some of the architect students made their props and sketches for the projector. I really enjoy performing and I'm really hoping that one day I'll be able to do that. It was just really amazing and an amazing experience."

Year 3 & 4 visit to Kingston for Dodgeball

On Wednesday, the Year 3 and 4 children visited Kingston for a friendly Dodgeball session. Both year groups had a great time





and Saul Mhembe (Sparrows) gives his account of the visit below:-

"We thought we were playing with other schools too but it was just Kingston. My team played our Year 3s first. We nearly lost the game but we won in the end. I didn't think I was good at Dodgeball but I actually am. Then we played against Kingston. We won that match. Then we played against Bears' class and we won that match too. Then we played our last match. We won that match. I loved it and I really want to do it next year."



Poetry Slam

Recently, as part of our National Year of Reading, all our children performed in our first ever Poetry Slam! Every class performed a poem to the rest of the school and we also had individual children and small groups of children sharing their favourite poems. We were treated to a delightful mix of poems including the *The Ning Nang Nong*, a poem about the Romans, another about computer games and a selection of funny poems about school life. Every poem was performed with confidence and it was great to see all the children enjoying each other's performances. It was a wonderful celebration of language—a huge well done to all our talented performers!

Luci Gardiner (Rabbits) describes the event below:-

"I listened to some poems. I practiced my poem at home. It was called *The End*. It was about growing up. We had actions and we had to put our fingers up for the years. I liked the Year 6 one the best. I like poems."

"The End" by A.A. Milne

When I was One,
I had just begun.

When I was Two,
I was nearly new.
When I was Three,
I was hardly me.
When I was Four,
I was not much more.
When I was Five,
I was just alive.
But now I am Six,
I'm as clever as clever,
So I think I'll be six now for ever and ever.

Eli Swaby (Owls) tells of his experience below:-

"I was feeling really brave and I think it is a perfect poem for me, because I am a poem person. I chose it because I liked the words especially about losing 7 pairs of children! It took me 3 days to learn it and my mum and dad helped me a little bit. I really liked listening to the other poems and the homework one was the best."

Scissors by Alan Ahlberg

Nobody leave the room
Everyone listen to me
We had ten pairs of scissors
At half past two
And now there's only three

Seven pairs of scissors
Disappeared from sight.
Not one of you leaves
Till we find them.
We can stop here all night!

Scissors don't lose themselves,
Melt away or explode.
Scissors have not got
Legs of their own
To go running off up the road.

We really need those scissors,
That's what makes me mad.
If it was seven pairs
Of children we'd lost,
It wouldn't be so bad.

I don't want to hear excuses.
Don't anyone speak.
Just ransack this room
Till we find them,

Or we'll stop here ... all week!

Year 2 visit to Hyde Hall

The Year 2 children recently visited Hyde Hall as part of their Science topics about habitats. The children started their journey in the garden. They began to understand how plants grow and what they need to grow healthily. They found out about the plants we use in our daily lives, how they change through the seasons and explored the garden to discover a variety of plants. Oliver Sylvester (Robins), Aaron Jenkins (Ladybirds) and Monty Adkins (Ladybirds) give their respective experiences of the visit below:-

"First we went into the hall and then we were talking about seeds and we were peeling the seeds and then broke one in half to see what was inside. It was white inside. Then we went outside to go and pick some petals. Then we made our own bookmark by sticking them on some sticky paper. Then with the left overs of the petals we put them all around the table. Then we went back indoors and we had some paper with some flowers around it and we coloured them in with chalk. Then we made our own sycamore leaves and then we went to a table with all stuff on it and then we got some paper and did some rubbing on them. Then we went to another table and we saw a snake skin and a fox skull. We saw a deer's leg and we saw a weasel. I liked the day because I got to do lots of things and I learned a lot." (Oliver Sylvester)

"First we went in from the coach and we went into a big hall and a lady told us all about plants at Hyde Hall. Then after we talked about plants we went to some tables and one table was where we planted a sunflower seed. Then when the lady said we will move onto the next table we investigated some snake skins and some insects which were dead. When we went onto the next table we had a seat and there was a picture of a plant there and we had to colour it in in chalk. Then we had to put yellow in the middle and then we had a little cotton wool ball and we pretended it





was a bee and we had to dab it in the yellow and pretend it had collected pollen. Then Robins came inside and Ladybirds went outside. Then we had a laminated piece of paper which told us which plants we could touch and which plants we couldn't. Then we picked some petals and then we went to a little forest area and we stuck them onto some sticky tape. Then we went and my best friend Monty found some sap and then we built a bird's nest and we pretended that a peg was the bird's beak. Then we went back for some late lunch and then after that we did a couple more activities and then went back on the coach. My favourite activity was when we stuck petals because I like sticking stuff as it is really fun. I learned lots about plants on the trip." (Aaron Jenkins)

Monty Adkins (Ladybirds) said "I found some hardened sap. It is being kept by Hyde Hall for other visitors to look at."

Gardening Club Request

Our Gardening Club has started this term and we're excited to get growing! To help the children make the most of this hands-on experience, we are kindly asking for donations of the following items.

- Multi-purpose compost/soil
- Children's gardening gloves

We would also greatly appreciate if there are any parents, carers or family members with crafting or DIY skills who would be willing to build some raised garden beds. If you are able to contribute in any way, please contact the school or speak to Miss Budden. Thank you for your continued support, we're looking forward to a fantastic gardening term.

Modelling Congratulations

Finley Ashwell (Butterflies) is signed with a couple of modelling agencies and was recently successful in casting to get a job with Tesco for their Free Fruit and Veg for Schools campaign. Finley attended the shoot at a school in London and on Monday, 27th April 2026 he featured in

The sun newspaper and will also be appearing on bus stops and billboards. Finley and his family are super proud of him and his achievements.

Well done Finley, what a great campaign to be involved in. We'll all be keeping our eyes out for you at the bus stops and on billboards!



Stars of the Week

Year 6:- Ethan Fitzmaurice, Esme Murphy, Toby Sutherland and Lily Crawford



Year 5:- Harry Robinson, Oliver Giles, Felicity Warren and Bella-Nicole Arscott
Year 4:- Alion Pjetra, Eva Mandizha, Mia England-Cowen and Saachi Naddinuri
Year 3:- Stanley Potts, Lilly Morgan, Nusrat Miah and Freddie Wilkes
Year 2:- Ivy Beachcroft, Harper Hooper, Kya Hollington and Monty Adkins
Year 1:- Izzy Barker, Isabella Rees and George Grigson
EYFS:- Jemima Adkins, Freddy Goulbourn, Melissa Evans-Dani and Natasha Ndibalema

Playground Stars of the Week

Willow Leer, Ricky Van Der Fransen, Albie Clarke, Lucas Bartrup, Jacob Crompton, Evelyn Muir, Gracie Mann, Robyn Caulfield, George Wise Bell, Amelie D'Aleo, May Haggerty, Alice Pearson-Moose, Emily Harvey, Oscar Wooden, Leo Smith, Emily Clayton, Eva Mandizha, Kadey Laver, Oliver Sylvester, Sienna Lowe, Elsie Giles, Albert Evers, Nellie Church and Daisy Izzet



Treetops Stars of the Week



Hudson Morris and Jack Weeden

Thank



Is the smell of spring a 'thing' or just a feeling?

House Point Scores

Scores for the House Point groups are:-

Golden Eagles	5659
Red Arrows	5007
Green Dragons	4408
Blue Dolphins	3406



Well done again 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.





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11th May 2026

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:-

The weather isn't looking great this week so playing outside maybe off the cards but we have a well-stocked toy and activity cupboard so the children will be able to choose from there.

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 meeting of the PTA will be on Tuesday, 28th April 2026 at 7pm in the White Hart. If you would like to join the PTA, why not pop along, we would love to see you.

Community News

Fancy learning to play the trumpet or play the drums?

Benfleet Community Music Centre has one to one lessons available this term for new students.

The Music Centre meets on Saturday mornings at Thundersley Primary School, Dark Lane, Thundersley, SS7 3PT.

We also have places on our **Junior Music Programme** for students in **Years 3 to 6** which helps develop student's musical skills by:

- Learning to play musical instruments, sing in a group, as well as musical activities that will support learning music in a fun and practical way
- The programme is 90 minutes long and runs for 10 weeks per term at Benfleet Community Music Centre.

If you would like to register for the trumpet or drum lessons or the Junior Music Programme, then please use the following link:

[Benfleet Community Music Centre - Essex Music Service](#)

Come and join us making music together!

Diabetes 4Ts

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.

Overwhelm Tour

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Free SEND Coffee Morning

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

The Deanes Holiday Camps

Please find attached information in respect of the above.

All Stars Girls' Cricket & Dynamos Girls' Cricket

Please find attached information in respect of the above.

School Calendar - Dates

eSchools or eSchools app Lite

Future Term Dates

Academic Year 2025-2026

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





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