



## Newsletter No. 2

14<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

The children have been absolutely delighted with the steady stream of toys, pots and pans, suitcases, cardboard boxes and other exciting items that have been coming into school for our OPAL play. It has been lovely to see their imaginations at work as everyday objects are transformed into dens, shops, kitchens, vehicles and all sorts of wonderful creations! Please do keep the donations coming. We would particularly welcome toy cars, small-world toys and figures, as well as more of the items listed above.



As we develop OPAL, we are teaching the children to ask themselves two important questions: **Is it safe? Is**

**everyone happy?** If the answer to either question is no, they know what to do: **pause, listen and change the play.** This helps the children enjoy greater freedom at lunchtime while learning to manage risks, consider others and make sensible choices.

This Friday, we will be holding our first **Family OPAL Day**. Children in Years 1 and 2 will join the older children on the field so that they can enjoy the wider range of resources available there, including the mud kitchen, digging area and scooter park. EYFS children will not be joining us at this stage, but we hope to include them as our OPAL provision continues to develop.

Thank you, as always, for your support and for helping us make our lunchtimes exciting for the children.

Have a super week.

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

**We'd Love Our Children's Voices to Be Heard!**

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, is asking children

across the country to share their thoughts, experiences and hopes for the future through **The Big Future survey**. We'd love as many of our children as possible to have their say, and would really appreciate it if you could find a few minutes to complete the survey **together with your child at home**. It's a lovely opportunity to chat about what matters to them, what they enjoy and what they hope for as they grow up - and, most importantly, to make sure the voices of our children are represented when the findings are shared with Government.

**You can complete the survey here:**

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

**An exciting visit from an Olympic Medallist!**



We have a very special visitor coming to Thundersley this week! As part of the opening of the new Aldi store in Rayleigh, **Olympic rower Hattie Taylor**, who won a **bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics**, will be joining us for a special assembly on Thursday morning. Some of our children will also have the exciting job of helping to officially open the new store and cut the ribbon before school!

To celebrate the opening, Aldi is also inviting our children to take part in a **poster competition**. Children are asked to create a poster showing **'What healthy eating means to me'**. The winning entry will receive a **£20 Aldi gift voucher**, which Hattie will present during our assembly. Aldi will also be kindly donating some fresh fruit and vegetables to the school.

We would love lots of children to get involved, so please encourage your child to create a poster at home and bring it into school on Wednesday this week. Please ensure their full name and class are on the poster. I know it is a quick turnaround.

### **Attendance**

For the week ended 11<sup>th</sup> September 2026, there were six classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Sparrows who achieved 100%.

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:-

| Class        | Week  |
|--------------|-------|
|              |       |
| Butterflies  | 93.5% |
| Rabbits      | 96.3% |
| Ladybirds    | 96.5% |
| Robins       | 96.6% |
| Fireflies    | 99.7% |
| Owls         | 99.0% |
| Bears        | 99.0% |
| Sparrows     | 100%  |
| Ants         | 95.8% |
| Kestrels     | 93.1% |
| Badgers      | 98.7% |
| Squirrels    | 98.0% |
|              |       |
| Whole School | 97.2% |
| Target       | 97.0% |

Congratulations to this week's winners

**SPARROWS**





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Aspirational attendance  
target set for the school for

2026 - 2027 is:

**97%**

### Secondary School Admissions

Please note that if your child is currently in Year 6, you will need to apply online for a Secondary School place (applications are now open) by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026. To register your choice please visit:-

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>

### Congratulations - Charity Bike Ride



We would like to congratulate Layla-Star and Ziggy Wright-Martin (Ants and Robins) on completing an 11 mile charity bike ride around Foulness Island recently. For such little legs, they certainly made it look easy. They are both very proud of themselves as are their parents. They both brought in their medals today to show their respective teachers and classes.

Well done Layla-Star and Ziggy on your fantastic achievement!

### House Point Scores

Scores for the House Point groups are:-

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Red Arrows    | 3404 |
| Golden Eagles | 2632 |
| Green Dragons | 1984 |
| Blue Dolphins | 1664 |



Well done Red Arrows!

### eSchools App

We kindly ask that you download the eSchools app (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 called Early Birds (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 by calling 01268 793251 or email her directly on:-

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

### Earlybirds & Treetops this week:-

The children have had a great return to Earlybirds and Treetops and we have been able to use the outside areas most days. The weather is starting to change so if you have any indoor games or activities that you are able to donate for when we are unable to get outside, they would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.

### 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.daniellessshop.co.uk](http://www.daniellessshop.co.uk)

### PTA

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PTA is to be advised.

### Community News

### Montgomery Primary School - October Half Term Autumn Club

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.





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### The Rock Project - Hadleigh

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

### Anglo European School - Open Evening

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

### Festival of the Girl

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

### School Calendar - Dates

#### **Academic Year 2026-2027**

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\*\*\*\*\***

22/10/26

23/10/26

22/02/27

