



Newsletter No. 3

21st September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a wonderful week we had!



Our School Councillors were delighted to help officially open the new Aldi store in Rayleigh. We were then joined at school by Olympic bronze medallist Hattie Taylor, who spoke to the children about her rowing career. Year 6 particularly enjoyed their question-and-answer session with Hattie and were thrilled to have the opportunity to hold her Olympic medal! Hattie shared some important messages about learning from mistakes, working hard and, above all, enjoying what you do.

As part of Aldi's opening celebrations, our children were invited to enter a healthy-eating poster competition. Congratulations to Ronnie Toogood in Owls, whose fantastic poster was chosen as the winner!



We also had the most wonderful Family Friday lunchtime. It was lovely to see children from across the school enjoying our OPAL zones, joining in with the activities and playing with their siblings. Thank you to Miss Bridge and our wonderful Midday Staff for all their hard work in making this happen. A special mention must also go to our Year 6 Playground Ambassadors, who helped to make the lunchtime such a success. They are going to play a key role in the success of OPAL moving forward.

Thank you, too, to everyone who has sent in so many wonderful resources for the children to enjoy. Please keep them coming!

We are also delighted to introduce our new Senior Pupil Team, with Emily Duggan, Hermione Delf, Leo Jackson and Reggie Collins being crowned our Head Pupils. We know they will be wonderful role models and excellent representatives of our school.

Finally, a reminder about the importance of reading with your child every evening. This remains incredibly valuable right through to Year 6. Your child might read aloud to you, you might read to them, or you could share the reading between you. Whichever approach works best, spending this time together develops fluency, vocabulary and comprehension—and helps children discover a lifelong enjoyment of books.

Have a super week!

Miss E. Dawson
Headteacher

Attendance

For the week ended 18th September 2026, there were six classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Ladybirds who achieved 99.4%.

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
Chipmunks	90.5%
Dragonflies	96.2%
Butterflies	94.8%
Rabbits	96.0%
Ladybirds	99.4%
Robins	95.2%
Fireflies	99.3%
Owls	97.0%
Bears	99.0%
Sparrows	97.7%
Ants	93.2%
Kestrels	89.7%
Badgers	97.3%
Squirrels	96.7%
Whole School	95.9%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners

LADYBIRDS

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 31st October 2026. To register your choice please visit:-

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





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Head Team

As you may be aware, every year the Year 6 children have the opportunity to put themselves forward to become part of our Head Team. This year, we had an incredible number of applications. The children had to initially write a letter to describe why they wanted to become part of the Head Team and then read the letter in front of their peers and staff members. The voting then took place last Wednesday and the results were announced in Friday's assembly. The chosen team describe below the reasons they wanted to become part of the Head Team and the process they went through.

Well done all!

Hermione Delf (Badgers)

I wanted to be part of the Head team because it's my last year in Primary School and I feel like it will help me boost my confidence helping people around the school. To be able to be part of the Head Team we needed to write a letter about why we wanted to be part of the Head Team and then everyone voted. In assembly I was really nervous and shaking and was very sweaty. When they read my name out, I was really proud of myself. My parents were really proud as well. Hopefully I will be able to represent the school by welcoming visitors and doing jobs around the school.

Emily Duggan (Squirrels)

I wanted to be part of the Head Team because I am a very good role model and can listen to other people's ideas. I also looked up to the previous Head Girls and wanted to be like them. I had to write about why I wanted to be Head Girl and give it in to the teacher. After that, the teacher called me out and I had to tell the whole year group why I wanted to be in the Head Team. I was very nervous when I stepped into the hall for the assembly where they were going to announce the results. When my name was read out, I was very relieved and the

pressure went. My parents were really surprised when I told them and really happy for me. I'm really looking forward to trying all these new jobs especially showing visitors around the school.

Leo Jackson (Squirrels)

I wanted to be part of the Head Team because it's my last year at Thundersley and I want to really pay them after everything they have done for me and pushed me forward to 'be the best I can be'. I had to write a speech about why I want to be part of the Head Team and read it out to the year group. I was nervous but I felt a lot better after I had finished. On Wednesday last week, we had to vote for who we wanted to be a part of the Head Team. On Friday, I found out after Mr. Yorston read it out in assembly. I felt really happy because not only I was Head Boy but I got to be joint Head Boy with my friend. I think I will enjoy showing people around the school the best and being a role model for other children.

Reggie Collins (Squirrels)

I wanted to be part of the Head Team because it's my final year at Thundersley and I really wanted to achieve something higher than the School Council. I had to fill out a letter reasoning why I wanted to be part of the Head Team. A few other members of the class tried out as well. When we filled it out at home we needed to bring it in and read out our letter in front of the class as well as Badgers' class. I felt nervous to start with and then when I got up there and started reading it I felt really confident. I became a School Councillor twice and this motivated me to want to become part of the Head Team. When our names got called we had to stand up in front of assembly and after that we went to the KS1 assembly and introduced ourselves to them as the new Head Team. I was really happy and excited because of the time and effort I put into the speech. I really wanted to become part of the Head Team. My parents didn't believe me at first but when I showed them my badge, they were really happy for me.

Table Tennis



A new season of competitive school sport got underway last week as Thundersley took a team of Year 6 children to a Table Tennis competition, at Grove Wood Primary School. The children had been practising hard with Mr Yorston and then again in their break times and lunch times, so were excited to play against the 7 other schools in a series of matches. Over the course of the day, every single child made incredible progress, especially with their consistency and tactical awareness and Thundersley were winning lots of matches as they played each school. After all the scores were in, the two boys' teams did brilliantly, one finishing in fifth place and the other collecting bronze medals. The girls also did amazingly and finished third - also collecting bronze medals. Above all, Mr. Yorston was so impressed by the great team spirit and sportsmanship - even when





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both Thundersley boys' teams had to play each other! What a great start to the sporting calendar.

Emily Clayton (Badgers) and Leo Jackson (Squirrels) give their respective accounts of the event below:-

'Firstly when we arrived, we waited to be called to our table and then we had to be put into an order of first, second and third and then the first person went up to play their round and then the next etc. Some of the matches were difficult and some were easier. I really like table tennis. At the end of our matches we said well done and told our teacher that we had finished. Two of our teams got 3rd place and one got 4th place. My team came 3rd. I felt good and surprised as we didn't think we would come 3rd. I would definitely like to play again.' (Emily Clayton)

'As soon as we got there, Mr. Yorston told us what numbers we were and then we had our first match. I won 11-7. Then we had our second match against Northwick and 3 of us won and one lost. I won 11-9. Then our third match was against Grove Wood and everyone of us lost as they were really good and quick on their serves. At the end we all sat down in our schools and they read out the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Thundersley Gold came 3rd and Thundersley Black came 5th. I really enjoyed playing table tennis against the other schools. I would really like to do it again or maybe play outside of school.' (Leo Jackson)



Year 1 Parent/Carer Involvement Session

Last Thursday, the children in Year 1 had a fabulous afternoon with their adults who visited to participate in their Phonics involvement session. Isla Laurie (Rabbits) and Freddy Goulbourn (Butterflies) give their respective accounts of the session below:-

'My mummy and daddy came in and we had a word hunt on the big field. On the big field there were lots of cards hidden and there were pictures on the card and there was a number in the corner. We had a pencil and a piece of paper with some boxes on and we had to write what the picture was on the card. After we did that there were lots of activities there and there were games. I did all the activities with mummy and daddy. I thought my mummy, daddy and William were coming but he was at nursery. I liked playing the activities and Mr. Jetten said I was really good at reading. I would like them to come in again as I really enjoyed it.' (Isla Laurie)

'My mummy came in and I went to see the cards on the big field. Then we had to write what they were down. Then I did the work which was inside. I did games on paper. I had to play a game with a dice. I rolled the dice and it landed on a number. My favourite bit was the hunt. I liked mummy coming in.' (Freddy Goulbourn)

Family Friday Success!

A huge thank you to all our staff and children for helping to make our very first Family Friday such a wonderful success. It was fantastic to see so many members of

our school community coming together to enjoy the afternoon. One of the highlights of the event was seeing children from Years 1 to 6 playing together on the main field with such a variety of activities on offer. It was wonderful to watch pupils of different ages mixing so positively, showing kindness, teamwork and respect for one another. The smiles, laughter and sense of community on display truly reflected the values we are proud to nurture at Thundersley Primary.

Thank you for your support and enthusiasm. We look forward to building on the success of this event and creating many more opportunities for the staff and children to come together and celebrate our school community.





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Congratulations - Havens Hospices Glow Event

We would like to congratulate Archie Stuart and Francesca Podolska-Prince (both in Sparrows) who participated in the Havens Hospices Glow event at the weekend. The children had to walk 5k and worked hard to raise money for this worthy cause. They particularly enjoyed wearing colourful/fluorescent glow sticks and accessories, seeing all the lights and attending the silent disco at the end. They were buzzing after completing the walk and felt very proud of themselves.



Well done Archie and Francesca, what an amazing achievement for a very worthwhile cause! All whilst having lots of fun.

Stars of the Week

Year 6:- Aidan Clarke and Eva-Mei Redmond

Year 5:- Isla

Jacobs and Willow Horne

Year 4:- Jack Muir and Arnie Higgs

Year 3:- Charlotte Morris and Teddy Terry

Year 2:- Devon Brown and Lizzy Hamilton

Year 1:- Edith Arram and Jude Hume

EYFS:- Reuben Banks and Tom Donnelly



Playground Stars of the Week

Charlie Baker, Briar Bilkey, Aiden White, Frank Mataj, Florence Deal, Scarlett-Rose O'Dell, Kaitlin Bennett, Phoebe Davidson, Poppy Jacobs and Ronnie Lloyd



Treetops Stars of the Week



Eddie Hunter and Brayden Nyama

House Point Scores

Scores for the House Point groups are:-

Golden Eagles	2592
Green Dragons	2196
Blue Dolphins	2147
Red Arrows	1994



Well done Golden Eagles!

Honesty is the best policy!

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

Nellie Ife (Chipmunks)

Well done - you should be very proud of yourself!

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

Earlybirds & Treetops this week:-

It's been lovely to have the children join us from Dragonflies and Chipmunks. The weather is looking warm and sunny again this week so the children will be outside enjoying our wonderful field. Indoor activities are also available for those who prefer to stay inside.

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.daniellessshop.co.uk





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PTA

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PTA is to be advised.

Community News

Free SEND Coffee Morning - 8th October 2026

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Contented Minds Therapy

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Big Swim Little Swim - October Crash Course

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Netball with Lucy

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

