



Newsletter No. 6

12th October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have another exciting week ahead at Thundersley, with some wonderful opportunities for our children to be creative, celebrate diversity and try something new.

Wear Red Day - Friday, 16th October 2026

On Friday, we will be supporting **Show Racism the Red Card** by inviting all children and staff to wear something red to school.

This is a great opportunity to reinforce the importance of kindness, respect and treating everyone fairly. At Thundersley, we are proud to be a school where everyone belongs and where racism has no place.

There is no need for a completely red outfit - a red jumper, T-shirt or accessory will be absolutely fine!

Feeling the Rhythm - Jazz Festival Drumming Workshops

We are looking forward to welcoming some exciting drumming workshops as part of the local Jazz Festival celebrations. Children will have the opportunity to explore rhythm and percussion, make music together and perhaps discover a hidden talent! We can't wait to hear the rhythms filling our school.

Year 6 Get Creative - Graffiti Art Workshops

Our Year 6 children have a fantastic opportunity coming up, with a talented graffiti artist visiting school to work with them. They will explore lettering, colour and design, learning new artistic techniques and creating their own artwork.

Experiences like these are a wonderful way to spark creativity, build confidence and introduce children to new interests.

OPAL - Making Playtimes Even Better

It has been lovely to see the children embracing our OPAL approach to playtimes, using their imagination and making the most of new opportunities to play. We continue to reinforce our three important questions:

- Is it safe?
- Is everyone happy?
- Are we looking after our equipment?

Thank you to everyone who has donated equipment or resources. Please keep them coming in. We are particularly looking for suitcases and dressing up clothes.

The children have asked for a sandpit, so our aim is to dig a huge one! We have had a kind offer to dig it - we just need help with filling it with play sand. If anyone knows of any companies who can help us with this, we'd be most grateful. You'd be amazed at how much sand can cost!

Your support is helping us make playtimes even more exciting for our children!

Have a super week.

Miss E. Dawson
Headteacher

Attendance

For the week ended 10th October 2026 there were eight classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Chipmunks 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:-

Class	Week
Chipmunks	100%
Dragonflies	91.7%
Butterflies	96.6%
Rabbits	90.3%
Ladybirds	98.7%
Robins	92.8%
Fireflies	98.0%
Owls	99.3%
Bears	98.1%
Sparrows	98.0%
Ants	90.3%
Kestrels	89.4%
Badgers	97.3%
Squirrels	97.0%
Whole School	95.5%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners

CHIPMUNKS

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>





Newsletter No. 6

12th October 2026

Accelerated Reader

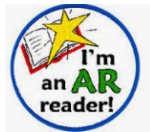
The Accelerated Reader results for the week ended 10th October 2026 are:-

Quizzes

Bears 39
Fireflies 28
Kestrels 29

Word Count

Bears 489,522
Squirrels 307,945
Sparrows 254,811



Harvest Donations

Thank you so much for your generous Harvest donations to Southend Foodbank. The items were collected by them on Friday and they were super grateful for your kindness!



Year 3 visit to the Chelmsford Museum

The Year 3 children visited the Chelmsford Museum on Monday as part of their Stone Age to Iron Age topic. The children participated in a number of activities including handling real and replica objects, getting hands-on with experimental archaeology, investigating an exciting new interactive Stone Age to Iron Age gallery and building a living timeline to reveal how and why life changed from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. The children had an amazing time and Kya Hollington (Fireflies) and Mason Buckley (Owls) tell of their exciting experiences below:-



"First of all, we went on the coach and I talked to my friend. When I got there we met the lady who was looking after us for the day. Then we went in a room and then we put our backpacks down and she told us what we were going to do. After that, we tried different activities and they were really fun. We made a shelter out of animal skin. We also made some bracelets out of pipe cleaners. We also did some knitting. We made different things from the Stone Age. I learned how they made fire in the Stone Age which I didn't know before. They used rocks. My favourite thing was making the bracelets as I could take it home with me." (Kya Hollington)

"We saw a bear in a container and also a white tiger in leaves. We went in a room where there was the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Ice Age. In the Ice Age there was a woolly mammoth tusk which was very long. Then in the Stone Age there was flint which they created spears and weapons with. In the Bronze Age there were chains and metal and in the Iron Age there were helmets. We went outside and we saw a bee hive. We saw the honey inside and it was very gooey. I enjoyed making the bracelets with wool the best and I really liked going on the coach when I went there because I sat with my friends." (Mason Buckley)

Boys' Football Tournament



On Wednesday, it was the boys' turn to make their way to the Deanes School for the District Football tournament. The rain was making the conditions difficult but the boys showed great courage and the spirits were high as they went into their first game. The result was a close 0-0 draw with some tenacious defending and some fantastic goalkeeping. From then onwards it was very difficult for anyone to score against us and by the end of the group we had won enough of our games to come out as group champions. This meant we were into the quarter finals against Kents Hill. The boys played their best football they had played all tournament. They came out comfortable winners with a 1-0 win qualifying for the semi-final. This is the furthest they have come in this competition. The semi-final was another very close game and despite some incredible saves and resilient goalkeeping we were knocked out in a narrow 1-0 finish. The 3rd/4th playoff went off in similar fashion meaning that at the end of the tournament, we came a fabulous 4th. In every game the boys improved and supported each other fantastically. They really were a credit to themselves and the school. This is another example of the children 'being the best they can be'. Ollie Smith (Badgers) gives his account of the tournament below:-

"I was playing defender for the whole time. As the other team's players were running down I was making the most of the tackles as George was staying back in case anyone went past me. Each match was twelve minutes. I played every match and didn't come off. After the twelve minutes, we rested and watched the other games and then after a full match, we played again. We made it into the semi-finals but sadly lost 1-0. To see who was 3rd or 4th we played again and we lost so came 4th overall. I really enjoyed playing the whole time and experiencing a tournament with the school. The best bit was when I made a superb tackle when George was up. Hopefully, I can play another match soon





Newsletter No. 6

12th October 2026

because I really enjoy playing with my school friends."

EYFS Parent/Carer Involvement



On Thursday it was the turn of our youngest children to enjoy spending the afternoon with their adults to take part in a sponsored Number Hunt. Due to the weather, the activity had to take place indoors but everyone had a great time and the children loved their adults visiting them. Ralph Edmonds (Chipmunks) and Willow Birnie (Dragonflies) give their respective accounts of the session below:-

"My mummy came in to help me. I had to find all the animals. I had to count them. I found the bird one and I counted it. It was 7. I found the leaf one. I think there was 8. I found the acorn one and I think it was 10. I got help from my mummy. I liked mummy coming in." (Ralph Edmonds)

"Mummy came in to help me. We looked for badgers and all kinds of stuff. I saw a badger but not a real badger. My mummy and daddy fed a badger one day. We found squirrels but I'm not sure if we found squirrels, it's just in case. I had to count the animals. Then we found a rat in Dragonflies' class. Then we found acorns in Dragonflies' class. I liked doing my pattern picture the best when mummy came in. Then I found a tree, hedgehogs and foxes." (Willow Birnie)

Science Workshops

On Thursday, the children enjoyed a visit from Mad Scientists, Duggie Dug Dug and Chris. The duo were sponsored by Thundersley Congregational Church and thrilled the children with their whacky Science experiments in two special

assemblies. Bobby Fillary (Kestrels) tells of his exciting assembly below:-

"When we got in there we were doing experiments and there was this guy called Chris. He came out and we made elephant toothpaste. We got washing up liquid and some dangerous chemicals and mixed them together and put some food colouring in it. Then we put different chemicals in there and it exploded. It was really big and everyone gasped! After that we sang a song and then Chris did a dance and then two volunteers went up to the front and they got to hold a small and big bubble and bounce them in the air. After that they put dry ice in a pipe and put some special chemicals in there and it started bubbling. It was good. They also made a massive bubble and put tons of dry ice in there and it flew up in the air. My favourite was the big bubble which flew up in the air and burst. I thought the whole session was really good and it was cool to see what Science is."



ROBUS Run



On Friday, we were delighted for the return of the ROBUS Run. This is an open cross country event for all children in KS2. The weather conditions were perfect and we had over 100 children from Years 3 to 6 excited and ready to run. Around 200

children joined from the other four ROBUS schools. The races started with the Years 3 and 4 girls and it was wonderful to hear so many people supporting the children as they undertook the challenge of completing their races. The support continued for all four races and there were so many fantastic performances from our Thundersley children in yellow. As always it was so lovely to see the children supporting one another and have the school community come together for such a large event. A huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers who marshalled the event. Again, another example of the children 'being the best they can be'. Jack Bush (Bears) details his race below:-

"We went to the starting line. When the whistle went, if we were on the left side we had to go to the left of the tree and if we were on the right side we had to go to the right of the tree. I was on the right side. I was a little bit nervous because there were lots of children there but I became more confident as I went round. I finished 72nd out of all the children. I felt happy. I would like to do it again as I like running."



Football Congratulations

We would like to share some fantastic news that Scarlett-Rose O'Dell (Kestrels), Perla Puckey (Kestrels) and Ruby Trew (Ants) have secured places at the Colchester United Emerging Talent Centre (ETC). The girls have been working hard training weekly at the Development Centre and all three girls successfully completed their four-week ETC trial and earned their places. As you can imagine, their families





Newsletter No. 6

12th October 2026

are very proud of their hard work and dedication.

Well done girls, what an amazing achievement!



South East Essex District Football Selection

We would like to congratulate Perla Puckey (Kestrels) who was recently invited to attend a trial for the South East Essex District Football Team alongside sixty other girls in Years 5 and 6. This is the first time that there has been a girls' district football team at this age group - under 11s, so it was a really special event and Perla was super excited but very nervous to take part. At the trial, Perla undertook football drills alongside other Year 5 girls and then went and played some intense 5-a-side matches in mixed year groups whilst being scored by the officials. Perla gave it everything at the trial and had fun. The following day she received the amazing news that she had made the team! Perla said:-

"I felt so excited and happy that I made the team and I am looking forward to playing with new team mates and making new friends. We also won our first match 7-0 and I nearly scored a goal but it hit the cross bar."

Perla's family are super proud of her and her achievement!

Well done Perla, what a fantastic achievement!



Gymnastic Success



We would like to congratulate Aiden Clarke who recently competed at the IGA National Qualifying Competition in Milton Keynes where he put in a fantastic performance, winning bronze medals in both the

Floor and the High Bar in a highly competitive field of boys. Aiden also achieved an amazing 3rd place overall, whilst setting a PB in all apparatus. This has earned him a place in the IGA National Final on 18th October 2026 in Leicester. Aiden has been doing gymnastics since the age of seven, making him something of a late bloomer in the gymnastics world. He trains at Southend Gymnastics and proudly represents their Boys' Squad. Aiden is super excited to compete on the national stage again and is looking forward to giving it his all. Aiden said:-

"I was really excited to do my floor routine which had a lot of tumbling in. The judges were tough and were looking at all the details but I have



been training really hard to make my routines look good. I'm really excited as I have never performed in the Leicester arena so this is exciting."



Thunks and Oracy for Every Communicator



We want our children to find their voice at Thundersley Primary School. Oracy is a vital life skill that empowers all children to communicate confidently and effectively. We would like our children to learn to listen, reflect and communicate with confidence, preparing them for success both in school and beyond. 'Thunks' and 'Would you rather' questions encourage critical thinking and reasoning. They can help our children explain and justify their opinions through discussion and listening to different viewpoints. There is no right or wrong answer, everyone can participate with creativity and imagination. Each week the same Thunk/Would you rather question is shared, in class with all children. This will then be shared with you on the weekly newsletter to promote interesting and unexpected conversations at home, whether this be round the dinner table, when driving in the car or at bedtime!

Here is your first one:

Would you rather fly or be invisible?





Newsletter No. 6

12th October 2026

Stars of the Week

Year 6:- Mason Major and Evelyn Deal

Year 5:- Jaxon Bellinger and Preston Hooper

Year 4:- Henry Thorne and Jake Williams

Year 3:- Robyn Caulfied and Max Potter

Year 2:- Sylvia Nicoara and Lily Roberts

Year 1:- May Haggerty and Daisy Izzet

EYFS:- Harrison Hooper and Diella Dapellari



Playground Stars of the Week

Felicity Warren, Lola Duffield, Joshua Arram, Ollie Whitaker, Emily Parmenter, Royce Su, Mia Haxhia, Elsie Giles, Eloise Bennett, Remi Law, Lilah-Rae Sellick-Ramplin and Emilia Hindley



Treetops Stars of the Week



Jaxon Quintal (Chipmunks)

House Point Scores

Scores for the House Point groups are:-

Golden Eagles	4678
Green Dragons	4280
Red Arrows	3590
Blue Dolphins	3487



Well done Golden Eagles!

We would like to congratulate the following children on becoming House Captains:-



Red Arrows - Harry Hills and Teddy Richards



Green Dragons - Mia Birch and Aiden Clarke



Blue Dolphins - Daniel Arram and Bella-Nicole Arscott



Golden Eagles - Charlie Elliott and Kitty McCombe

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 looking like the weather will be kind to us again this week, so you'll still find us outside enjoying the fresh air. Those who choose to stay inside, have a plethora of

activities and games to keep them amused.

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.danielllesshop.co.uk

PTA

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PTA will be on Tuesday, 29th September 2026 at 7pm in the White Hart. Everyone is welcome.

The PTA AGM is on Tuesday, 3rd November 2026 at 7pm in the White Hart. Everyone is welcome.

Community News

SEN Sessions at Monkey Bizzness Hackley

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Futsal Player Festival

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.





Newsletter No. 6

12th October 2026

CAVS Community Service Day - 26th November 2026

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Grangewaters October Half Term

Please find attached flyers in respect of the above.

Aspire Football Coaching - Football Camps October Half Term

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

