Newsletter No. 10

16th November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last week, we gathered on the front playground with all the children from Years 1 to 6 for our Remembrance service. I was so proud of how well the children observed the silence, especially our youngest children. We heard the Last Post and our House Captains read a poem. Our Head Team also attended the Remembrance service in the village and were wonderful ambassadors for our school.

Friday's Wear Blue Day for Diabetes Awareness was a great success. It was lovely to see so many children wearing blue, and a special well done to Cody, who did a super job of explaining diabetes and why we were wearing blue to both our Key Stage 1 children and our visitors.

Tomorrow is the last day of our planned Reception tours. I don't think we've ever had so many people come to look around Thundersley, and it's been lovely to hear such super feedback from the families I've shown around. If you know anyone who is still hoping to visit, please ask them to get in touch with the school office.

We're starting Anti-Bullying Week today with Odd Socks Day. I'm looking forward to seeing all the odd socks! It's a fun way to get children talking about what makes each of us different and how we can make sure everyone feels included. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will help us keep those conversations going throughout the year.

There was lots of excitement on Friday when we announced our new School Councillors. Well done to all the children who put themselves forward, and congratulations to those who were elected. I'm looking forward to hearing the ideas you bring from your classes.

Have a lovely week.

Miss E. Dawson
Headteacher

EYFS School Admissions September 2027

Please note that if you wish to register your child for a place in EYFS for September 2027, you will need to apply online by 15th January 2027. To register your choice please visit:-

https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/admissions-september-2027

Attendance

For the week ended 13th November 2026 there were five classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Congratulations to Robins who achieved 99.3%.

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	95.3%
Dragonflies	89.7%
Butterflies	94.5%
Rabbits	90.7%
Ladybirds	98.4%
Robins	99.3%
Fireflies	94.0%
Owls	96.0%
Bears	94.5%
Sparrows	98.7%
Ants	90.7%
Kestrels	91.3%
Badgers	97.7%
Squirrels	98.3%
Whole School	94.9%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners

ROBINS

Aspirational attendance target set for the school for

2026 – 2027 is:

97%

Accelerated Reader

The Accelerated Reader results for the week ended 13th November 2026 are:-

Quizzes

Fireflies 40
Owls 35
Kestrels 33

Word Count

Ants 312,710
Kestrels 279,744
Squirrels 260,153

Remembrance Day



Our Head Team, Leo Jackson, Reggie Collins, Emily Duggan and Hermione Delf visited the village memorial on Wednesday

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to take part in the Remembrance service. Leo tells of his experience below:-

"We walked over to the memorial in the village and there was someone from St. Peter's Church and he gave us sheets to give out to everyone. We then sang a hymn called 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven' and then the person from St. Peter's Church and Reggie read the introduction to the Act of Remembrance. Then we had two minutes silence and people laid wreaths at the foot of the cross. We had prayers and then sang the National Anthem. It made me think about what Remembrance Day means and what they did to save our country."

The rest of our children gathered with staff on the playground to participate in the two minutes silence and remember those who have given their lives for our country. It was very poignant.

Lloyd Burton Character & Life Skills Festival





On Wednesday, Bears and Ladybirds visited The Deanes School to participate in the Lloyd Burton Character & Life Skills Festival. The children took part in a carousel of fun activities which were designed to promote confidence and life skills. The children all had a wonderful experience and Arthur Willers (Bears) and Lizzie Hamilton (Ladybirds) give details of the event below:-

"We did tennis, we did archery, we passed a ball around to each other by kicking it, we had to hold hands and try and spin, we had to run and get the play equipment to make a face and we had to bounce a ball on a racket. We also had to throw a ball to each other and try and not let it touch the ground. I liked the archery the best because I was good at it. I've done archery before with my family and I really liked it and I would like to do it again. I thought the whole afternoon was pretty good." (Arthur Willers)

"We went to the Deanes. We did archery, tennis, we had to jog and pass the ball to the other person, we had to throw the ball to the other person and we had to throw the tennis ball into the hula hoop. We put the ball in between our knees and had to jump. I liked the archery the best because I got the bullseye. I liked the whole morning because I went to Deanes with my class." (Lizzie Hamilton)

Netball Essex Cup update

Thundersley played two games in the Essex Netball Cup over the last week. The first was a strong win against St Anne Line, in Basildon. The girls showed versatility and movement as they played in lots of different positions. Wednesday's game against Shenfield was a cracker, as the girls tried so hard to play through a strong defensive team – but also keep out their shooters! The final score was 7 – 5 to Shenfield but Thundersley played brilliantly and had enough chances to win the game. Well done to all of the girls – they represented the school so well.

Netball vs. St. Anne Line - Scarlett-Rose O'Dell (Kestrels)

"We were playing against St. Anne Line. We started off by playing with 5 but then we went to 7 players. I played as goal shooter most of the time and I scored a goal. We were very good playing against them. We got back to the goal quite a lot and had a lot of shots. We scored most of them and they scored one net. At the very end I played centre. I like playing goal shooter the best as I like to have a shoot at the net. The other team were pretty good and it was a good match. I like playing netball because it isn't like the other sports I do and I like doing something different. I'm looking forward to playing in another match."

Netball vs. Shenfield – Bella-Nicole Arscott (Badgers)

"We got there. It took 30 minutes. When we got there we just started to do some practices. The netball goals were 10ft which were 2ft taller than ours so when we started the game we scored the first and second goal and then they started to get ahead of us. Then they scored three others in the first quarter. I played goal keeper for the whole match which I like as it is really fun. In the second quarter they started scoring ahead of us. Then we tried to score some goals but we missed some of them. Then in the third quarter we scored 1 goal, We had really good players on and we worked really well as a team. In the fourth quarter I was off and I was the timekeeper. The final score was 7-5 to them. I really enjoyed the game because it was really nice to work with my team and play against the other school. At the end we had to choose who their strongest player was and they had to choose who our strongest play was. They chose Ruby Moorcraft. I really hope we can play them again in a rematch."



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Year 2 visit to Colchester Zoo



On Thursday, Year 2 visited Colchester Zoo to support their Geography and Science learning. The children also had an exciting Rainforest Animal session. Kaitlin Bennett (Ladybirds) and Vedanth Konereddy (Robins) both give details below of their visit:-

"When we first got there we went and saw the animals. We saw penguins and we saw orang-utans. I liked the penguins the best because we got to see them eat. We saw elephants, giraffes, rhinos and monkeys too. I liked the baby monkeys the best because they were so tiny and I like baby monkeys. We went to a club and learned about the forest. We learned how high the trees grow and that the rain comes down and makes the trees grow. We ate our lunch by the elephants and there were two tables and two benches for us to eat. My favourite bit was learning about the growing. I thought the whole day was good." (Kaitlin Bennett)



"We learned about the rainforest and we got to see the chimpanzees and their babies. We ate lunch there. We got to see different animals like the orang-utans. We saw a snake skin and we saw a skull of a hippo which was big. We went past the Komodo dragon section but steam was covering it so we didn't get to see it. We saw the elephants and giraffes. We also saw beaks of different birds like the parrot and a toucan. We also learned that the parrot's beak is for cracking open hard shells and the toucan's beak is for reaching berries which are further than other birds' beaks can reach. My favourite part of the day was when we learned about all the different stuff and that the snake's skin was actually real. It was my birthday too and everyone sang happy birthday to me when we got back to class."

Year 4 visit to the Museum of Power

On Wednesday, Year 4 also had an exciting visit to the Museum of Power in Maldon where they had workshops and hands on activities based on their Science topics of electricity and sound. Jaxon-Jai Winter (Sparrows) & Stanley Hamilton (Bears) tell of their experience below:-

"First, we made helicopters and sound boxes. Next we went on the train and then we did the Fairy Garden and then we ate lunch. Then we went into the Group Room and tested what was a conductor and an insulator. I enjoyed making the helicopters the best because it was fun." (Jaxon-Jai Winter)

"We got there and we went into the main hall to put our packed lunch down and then our groups got told to go to different activities. The first one I did was in the Group Room and we made circuits with crocodile clips and then we learnt what materials were conductors and what materials were insulators. Conductors were mainly metal and we found a toothbrush for an insulator. Then we went back into the main hall and had a snack. Then we made more complicated circuits of helicopters and music players. After that we went to a model village and there were pictures with names on them and we had to find them in the model village like the first one was 'Dapper'. It was a pig and it was climbing on the fence. Then we had lunch. After that, we saw the massive steam engine running on compressed air. Then we went to see a magic show in the hall and then had a train ride and we went two times around the track. Then we were all given balloons at the end. My favourite bit was the model village because it was really fun and we won gems after it." (Stanley Hamilton)

School Council Elections

We would like to congratulate the following children who have been voted as our new School Council.



Butterflies – Jude Hume & Rosie Richards

Rabbits – Omaris Blackman & Harry Oxley

Ladybirds – Emilia Larbey & Kaitlin Bennett

Robins – Ayla Hussein & Max Jarvis

Fireflies – Olivia Lopes & Robyn Caulfield

Owls – Evie Barfoot & Arthur Lloyd

Bears – Aurora Curnock & Stanley Leer

Sparrows – Dylan Nunez & Aiden White

Ants – Ruby Trew & Brayden Nyama

Kestrels – Eleny Grover & Ramsey Wheeler

Badgers – Aidan Clarke & Daniyal Sethi

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Squirrels – Albie Clark & Olivia Cable

Emilia Larbey (Ladybirds) gives details of how she was elected as a School Councillor below:-

"First we had to say why we wanted to be a School Councillor. I said I would be a good School Councillor to improve the school and I would be good at listening and making more money by having more fun occasions. Then the class voted for the final six. After school Mrs. Folley and Mrs. Pagan counted up the votes and in assembly on Friday, the names were announced. In assembly I felt excited and when they read my name out I was really pleased that I was with Kaitlin. We cuddled each other and cried. After that Mrs. Folley gave us our badges and I went to the office to tell my mum. I was over the moon. My mum was very proud. Today we had our first meeting and I met all the other Councillors."



Thunks and Oracy for Every Communicator



Is sharing always fair?

Stars of the Week



Year 6:- Olivia Cable & Alfie Seymour
Year 5:- Fearne Horne & Kady Laver
Year 4:- Wyatt Beachcroft & Eli Swaby
Year 3:- Teddy Ife & Rey Froud
Year 2:- Izzy Barker & Elsie Giles
Year 1:- Alana Hill & Ava Clifford
EYFS:- Jude Grice & Luella Edwards

Playground Stars of the Week



James Painter, Hermione Delf, Salem Mhembere, Ferne Bradley, Luna Galley, Teddy Terry, Henry Underdown, Lily Roberts, Daisy Izzet, Brodie Curtis-Parker & Nellie Ife

Treetops Stars of the Week



Beatrice Norman (Dragonflies)

House Point Scores

Scores for the House Point groups are:-

Golden Eagles	7416
Blue Dolphins	4426
Green Dragons	4194
Red Arrows	3369



Well done again Golden Eagles!

Honesty is the best policy!

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

Layla-Star Wright-Martin (Ants)

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:-

The children have been finding lots of games to play and, as always, colouring is a very popular choice. This week will see the start of the Christmas (Shh!) decorations being made so that we are ready to go once we get to December.

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

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Danielle's Uniform,
Claydons Lane,
Rayleigh,
Essex, SS6 7UP.

Telephone 01268 967542

www.daniellesshop.co.uk

PTA

Next Meeting

The next PTA meeting with be held on Friday, 8th January 2026 at 9am at Thundersley Primary School. If you are able to attend, you would be extremely welcome. Just sign in at the main School Office and then you will be shown to the Group Room.

PTA Fundraising

The PTA would like to advise that the profit for the Monster Bash event was a magnificent £1,175.30 – thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Please also find attached a poster showing all the funds raised during 2025-2026 and another poster showing where the funds were spent.

Community News

Balancing Act – Supporting Child Mental Health Week 5 – 19th November 2026

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Unauthorised Absence – 24th November 2026 at the MegaCentre Rayleigh

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Girls' Football Christmas Camp – 22nd December 2026

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Deanes Holiday Camps – Christmas 2026

Please find attached information in respect of the above.

Hadleigh Legacy 10K – 28th February 2027

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Essex Fire Museum Open Days

Please find attached flyers in respect of the above.

Santa at the Museum – 5th & 6th December 2026

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

School Calendar – Dates

Academic Year 2026-2027

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

Academic Year 2027-2028

01/09/27 – Start of the Autumn Term
25/10/27 to 29/10/27 - Half Term
17/12/27 – Last Day of the Autumn Term
20/12/27 to 03/01/28 Christmas Break
04/01/28 – Start of the Spring Term
14/02/28 to 18/02/28 – Half Term
31/03/28 – Last Day of the Spring Term
03/04/28 to 17/04/28 – Easter Break
18/04/28 – Start of the Summer Term
01/05/28 – Bank Holiday
29/05/28 to 02/06/28 – Half Term
21/07/28 – Last Day of the Summer Term

******NON PUPIL DAYS******

22/02/27

01/09/27
21/10/27
22/10/27
22/11/27
21/02/28