Newsletter No. 11

23rd November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to share a little about the My Futures programme we are taking part in. This helps children find out about different jobs, broadens their ideas about what they might do when they are older and challenges some of the stereotypes they may already have. We want our children to know there are all sorts of opportunities open to them and to recognise how the skills they learn in school can help them in the future.

Our latest focus is leadership. We will be thinking about what makes a good leader and how children can show these skills themselves. Our School Councillors, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and Year 6 Ambassadors are some lovely examples. We are also asking children to talk to parents or relatives about how they use leadership skills in their jobs. I'm looking forward to hearing what the children find out.

Parents sometimes ask how they can find out more about what their children are learning. Our website has information about what we teach in each subject each term. Do have a look using the link below. It might also help when you ask your child what they have been doing at school. The long term plan is at the bottom of the page if you scroll down.

https://www.thundersleyprimary.co.uk/the_journey_of_learning_at_thundersley

Please also remember our coffee morning on Wednesday at 9am with Simon English, our Chair of Governors, and myself. We would love you to join us for an informal chat, hear a little about what we are working on this year and ask any general questions you may have. Our aim is to hold these each term so there are regular opportunities to share your views and talk with us.

As you are aware, last week it was Anti-Bullying week and some of the Year 6 children made a fantastic short video in this respect which we attach for you to take a look at.

Have a lovely week.

Miss E. Dawson
Headteacher

Attendance

For the week ended 20th November 2026 there were six classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Congratulations to Dragonflies 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	98.0%
Dragonflies	100%
Butterflies	95.2%
Rabbits	94.7%
Ladybirds	98.1%
Robins	91.7%
Fireflies	98.0%
Owls	97.0%
Bears	97.7%
Sparrows	93.3%
Ants	88.4%
Kestrels	91.3%
Badgers	94.3%
Squirrels	96.3%
Whole School	95.3%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners

DRAGONFLIES

Aspirational attendance target set for the school for

2026 – 2027 is:

97%

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:-

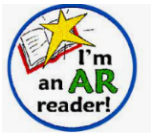
https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/admissions-september-2027

Accelerated Reader

The Accelerated Reader results for the week ended 20th November 2026 are:-

Quizzes

Kestrels 51
Fireflies 45
Bears 31



Word Count

Kestrels 1,042,319
Bears 516,326
Ants 376,736

Christmas Card Posting Boxes

The Christmas card posting boxes will be open on Tuesday, 1st December 2026 as follows:-



EYFS/KS1 – in the corridor near Mr. Smith's office

KS2 - in the corridor opposite the Library

If your child would like to send a Christmas card to someone in school, they

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must write the person's full name and class clearly on the envelope. **Please note that members of staff are unable to give out class lists.** Thank you.

My Futures

We have our next My Futures session coming up this week and attach a poster for your information.

This project is designed to help raise aspirations and inspire children about future career opportunities. Your child will have a virtual visit from people in jobs that work in a variety of fields that fall under 'Leaders of Tomorrow'. They will explain what they do in their job and why they enjoy it.

Here are some activities to engage with your children after the session:

- Talk to your children about the jobs they learnt about. You might create a fact file, design a PowerPoint or just talk…
- Which job did you like best?
- Who was your favourite professional?
- What skills do you think you would need?
- Do you use some of those skills already at home or school?
- What do you love doing that you could use in a future career?

County Finals



On Tuesday, our Girls' Football Team who won the district football tournament made their way to Billericay Town FC to compete in the county finals. The girls were placed in a group of 5 teams and played 4 games in the group. They got off to an incredible start winning their first game 7-0 with some amazing goals and resolute defending. This set the tone for the group as they went on to win two further games 1-0 and 6-0. They were very unfortunate to lose the 4th of their league games in an extremely tight game by 1 goal to 0. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the event it was only the team who finished 1st in the group who progressed to the semi-finals and although our girls had scored more than anyone else and conceded fewer than anyone else, this did mean that they were knocked out in the group stage. The girls were truly remarkable and could not have played better from the start to the end. They had many supporters who had come to cheer them on and everyone agreed that they were phenomenal on the day. Although it was disappointing to not progress, the girls gave a fantastic account of themselves and should be mightily proud as we all are of them. Perla Puckey (Kestrels) gives her account of the tournament below:-

"First we got warmed up and got used to the length of the pitch. Then we went into the middle to talk about the rules. There were also Football Scouts around. We had the first match and won that one. Then we had one game in between and then we played another match and won that one. Then we had two matches in between and then we played against the team which won against us 1-0. Then we had to move to another pitch and we won that one. It was really fun. I played centre mid-field and a Scout came up to me and asked what team I played for and I said Colchester United. It was a really good experience. We really worked hard and we all were nice to each other and we encouraged each other when we lost and that made us even happier so we could work harder as a team. We scored 14 goals in total but came second in our group as we had lost one match. The whole event was really fun and everyone was really nice to us and even though we didn't get through to the semi-finals, we were happy for the other teams."



Girls' Netball Friendly (home) vs. Montgomerie

More members of Miss Turner Powell and Mrs Clarke's netball club got some valuable game experience on Wednesday as Montgomerie came over for a friendly match. Energy levels and excitement were both high and the girls all improved their understanding of the game and how to be successful. Montgomerie chose Sophia Jarvis as player of the match but all of the girls represented the school brilliantly. The final score was a 1-1 draw. Sophia Jarvis (Ants) gives details of the match below:-

"I really enjoyed it and I thought it was really fun and I played goal attack, goal keeper and centre. I thought it was a really good game. We all used our voices to call out to each other for passes and we discussed before each quarter what we were going to do. We did good defending too. I liked playing goal attack the best because I thought it was easy to get the ball from them as I was in their end. I thought the game was pretty tough as they were good defenders but we played really well as well. The final score was 1-1. At the end we all said well done to each other and 3 cheers. I really enjoyed it and I hope to play another match."



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Essex Cup Netball

Thundersley travelled to Southend on Friday to play group leaders Greenways in their final group game. The girls knew that it would be a tough game and that they needed a result to keep their cup hopes alive. The game was incredibly close – with Thundersley 7-6 down at the start of the third quarter and tension was running high. However, the girls showed such a fighting spirit in the final stages of the game that they ran out 15 – 10 winners - thanks to superb defending and confident shooting. It was an excellent match and Greenways chose Dior Sellick (Squirrels) as their player of the game. We now wait to see if Thundersley will progress to the next stage of the competition! Dior gives her account of the game below:-

"At the start it was a bit hard but then Hermione scored loads of goals and Perla did really well too. They kept shouting for the ball and we were much kinder. I played wing attack and wing defence. I like playing wing attack the best because it was really nice that I could get the ball instead of defending the other person. Some of the people that I was defending were really nice to me. At the end I shook hands with the goal keeper because she was a really great player and the goal shooter shook my hand. I was named 'player of the game' because I did two really high jumps to get the ball. It was a really fun but tense game. At one point they were beating us and we were going back and forth but in the end we finally won."



Gymnastic Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Lily Burrill (Owls) who took part in her second gymnastic competition on Saturday and came away with a bronze medal for her floor routine. Lily has been doing gymnastics since she was 4 years old. It was an in-house competition and there were around 100 other children there, all of the same age. They competed in three events - floor, vault and bars, and Lily came third in the floor routine. Lily was supported by her mum, younger sister, her two nannies, her grandad and auntie who were so proud when they called her name!

Well done Lily, what a fantastic achievement!



Thunks and Oracy for Every Communicator



If you could live inside a book, which book would you choose?

Stars of the Week



Year 6:- Louie Seymour and Lucas Bartrup
Year 5:- Joshua Arram and Sophia Jarvis
Year 4:- Dylan Gates and Jack Muir
Year 3:- Benas Pavedaike and Rey Froud
Year 2:- Reginald Morris and Henry Benson
Year 1:- Esther Byrne
EYFS:- Dexter Newman and James Anderson

Playground Stars of the Week



Bella-Nicole Arscott, Henry Wise-Bell, Toby Keeler, Teddy Ife, Evie Crompton, Luci Gardiner, Finley Ashwell, Elijah Dove, Eden Harris and Jackson Avery

Treetops Stars of the Week

William Searl



House Point Scores

Scores for the House Point groups are:-

Golden Eagles	4796
Red Arrows	4513
Green Dragons	4233
Blue Dolphins	4231



Well done again Golden Eagles!

Honesty is the best policy!

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

Isla Lake (Bears)
Layla-Star Wright-Martin (Ants)

Well done – you should be very proud of yourselves!

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

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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 Christmas preparations have started and we have more Christmas crafts planned over the next few weeks. Playing outside has taken a back seat due to the drop in temperature and the dark evenings but the toy cupboard is in full operation!

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 PTA meeting will 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.

Community News

SUFC Christmas HAF Free Football Camps

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

If your child receives targeted Free School Meals and you would like to book them a place, please use the link below:-

https://app.holidayactivities.com/parent/providers/southend-utd

The Hunt Academy for Young Actors

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

RODS Presents – The Three Musketeers (The Panto)

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