



Newsletter No. 14

18th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

This morning, we said goodbye to our dear friend Sylvia Blanchard. Sylvie worked as a Midday Assistant at Thundersley for many, many years. She was loved by everyone who came across her and she absolutely loved our children. I think it is very fitting that we sang carols this morning - Sylvie loved to hear our children sing. I am sure you will join me in sending condolences to her family who were part of our Thundersley family too.



What a fantastic week our children had last week. From the fabulously slick Christmas dinner, to the sizzling Winter Solstice and Christmas Present Palace. Thank you to our PTA - involved in most of those events - and to all staff for their never ending energy and commitment to giving our children such great opportunities.



Our KS1 children smiled and laughed, danced and performed beautifully last week in their Baarmy Bethlehem. I thought the singing this year was wonderful - I don't think I have ever known so many children sing or do all the actions so enthusiastically or with such joy - they were clearly having a ball! It takes a lot of work to have children perform in this way - a huge well done and thanks to everyone involved. Today our children in KS2 entertained us with their wonderful carol singing. A treat to the ears and a lovely way to start the last few days of term. If you missed this today,



then come along tomorrow and sing along. The signed Silent Night always brings a tear to the eye.

This week, we welcome back Miss Anderson from parental leave after the birth of the gorgeous Beau earlier on this year. Miss Anderson is delighted to be joining the Year 3 team and they are delighted to have her! Mr. Jetten has also returned from parental leave - congratulations on the birth of baby Edie, she is a little cracker!

This is the last newsletter before we break for Christmas on Wednesday and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support - we do not take it for granted - and wish you a very merry Christmas. Let us hope and pray for a peaceful, healthy and prosperous 2024.

Miss E. Dawson
Headteacher

Return to School

Please note the children return to school on Thursday, 4th January 2024.

Treetops

We would like to remind those who have children booked into Treetops on Wednesday, 20th December 2023 that it is finishing early at 4pm. Thank you.

Attendance

For the week ended 15th December 2023 there were no classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Ladybirds who achieved 96.5%. They will be looking after Attendance Ted this week.



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	94.3%
Dragonflies	92.9%
Butterflies	92.2%
Rabbits	94.3%
Ladybirds	96.5%
Robins	93.3%
Fireflies	93.1%
Owls	95.9%
Bears	94.0%
Sparrows	91.0%
Ants	92.9%
Bees	95.7%
Kestrels	90.3%
Badgers	91.0%
Squirrels	91.3%
Whole School	93.2%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners

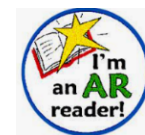
LADYBIRDS

Aspirational attendance target set for the school for

2023 - 2024 is:

97%

KS2 Accelerated Reader



This week:-

- 1st Kestrels - 646,011
- 2nd Bees - 332,615
- 3rd Badgers - 252,900

Overall:-

- 1st Kestrels - 5,965,161
- 2nd Ants - 4,149,612



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3rd Bees - 3,483,678

Quizzes taken and passed this week:-

1st Owls - 25
2nd Bees - 24
3rd Kestrels - 17

Quizzes taken and passed overall:-

1st Owls - 544
2nd Fireflies - 333
3rd Bears - 354

Safeguarding

Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are? Visit www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online. #StaySafe

Year 2 visit to Colchester Zoo



On Friday, 8th December 2023, the Year 2 children had an exciting trip to Colchester Zoo as part of their work in Geography and Science. They are learning about penguins and why Antarctica is a perfect place for them to live and also why rainforests are perfect places for Orang-utans to live. The children also visited the special Christmas Penguin experience where they had a 'meet and greet' with

the penguins, met Father Christmas and received a small gift. Elliot Hardwicke (Ladybirds) and Luna Thomas (Robins) give their accounts of the visit below:-

"We did see some penguins and we had a big visit from the Elf. The Elf wanted the penguins to fly the sleigh and they had a book from the Elf Library and they had to write a question and then the answer on the next page. The answer was 'No' because penguins don't fly. Then Santa came and he gave us presents which were penguins. We saw wolves, sea lions and there was a reptile room that looked like a jungle. There was also a glass circle into a big fish tank. We saw some giraffes, zebras, rhinoceros and elephants. My favourite bit was seeing the wolves because they didn't go away and we could see them really well. I liked it because there were things that surprised me like the wolves not running away." (Elliot)

"When we got there, we saw an Elf called Cookie. She was a reindeer Elf and she had lost the magic dust for the reindeers and she was worried that Santa would be worried that Christmas would be ruined. Then we went to see some animals. We saw tigers, elephants, seals, wallabies, hamsters, snakes, fish and the penguins. We all saw one penguin as that's when we saw Santa and Cookie and he gave us our present. It was a little baby penguin. The best bit was seeing the penguin up close. The whole day was amazing!" (Luna)

Multi-School Council Meeting



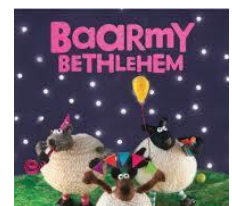
The School Council at Thundersley comes with many responsibilities, including the opportunity to attend the Multi-School Council meeting event this term. On the morning of Tuesday, 12th December 2023, 8 of our KS2 School Councillors walked

down to Robert Drake to attend the meeting. This term the agenda focused on the new mascot, outdoor learning and physical activity. The Councillors were keen to engage with the agenda points and shared the wonderful things we do at Thundersley. All the Councillors were great role models for our school! They shared their ideas with loud, clear explanations and introduced themselves to the other children from other local schools. This wonderful opportunity let the Councillors discuss and feedback ideas to the Multi-School Council and has given our Councillors new ideas and initiatives to feedback within our own School Council, including how we can better use our outdoor spaces. Jaxon Grange (Bees) gives his description of the meeting below:-

"First of all we left school to go to Robert Drake and tell them how good our school is and someone asked us a question and we had two minutes to talk about it and answer. One of the questions was 'What's good about outside learning?' People said that it is good for a healthy mind, good exercise and there's lots of room. We got biscuits and drinks whilst we were waiting for the meeting to start. Also, whilst we were waiting, we were asked to speak to someone we hadn't spoken to before to get to know them. The other question was 'What do you do in PE?' Someone answered it is also good for healthy lungs and good exercise. When the meeting was finished, we looked at a display the children had made in the corridor and then walked back to school. The meeting was great fun to talk about ideas to make our school a better place."

KS1 Christmas Production of Baarmy Bethlehem

On Wednesday and Thursday, the children in KS1 proudly showed their parents/carers their Christmas production of Baarmy Bethlehem:-





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'Cheeky, Rascal and Scamp the sheep are real party animals! So, when they see Bethlehem filling up, they assume it's for a big celebration and they do not want to miss out. They escape from the flock and make their way into town, but although they find lots of things they love like noise and crowds of people, there is no party. As they continue their search, they come across all the traditional nativity characters and eventually, in the peaceful, quiet stable they find one enormous reason to celebrate and party.'

Emily Parmenter (Rabbits) gives her account of the production below:-

There were lots of songs and my favourite song was our song 'Baa Baa Boogie'. I had to go on the stage twice. The first time I sang 'Baa Baa Boogie' and the second time me, Ava and Samuel had to sing 'We Wanna Shout!' We were only allowed to choose to be a shepherd or a sheep and I chose a sheep. I chose a sheep because I like animals. When the parents watched I couldn't see daddy the first time I went on stage but the second time I saw him. I liked 'Bethlehem's Barmy Tonight' the best."

Winter Solstice



Wow - what a fabulous turnout for the Winter Solstice event. As part of our Thundersley Promise, Mrs. Hoeb organised for the children to come to school at 7.30am on Friday, to watch the sunrise and participate in several activities and have breakfast/hot chocolate provided by the PTA. Solstice comes from the Latin 'Sun stands still' - shortest day. It is celebrated as it means that the light is

returning when, particularly in days gone by, winter meant less food etc. The children sang 'Lovely Day' by Bill Withers, looked at the compass points for geography and looked to the east for the sun to rise. The children made natural wreaths to put around the school and there were also sun salutations which have been learnt in PE Yoga lessons led by Year 5. The thrill of the morning was the huge bonfire which used to be the burning of the yule log to brighten up the dark months. Needless to say, the children who attended had a wonderful experience which we hope will stay with them for years to come. Stanley Evers (Sparrows) gives his account of the event below:-



"When we arrived, we watched Mr. Berry put on the bonfire and then there were activities. I did wreath making which was really fun and we put them around the school. At the start, we watched the sunrise. The Winter Solstice is the shortest day and the longest night. I was a bit nervous about coming to school in the dark but it was really exciting. There was a really really long queue for pancakes and hot chocolate which were nice. Towards the end, we watched the bonfire go out and then we went back to class. It was an amazing experience and the best bit was the pancakes."



KS2 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors- Now Recruiting!

If you are in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6 and would like to join our Anti-Bullying Ambassador team, please complete the attached application form. We are recruiting for new ambassadors in the New Year. Limited spaces only!

If you would like to become an Anti-Bullying Ambassador, these are some of the skills you will learn:-

How to create a sense of community for our school by working together with others.

Develop confidence in yourself and learn how to speak out and stand up for others.

Identify bullying behaviours and make a change.

Organise whole school campaigns to raise awareness for special events.

If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Bailey.

Christmas Card Recycling Challenge

This year we are excited to be part of a 'Christmas Card Recycling Challenge'. Please bring all of your Christmas cards into school after the holidays and put them in our special recycling bin. This is a competition and we are going up against over 50 schools, so get your friends and neighbours to help contribute as well. Thundersley are aiming for the win and the prize! Note that white envelopes can be put in as well so hold on to those and pop them in too! Our bin will be collected on 22nd January 2024 so we have plenty of time to fill it. Please see attached flyer for more information.





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SCARF At Home

In Personal, Social, Health and Economics (PSHE) our whole school theme this half term is 'Valuing Difference'.

We're thinking about the things that make us the same as each other and what makes us different from others in our lives and our community. We're also thinking about kindness and how it can help everyone. If you would like to continue these conversations at home please visit the SCARF At Home Page.

<https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/scarf/home-learning-unit-2#:~:text=With%20SCARF%2C%20children%20learn%20the,our%20lives%20and%20our%20community.>

Honesty is the best policy!

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

- Annabelle Weeden (Bees)
- Serena Hawkins (Squirrels)
- Penny Sycamore (Squirrels)
- Holly Digby Graham (Squirrels)
- Alfie Seymour (Fireflies)
- Ollie Smith (Fireflies)
- Lina Pur (Kestrels)
- Hollie Tinsley (Ants)

Well done - you should be very proud of yourselves!

Stars of the Week



- Year 6:-** Esmae Emin-Wyatt and Olivia Collins
- Year 5:-** Hollie Tinsley, Maisie Upfield and Ivy Cook
- Year 4:-** Ella Abbott and Cooper Kenrick
- Year 3:-** Renley Baker and Nellie Gaskin
- Year 2:-** Ladybirds' Class
- Year 1:-** Ronald Hartman and Eli Swaby
- EYFS:-** Evie Crompton and Mason Buckley

Playground Stars of the Week

Ava Long, Riley Placeson, Ava Nery, Macey Robinson, Chase Goodwin, Lily Crawford, Zachariah Sanders-Mackey Couch, Fireflies' Class, Reggie Collins, Kadey Laver, Ruby Trew, Aiden White, Harley Rush, Kya Hollington and Thalia Churchman

House Point Scores

Scores for the House Point groups are:-

Red Arrows	4,051
Golden Eagles	3,554
Blue Dolphins	3,172
Green Dragons	2,461



Well done again Red Arrows!

eSchools App

We kindly ask that you to download the eSchools and eSchools Lite apps (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 speak

to Mrs. Hayward in the main School Office.

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

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PTA will be on Monday, 8th January 2024 at 7pm in the White Hart. All are welcome.

PTA Christmas Raffle

Well done to all the winners listed below and thank you to everyone who supported this event. The total amount raised will be given in the New Year.

- 1st - Switch with a game - Jacob Sandford
- 2nd - Cliffs - Stanley Potter
- 3rd - Rollercity - Seth Mhembere
- 4th - Afternoon Tea for 2 - Quinn Godfrey
- 5th - Championship Football - Willow Leer
- 6th - Monkey Bizness - Henry Walters
- 7th - Monkey Bizness - Henry Frost
- 8th - Monkey Bizness - Arthur Barclay
- 9th - Adventure Island - Ella Abbott
- 10th - Adventure Island - Marlee Morris
- 11th - Virgin Active - Archie Whitaker
- 12th - Virgin Active - Reid Tuckwell
- 13th - Adventure Island Inside Ride Band x 4 - Shelley Clarke





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- 14th - Adventure Island Inside Ride Band x 4 - Tilly Bolden
- 15th Adventure Island Inside Ride Band x 4 - Luke Avison
- 16th - Donated by the Co-op - Lola Duffield
- 17th - Synergy Fitness by Faye 30 minute PT session - Henry Thorne
- 18th - Essex Car Sales - Katie Allen

will also receive a packet of seeds and a free book from Penguin Books. Over the winter we will also be releasing videos about Lyra's journey so keep an eye on our YouTube Channel ([Youtube.com/essexlibraries](https://www.youtube.com/essexlibraries)) and social media channels (@EssexLibraries). The challenge runs until 3rd February 2024.

Adventure Island & Adventure Island Inside Tickets



Please note that Lords' Barbers in Thundersley Village are selling the

following tickets on our behalf:-

Adventure Island - £17.00

E-Bike and E-Scooter Safety Guide

Please find attached information in respect of the above.

School Calendar - Dates

<https://www.thundersleyprimary.co.uk/web/home/86964>

or eSchools app Lite

Community News

Cost of Living Support

Please find attached information in respect of the above.

Winter Reading Challenge



This year's Essex Libraries' Winter Reading Challenge is now underway and we are hoping that as many children as possible get involved. This is a fun activity put together by the Essex Library Service for children aged 0-11. It's a great way of encouraging children to keep reading over the winter. They can join Lyra the penguin as she travels around the world with her magic book to find out more about endangered animals. It's FREE to take part. Visit your local library to sign up. Your child will receive a challenge folder and earn a sticker for each challenge they complete. When they've completed 6 challenges (out of a choice of 12) they will receive a certificate and, whilst stocks last, they

Future Term Dates

- 21/12/23 to 03/01/24 - Christmas Break
- 04/01/24 - Start of the Spring Term
- 19/02/24 to 23/02/24 - Half Term
- 29/03/24 to 12/04/24 - Easter Break
- 15/04/24 - Start of the Summer Term
- 06/05/24 - Bank Holiday
- 27/05/24 to 31/05/24 - Whitsun Break
- 19/07/24 - Last day of Term

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

- 26/2/24
- 22/7/24
- 23/7/24

