



# Newsletter No. 2

18<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,



WOW! What a fantastic effort all our children made to find amazing words last week - thank you for all your help! We all had a fun day learning new words and highlighting the importance of reading to widen our vocabulary. In EYFS and KS1, we count the number of times children read with their parents each week. Children who do so 5 times per week are celebrated in assembly and receive rewards

such as book marks - but most importantly, improve their reading. We know that sometimes finding time to do this can be hard, but find that those families who have a routine - bedtime often works - are more successful. This can be the child reading and you reading, whatever motivates your child most. If your child is finding it difficult, read page about or sentence about. Until Year 6, I was still reading page about with my sons!

In KS2, we are still encouraging children to read each day, but instead of counting reads, we are using our Accelerated Reader programme to determine the progress your child is making. Children take quizzes once they have read a book and increase their word count. The number of words each class reads and the number of quizzes taken is celebrated in assembly and in class, individual children's achievements in reading are celebrated. Please encourage your child to read daily and take quizzes regularly. We assess children's reading comprehension using the STAR online assessments termly.

Please feel free to pick up a book for yourself from our Parent/Carer book swap in the entrance to the office.

Our Parent/Carer Involvement sessions start this week with Year 3 on Wednesday at 9.00am, Year 5 on Wednesday at 1.30pm and Year 4 on Thursday at 1.30pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Have a super week.

**Miss E. Dawson**  
**Headteacher**

### Attendance

For the week ended 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 there were 12 classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Chipmunks, Fireflies and Badgers who all achieved 99.3%. They will be sharing 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.

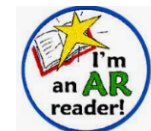
Attendance figures:-

Class	Week
Chipmunks	99.3%
Dragonflies	98.8%
Butterflies	97.1%
Rabbits	98.7%
Ladybirds	98.4%
Robins	90.0%
Fireflies	99.3%
Owls	98.6%
Bears	98.7%
Sparrows	98.0%
Ants	96.8%
Bees	98.0%
Kestrels	97.1%
Badgers	99.3%
Squirrels	95.0%
Whole School	97.4%
Target	97.0%

Congratulations to this week's winners  
**CHIPMUNKS, FIREFLIES & BADGERS**

Aspirational attendance target set for the school for  
2023 - 2024 is:  
**97%**

### KS2 Accelerated Reader



The Accelerated Reader website has been updated over the summer, please use the following web address to access the

webpage.

<https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/6701108>

If you would like to check whether a book is on Accelerated Reader and if it is within your child's Accelerated Reader zone, please use the following web address:

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>

To check whether the book is within your child's zone, you will need to see if the 'BL', book level, falls within your child's ZPD score. The class teacher will be able to tell you this, if your child does not know.

### Blue Peter Badge for Reading

It is now possible to earn a Blue Peter badge for reading. The



badge has been designed by one of the UK's best known illustrators, Sir Quentin Blake, who you might know from his wonderful illustrations in the BFG and Matilda.





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To earn a badge, just answer the questions on the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. To register your choice please visit:-

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

### SCARF At Home

In Personal, Social, Health and Economics (PSHE) our whole school theme this half term is 'Me and My Relationships'. We explore feelings and emotions, develop skills to manage conflict and help children to identify people who are special to them. We equip them with skills to recognise the qualities of healthy friendships and how to manage them. If you would like to continue these conversations at home and participate in some follow up activities please visit the SCARF at Home website using the link below:-

<https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/family-scarf/scarf-at-home/me-and-my-relationships>

### WOW Word Wednesday

We celebrated the wonderful world of vocabulary with 'Wow Word Wednesday' last week. Increasing vocabulary is a fundamental part of learning and makes the wider curriculum and world increasingly accessible for our pupils. It was wonderful to see the children and staff fully embrace the day. In Fireflies, Mrs Sawyer learnt 3 new words - heliolater is one example! Did you know this means sun worshipper? Our parade in the afternoon was the perfect ending and meant we could learn from our friends in other classes. Thank you so much for your support and we look forward to extending

our vocabulary further throughout the rest of the school year. Arbie Beswick (Fireflies) tells below of his WOW Word Wednesday:-

"My word was Arboretum which means a collection of different tree species. My mum chose it for me. I learnt lots of other words on the day like illuminate - a collection of bright colours. I enjoyed the day really well because I liked learning other words."



### EYFS Donations

Early Years are looking to freshen up their play bases resources and would be grateful for any donations of the following:-

- Puzzles
- Small World Characters
- A Doll's House/Small Toy Houses
- Any other Small World Buildings (Police Station, Fire Station, Farmyards etc.)

Thank you in advance!

### House Point Scores

Scores for the House Point groups are:-

Golden Eagles	2756
Red Arrows	2378
Blue Dolphins	2288
Green Dragons	1845



Well done Golden Eagles!

### 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

### Breakfast Club & Treetops After School Club

We offer a Breakfast Club (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](http://www.pennuk.com)

Danielle's Uniform,  
Claydons Lane,  
Rayleigh,  
Essex, SS6 7UP.  
Telephone 01268 967542

[www.daniellesshop.co.uk](http://www.daniellesshop.co.uk)





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## PTA

### Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PTA will be the AGM on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7pm in the White Hart. All are welcome.

### 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  
Adventure Island Inside (Soft Play) - £5.00

## Community News

### October Half Term - Essex Activate Holiday Activity and Food Programme

Essex Activate Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme is run by Active Essex. The October half term holiday is funded by Essex County Council. This programme supports the delivery of FREE holiday activity and food clubs for young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals and working families. We are excited to launch the October provision with bookings going LIVE on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at midday.

Please note the changes and process for October Half term:

- You will not receive a WONDE e-voucher from your school to book your child onto a half term club.
- Once bookings go live, you will need to book your child/ren onto a club through the [Essex ActivAte website](#)
- Simply select your area and find what clubs are available, then book your child/ren onto a club. See

[here](#) for more information on the differences in the programme per holiday

- See attached the PDF document with a flyer about the programme

### CSC Gymnastics Club

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

### Anglo European School - Open Day

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

### School Calendar - Dates

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

or eSchools app Lite

### Future Term Dates

23/10/23 to 27/10/23 - Half Term  
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\*\*\*\*

20/11/23  
26/2/24  
22/7/24  
23/7/24

