



# Newsletter No. 11

26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,



The sheer delight of the Year 2 children as they raced through the gate

yesterday, ahead of their trip to the zoo, was wonderful to see. This was their first ever school trip and the first time the vast majority of them had been on a coach, which brings a lump to the throat. However, they made up for lost time and had the most amazing time meeting the penguins they had learned so much about and even met a very special person with a red suit and beard! Here's to many more trips like that in the future.

This is an important day on the Thundersley calendar today - our School Council elections. Children who are putting themselves forward as a candidate have written their manifestos, they have been canvassing their friends and some have even made rosettes and posters! I wish them all luck!

It has been lovely to see so many parents through our doors over the past few weeks to attend Parent Consultations, Phonics workshops and Parent Involvement afternoons. The design and technology that Years 5 and 6 have shared with parents this week was a huge success and the children really benefited from your participation. We know that working together, we can help our children to 'Be the best they can be', so many thanks for your support.

KS1 and EYFS now have the dates for their Christmas events. As many of you know, at this time of year we would normally be crammed into the school hall watching the younger children perform the Nativity or at St Peter's



church listening to our older children singing carols. You will understand that for the safety of all, we cannot run these events as normal, however, we did not want another year to go by without you seeing the children performing in person, so have moved to simple celebrations in EYFS and KS1 which you will have had an email about. In KS2, on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm and Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am, children will sing carols outside on the front playground, wrapped up warm and we hope their parents will come and join in.

Have a wonderful weekend.

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

## Reading Leaderboard

1<sup>st</sup> - Owls, Ants & Foxes - 100%  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Badgers - 96%  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Squirrels - 91%

Well done Owls, Ants & Foxes on achieving 100%! Please note that these scores run a week in arrears.

Bronze awards will come out today.

## Attendance



For the week ended 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021 there were 2 classes who achieved 97% attendance or above. Well done to Foxes who achieved 99%. They will be looking after Attendance Ted next 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	93.0%
Dragonflies	94.6%
Butterflies	92.3%
Rabbits	92.1%
Ladybirds	95.6%
Robins	98.0%
Doves	94.8%
Owls	96.2%
Fireflies	94.8%
Bears	95.5%
Foxes	99.0%
Ants	92.7%
Sparrows	95.9%
Badgers	90.4%
Kestrels	95.0%
Squirrels	91.0%
Whole School	94.4%

Congratulations to this week's winner

**FOXES**

Aspirational attendance target set for the school for

2020 - 2021 is:

**97%**

## EYFS Admissions - September 2022

If your child is starting school in Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2022, you can now apply online for a place. Applications can be made via:-

[www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)

Please note the closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.





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The website also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2022-23 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories, which contain details of all admission policies.

## EYFS/KS1 Christmas Charity Collection



We would like to advise that the charity collection at the end of the forthcoming Christmas performances will be in aid of Leukaemia UK. Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

## Home Learning

Home learning is so important for our youngest children. Here are the 7 activities you can do at home, which have the most impact on your child's future learning:-

Sing songs and nursery rhymes

Reading with your child

Visiting a Library

Playing with letters and numbers

Painting and drawing

Taking children out and about

Giving them opportunities to play with friends at home.

## British Values



British Values  
22<sup>nd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### Democracy

Travel company, Expedia, has banned the sale of holidays involving dolphins or whales. Some people may agree with this; others may not. We all have a voice, we can share our opinions and we can listen to the opinion of others.

### Year 4 Parent/Carer Involvement



Last Thursday, Foxes had their postponed Parent/Carer Involvement session where parents/carers joined their children to embark on a 'Cracking Invention'. As part of their 'Cracking Inventions' topic this term, the children have been focussing on the question:-

How have inventions changed our lives?

This half term their focus has been:

What makes a good invention?

The children have really enjoyed this topic so far. They have learnt about different inventors and inventions. They have designed their own robot in DT and are now creating their own chocolate bar or sweet creation in line with a story they wrote. The stimulus in English has been 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and the children have written some fantastic pieces of writing. Once they created their wrapper, they will be writing a recipe on how to make it. Elsie-Mae Newland describes below what she did during the session:-

"In our parent involvement, we were designing a sweet wrapper and we got to use glitter, glue, pom poms and pens. Our parents helped us mostly with the ideas and they also helped us with the things we couldn't do by ourselves. My wrapper was called Mr. Chomp. We also all had different ideas for our wrappers like candy canes, cookies, ice cream, chocolate and sweets. We had a really nice afternoon."

### Year 5 Parent/Carer Involvement

On Tuesday, the Year 5 parents/carers visited the children to help them make Viking Longhouses. Everyone enjoyed the session and Stanley Cook (Ants) tells of his exciting afternoon below:-

"Year 5s Parent Involvement was remarkable. It was very fun and showed our creative side. All of them were amazing. When we first found out we were making a Viking Longhouse, we were all so excited. We all got a workbook which we used for drawing what it would look like and the bits we need. All our parents came into our class and Mrs. West told all the parents what we were going to do. Finally, we were put into two classes and started to build. We stuck cardboard, we glued moss and grass, we coloured and we built. After two or three hours we had all finished. They were decorated with lots of twigs and hay and they were all phenomenal. After that, we completed a sheet of questions such as "What worked well?" and "What could you do better next time?". We all had an excellent time!



### Year 6 Parent/Carer Involvement

Also on Tuesday, the Year 6 parents/carers visited to travel back in time to WWII for a 'make do and mend' session. Freya Dyne gives details of her experience below:-

"On Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021, Year 6 had a Parent Involvement. We time





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travelled yet again to WWII! This time there was rationing! We turned our old, smelly socks (just kidding, they were clean!) into sock puppets. Of course, they didn't do this in the 1940s; it would be a waste. We used our sewing skills to sew on eyes (buttons) and other accessories. We all worked very hard and were extremely happy with the finished products. Thank you parents for coming in: you were part of the first Parent Involvement since we were in Year 4!"



## Essex ActivAte December Holiday Programme

Active Essex and Essex County Council are pleased to be offering FREE places on the Essex ActivAte December Holiday programme for young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals and for those working families who could benefit from this additional holiday support, as well as other eligible groups. These clubs provide a range of fun activities and a healthy lunch for every child attending. Please find attached a flyer with more information and the link to book.

<https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate/bookings/>

## TCS Change of Menu

Please note that there will be a menu change on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The menu on this day will be:-

Pasta

## TCS School Meals

Please note that due to the current situation with lorry drivers and deliveries, the kitchen may have to change the school dinner menu at short or no notice. Please accept our apologies but this situation is beyond our control.

## Governor Corner

Last week 6 Governors resumed in school monitoring. The areas covered were:

- Pupil perception
- Curriculum
- Safeguarding

I must admit, after such a long break it was nice to be back in the school and I would like to thank the pupils and staff for their involvement. Below are summarised accounts:

### Pupil perception

It was lovely to hear pupils from Years 3 to 6 sharing their thoughts and experiences. They were:

- Confident
- Enthusiastic
- Knowledgeable about what was expected of them, both for learning and behaviour
- Showed a good range of vocabulary
- Felt that the Golden Rules should be used outside of school.
- Showed tremendous respect for all of the adults involved in their education and care.

### Curriculum

We meet with pupils and staff exploring how the curriculum supports wellbeing across the school.

Pupils told us how they can support one another in the playground and spoke of the support structures available to them. Staff felt supported by the leadership and each other, in work and life demands. Surveys before and after the pandemic showed a greater awareness by staff of their wellbeing and a greater awareness of how to engage with one another. Pupils felt engaged in their projects and sought to make TPS an even better place for each other.

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding at TPS has always been our highest priority. When we visited the school we completed all our statutory checks but it's always about more than that. We looked at new Safeguard software, how it is used and improvements in the way safeguarding is managed. We spent time in the playground at break time and watched the children playing together happily. Every child we spoke to was enjoying their day. The overall feeling was fun and togetherness. We saw nothing but positive interactions between the children and the staff on duty and it reminded us of just what a lovely place TPS is.

### Paul Harrod

#### Chair of Governors

Please send any general Governing Body questions to:-

[GovernorCorner@Thundersley.Essex.sch.uk](mailto:GovernorCorner@Thundersley.Essex.sch.uk)

### eSchools App



As you are aware, our main form of parent/carer communication is via the eSchools platform. Please find attached details of their new improved app

which we kindly ask you to download (free of charge), in order that any messages we send you are not charged to the school. We thank you for your support.

### 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,







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please speak to Mrs. Bezdel in the Green Building Offices.

## Honesty is the best policy!

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

Kaitlan Harrod (Kestrels)

Well done - you should be very proud of yourself!

## Stars of the Week

**Year 6:-** Ollie King

**Year 5:-** Amelia Delf

**Year 4:-** Ethan Abas  
and Dylan Savage

**Year 3:-** George Cox  
and Alice English

**Year 2:-** Ella Abbott and Esme Murphy

**Year 1:-** Lucas Bartrup and Teddy  
Richards

**EYFS:-** Evelyn Taylor



## Playground Stars of the Week

Jenson Ditton, Mason Hills, Georgia  
Venneear, Delilah Stone, Maisie Upfield,  
Alyssa Gay, Olivia Oswald, Kody Hearne,  
Arbie Beswick, Zach Dalton, David Stan

## House Point Scores

The weekly scores for the House Point groups are:-

1<sup>st</sup> with 1,968 points - Golden Eagles

2<sup>nd</sup> with 1,929 points - Blue Dolphins

3<sup>rd</sup> with 1,848 points - Green Dragons

4<sup>th</sup> with 1,792 points - Blue Dolphins



Well done again Golden Eagles!

Please note that Stars of the Week, Playground Stars of the Week and House Point Scores run a week in arrears.

## 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.daniellessshop.co.uk](http://www.daniellessshop.co.uk)

## PTA News

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in the White Hart Pub at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

### Sweetie Sale & Cuddly Toy Lucky Dip

Today, the PTA will be holding a Sweetie Sale and a Cuddly Toy Lucky Dip after school. The price is 50p for a bag of pick and mix sweets and 50p for the lucky dip. The PTA will stay until the clubs finish if they have enough stock to sell.

## Community News

### Harvest 2021 #letsmakeameal

Many thanks to all the children and staff at Thundersley Primary School for the kind and generous donations to Southend Foodbank. Please find attached a 'Thank you' poster.

## Future Term Dates

20/12/21 to 03/01/22 - Christmas Break

04/01/22 - Start of the Spring Term

14/02/22 to 18/02/22 - Half Term

04/04/22 to 18/04/22 - Easter Break  
19/04/22 - Start of the Summer Term  
02/05/22 - Bank Holiday  
30/05/22 to 03/06/22 - Whitsun Break  
21/07/22 - Last day of Term

### **\*\*\*\*NON PUPIL DAYS\*\*\*\***

21/02/22

06/06/22

07/06/22

