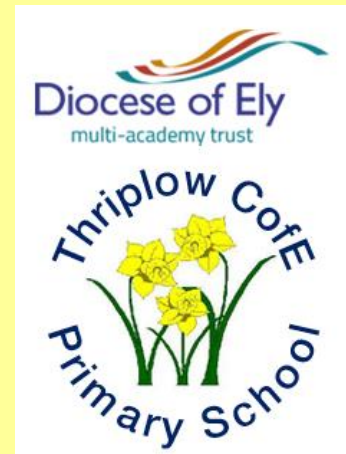


# Thriplow School Newsletter

7<sup>th</sup> November 2025



What an exciting day! As I write this, I can hear the children enjoying the PTA film night which is such a fun way to end the week. HUGE thanks to the adults who have volunteered to help.

Our 'Dress as an Animal' day has been a big success. It has been so fun to see penguin, sharks, cats, dogs, pigs, cows and many, many more species around school. Thank you for the effort that went in at home to make it such a great day. Most importantly, we have raised over £160 for The Blue Cross. Sophie reminded us in Collective Worship about the crucial work that The Blue Cross do.

We will be taking part in a Reverse Advent Calendar again this year. The idea is that each child brings an item in, on a given day, to place in a box. The boxes will be donated to Winter Comfort, a charity that support homeless people, at the end of term. See <https://wintercomfort.org.uk/items-we-need/> for useful items. They have highlighted to us that warm clothing items such as socks, gloves, hats and pocket hand warmers are particularly useful, as are hygiene items and shelf-stable food items.

I just want to draw your attention to a few things that are detailed further down the newsletter. Firstly, Decoration Day is only two weeks away! For those of you who will be experiencing your first Decoration Day, please do ask if you have any questions. Parents are

very welcome to come to school in the morning and help children make decorations. Please note we cannot accommodate pre-schoolers. There will be a Christmas jumper swap taking place in the hall in preparation for Festive Friday as well as a school uniform exchange.

Please bring donations to the office.

Finally – we are collecting mince pies for our festive occasions. We would so appreciate you bringing these to office.

Today was a very rainy day! Most of our children were well-prepared with waterproofs and wellies. Please have a check to make sure that these are in school at all times.

Finally a big well done to Jess, Eloise, Ruby, Felicity, Lois and Robyn for their super performance of 'Shine' in Collective Worship today!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend,  
Best wishes,

Lucy



**MAT of  
the Year  
2024**



<https://www.facebook.com/thriplowschool>



<https://x.com/thriplowschool>



<https://www.instagram.com/thriplow.school>

In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:16*

You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with kindness. *Colossians 3:12*

|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> November                 | Decoration Day. Parents welcome in the morning. NO CELEBRATION<br>COLLECTIVE WORSHIP                                                                                                                  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> December                  | DEMAT Carol Service (Year 6)                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> December                  | Cross Country (children who are running have been notified by email)                                                                                                                                  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> December                  | Nativity Dress rehearsal (KS1)<br>Family members, including pre-schoolers are welcome.                                                                                                                |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> December                 | Nativity Performance (KS1) 2.30pm<br>Two tickets will be issued per family in Ants and Butterflies. No pre-schoolers.                                                                                 |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> December                 | Nativity Performance (KS1) 6pm<br>Two tickets will be issued per family in Ants and Butterflies. No pre-schoolers.<br>Ants and Butterflies will need to be in school by 5.15pm to get ready.          |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> December                 | Festive Friday<br>Children will be invited to wear Christmas jumpers and Christmas accessories to<br>raise money for the Blue Cross.<br>Please see information below about the Christmas jumper swap. |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> December                 | KS2 Concert – time TBC but likely to be 2pm.<br>All KS2 children will be performing and family and friends are welcome to<br>attend.                                                                  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> December                 | Christingle (children need to bring an orange)                                                                                                                                                        |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> December                 | Christmas lunch                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> December                 | Carol Service in church. 2.30. Everyone welcome                                                                                                                                                       |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> January                  | Young Voices                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| WB 2 <sup>nd</sup> February               | Relationships and Sex Education Week                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> February                 | Parent Consultations                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> February                 | Parent Consultations                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> March                     | World Book Day                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| WB 9 <sup>th</sup> March                  | Science Week                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> March | Daffodil Weekend                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> March                    | Year 3/4 Bikeability level 1                                                                                                                                                                          |
| WB 11 <sup>th</sup> May                   | SATS week                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| WB 18 <sup>th</sup> May                   | KS2 Residential (Year 5 and 6)                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Fortnight beginning 1 <sup>st</sup> June  | Multiplication Check fortnight (Year 4)                                                                                                                                                               |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> June                      | DEMAT Art Exhibition                                                                                                                                                                                  |

|                          |                                                 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| WB 8 <sup>th</sup> June  | Phonics Screening check week (Year 1)           |
| WB 15 <sup>th</sup> June | Poetry Recital Competition                      |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> June    | Sports day (First thing – will finish 11.15ish) |

## Term Dates 2025/2026

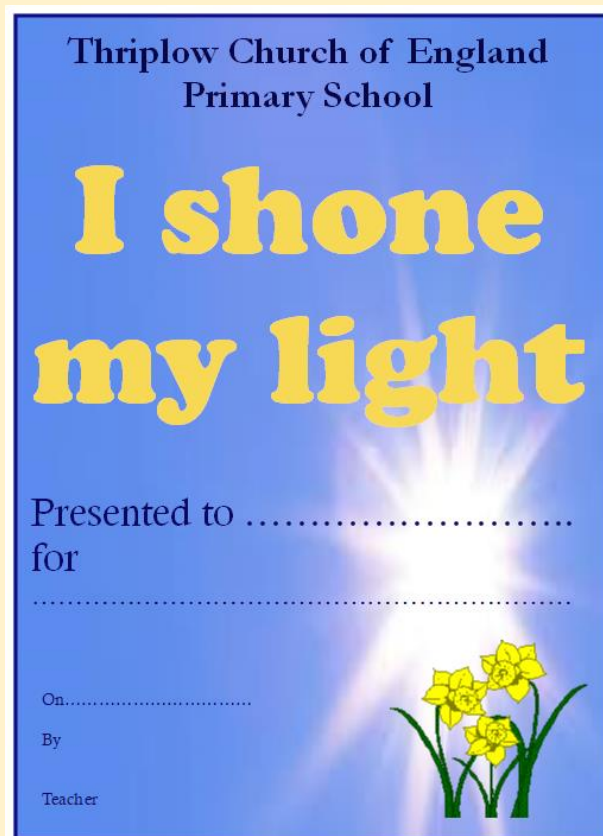
| Autumn Term |                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| End of Term | Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December |

| Spring Term      |                                                                     |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Start of Term    | Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January                                      |
| <b>INSET Day</b> | <b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>                              |
| Half Term        | Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February |
| End of Term      | Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March                                       |

| Summer Term         |                                                           |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Start of Term       | Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April                             |
| <b>Bank Holiday</b> | <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>                          |
| Half Term           | Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May |
| <b>INSET Day</b>    | <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>                         |
| End of Term         | Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July                              |
| <b>INSET Day</b>    | <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>                        |

**Our certificate winners this week are: -**

- Arianna (Reception)
- Ralph (Year 1)
- Emily (Year 2)
- Sofia (Year 4)
- Edward (Year 4)
- Hamish (Year 5)
- Lois (Year 5)



**The following children were added to the 'Vision and Values' tree for living out our Thriplow and DEMAT values.**

- Eloise (Kindness)
- Zack (Confidence)
- Elwyn (Confidence)
- Theo (Ambition)
- Freddie W (Confidence)



## House Points

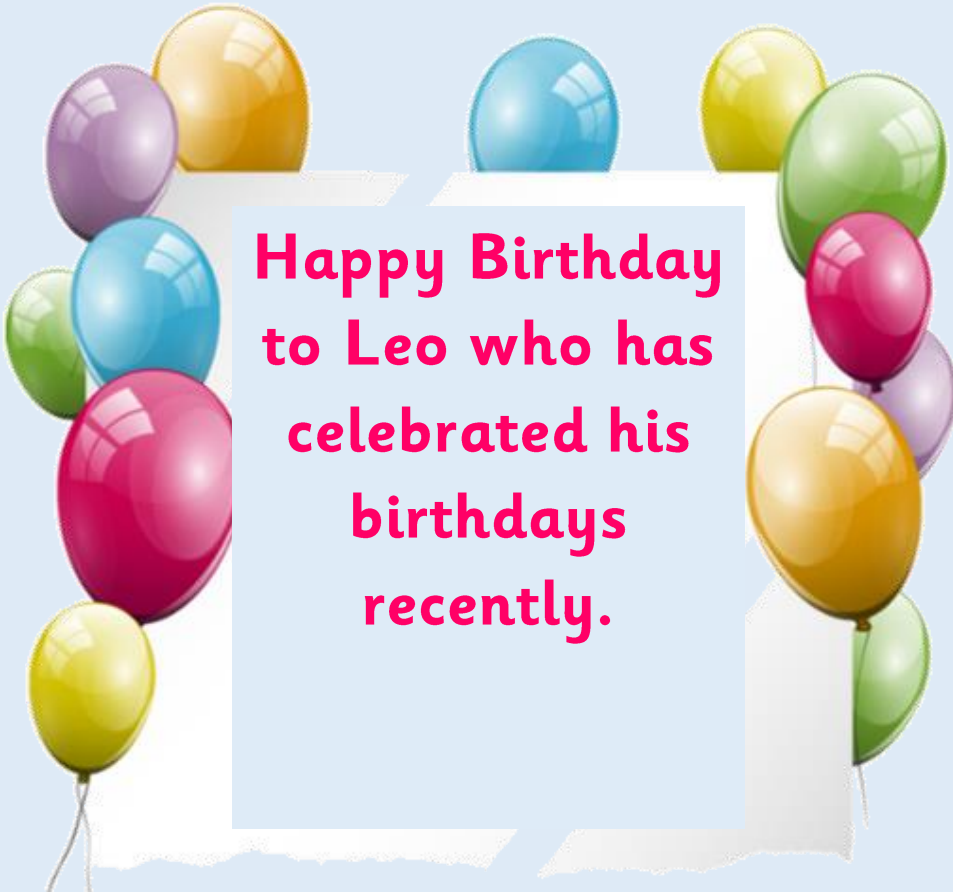
**Our totals for this week!**

|          | Total this week | Total this term |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bacon    | 114             | 713             |
| Barenton | 83              | 657             |
| Bury     | 103             | 628             |
| Bassett  | 151             | 894             |

If you would like to donate a book to our library to celebrate your child's birthday, then we would be so grateful. Please follow this link to see a list of books that we would like.

<https://amzn.eu/ez2OYOf>





**Happy Birthday  
to Leo who has  
celebrated his  
birthdays  
recently.**



### Safeguarding at Thriplow

Lucy How and Melissa Hardege are the designated safeguarding leads at Thriplow School.

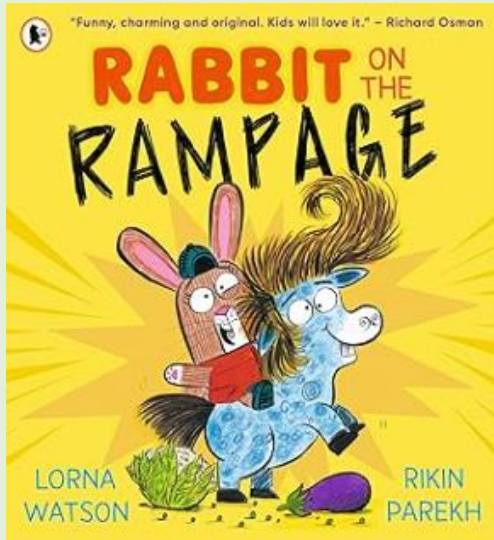
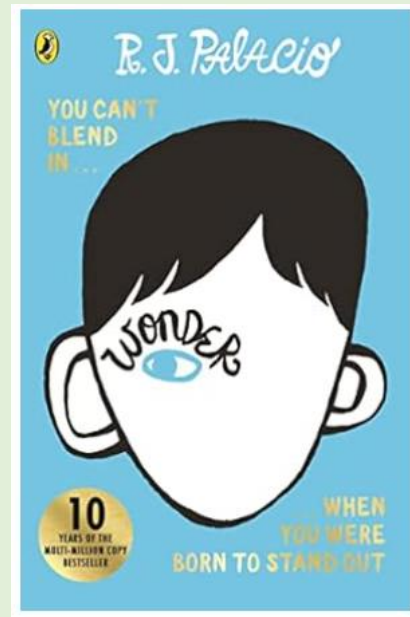
If you have a concern about a child, please come and speak to or email either of us. Alternatively please speak to any member of staff who will be able to pass on information.

If you feel that a child is at immediate risk of harm you can access further advice and guidance here.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection>

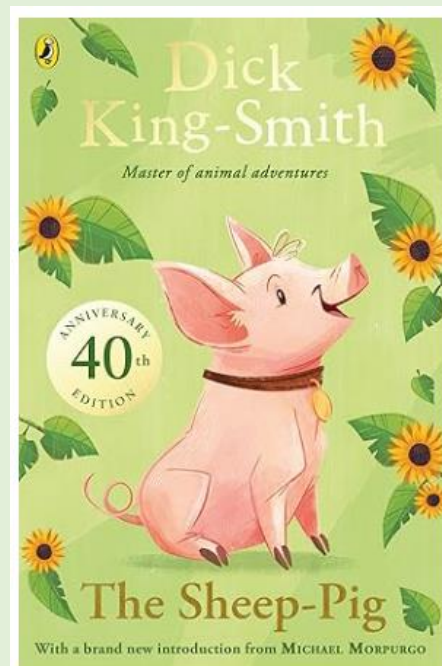
## Birthday Books

Many thanks to Leo for donating this book on the occasion of his 9<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Many thanks to Connor for donating this book on the occasion of his 7<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Many thanks to Henry for donating this book on the occasion of his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.



## Information on your child's learning

### Ants

It has been a busy week in Ants class!

The children are really enjoying practicing all the songs for the Nativity and are excited to start full rehearsals next week with Butterflies! We have also been busy exploring the construction tuff tray, our vet role play area and doing some super writing in the writing area.

In Literacy we have continued with our story for the term, Owl Babies, and we explored what Owl feathers feel like. We looked at the similarities and differences between real owls and the owls in the story and all of Ants had a go at writing a word to describe what their owl feather felt like. We have also been looking at different emotions and having a go at describing how the owls must have felt in the story.

In Phonics the children are continuing to learn new sounds and have begun writing dictated sentences in their own phonics books!

In Maths we have continued to look at numerals to 10 and the children have enjoyed taking part in different maths activities such as matching numerals to different amounts, putting the correct number of 'apples' onto trees, and doing some super subitising!

In Understanding the World we have been to Thailand and Japan to look at Tuk Tuk's and the Bullet Train! We learnt that Tuk Tuk's only have 3 wheels and have no doors or seatbelts, and that the Bullet Train goes up to 200mph!

In PE we have been looking at nursery rhymes and how we can create movements to retell the nursery rhymes. The children particularly enjoyed creating movement to Humpty Dumpty!

Finally, the children have had a great day today dressing up like animals and we have explored where all the different animals live around the world, what food they eat, and what their habitats are like!

## Butterflies

Butterflies have had another busy and fun week. The children have really impressed us with their knowledge of the human body as they have written their reports in English. Next week we start our new class text, A Christmas Carol. We have also introduced a class novel, The Christmasaurus by Tom Fletcher, which we are planning to read to the children each day during story time. They are loving the story so far.

In maths the year twos have been telling the time to the quarter past, and the year ones have been sequencing time by thinking about the order in which they do things during their day.

Rehearsals for the nativity are well underway and the children have been brilliant at learning the words and actions for all of the songs. Next week we will be starting rehearsals using the script so if you are able to help your child with their lines at home that would be great.

In art we completed our Matisse-style cut out pictures using the coloured paper that the children painted last week. They look so effective! In PE the children have continued their dance unit on Explorers and today because of the torrential rain meaning that we could not do our outdoor PE, they learnt part of the Strictly 25 step challenge dance for Children in Need. We were very impressed by their Cha Cha Cha skills! If your child would like to learn the remaining 10 steps to complete the dance, you can find the videos on the BBC Children in Need web pages.

Please do continue to post on Tapestry if your child would like to share with us what they have been doing at home. Have a lovely, and hopefully not too wet, weekend!

## Bees

Bees Class have had a wonderful week with a highlight being our class trip to Pizza Express. The children really enjoyed making their own margherita pizzas and then eating them for lunch back at school! Personally, I was so proud of the children with how they behaved - they represented Thriplow so well and clearly had so much fun. As well as our very exciting trip, Bees Class have done lots of great learning. In Maths, we have carried on looking at different mental techniques to help us with subtraction. Next week we will begin to look at formal

methods of subtraction. In English, we finished reading *Oliver Twist* and have even looked at a different version of the book where Fagin is in jail. This will lead into our writing that we will begin next week where the children will pretend that they are Fagin as they write a letter to Oliver from prison. I also enjoyed carrying on our PE learning in both dance and hockey. The children furthered their dribbling skills in hockey and came up with motifs based on *Alice and Wonderland* in Dance. The children had lots of fun pretending they were a turtle, a caterpillar or an eaglet in the caucus race from Lewis Carroll's book! Next week we will begin our Art project where we will be using cereal boxes. If you didn't manage to bring one in, please do ensure your child has one on Monday as they will be using them to create a 3D piece of artwork that we planned this week. The children will also start learning about friendships in PSHE and try more food from the Mediterranean region in Geography! It was wonderful to see so many creative outfits for dress as an animal day today. Thank you for all the effort you all put in!

#### Dragonflies

It has been a busy week in Dragonflies class. On Monday, we marked anti-bullying week by wearing our odd socks. In class, we discussed what constitutes bullying and how our words are powerful - we thought about how we can use this power for good. On Tuesday, we marked Remembrance Day. Year 6 did a great job reading *In Flander's Fields* to the whole school. Today has been very enjoyable as we came to school dressed as animals - there were some very creative costumes on display! In our learning we have been continuing to think about our balanced argument. We have been thinking about writing using the subjunctive form in our English lessons. In maths we have moved onto learning about equivalent fractions. In science we conducted an investigation, considering which solids will dissolve when in water. Next week, we will be planning and writing our own balanced argument. In PE, we will continue to focus on hockey and dance. Please ensure that hockey equipment is in school in order for children to take part in PE. A reminder that children should only have water in their water bottles at school.

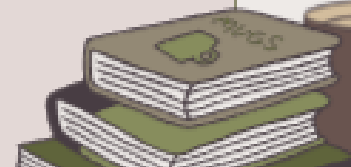
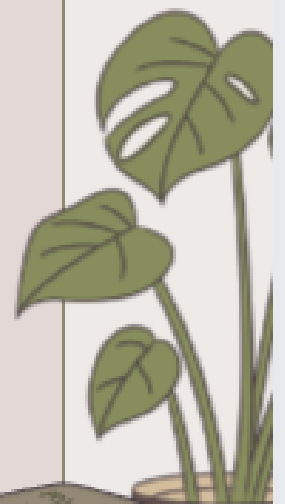
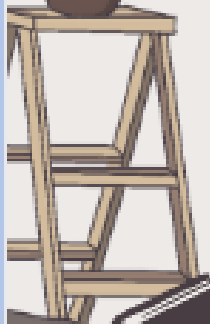
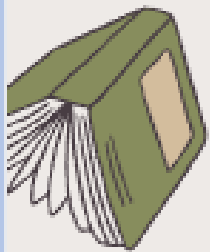


# **Thriplow Primary School Library**



**Open on  
Thursdays and  
Fridays after  
school.**

**Please pop in  
and visit!**



## Decoration Day!

Decoration Day will take place on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November.  
Parents are very welcome to join their children for the morning to help them make Christmas decorations.  
Please note that we cannot accommodate pre-schoolers.



## Mince Pies!

The PTA would love donations of mince pies to serve at Christmas events such as Decoration Day and the Nativity Play.

Please bring donations to the office!  
Thank you!





## **FREE Christmas Crafts Workshop for Children**

This year's Christmas Crafts Workshop will be on

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November**, just in time for Advent!

**At** St. Mary's Church Fowlmere

2:00 - 4:00 pm

There will be lots of lovely craft activities for children to enjoy. We'll be making advent candles, badges, book marks, Christmas tree decorations, and lots more.

Delicious refreshments will be served  
throughout the afternoon.

**BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE** by emailing

Kate, Rev David's wife, at [katelee36@gmail.com](mailto:katelee36@gmail.com)

Children must be accompanied by an adult.





# Christmas Jumper Swap

on decoration day  
28th Nov

Just like uniform swap but with Christmas jumpers! Please feel free to start bringing in any old ones you wish to donate and hand to Harriet Howell or Natasha Burford in the playground (we will stand by bees class). Or bring them to the hall on the day. We will be in the hall from 8:45 to do the swap before decoration day starts

# A reminder that we are a nut-aware school. Please ensure that your child's lunchbox does not include any nuts.



- Let your child help you pack their lunch box and choose what to include from a list of options.
- To keep children fuller for longer, give them a 'main' lunch item that includes carbohydrates, such as whole grain bread, rice or pasta.
- Try pasta salads, stir-fried rice, wraps or crackers and low-fat dips as alternatives to sandwiches.
- Choose lean meats, such as chicken breast as sandwich fillings, and try to include oily fish like tuna once or twice a week.
- Include vegetables such as cherry tomatoes, carrot or celery sticks or home-made vegetable crisps (slice vegetables like sweet potato or beetroot, toss in olive oil and bake).
- Always put salad (lettuce, cucumber) in sandwiches - it all counts towards their five a day.
- Swap the crisps for plain popcorn or vegetable crisps (see above).
- Pre-peel citrus fruits like oranges or satsumas to make them easier to eat.
- Include tinned fruits but make sure they are in juice not syrup which is high in sugar.
- Fruit bars are generally not healthy - try dried fruit like apricots or sultanas instead.
- If your child insists on having crisps or chocolate in their lunchbox, try to limit this to one day per week and let them choose what their 'treat' will be.

According to the NHS, the perfect lunch box for a child should contain:

- a serving of starchy foods (wholegrain bread or pasta, brown rice);
- a protein (lean meat, egg or oily fish);
- a dairy item (low-fat cheese or sugar-free yoghurt);
- a portion of vegetables (celery sticks, carrot pieces);
- a portion of fruit (berries, grapes, melon, apple slices);
- water.

We've put together five balanced lunch boxes here - one for each day of the school week. You can copy them exactly, swap items around or get rid of them all together - whatever works for your family is fine.



## Attendance Reminders

| Days off school add up to lost learning                                                                                    |                                 |                           |                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR<br>175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays,<br>household jobs and other appointments |                                 |                           |                                             |
| 0                                                                                                                          | 6                               | 15                        | 19                                          |
| DAYS ABSENCE<br>(190 school days)                                                                                          | DAYS ABSENCE<br>OR MORE         | DAYS ABSENCE<br>OR MORE   | DAYS ABSENCE<br>OR MORE                     |
| <b>100%</b>                                                                                                                | <b>96%</b>                      | <b>92%</b>                | <b>Below 90%</b>                            |
| EXCELLENT<br>ATTENDANCE                                                                                                    | SATISFACTORY<br>ATTENDANCE      | REQUIRES<br>IMPROVEMENT   | Persistent<br>Absentee                      |
| Best chance of<br>SUCCESS                                                                                                  | Harder to make<br>good progress | Less chance of<br>success | CAUSE FOR<br>CONCERN                        |
|                                                                                                                            |                                 |                           | Serious concern<br>Possible court<br>action |

### Three-Year Period

#### First Term Time Leave

10 sessions (5 days) or more.

**£80** for each child per parent.

E.g. if two parents take 3 children away, the fine would be  $£80 \times 3 = £240$  per parent.

The total would be **£480**.

If you pay after 21 days it rises to **£960**.

If you don't pay after 28 days = a prosecution.

#### Second Term Time Leave

10 sessions (5 days) or more.

**£160** for each child per parent.

E.g. if two parents take 3 children away, the fine would be  $£160 \times 3 = £480$  per parent.

The total would be **£960**.

If you don't pay after 28 days = a prosecution.

#### Third Term Time Leave

10 sessions (5 days) or more.

Prosecution.

# Apply now



## for a Reception school place for September 2026

If your child  
will be aged 4  
by **31<sup>st</sup> August**

You need to  
apply **NOW**  
for a School  
place



**Apply by  
15<sup>th</sup> January  
2026**

For further information please visit  
[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions)  
or contact your local School

Contact the Admissions Team by telephone 0345 045 1370

School Admissions ALC2605, PO Box 761, Huntingdon, PE29 9 QR or  
email [admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

# Breakfast Club at Ladybird



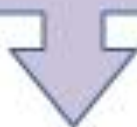
Open to Thriplow School  
Children & Ladybird  
Children from 3 Years



Breakfast may vary



Opens at 8:00am



Early Starters from 8:30



Contact for more information:

Email: [ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com](mailto:ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com)

Phone: 01763 208055

COME ALONG TO THE ANNUAL  
LADYBIRD PLAYGROUP THRILOW

# Quiz Night

Saturday 15 November Doors at 7pm for  
7.30pm start Tickets £15 per person  
includes food.

To book visit: [https://www.pta-  
events.co.uk/ladybirdplaygroupthriplow/index.cfm](https://www.pta-events.co.uk/ladybirdplaygroupthriplow/index.cfm)

Click  
to  
book



Teams of  
up to six  
Ploughman's  
sharing platter  
for your table

THRILOW VILLAGE HALL, MIDDLE STREET, THRILOW, SG8 7RD

# DONATIONS

for  
Breakfast Club and Ladybird Playgroup

Any Pre-loved toys and games, in good  
condition wanted.

Including: (for children aged 3- 11 years)

Outdoor toys:  
Balls, hoops etc.

Board games

Toys

Craft supplies

Building blocks

Please drop off any donations at

*Ladybird Playgroup - School Lane,  
Thriplow, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 7RH*

*Or call 01763 208055*

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screen time. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

### 1 WORK TOGETHER

Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.

### 2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES

Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online. If they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins: does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.

### 3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY

Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.

### 4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE

To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices – especially smartphones – are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.

### 5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY

Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family; discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key – so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.

### 6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any information they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.

### 7 BE RESPECTFUL

Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online – such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lend themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.

### 8 "NO TECH" ZONES

Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example: bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.

### 9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES

As a family, discuss why the rules are important: to balance their screen time, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.

### 10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS

To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at 8CyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at [nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices)