Thriplow School Newsletter

16th October





We've had another super week in school. It's been lovely to see the trees on the playground turning beautiful shades of autumnal colours and the children have been enjoying having fun wading through the leaves around the playground. A reminder that we try to go outside even when it is raining so do make sure, as we move further into the Autumn Term that your child has wellies and waterproofs in school.

We are nearly at half term. A reminder that next Friday is an INSET day. It's been a busy half term and it's great to see the children settling into their new year groups. This term has seen a change in our governance structure. If you had a child in school last year, you may remember communication from Grace Schools explaining how the school's Local Governing Body would be replaced by Community Councils (made up of parents and other members of the local community) and Regional School Boards, which oversee groups of schools within the trust (https://graceschools.org.uk/about-us/governance/regional-school-board)

We do still have a couple of spaces on our Community Council. Please do send an email to the office if you are interested in joining the Community Council, or finding out a bit more about it.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,

Lucy How



MAT of the Year 2024

	www.facebook.com/thriplowschool
	www.instagram.com/thriplow.school
	x.com/thriplowschool
	https://thr.graceschools.org.uk/

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*

Important Dates (added recently)

5th November	Holy Communion in hall. 9.15am. All welcome
6th November	Dress as Inspirational Older Person fundraising event.
6th November	Open classroom - 3pm
9th November	Flu vaccinations
16th November	Odd socks day for Anti-Bullying week
Week beginning 16th November	Anti-bullying week
19th November	Dragonflies Trip to Mosque/Catholic Church (OLEM).
23rd November	Uniform swap/Coffee morning 9am
27th November	Decoration day
7th December	Grace Schools Carol Service (Y6 only)
8th December	Year 5 to Primary School Carol Service at King's College
8th December	KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal
9th December	Nativity 2.30pm
10th December	Nativity 6pm
11th December	Festive Friday (Christmas Jumpers)
15th December	Key Stage 2 Concert

Important Dates

16th December	Christingle Day
18th December	Carol Service 2.30pm in church
7th January	Holy Communion in hall. 9.15am. All welcome
8th January	Open Classroom - 3pm
11th January	Uniform Swap/Coffee morning - 9am
19th January	Young Voices
Week beginning 8th February	RSE week
23rd February and 25th February	Parent Consultations (All children)
25th February	Holy Communion in hall. 9.15am. All welcome
26th February	Open Classroom - 3pm
4th March	World Book Day
12th - 13th March	Daffodil Weekend
17th March	Uniform Swap/Coffee morning - 9am
25th March	End of term service - 2.30pm in church

Important Dates

15th April (TBC)	Holy Communion in hall. 9.15am. All welcome
16th April	Open Classroom - 3pm
22nd April	Uniform Swap/Coffee morning - 9am
Week beginning 10th May	SATs week
Week beginning 17th May	Year 5/6 residential
Fortnight beginning 7th June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
Holy Communion	Holy Communion in hall. 9.15am. All welcome
11th June	Grace Schools Art Exhibition
Week beginning 14th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
24th June	Sports Day
Week beginning 28th June	Poetry Recital Competition
2nd July	Open Classroom
6th July	KS2 Dress rehearsal - 9.30pm
7th July	KS2 production - 2.30pm
8th July	KS2 production - 6pm
12th July	Uniform Swap/Coffee morning
15th July	Transition morning (9-10.30)
19th July	End of Term Concert

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2026	
INSET Day	***Tuesday 1st September***
Start of Term	Wednesday 2nd September
INSET Day	***Friday 23rd October***
Half Term	Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October
End of Term	Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2027	
Start of Term	Monday 4th January
INSET Day	***Friday 12th February***
Half Term	Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February
End of Term	Thursday 25th March

Summer Term	
Start of Term	Monday 12th April
Bank Holiday	***Monday 3rd May***
Half Term	Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June
INSET Day	***Monday 7th June***
End of Term	Tuesday 20th July
INSET Day	***Wednesday 21st July***

Safeguarding at Thriplow

Lucy How, Annabel Forde and Kulsoom Sheikh 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

Useful websites:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/

https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/

https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/

House Points

	Total this Week	Total this Term
Bacon	81	542
Barenton	87	568
Bassett	76	471
Bury	71	547

Well done Barenton !

Happy Birthday

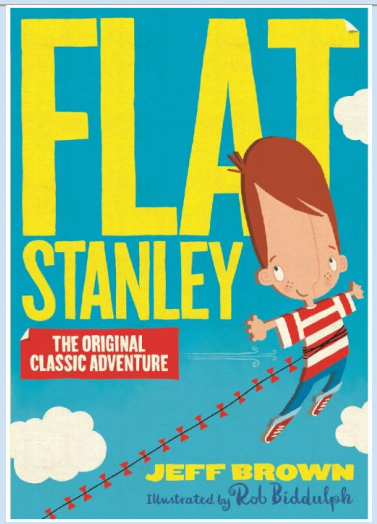
to Sofia, Oliver,
Joseph and Peter
who have celebrated
their birthdays this
week!

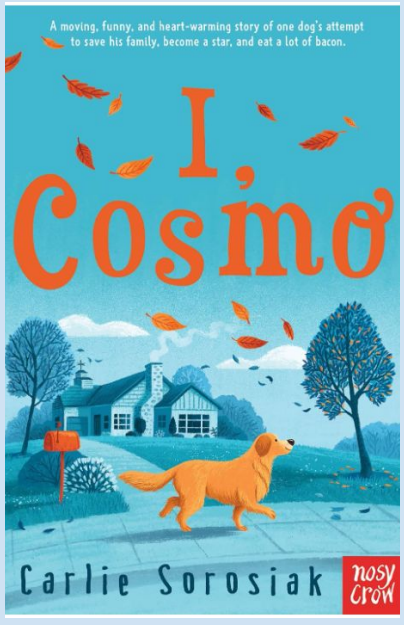
Birthday Books

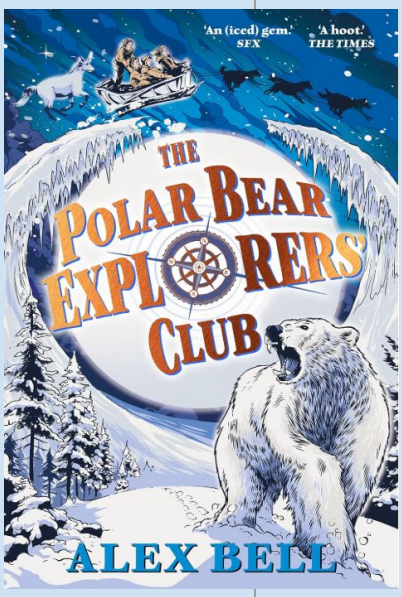
If you would like to donate a book to our library to celebrate your child's birthday, then we would be so grateful. Please follow this link to see a list of books that we would like.

https://amzn.eu/ez2OYOf

Many thanks to Oliver for donating this book on the occasion of his 6th birthday.







Many thanks to Oliver and Emily for donating these books on the occasion of their 9th birthday.

Thriplow Primary School

Library

Open on Thursdays and Fridays after school.

Please pop in and visit!

Your child's learning

Ants:

We have had a lovely week in Ants!

In Phonics the children have continued practising building, reading and writing CVC words using Unit 3 sounds. They have also practised making a variety of words by swapping just one sound, for example cat to mat. The children have also started to learn some high frequency words such as 'I' and 'the' this week.

In Maths we have been finishing our counting to 6 learning. We explored that we can count a set of objects, starting from any object and the total will remain the same. The children were quick to identify that there were 6 objects no matter which object we started counting from. They then used their problem solving skills to identify and discuss when Colin (the Counting Caribou) had made the mistake of miscounting.

In Understanding the World we have been learning about people who help us. Ants class investigated a range of pictures of people and discussed who and how they could help us; this included a doctor, police officer and a vet. We then discussed the emergency services and how they help people who need urgent help.

In PE this week the children have enjoyed playing through games. On Wednesday, the children were introduced to different games that they could play outside. They enjoyed learning how to play together and taking turns with how to be leaders in different games. Ants particularly enjoyed playing hide and seek and the traffic light game.



Butterflies:

Butterflies class have continued to work hard this week. We have noticed that they are becoming quite tired.

In Maths this week, the Y2 children have been using different strategies to solve addition and subtraction facts. They have used doubling to answer near double questions, They have also used their knowledge of number bonds to 10 and 20, to work out answers that bridge these amounts. Please encourage your child to share these strategies with you.

The Y1 children have been reinforcing their knowledge of the numbers 5 and 6. They have used the + and - symbols to write all of the addition facts to make 5 and 6. They have then used this knowledge to subtract from 5 or 6. Please practise this with your child.

In Geography, the children looked carefully at a map and identified the features included: title, key, symbols, compass.

In English, the children have continued to write their story of 'Hansel and Gretel.' Please encourage your child to retell the story to you.

If you would like to share activities that your child has has done over the weekend with us, then please send it via Tapestry. We have enjoyed discussing what you have shared so far with your child.



Bees:

Bees have enjoyed learning about 2D and 3D shapes in Maths this week. In Year 3, the children learnt about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes including polygons and polyhedra. In Year 4, we have been looking at different types of quadrilaterals and their properties.

Next week, we will be continuing our work looking at 2D shapes in Year 4 and looking at symmetry while Year 3 will start a new unit on multiplication and division.

In Latin, we continued our learning about phrases and greetings linked to birthdays.

In History, we concluded our learning about Stonehenge and will finish our unit by looking at the Iron Age.

In Geography, we will move onto comparing our locality with a contrasting locality and look at San Francisco in the United States.

In Science, we have been looking at vitamins and minerals and will continue this next week.

We will conclude our art unit by completing our own prints based on the artwork The Giant Wave by Katusushika Hokusai.

In P.E, the children have enjoyed refining their teamwork skills in netball and have learnt how to build stamina when running for longer distances. You should have received an email regarding items needed for our new hockey unit after half-term.



Dragonflies:

Dragonflies have had a fun week as we finish up many of our topics for this half term.

On Monday, in PSHE, we considered how to cope with changes within families. We made posters about how keeping open and supportive conversations is really important to have a healthy family life. The children also continued their learning on long distance running as we considered tactics that can be used in a race. Next week, we are going to have our own mini cross country race.

On Tuesday, the children learnt about Jewish music and how music has been important to their culture since the Old Testament. The children then painted their plaster discs they made last week. They were so careful with their sun designs and were so proud of the final products. Well done!

On Thursday, the children started making a double-page spread in History to summarise their learning on WW1. This was similar to Geography on Friday when the children finished their displays of their learning on Spacial Sense. The children also learnt about Sikh music on Friday.

Throughout the week, in Maths, year 6 have been learning about division of 3-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers. We have looked at how to represent remainders as whole numbers, fractions and decimals. Year 5 have been comparing and ordering decimal numbers. In English, the class have begun to write their short story. I have been so impressed with how they have re-drafted their paragraphs. The children have been really invested in making their writing more exciting for the reader. Next week, we will continue to write these stories, building towards creating our final story.



DRESS AS AN INSPIRATIONAL OLDER PERSON DAY!

Friday 6th November

In aid of Age UK

Thriplow Primary School



Come dressed as an older person who has inspired you.

This might be a famous person or someone who is a friend or member of your family.

We will be learning about the work of Age UK as well as sharing inspirational stories about our chosen person.







PLEASE BRING A CONTRIBUTION OF £2

Age UK

THRIPLOW
CofE PRIMARY

PTA THIS TERM

Working together to support our school

YEAR 5 FUNDRAISER

A Year 5 year-rep choice to organise – watch this space!



HOUSE HAMPER RAFFLE

A festive hamper packed with a lovely selection of goodies, including sweet treats, drinks and more. Raffle before Christmas.



DECORATION DAY REFRESHMENTS

Year 4 reps will be serving lovely tea, coffee and mince pies before parents join the children in class to make beautiful Christmas decorations.



NATIVITY REFRESHMENTS

Our Year 2 reps will be running refreshments for the Key Stage 1 Nativity, with drinks available before we watch our children perform.

MORE THAN YOU SEE...

There's lots happening in the background too, with the PTA pitching in to support the school community throughout the term.

Thriplow Primary School PTA

GARDENING CLUB

Help keep our school grounds safe, tidy and looking beautiful!

We need a little help with:



LEAVES

Clearing leaves that get slippery in winter.



HEDGES

Cutting hedges back and keeping them neat.



PRETTY SPACES

Making the school look lovely in general – inside and out!

Small jobs... make a BIG difference!

Join our WhatsApp group

to help on weekends and holiday time – when ever anyone can do!

Community effort... brighter spaces!

Help make the school GREAT!

Lead for this:

Rachel Leech

07969989939

Attendance

365 days in a year

190 days in a school year to support pupils to maintain and even exceed expected attainment outcomes.

175 days for other activities like holidays, appointments, days out, family events

100% attendance	zero days missed	Perfection!
99% attendance	Two days of absence across the year	Excellent!
97% attendance	Five days of absence across the year	Good
95% attendance	Nine days of absence across the year: one week and four days of learning missed. Lost learning is likely to start affecting pupil performance, confidence and self-esteem.	Satisfactory
90% attendance	Twenty days of absence across the year; four weeks of learning missed. Pupils will find it difficult to keep up with work and achieve their best.	Concerns
85% attendance	Thirty days of absence across the year: six weeks of	Serious

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

If your child needs time off for a medical appointment, please provide an appointment card or printed confirmation for our records.

Where possible, please make appointments out of school time.

Attendance

If your child is late for school, please ensure that you sign the late book in the entrance hall, giving a reason for the lateness.

If it is a sensitive reason and you would rather not write it down, please chat to Mrs Sandford or Mrs How.

Please do not write 'late' as a reason.

Minutes late per day	School days lost per year
5 minutes	3 days
10 minutes	6.5 days
15 minutes	10 days
20 minutes	13 days
30 minutes	19 days

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



Keep them fuller for longer

Base the main lunchbox item on foods like bread, rice, pasta and potatoes. Choose wholegrain where you can.



Freeze for variety

Keep a small selection of different types of bread in the freezer so you have a variety of options – like bagels, pittas and wraps, granary, wholemeal and multigrain.



DIY lunches

Wraps and pots of fillings can be more exciting for kids when they get to make them. Dipping foods are also fun and a nice change from a sandwich each day.



Cut back on fat

Pick lower-fat fillings – like lean meats (including chicken or turkey), fish (such as tuna or salmon), lower-fat spread, reduced-fat cream cheese and reduced-fat hard cheese. And try to avoid using mayonnaise in sandwiches.



Mix your slices

If your child does not like wholegrain, try making a sandwich from 1 slice of white bread and 1 slice of brown bread.



Always add veg

Cherry tomatoes, or sticks of carrot, cucumber, celery and peppers all count towards their 5 A Day. Adding a small pot of reduced-fat hummus or other dips may help with getting kids to eat vegetables.



Ever green

Always add salad to sandwiches and wraps too – it all counts towards your child's 5 A Day!



Cheesy does it...

Cheese can be high in fat and salt, so choose stronger-tasting ones – and use less of it – or try reduced-fat varieties.



Cut down on crisps

If your child really likes their crisps try reducing the number of times you include them in their lunchbox, and swap for homemade plain popcorn or plain rice cakes instead.



Add bite-sized fruit

Try chopped apple, peeled satsuma segments, strawberries, blueberries, halved grapes or melon slices to make it easier for them to eat. Add a squeeze of lemon juice to stop it from going brown.



Tinned fruit counts too

A small pot of tinned fruit in juice – not syrup – is perfect for a lunchbox and easily stored in the cupboard.



Swap the fruit bars

Dried fruit like raisins, sultanas and dried apricots are not only cheaper than processed fruit bars and snacks but can be healthier too. Just remember to keep dried fruit to mealtimes as it can be bad for teeth.



Switch the sweets

Swap cakes, chocolate, cereal bars and biscuits for fruited teacakes, fruit breads or fruit (fresh, dried or tinned – in juice not syrup).



Yoghurts: go low-fat and lower-sugar

Pop in low-fat and lower-sugar yoghurts or fromage frais and add your own fruit.



Get them involved

Get your kids involved in preparing and choosing what goes in their lunchbox. They are more likely to eat it if they helped make it.



Variety is the spice of lunch!

Be adventurous and get creative to mix up what goes in their lunchbox. Keeping them guessing with healthier ideas will keep them interested and more open to trying things.



Plan to Eatwell

The guide shows how much of what we eat overall should come from each food group to achieve a healthy, balanced diet. It can be really useful when thinking about what goes into kids' lunchboxes.

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/food-guidelines-and-food-labels/the-eatwell-guide/

COME ALONG TO THE ANNUAL
LADYBIRD PLAYGROUP THRIPLOW...

Quiz Night!

Saturday 21st November 2026

Doors at 7pm for 7.30pm start

Tickets £15 per person inc. food

For enquiries: ladybirdplaygroupcommittee@gmail.com

New
Quiz Master!
Raffle
Prizes!

Teams of up to six people
Sharing platter for your table
Click on the QR code to book

THRIPLOW VILLAGE HALL, MIDDLE ST, THRIPLOW, SG8 7RD

Ladybird Playgroup

Breakfast Club

Open to All Thriplow School age children and Ladybird Children aged 3 up.

Breakfast Club - 8:00 -9:00 am
Early Bugs - 8:30- 9:00 am

Variety of breakfast is provided every day and is served till 8:30 am

Have fun exploring a range of activities, games and books with friends before school/playgroup.







Visit our website for more details and booking forms.

Contact for Bookings

01763 208055
ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

KCSIE 2026 IS HERE

Are you ready?

HERE ARE THE TEN BIGGEST CHANGES YOUR WHOLE SCHOOL NEEDS TO KNOW.

The new statutory guidance has been published and comes into force on 1 September 2026.
The changes make consistency and collaboration in safeguarding the expectation for all.

1 EVERYONE READS PART ONE. IN FULL.

The condensed version (old Annex A) has gone. Every member of staff, whether teaching, admin, catering, or site staff, must read and understand the whole of Part One.

2 MOBILE PHONE FREE BY DEFAULT.

For the first time, it is in statutory guidance: schools should be phone-free environments, with anything else by exception only, across lessons, breaks, and lunch.

3 ONLINE HARM IS REAL-WORLD HARM.

Deepfakes, AI-generated imagery, and sextortion are named for the first time. The word 'sexting' has gone. The guidance now talks about 'making or sharing nudes and semi-nudes', and every incident needs a safeguarding response, consensual or not.

4 WEAPONS: REPORT STRAIGHT AWAY.

Any concern that a child is carrying, has used, or intends to use a weapon goes to the DSL immediately. The DSL assesses the risk and puts a safety plan in place.

5 MISOGYNY AND ITS POTENTIAL TO ESCALATE.

The guidance recognises the escalatory nature of misogyny. Banter and 'boys being boys' can be the start of a behaviour pattern that ends in sexual violence. Challenging it early is everyone's job.

6 MENTAL HEALTH, EXPANDED.

There are new warning signs for all staff, and clear crisis routes: call 999 or go to A&E if a child is in danger.

7 GENDER-QUESTIONING CHILDREN.

Statutory for the first time. Schools do not initiate social transition. Decisions are made case by case and documented, with parents usually involved, and there are firm rules on single-sex spaces and sport.

8 VOLUNTEERS NEED CHECKING.

The Crime and Policing Act 2026 removes the supervision exemption. Volunteers who teach, train, or supervise children on more than three days in a 30-day period, or overnight, are now in regulated activity, however closely they are supervised.

9 FAMILY HELP: ONE JOINED-UP OFFER.

'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026' brings targeted early help and support for children in need into a single coordinated offer. All staff should know how children can benefit and how to refer.

10 RECORDS THAT PROTECT EVERYBODY.

A good record now has a clear standard: a summary, the action taken, the decisions made, the reasons for them, and the outcome. A note that says 'spoke to child, fine now' fails the test.

ALSO ON THE RADAR

- Operation Encompass is statutory: police notify schools of domestic abuse incidents before the next school day.
- Filtering and monitoring must be reviewed at least annually, with records kept.
- Cyber security is now a safeguarding issue.
- There is a new section on children with medical conditions.
- Trainee teachers are named in allegations procedures.
- Child protection files transfer within five days, with a conversation between DSLs as good practice.

Skips Safety Net

Keeping children safe online



Parent Guides to Online Safety



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings







Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Three steps of anger management

1. Recognise

Help a child recognise the early signs of anger.

They may experience:

- a faster heartbeat
- tense muscles
- racing thoughts
- a 'fuzzy' brain
- their stomach churning

By paying attention to these physical and emotional indicators, children can begin to identify when anger is building. It's important to help them understand that while these feelings are natural, the behaviours that follow can be managed.

Recognising these patterns gives them the power to pause, take control, and choose healthier, more constructive ways to express what they're feeling.

2. Reflect

Once emotions have settled, take time to explore the situation with your child. Calm moments offer valuable opportunities to uncover the deeper feelings behind their anger.

Anger may stem from fear, confusion, sadness, or frustration. These underlying emotions can be linked to:

- Unmet needs
- Past experiences or trauma
- Ongoing stress or anxiety
- Unresolved conflicts
- Misunderstandings or distorted thinking

Reflection also involves accepting responsibility for any behaviour that occurred during moments of anger. What this looks like will vary depending on your child's age and level of understanding. Encouraging healthy self-reflection helps build self-awareness and empowers children to take ownership of their actions and reactions.

3. Respond

The third step is to respond to anger healthily and constructively.

Encourage the development of assertive communication skills, where they can express their needs and emotions confidently while still respecting others' boundaries.

Some helpful anger management strategies include:

- Deep breathing
- Mindfulness practices that help ground someone in the present (what can you see, hear and smell)
- Physical activities to release tension and calm the mind
- Regular self-care
- Building routines that include exercise, rest, hobbies, and relaxation

These habits reduce stress and make it easier to manage strong emotions before they escalate.