

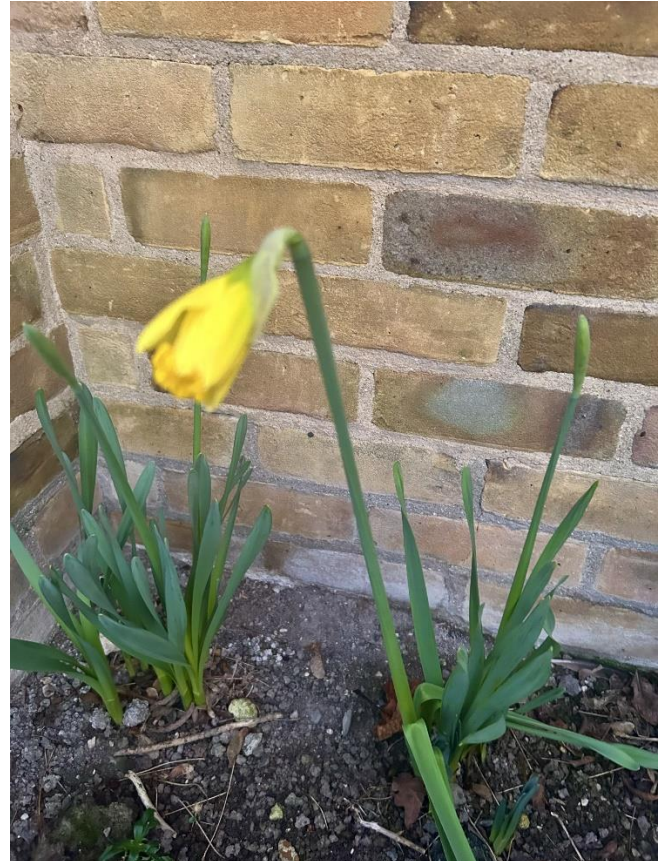
Thriplow C of E Primary School

Newsletter: 24th January 2025



This week has been filled with exciting things!

Luna spotted our first daffodil earlier this week! It is a reminder that spring is just around the corner in this colder weather.



We were so proud of our school choir on Tuesday on their trip to the O2. It was a long day but we were impressed by their focus and by their exemplary behaviour. They enjoyed themselves immensely. A huge thanks to Mr Parsons, Mrs Walston, Mr Baron and Mrs Baron for giving up their time to volunteer on the day.

You will have seen an email yesterday about Maypole club which Miss Hardege and I will be running after half term for 3 weeks. Please make sure your child is able to attend all 3 sessions, as well as Daffodil Weekend before requesting a space. It is likely to be over-

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subscribed and so Miss Hardege and I will let you know the week beginning 3rd February if your child has secured a place.

Well done to Otto for completing the Year 1 20 Books challenge!

It's wonderful that so many of you are able to come to our weekly Celebration Collective Worship on Fridays. Whilst we love having so many of you come and celebrate our achievements with us, could we politely remind you to take enthusiastic pre-schoolers out of the hall if they are struggling to be quiet. It can be a distraction and is a shame for the school children when their voices can't be heard clearly. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

This morning you should have all received a letter about RSE week. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions you may have. I hope you found the information sent out helpful and informative.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Best Wishes,

Lucy How



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



<https://x.com/thriplowschool>

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Useful dates

Week Beginning 3 rd February	RSE week
11 th February	Hockey tournament (pm) – letters have been sent to those taking part. Please let Mrs Forde know if your child will be playing.
13 th February	Reception vision testing
13 th February	Sponsored Skipathon for Hearing Dogs (the children's chosen charity)
25 th and 27 th February	Parent Consultations – sign up on MCAS nearer the time
27 th February	Holy Communion in school hall. 9.15. All welcome
27 th February	Scooterability and Balanceability sessions start for Reception and Year 1 (in school time)
28 th February	Movie Night (for children, straight after school)
6 th March	World Book Day – children are encouraged to dress as an adjective
7 th March	PTA meeting 9am in School Hall
10 th March	Netball tournament – letters will be sent to the netball team nearer the time.
12 th March	Dragonflies trip to Duxford (information to follow)
22 nd – 23 rd March	Daffodil Weekend – see information in newsletter
4 th April	Church service. 2.30pm. All welcome.
29 th April	PTA meeting 8pm on Zoom
1 st May	Holy Communion in school hall. 9.15. All welcome
8 th May	Year 3/4 tennis festival
Week Beginning 12 th May	SATs week (year 6)
19 th – 23 rd May	Year 5/6 trip to the Isle of Wight
5 th June	Holy Communion in school hall. 9.15. All welcome
5 th June	Quadkids
6 th June	Class Photos
10 th June	PTA meeting 8pm on Zoom
1 st July	Year 3/4 cricket tournament
17 th July	Transition morning
23 rd July	Leavers' Service For parents of Year 6 children leaving the school

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Term Dates 2024/2025

Spring Term	
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Friday 14th February</i>
Half Term	Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February
End of Term	Friday 4 th April

Summer Term	
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 22nd April</i>
Start of Term	Wednesday 23 rd April
<i>Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 6th May</i>
Half Term	Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Monday 2nd June</i>
End of Term	Wednesday 23 rd July

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Term Dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term	
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Monday 1st September</i>
Start of Term	Tuesday 2 nd September
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Friday 24th October</i>
Half Term	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October
End of Term	Friday 19 th December

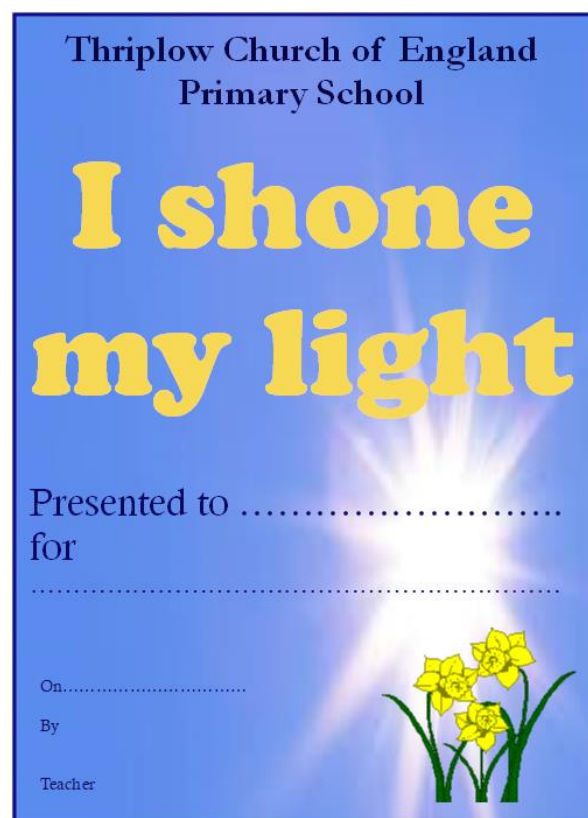
Spring Term	
Start of Term	Monday 5 th January
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Friday 13th February</i>
Half Term	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February
End of Term	Friday 27 th March

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

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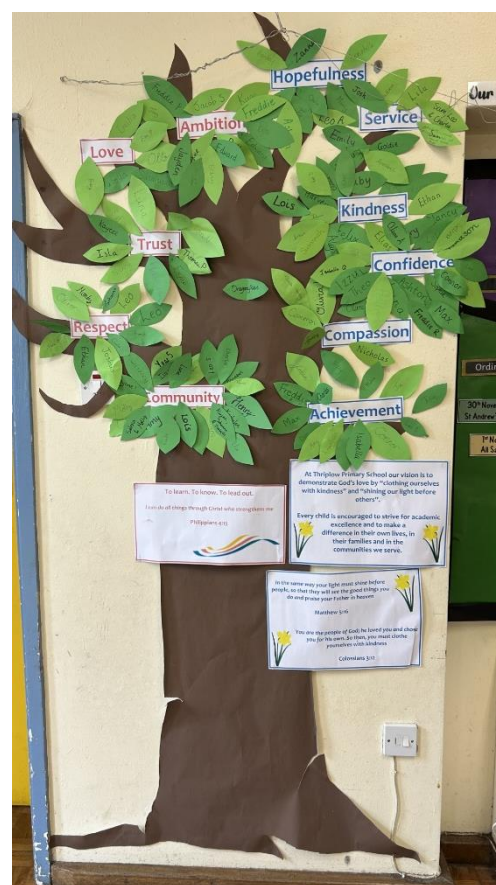
Our certificate winners this week are: -

- Reggie (Reception)
- Logan (Reception)
- Olivia (Year 1)
- Connor (Year 1)
- Freddie (Year 2)
- Josh (Year 3)
- Hollie (Year 3)
- Betty (Year 4)
- Christopher (Year 4)
- Millie-Rose (Year 5)
- Leo (Year 5)
- Olivia (Year 6)
- Alice (Year 5)



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

- Monty (Kindness)
- Ralph (Respect)
- Otto (Ambition)
- Izzy (Ambition)
- Sophie F (Ambition)
- Isabella W (Love)
- Monty (Kindness)



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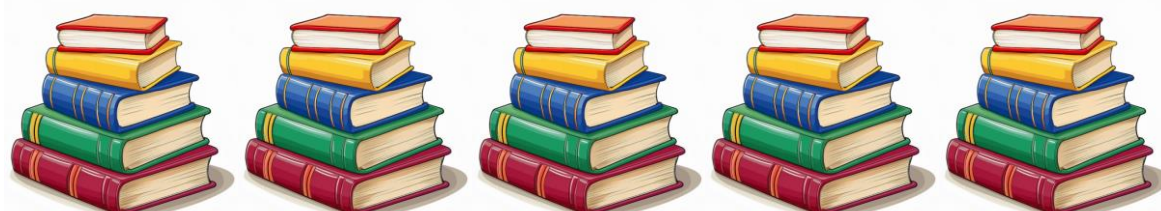


Happy Birthday to **Annabel** and **Olivia** who have celebrated their birthdays this week!



We have updated our Amazon Wishlist. Please follow this link if you'd like to donate a birthday book.

<https://amzn.eu/ez2OYOf>



Safeguarding at Thriplow

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

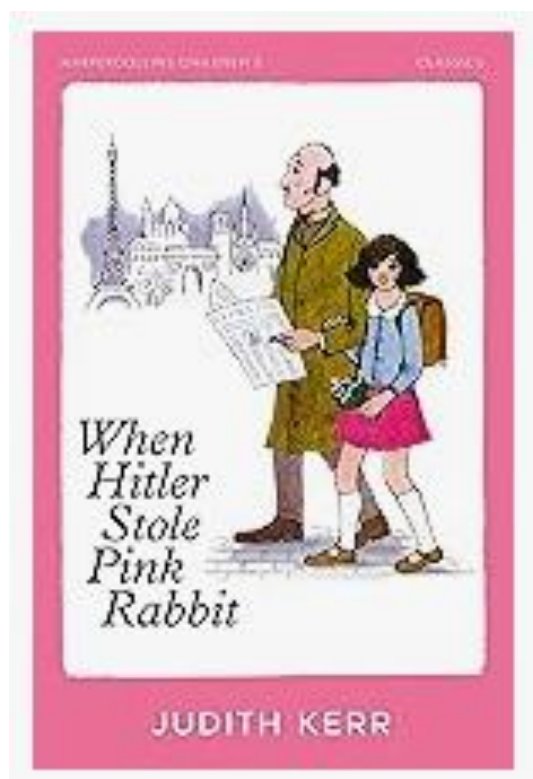
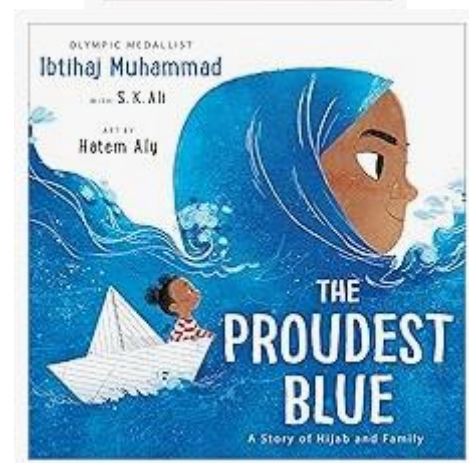
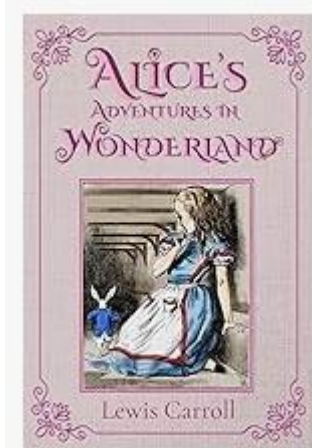
If you have a concern about a child, please come and speak to or email either of us. Alternatively please speak to any member of staff who will be able to pass on information.

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>

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Many thanks to Annabel for donating these books on the occasion of her 9th birthday!



Many thanks to Hamish for donating this book on the occasion of his 9th birthday!

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HOUSE POINTS

	Total this week	Total this term
Bacon	116	191
Barenton	96	246
Bassett	116	216
Bury	116	218

Well done Bury, Bacon and Bassett!



WORLD BOOK DAY



At Thriplow, we value reading and books all year round. We encourage children to 'read, read, read' as we recognise that reading unlocks learning and understanding of the world for children.

We mark World Book Day not as a 'one-off' to encourage children to read books, but to celebrate our ongoing love of books, of reading and of language.

This year we are encouraging the children to dress as an adjective.

This is not for a few weeks, but I know that parents appreciate knowing about these things in good time.

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Daffodil weekend

Don't forget to sign up to help in the tearoom using the following link!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qzctJenomniWb7msRt3CrHGoIbRtFij66LtDjtCGu4w/edit?fbclid=IwY2xjawH2MPZleHRuA2FibQlxMQABHeX4IBAX5bLYd7qomY7qTgeuHpYAc3dp5tzb_88Pde5P_B98AFlatHrseA_aem_h37rbzeR8QC_A6rM6PxAPA#gid=0#gid=0

Each helper will receive one free ticket for the day that they help.



Please note that we will be performing as a school at around 11am in the village on Saturday 22nd March. We will confirm details nearer the time (exactly where in the village to meet etc) but for now, please pop it in your diaries. It would be wonderful to see everyone there — from Reception to Year 6.

If your child performs on the 22nd, you will receive a free ticket for them and for one adult for the 22nd.

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

D@*#!

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College

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Breakfast Club at Ladybird



Open to Thriplow School
Children & Ladybird
Children from 3 Years

Registration
forms can be
found on the
School
Website



Breakfast may vary



Opens at 8:00am

Early Starters from 8:30

2025
Please book sessions required for Breakfast Club
in order to guarantee your child's place.
Adhoc sessions may still be available, numbers
permitting, but we do ask for 24 hours' notice.
This also applies to cancellations.
ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com



Contact for more information:

Email: ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

Phone: 01763 208055

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