

Thriplow School Newsletter

25th September



We have had a wonderful week in school - following a wonderful weekend! A huge thank you to the members of the Tipi Party Committee - Stephen, Emma, Ben, Olga, Lauren, Hanna, Natasha and Harriet - as well as the wonderful members of the parent community who volunteered on the night - for your dedication. The Tipi Party was such a fun occasion and we so appreciate all that you did.

I hope you have all found your parent consultations useful and informative. I know that the teachers have really enjoyed meeting with you!

Could I just remind you all about our one-way system to stop congestion on the steps outside the office? Do continue to enter the school via the steps in front of the office but could I politely ask you to leave the playground via the ramp at the back of the school? I would really appreciate your cooperation with this!

We were so proud of our Year 6 this morning. They hosted the Coffee Morning beautifully and we were so proud of how enthusiastic and welcoming they were. We have raised 286.91 pounds so far, with more money coming in! You can donate online by following this link:

<https://cm26.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/cm26038849>

Over the next week, your child will be bringing home a Christmas card design (we know it's early!!). If you would like to order your child's design on cards, mugs etc, then please followed the instructions carefully on the form and return the design to school by Friday 2nd October.

The PTA will be meeting on Monday morning in the school hall at 9am. You are all very much invited! It would be good to have as many parents there as possible!

Our Harvest Festival takes place on Tuesday 6th October in St. George's Church at 9.15am. You are all very welcome to attend. Donations of non-perishable food would be gratefully received. They will be delivered to Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge.

Best wishes,

Lucy How



Grace
SCHOOLS

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 -

28th September	PTA meeting in the hall. 9am
6th October	Harvest Festival in church - 9.15am (this should last about an hour)
5th November	Holy Communion in hall. 9.15am. All welcome
6th November	Open classroom - 3pm
9th November	Flu vaccinations
Week beginning 16th November	Anti-bullying week
23rd November	Uniform swap/Coffee morning 9am
27th November	Decoration day
1st December	Grace Schools Carol Service (Y6 only)
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

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will now take place on Tuesday 6th October at 9.15am. All the children will be performing and they are invited to bring in donations of non-perishable food. Please ensure donated food is in date. Food will be donated to Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge.

There will be a retiring collection for the children's chosen charity this term - Age UK so do bring some loose change!



Cauliflower Cards

Christmas Cards designed by your children **will be coming home in the next week. Please read the form attached carefully to see how to order cards, wrapping paper, mugs etc with your child's beautiful design on it!**

Designs must be returned by Friday 2nd October.



Term Dates

Autumn Term 2026

<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 1st September</i>
Start of Term	Wednesday 2 nd September
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Friday 23rd October</i>
Half Term	Monday 26 th October - Friday 30 th October
End of Term	Friday 18 th December

Spring Term 2027

Start of Term	Monday 4 th January
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Friday 12th February</i>
Half Term	Monday 15 th February - Friday 19 th February
End of Term	Thursday 25 th March

Summer Term

Start of Term	Monday 12 th April
<i>Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 3rd May</i>
Half Term	Monday 31 st May - Friday 4 th June
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Monday 7th June</i>
End of Term	Tuesday 20 th July
<i>INSET Day</i>	<i>Wednesday 21st July</i>



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	90	245
Barenton	112	258
Bassett	70	195
Bury	81	270

Well done **Barenton** !



Thriplow Primary School



Library



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

**Please pop in
and visit!**



Your child's learning

Ants:

Ants have continued to work hard this week!

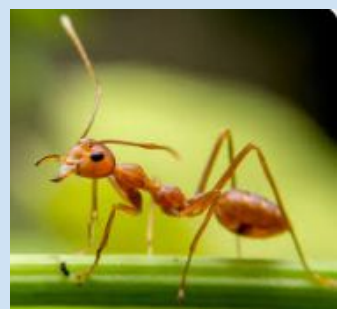
The children have continued their learning of Unit 1 sounds in Phonics. They are beginning to confidently build, read and write words with the sounds a,i,m,s,t. I am looking forward to seeing them progress onto Unit 2 sounds next week.

In Maths we have continued our learning with Counting to 5. Ants class are becoming confident with recognising problems when counting 5 and are beginning to use their problem solving skills to work out solutions.

In Literacy we have started exploring the story "The Gruffalo." Ants class have enjoyed listening to the story, discussing the characters and setting. It has been lovely to see how well the children know the story and to see some of them join in when I have been reading it to them.

In Understanding the World, we have been learning about Families. The children looked at a range of different families and discussed what was different and the same. They then commented on who is in their family. In Choosing Time, the children had the opportunity to draw their family.

In Expressive Art and Design, Ants' class listened to the story of "Elmer." We discussed how each person is unique and special and then we discussed the different colours that were used to paint Elmer. The children were able to have a go at painting their own Elmer's using different colours.



Butterflies:

It was wonderful to meet with you all during Parent consultations, we hope that you found it useful to know how you can support your child at home.

Butterflies class have continued to work hard this week - although we recognise that they are becoming more tired.

In Maths this week, the Y2 children worked on finding 10 more and 10 less than a 2-digit number. They also started their new topic on shapes and identified pentagons, hexagons and octagons. They will be working on symmetry next week. The Year 1 children have continued to work with numbers to 20 and used their knowledge to work out 'one more' and 'one less,' please reinforce this vocabulary with your child. Please encourage your child to practise counting from any given number, and listen out carefully for the 'teen' numbers. They have also started their new unit on shapes, recognising rectangles and squares. They will continue to identify 2-D shapes next week.

In English, the children have been listening to the next part of Hansel and Gretel. They have written sentences to show what happened at different parts of the story.

In Phonics, we have looked at the different spellings for the /ae/ sound.

Please encourage your child to identify these in their reading books, and to look at the different ways to spell this sound.

Here is a useful site that you can use to support Phonics at home:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources>

Mrs Walker was very impressed with the Year 2 children and their recorder skills. They have learnt 2 songs this week!

The children enjoyed learning about the senses in Science, in particular smelling different types of items.

If you would like to share activities that your child has done over the weekend with us, then please send it via Tapestry.



Bees:

This week in Science, the children thoroughly enjoyed observing the results of our week-long eggshell experiment. We discussed how citric acid in fruit juices erodes tooth enamel and how sugar and artificial colours in fizzy drinks can cause staining.

In English, we have looked at the use of prepositions and adverbs to add greater detail to descriptive writing.

In Maths, we have been comparing and ordering 3-digit and 4-digit numbers, while children in Year 4 have also worked on rounding to the nearest ten.

In History, we have continued our journey through the Stone Age and learnt about the Neolithic age. We made comparisons to the Mesolithic era and discussed key archaeological finds.

In R.E., the children explored core Sikh beliefs, learning about the Sikh god and the significance of the Guru Granth Sahib.

For Art, inspired by Katsushika Hokusai's The Great Wave (1830), the children experimented with line techniques to create their own artistic versions.

Next week, Year 4 pupils will complete a baseline multiplication assessment to help identify strengths and gaps in recall. Results will be shared to support practice at home. Year 3 pupils will also bring home copies of their individual TTRockstars 'heat maps' to guide targeted times table support at home.



Dragonflies:

I wanted to start by saying a huge well done to year 6 on their coffee morning today! Thank you to those who came to support. The children were so pleased with the money that they raised. Year 5 also enjoyed their Maths lesson with Mr. Baron.

On Monday we briefly spent time in Christmas mode as we made our cards that went home on Thursday. The children enjoyed spending an hour singing Christmas songs whilst we created their angel cards! We then went back to normality by joining Bees and practicing some relay races in our houses. The children enjoyed supporting the younger children.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the children were excellent for Mrs Walker and Mrs How. They both told me how much they enjoyed spending time with Dragonflies as they completed a science experiment about pulse rate, explored music in RE and much more!

On Thursday, the children really enjoyed continuing our learning on WWI in history where they thought about the trenches and conditions for soldiers. They also learnt about defending in netball. Today the children were enthusiastic about our Geography learning on map projection as we used an orange to show how hard it is to project a 3D object onto a 2D surface.

Throughout the week, in English, the children have been learning how to use relative clauses and semicolons to add variety to their work. In our book we have gone back in time to learn more about the 1000 year old boy and his life in the 1900s. In Maths, year 6 have done really well with their decimal learning as they have been multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. Year 5 have continued learning about 6-digit numbers by looking at number lines and rounding.

Next week, the year 6 children are having a morning about Cool Choices with GenR8 on Wednesday. I look forward to spending some time with year 5 looking at an autumnal poem.



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 THRIPILOW...

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

THRIPILOW VILLAGE HALL, MIDDLE ST, THRIPILOW, 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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children, though a June 2026 update has improved things greatly.

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. As of June 2026, Roblox defaults to only showing games from trusted developers to under 15s, following tests with older players to filter out riskier content. But these automated systems are not infallible, and younger players may encounter content you deem unsuitable.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In a June 2026 update, Roblox changed its default settings to prevent under 8s from chatting entirely, with gradual relaxation of restrictions between the ages of 9 and 15. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to enforce these rules.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox has introduced tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely to avoid the risk of stranger danger. This is the default for under 8s, but can be applied for any account up to the age of 16. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other platforms, such as Discord.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its largely self-rating nature.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



The National College

See full reference list on our website

OPEN EVENING

FOR YEAR 7 ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2027

8 OCTOBER 5PM - 7PM



Discover a school where every student is encouraged to thrive, achieve, and succeed
Experience our welcoming community, inspiring teaching, and commitment to helping every young person reach their full potential



PRINCIPAL'S SPEECH
AT 5PM AND 5.45PM

SCAN TO BOOK



<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/secondary-school>