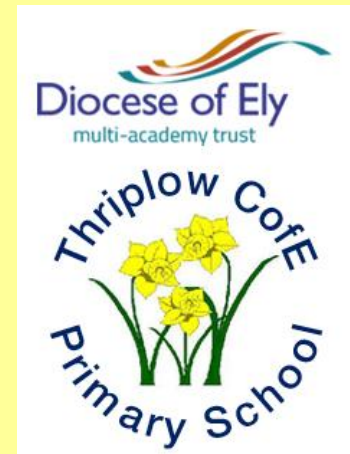


Thriplow School Newsletter

26th September 2025



We've had a busy week at school. It's really starting to feel like Autumn! Yesterday we welcomed Ruth from the Blue Cross who talked to each class in turn about how to care for animals. The children learnt all about what animals need and about how to look after pets at home.

Yesterday our Year 6 children had their play leader training meaning that they are now equipped to support small groups of younger children at playtime. They have learnt a selection of games and skills and we look forward to seeing them introducing these to the younger children soon.

At the start of next half term, DEMAT as a trust will be working with a new catering company, Caterlink. Alongside this newsletter, you will find menus from the new company so you know what sort of food to expect. Menus will be on Bromcom in good time for you to book. There will be a slight rise in the price of school meals. They will cost £2.93 per day from next half term.

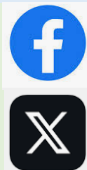
I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best wishes,

Lucy



**MAT of
the Year
2024**



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

<https://x.com/thriplowschool>

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*

29 th September	MacMillan Coffee Morning. 9am in the hall. Everyone welcome.
9 th October	Harvest Festival in the church. 2.30. Everyone welcome.
15 th October	Flu Vaccinations
23 rd October	Individual photos for all children
6 th November	Holy Communion. 9.10am in the hall. Everyone welcome
WB 10 th November	Anti-bullying week
28 th November	Decoration Day. Parents welcome in the morning.
1 st December	DEMAT Carol Service (Year 6)
9 th December	Nativity Dress rehearsal (KS1)
10 th December	Nativity Performance (KS1) 2.30pm
11 th December	Nativity Performance (KS1) 6pm
12 th December	Festive Friday
16 th December	KS2 Concert
17 th December	Christingle (children need to bring an orange)
19 th December	Carol Service in church. 2.30. Everyone welcome
20 th January	Young Voices
WB 2 nd February	Relationships and Sex Education Week
24 th February	Parent Consultations
26 th February	Parent Consultations
5 th March	World Book Day
WB 9 th March	Science Week
21 st – 22 nd March	Daffodil Weekend
27 th March	Year ¾ Bikeability level 1
WB 11 th May	SATS week
WB 18 th May	KS2 Residential (Year 5 and 6)
Fortnight beginning 1 st June	Multiplication Check fortnight (Year 4)
5 th June	DEMAT Art Exhibition
WB 8 th June	Phonics Screening check week (Year 1)
WB 15 th June	Poetry Recital Competition
24 th June	Sports day (First thing – will finish 11.15ish)

Term Dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term	
<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>



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>

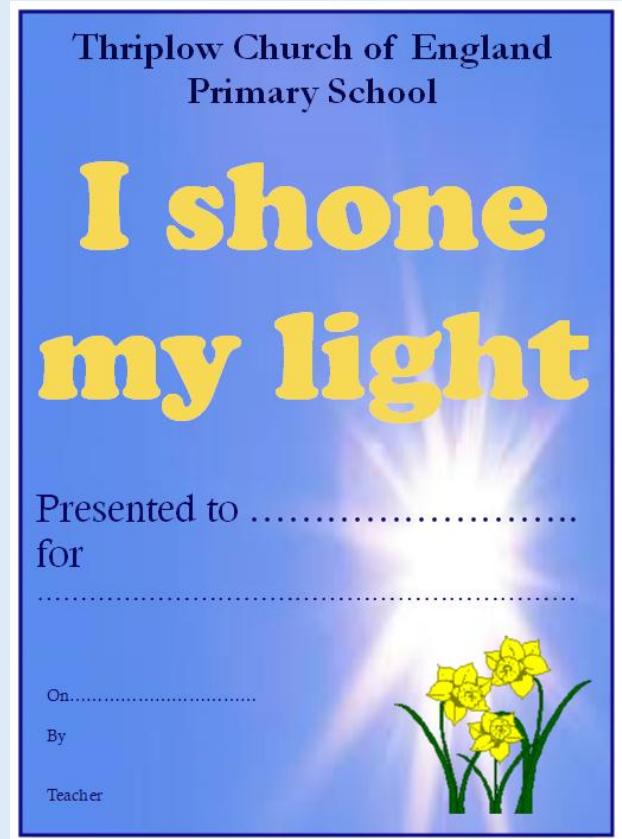
If you would like to donate a book to our library to celebrate your child's birthday, then we would be so grateful. Please follow this link to see a list of books that we would like.

<https://amzn.eu/ez2OYOf>



Our certificate winners this week are: -

- Henry (Reception)
- Lily-Anne (Year 1)
- Nancy (Year 4)
- Kyan (Year 4)
- Alice (Year 5)
- Joey (Year 5)



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

- Esca (Achievement)
- Hudson (Community)
- Florence (Ambition)
- Erin P (Trust)

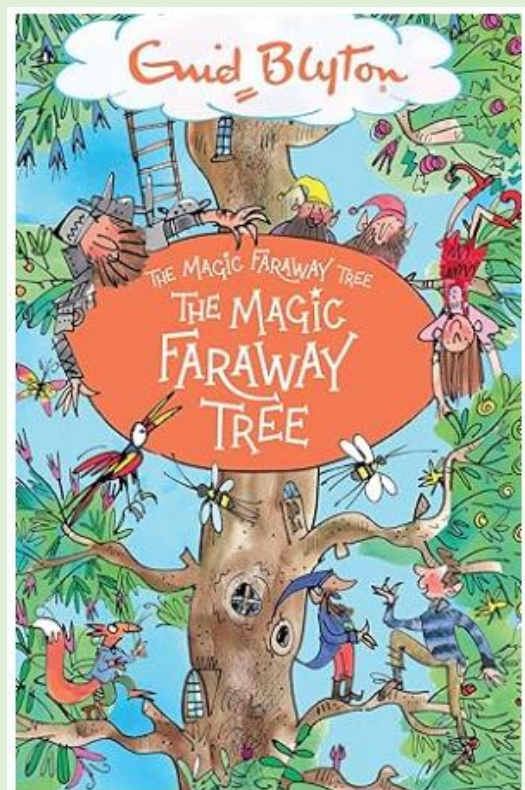




**Happy Birthday
to Lily who has
celebrated her
birthday this
week.**

Birthday Books

**Many thanks to Lily for
donating this book on the
occasion of her 5th
Birthday.**



Your child's learning

Ants

It has been a busy week in Ants class!

In maths we have been using the numberblocks to show us how to make the numbers 2, 3, and 4. In literacy we have been sequencing the story of The Gruffalo and practicing writing some words to go with the pictures! In phonics we have moved onto unit 2 and are learning the new letters n, o, and p as well as a, i, m, s, t from unit 1. It has been lovely to see and hear that so many of the children have been reading everyday at home 😊

In wild space the children loved making their own models out of clay and on Thursday we had a visit from the Blue Cross and learnt about all the things we need to look after different pets and animals! The children have also been thinking about what sorts of jobs they would like to do when we are older. It appears we have future doctors, vets, farmers, footballers, spies and ice cream sellers!

Next week in phonics we will continue on with our new unit 2 sounds and begin to write our short sentences. In maths we will build on our subitising skills. The children will continue to use 'perceptual' subitising – instant recognition – by saying the number of sounds that they can hear, such as claps or drum beats, without needing to count. They will be encouraged to look closely at small quantities and observe whether the quantity has changed or only the arrangement. In Literacy we will be drawing and labelling our own Gruffalo pictures and create our own story maps for the Gruffalo!

Butterflies

This week Butterflies have been working hard with their learning. In English we have continued reading our class text, Aladdin, and have been learning about the four different types of sentence: question, statement, command and exclamation. The year ones practised role playing Aladdin and using these sentences, whilst the year 2s wrote them. In maths we have continued our work on one more, one less, more than and less than, partitioning numbers and the year twos have also been learning about greater than and less than symbols and using them to compare two digit numbers.

In science we have been learning about the circulatory system and the children enjoyed creating their own circulatory system in the hall, transporting oxygen to the different parts of the body. PE has continued with working on dodging, creating games and the roles different people play in games as well as learning about leading, following and fair play. The children have also started learning the

words and actions to their Harvest Festival song and can't wait to share it with you.

Please do remember to share on Tapestry any learning your child does at home, as well as any fun activities they get up to at the weekend.

Bees

Bees have enjoyed another exciting week. On Tuesday, we enjoyed making our Christmas cards. The children have bought their cards home today. Please do fill out the form and return it to me by next Friday (3rd October) if you would like to place an order. Yesterday, the children really enjoyed their animal welfare workshop delivered by the Blue Cross. The children learnt all about how to keep pets safe and happy. I also particularly enjoyed Geography when we learnt about scale and worked out distances between different places of interest in Thriplow. The children were also very interested in our History learning where we looked at Sparta and learnt about how their children lived and what life was like for their warriors. In English, we have started to learn how to write a narrative based on Oliver Twist asking for more. In Maths, we have been comparing and ordering numbers to 1,000 (and 10,000 in year 4). Next week will be another great week in Bees as we begin to learn how to paint still life objects in Art, introduce shooting in netball and consider nutrition in Science.

Dragonflies

It has been a very busy week in Dragonflies. In our English learning, we have started to think about writing a narrative based on our class text, Skellig. In PE we worked hard on our relay racing, thinking about how to carefully but quickly pass the baton in our teams. On Thursday Y6 took part in their playleader training - the teacher commented on how fantastically they all took part. We are looking forward to setting up our playleader rota for lunchtimes. Also on Thursday we spent some time listening to a talk about the Blue Cross. In science we enjoyed learning about air resistance - we even dropped a teddy bear from a height with a parachute to test how quickly it would fall! Don't forget that on Monday is the MacMillan Coffee morning - please do bring in cake/baked goods to sell for this great cause. You are of course all invited to come and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a cake in the hall after drop off.

Well done to Ralph (Year 1), Eliza (Year 1), Susannah (Year 4), Elias (Year 1), Luna (Year 3), Arthur (Reception) and Felicity (Year 5) for completing the Story Garden Library Challenge over the summer!

Story Garden



Our Harvest Festival will now take place on Thursday 9th October at 2.30pm. Apologies for the change in date. 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.

MACMILLAN

COFFEE MORNING

*Coffee
time*

In aid of

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

MONDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER
THRIELOW SCHOOL HALL
9:00AM

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 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, household jobs and other appointments			
0	6	15	19
DAYS ABSENCE (190 school days)	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE
100%	96%	92%	Below 90%
EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE	SATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE	REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT	Persistent Absentee
Best chance of SUCCESS	Harder to make good progress	Less chance of success	CAUSE FOR CONCERN
			Serious concern Possible court 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 x 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 x 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 **31st August**

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



**Apply by
15th January
2026**

For further information please visit
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

Apply now

for a Secondary school place for September 2026

Contact the Admissions Team by telephone 0345 045 1370

If your child will be aged 11 by **31st
August 2026**

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



**Apply by
31st October
2025**

For further information please visit
or contact your local School

[Secondary school admissions - September 2026 | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

ALC2605, New Shire Hall, Emery Crescent, Enterprise Campus, Alconbury
Weald, PE28 4YE
or email admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Melbourn Village College Open Evening

Join us to explore our vibrant school community

Mrs Rachel Spencer
Principal



9 October 2025 @ 5:00-7:00 P.M.

PRINCIPAL PRESENTATION @ 6:00 P.M.

Breakfast Club at Ladybird



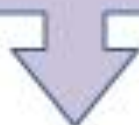
Open to Thriplow School
Children & Ladybird
Children from 3 Years



Breakfast may vary



Opens at 8:00am



Early Starters from 8:30



Contact for more information:

Email: ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

Phone: 01763 208055

Foxton Scarecrow Festival

Saturday 4th October
12pm to 6pm



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.FOXTONSCARECROW.ORG

Information for parents about Roblox:

Original research into safety of Roblox with videos of real gameplay:

<https://think.revealingreality.co.uk/roblox-real-guide>

The updated research after the website made changes:

<https://think.revealingreality.co.uk/roblox-updated>

General information for parents about Roblox and staying safe:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/online-gaming/roblox/>



ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

The EIFA team would like to present our newly updated workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues for **September and October**.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday, 23 September 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviours	Thursday, 2 October 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Sleep	Tuesday, 7 October 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Anger	Thursday, 9 October 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Thursday, 23 October 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk





