



Thameside Primary School

Year 3 & 4 News, July 2019



Green Team

What a year! This year, children have once again made all the staff and parents proud with their fantastic performances during class assemblies, the Year 4 music concert and not forgetting the amazing Year 3 performance of 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies'. I would like to thank all the staff in the team for helping to produce performances to such a high standard, they really have been a huge team effort! With just a few more days before the holidays begin, we would like to wish those children moving up to Blue Team all the best; we are sure they will continue to make us proud of their achievements and we look forward to hearing about their progress.

As always, there are several staffing changes next year. I shall continue to lead Green Team whilst remaining in Year 4 (GHM) and will be joined next year by Mrs Jacobs (GJF) who is moving up from Year 2. Ms Lazor will be moving from Year 4 into Year 3, therefore staying within Green Team. Also within Year 3 will be Mrs Osborne and Mrs Cooper (welcome back!) who will both be teaching in GCO. With all these changes, Green Team will be saying goodbye to Miss Stokes who is moving up into Year 6 and Miss Huxley who is moving down to Year 2; we wish them both lots of luck and know that they will be great in their new year groups! Mrs Gregory will be GHM's Teaching Assistant and Mrs Blanco-Robertshaw is joining us in September as a new Teaching Assistant in GJF. In Year 3, the classes will be once again be supported by Mrs Stone (GAL) and Miss Jennings who is joining us from Year 1. Across the team, SEND support TAs will be Mrs Ifill, Mrs Mukherjee and Miss Laurent. Finally, we'd like to wish Miss Sheppard lots of luck who is leaving Thameside to focus on her career in child psychology.

Finally, on behalf of the team I would like to take this opportunity to thank you - the parents and carers - for all your continued support in your child's learning journey. I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable summer break, fingers crossed for continued sunshine, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in September. Miss Maddock (Team Leader)

A new era at Thameside

We said a sad farewell to Mrs Wallace at Christmas who has been making the most of her new-found freedom! She's now taken her first holiday during term-time, spent lots of time with her family, especially her Grand-daughter, and she's been using her many retirement gifts. Mrs Greenaway had difficult shoes to step in but has done a brilliant job so far, joined by Mrs Burton as our new Deputy! We look forward to a complete team in September with the arrival of Mrs Calvert, our new assistant Head who will be teaching in GHM once a week.



Start and end of the day

For children joining us from the infants there are a few small changes. Children will continue to enter the school either via the black gates at the main entrance or through the side gate on Elliot's Way. Class teachers will be on hand for the first few mornings to ensure a smooth transition. At the end of the day, children will be released from their classroom so if you have children in the infants please remind your child that they should wait with their Key Stage 2 teacher at the modular classrooms. This is to ensure we know they have been collected and get home safely! As always, class teachers will be on hand at the end of the day to ensure children are confident with this new arrangement as well as being on hand to answer any quick queries you might have.

Year 4 Camp

When writing our favourite moments from Year 4 for reports, the vast majority of children mentioned a memory related to camp! What a great experience for all the children who had an absolute blast pitching their tents, having a giant sleepover and getting involved in all the activities despite very little sleep - although, I managed an extra 30 minutes on last year! We had glorious sunshine on the first evening, only suffering at night time as the temperature dropped. As teachers, it was great to see the children shine in a situation very different to the classroom environment - it was lovely to see so many children showing school values throughout the whole experience.

It has already been booked for next year and will take place on Thursday 14th May. The Year 3 children have already begun fund raising to help keep the cost to a minimum and we will once again look to the TSA to help subsidise the cost, we are currently anticipating an approximate cost of £35. As our key skill in Year 4 is money, we think this is a great opportunity to help teach your child about budgeting. If your child opens a Thameside Bank account and saves just £1 a week from September they should have enough in their account to fund the camp payment! Please visit Mrs Moffatt who runs the Bank every Tuesday morning in the library; it really is a great way to teach your child an important life skill. There is more information on the other side of this letter.



Year 3



Year 3 will start the year by traveling back to the Stone Age, learning about cave paintings and building up to creating a own Stone Age art exhibition. In English we will learn about the features of a quest story, writing exciting stories of our own. In PE, our map reading skills will be put to the test with some orienteering around Caversham. In Science, we will be learning about plants and planning a trip to the 'outdoor classroom' where we will learn about pollination and germination. Maths will see us consolidating key calculation and reasoning skills within addition and subtraction before moving onto multiplication and division. In English we will be writing stories based round a Wishing Tale. The key maths skill for Year 3 this year is telling the time so there will be a range of lessons throughout the year to develop this. Any practice of this key skill at home would be greatly appreciated, we also encourage children to have analogue watches to practice daily!

Year 4

Year 4 will start the year by travelling back in time all the way to Anglo Saxons. As part of our topic (and following our new planning format) children will be learning about life in Anglo Saxon times and even recreating and acting out a burial for an Anglo Saxon King using D&T skills (no children will be harmed!). History will provide a link to our story writing in English where we will focus on 'Finding Tales' based around an Anglo Saxon character. In Science, children will look at 'States of Matter' and they will have the task of explaining to the Anglo Saxons what really does happen to the water in a puddle when it disappears as well as designing and making their own light-up Christmas decoration in their 'Electricity' unit. In Maths, the theme will be 'banks'; the key skill for Year 4 is money and we will be working on this regularly throughout the year, embedding practice in all Maths units. Once again we are very fortunate to have Music delivered by Berkshire Maestros - every child will have the opportunity to learn either the clarinet or the fife and will show a collection of what they have learnt in an end of year performance next July.

Communication

Our website contains a wealth of information so please be sure to check out your child's class pages to find out more about what they are learning. You can also find copies of any letters that are sent home and a 'latest events' page that will keep you up-to-date with upcoming events. If you need to get a message to your child's teacher or wish to speak to them, please pass a message via Mrs Greenaway or Mrs Burton on the gate or through Mrs Raciborska in the office. Class teachers begin working with individual children from 8.45 a.m. so please do not disturb them in the classroom by entering the school building. Alternatively, a member of Green Team will be available on the door every morning and every day after school.



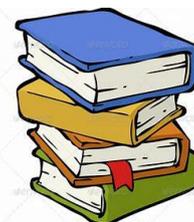
Water

We know that children learn better if they are well hydrated so we encourage children to drink water throughout the day. There are **no cups** available in school therefore it is essential that they have a water bottle with a sports top on. These can be bought from the office for 30p or you are welcome to provide your own.



Parent Volunteers

Parents volunteers are always welcome! If you would like to help with a school trip, work with children to develop basic maths skills, hear readers or share a skill, please let us know. Please note that for regular volunteers we will need a DBS check.



Homework

Supporting your child with their homework is a great way of showing them that you value their education and it gives you an insight into the learning that is taking place at school. Please ensure that you are aware of the homework expectations below.

Maths homework - this will be set every short term using Sumdog. We expect children to complete 30 minutes each week and this is monitored – please speak to your class teacher if there are difficulties completing this.

Own Work - this will be set every short term. We aim to provide a range of activities for children to complete that support several subject areas. Completed Own Work is shared with the class, a small group or a partner. Presenting these provides a great opportunity for your child to develop their speaking and listening skills.

Reading - It is expected that children read for 10 minutes each night and that a comment is recorded, either by the child or an adult. Reading records will be checked regularly to monitor reading at home.

Bank



As you are already aware, we have a Thameside Bank at the school. The bank is open every Tuesday morning before school and we encourage all Year 3 and 4 children to become a member, further information can be found on our website under the math pages. We also like to encourage Year 4 children to help Mrs Moffatt out by taking a turn at being a cashier. If your child is in Year 4 and interested in being a cashier either on a regular basis or as a one off experience they need to speak to Mrs Moffatt who will be working in YFM from September.