



# Thameside Primary School

## Year 3 & 4 News, July 2018



### Green Team

What a year! I can't quite believe that that is has flown by so quickly and I am sure it is the same for the children too! 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 'Treachery at Traitors' Quay'. 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 being based in Year 4 (GHM) again and will be joined next year by Ms Lazor (GAL) who has worked for the last three years in Year 5. Miss Hagon will be moving up into Year 5 which many of the children are really pleased about but she will be greatly missed within Green Team. Year 3 will see Miss Stokes (GKS) joining from Foundation where she has taught for two years; I know she is looking forward to working alongside Miss Huxley (GVH) and teaching in a different year group for the first time here at Thameside. Miss Stevenson (YBF) will be moving back to Year 1 and like Miss Hagon, will be missed by staff and children alike. Miss Gogerly will remain in Year 4 alongside Mrs Sandford who will be working in GHM. Year 3 classes will be once again be supported by Mrs Stone (GKS) and Miss Sheppard who is joining us in September as a new Teaching Assistant in GVH.

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)

### Who is Mrs Fidgett?



We would all like to wish Miss Stevenson a magical wedding day this Summer! She will be returning as Mrs Fidgett to Year 1 in September and her new name will take both the children and adults a while to get used to! We all wish you and your new husband a wonderful day full of many happy memories to look back on for the rest of your life. As mentioned above, we also hope you settle back into Year 1 and enjoy teaching under a new name!

### Start and end of the day

For children joining us from the infants there will be a few changes. The main change is that children will 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 arrange with your child whether you expect them to come and find you or you would rather they wait with the Key Stage 2 teacher on duty by the entrance between the two Year 4 classrooms. As always, class teachers will be on hand at the end of the day to ensure children are confident with this new arrangement.

### Year 4 Camp

When I accepted my job here over a year ago and was told that I would be staying overnight at school with the majority of children from Year 4 I thought Mrs Burton was bonkers! 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! We were very lucky with the weather 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 – they even persuaded me to try a meal worm which actually, does taste like popcorn!

It has already been booked for next year and will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 investigating the local area, exploring the geographical features of Caversham. Art will be linked to our topic by looking at a local artist. 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, of course, making the most of a trip to the 'outdoor classroom' where we will learn about pollination and germination. Maths will see us become landscape gardeners when we will be learning a range of skills including how to measure perimeter. In English we will be writing stories based round a Wishing Tale. After half term we will travel back to the Stone Age. In English we will learn the features of a non-chronological report and we will use our maths skills to help us make decisions as we set up our own Stone Age settlement. The key maths skill for Year 3 is telling the time so there will be a range of lessons throughout the year to develop this.

## Year 4

Year 4 will start the year by travelling back in time all the way to Anglo Saxons. Time travel will begin with a walk around the local area the first week back. As part of our topic, the children will be learning about life in Anglo Saxon times and looking at early settlements. History will provide a link to our story writing in English where we will focus on 'finding tales'. The cross curricular theme will continue into Art and DT where the children will become sculptors and they will develop their D&T skills when researching and producing their own burial sites. 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. 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 into all maths units. Once again we are very fortunate to have music delivered by Berkshire Maestros, therefore 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 new 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 Wallace on the gate or through Mrs Harrop in the office. Class teachers often 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.



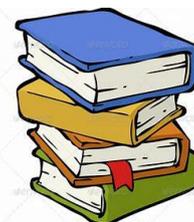
### Water

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. Please note cashiers need to be in school by 8.30 in order to help set up.