

Thorney Tribune
Thorney Island CP School
Newsletter No 5
January 2026

Dear Parents, Governors and Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and looking forward to the start of Spring! The school continues to prosper due to the hard work of all those involved and I would just like to thank you for your continued support - it is much appreciated.

STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS

9 January				16 January
Owl Class	-	Evelyn Cook	Owl Class	- Jessica Hellmers
Osprey Class	-	Stanley Ward	Osprey Class	- Bella Clements
Falcon Class	-	Olivia Lee	Falcon Class	- Kit Palmer Ward
Kestrel Class	-	Tegan Richardson	Kestrel Class	- Nelliah Jackson
Merlin Class	-	Beatrix Malone	Merlin Class	- James Morgan
Hawk Class	-	Frank-Mekhi Asare	Hawk Class	- Elsie Jennings
Eagle Class		Kerysa Matthews	Eagle Class	- Faye Phillips
23 January				30 January
Owl Class	-	Noah KC	Owl Class	- Lilliana
Osprey Class	-	Aubree Wallington	Osprey Class	- Alistair Lee
Falcon Class	-	Peter Hardiman	Falcon Class	- Eden Martin
Kestrel Class	-	Cole Harper	Kestrel Class	- Lainie Carroll
Merlin Class	-	Henry Le Poidevin	Merlin Class	- Noah Sawyer
Hawk Class	-	Ronnie Randall	Hawk Class	- Niamh Ashton
Eagle Class	-	Lucy Bull	Eagle Class	- Makelesi Naulumatua

Platinum Reading Awards - 100 Reads

Congratulations to the following children for reaching their Platinum Reading Certificate:

Owl Class: Jessica Hellmers, Theo Pitcher, Rosie Burnand and Annabelle Shoebridge.

Osprey Class: Arlo Davey

Falcon Class: Rupert Malone, Lottie Pipe and Frederick Hooley

Kestrel Class: Henry Hellmers, Emmie Williamson, Storm Drysdale, Archie Mercer, Amelia Coombes and Tegan Richardson

Merlin Class: Beatrix Malone

Hawk Class: Finlay Mercer, Heidi Baldwin, Lottie Bigby-Sutton, Alastair Hooley and Darcie Edwards, Ronnie Randall and Mimi Randall.

Eagle Class Edmund Bulmer and Azaria Mtekateka

Advice from the Childrens Commissioner on children's digital lives!

This a real area of concern for me as the digital world is moving faster than ever and at a rate that we in school find difficult to keep up with. This article was brought to my attention, and it appears to be a fair read.

[What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.](#)

Circus Day - Osprey and Falcon Classes



The children had a fantastic morning learning lots of new skills!

Eagle Class - Electric Vehicles

The children in Eagle Class worked extremely hard to design and create their own electric vehicles, using what they had learnt in Science, Design and Technology as well as Art and Design. Their maths measuring skills were also put to the test. The results were very impressive.



Attendance

At present the government are tracking schools' attendance weekly. Since the pandemic the government are extremely concerned that children are not attending school as they used to. Our school attendance remains slightly above the national average but is below pre-pandemic levels. We no longer reward individual attendance as we felt this to be unfair on those children who missed school due to illnesses etc. However, we do try to acknowledge the importance of school attendance as this correlates strongly with academic attainment. Last term our data showed:

Hawk Class	97.54%	Merlin Class	97.01%
Owl Class	96.8%	Osprey Class	96.52%
Falcon Class	96.42%	Eagle Class	93.87%
Kestrel Class	92.59%		

Please help us to encourage the children to attend school every day by organising appointments outside of school hours where possible. At present 46 children have not missed a day at school since we started back in September.

Notice of Motion on smartphone-free primary schools

West Sussex County Council will urge the Government to make all primary schools smartphone-free, following concerns raised by councillors about the impact of social media and mobile phone use on children's emotional health, wellbeing and learning.

The council's Cabinet Members for Children, Young People and Learning, and for Public Health and Wellbeing, will write to Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson MP after a notice of motion was passed during a full council meeting on Friday 12 December. For more information on the Notice of Motion, please click [here](#) to read the full press release on the West Sussex County Council website.

Falcon Class - Explorers Hook Day



The children had a fantastic day being polar explorers and discovering last of interesting facts about the Arctic and Antarctic.

Wizard Day - Merlin Class



Football Tournament



Bosham v Westbourne	4 - 0
Westbourne v Thorney	0 - 3
Thorney v Bosham	1 - 1
Westbourne v Bosham	0 - 2
Thorney v Westbourne	5 - 0
Bosham v Thorney	2 - 0

The team played extremely well showing great sportsmanship. We have certainly improved our ability to score and even though we had about 80% possession in the last game we did not manage to beat Bosham. The final goal was an unlucky deflection but overall, it was an excellent evening.

Gilbert Whites House - Falcon Class



The children had a fantastic time experiencing what it would be like to be an antartic explorer.

Warner Brothers Studio - Merlin Class



Another extreemly successful visit which will hopefully stimulate the children to produce some outstanding written work back in school.

Yours sincerely

Dean Clegg
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

09 February	NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK
11 February	Parents Evening
12 February	Parents Evening
13 February	Non-School Uniform Day (last day of half term)
16 - 20 February	Half Term
23 February	INSET Day - children DO NOT attend school
25 February	Parent Workshop - Supporting my child with their worries and managing our worries as parents
26 February	Hawk Class to Project Enthuse at Bourne Community College
02 March	Kestrel Class to RHS Wisley
05 March	World Book Day - more information to follow
09 March	Last week of after-school clubs
09 March	Dance Club to Pavilion Theatre Worthing for Dance House 2026
11 March	Owl Class Play & Share 2pm
18 March	Osprey Class to Pizza Express
20 March	Red Nose Day - non-school uniform
24 March	Merlin Class Clarinet Assembly at 9.30am
26 March	School Disco - more information to follow
27 March	Hawk Class to Thorney Island Shoreline with Chichester Harbour Conservancy
27 March	Last Day of Spring Term
13 April	First Day of Summer Term

Term Date 2025/2026

03 September 2025	Start of Autumn Term
27-31 October 2025	Half Term
19 December 2025	End of Autumn Term - Break up for Christmas Holiday
05 January 2026	Start of Spring Term
16-20 February 2026	Half Term
27 March 2026	End of Spring Term - Break up for Easter Holiday
13 April 2026	Start of Summer Term
25-29 May 2026	Half Term
22 July 2026	End of Summer Term - Break up for Summer Holiday

INSET Days for 2025/2026 are:

~~Friday 24 October 2025~~

~~Monday 3 November 2025~~

Monday 23 February 2026

Friday 22 May 2026

Monday 22 June 2026

Please make a note of these dates as children DO NOT attend school on these days.

Term Date 2026/2027

01 September 2026	Start of Autumn Term
26 - 30 Oct 2026	Half Term
18 December 2026	End of Autumn Term - Break up for Christmas Holiday
04 January 2027	Start of Spring Term
15 - 19 February 2027	Half Term
25 March 2027	End of Spring Term - Break up for Easter Holiday
12 April 2027	Start of Summer Term
01 - 04 June 2027	Half Term
21 July 2027	End of Summer Term - Break up for Summer Holiday