

The Swan's Bill

Friday 26th September
2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear families,

It's been another successful week at Thorpe Lea! Children have been exploring new topics and engaging with their learning across the school. It is so encouraging when we see children showing collaboration within their classrooms to overcome challenges. I spent some time teaching in Year 6 this week and we had some wonderful discussions around overcoming barriers and having the right attitude when we find things difficult. I was so impressed with their ability to articulate their thoughts and feelings.

We are lucky to be able to offer a great range of food from our school kitchen and next week we have two exciting days planned. We have our special Harvest Menu on Wednesday, and excitingly we have our 'Big Picnic' taking place on Thursday. We encourage as many people as possible to join in and sample the wonderful selection of picnic foods that the kitchen are offering. We are going to have music and fun going on in the hall too - it is sure to be a lot of fun!

We hope that many of you enjoyed meeting the class teachers this week. Keeping up lines of communication and building relationships between school and home is vital to our joint efforts to ensure our pupils are successful.

Finally - please keep an eye out for information about 'Thorpe Lea's Got Talent' which is happening in the coming weeks! We're very excited for this one...

Have a lovely weekend!
Mr Collin.



Classroom Learning

Nursery

Next week, we will be reading "Fox's Favourite Autumn" as we begin looking at how the world around us changes this season and we will be talking about our favourite things to do in Autumn.

Reception

Next week, Reception will be learning the sounds 'g o c k' in Phonics. We will be concentrating on the Reception baseline during Maths lessons. Reception will also be making their Christmas card design for the PTA.

Year 1

Next week we will be writing a simple sentence narrative in English. In Maths we will be comparing numbers and the symbols used. In Geography we will be looking at key features of our playground.

Year 2

Next week we will be learning about how to use our number bonds to 10, to add quickly to 20. In English we will be writing a first person recount of the story The Bear Under The Stairs.

Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic week! In Maths, they've mastered place value and are ready to tackle addition and subtraction. In English, they're exploring The Heart in a Bottle and learning to write diary entries. Science has been hands-on with an investigation into grip strength using fruit, and in Computing, they're continuing to build coding skills.

Year 4

A big thank you to all the parents who joined our first Meet the Teacher afternoon, it was lovely to see you! For anyone who couldn't make it, all the key information is now available on our Year 4 class page. Next week, we'll be comparing, ordering, and rounding numbers in Maths, while crafting narratives in English as The Iron Man makes his suspenseful return that could lead to his own demise. In Comprehension, we'll begin to explain ideas more deeply through How Does a Lighthouse Work. With our Geography focus on Fair Trade.

Year 5

Next week, we will be moving onto revisiting our mental strategies for addition and subtraction in Maths. In PSHE, we will be focusing on respecting ourselves as well as others which one of the school values. In Science, we will be learning about the process of filtering and how useful this is in everyday lives. In Geography, we are going to investigate what there is to do in the local area.

Year 6

Next week, we will continue exploring the suspense story Francis. The children have been really engaged with this unit so far and have enjoyed making predictions, as well as delving into the main character and setting. In maths, we'll be focusing on formal written methods for multiplication and division. This will help strengthen the children's understanding and confidence with more complex calculations. All homework is now set online using LBQ and Purple Mash. Please ensure your child is able to access these platforms at home.



House points

The pupils here are awarded house points for all manner of things that they do well.

Each week they are counted up by our House Captains and the winning house announced in assembly.

Congratulations go to King John who earned the most house points this week!

1st - Fitzwalter with 195 points

2nd - King John with 137 points

3rd - Langton with 135 points

4th - Pope with 124 points

Weekly House Points



Changes to 2026-2027 Term Dates

Surrey have announced that from September 2026, community and voluntary controlled schools in Surrey will have a two-week autumn half term. To make this change, five days will be taken from the summer holiday in July 2027.

Attendance

Attendance is very important to us. Under the Education Act (1996), parents in England have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school, to get a full-time education between the school term after their 5th birthday and the last Friday in June in the school year they turn 16.

Penalty notices will be issued by Surrey County Council if there are 10 unauthorised absences within 10 weeks, or if attendance does not improve once a 'Notice to Improve' has been issued by the school.

You can support your child's physical, social and mental wellbeing by ensuring they are in school everyday.

If you have any questions about your child's attendance then please do come and speak to the office, or alternatively Mr Turner or Miss Nickless.

This week's attendance figures are:

Reception - 97.1%

Year 1 - 93.8%

Year 2 - 92.4%

Year 3 - 91.8%

Year 4 - 97.6% - This week's winners!

Year 5 - 93.5%

Year 6 - 91%

Overall - 93.9%

Star of the Week

This week's winners are:

Nursery - Roman

Reception - Ruby H

Year 1 - Lilly-Rose

Year 2 - Willow

Year 3 - Evie

Year 4 - Freya

Year 5 - Shanvi

Year 6 - Toby



Upcoming Events

Wednesday 1st October

Harvest Festival Special Lunch

Wednesday 1st October

Harvest Assembly - Collecting donation for the Food Bank

Twilight Runway Challenge

Massive congratulations go to Miss Jefford, Miss Rickett, Miss Nickless & Miss Stabler on completing the Twilight Runway Challenge last Saturday! What a fantastic achievement.

Thank you also to everyone who supported the event. For those who haven't yet had a chance, donations can still be made via your child's Scopay account.



Mini Parliament

Congratulations to our new Members of Mini Parliament:

Y2: Harvey and Larosa

Y3: Amber and Josh

Y4: Gwen and Finley

Y5: Stevie and Alexandra

Y6: Evie and Lewis

We look forward to having our first meeting this afternoon to discuss our next steps!

Value of the Week

This week's winners demonstrated **COLLABORATION** throughout their learning:

Nursery - Archie A and Joseph

Reception - Murtaza and Joshua-Eden

Year 1 - Lilly-Rose, Jack, Rudi, Kornelia, Thomas and Jasmine

Year 2 - Henry

Year 3 - Amber

Year 4 - Leni

Year 5 - Stevie

Year 6 - Macy

National TA Day

Today, we celebrated and thanked our incredible Teaching Assistants for the vital role they play at Thorpe Lea.



Their dedication, patience, and unwavering support make a huge difference in the lives of our students every day. Whether helping in the classroom, offering extra guidance, or simply being a kind and encouraging presence, our TAs always go above and beyond. We are so grateful for everything they do – thank you for being such an important part of our team!

Twelve15 Catering

Following the Surrey County Council Cabinet meeting on 23 September, a decision was made to enter a period of consultation and engagement to gain input from staff and schools on the proposal to close catering and equipment maintenance services, provided by Twelve15. Surrey County Council plan to start the consultation on 1 October, in line with necessary guidance for Cabinet decision-making processes and the consultation will run until 15 November 2025. It is important to reiterate that no final decision will be made until after the consultation. Once the consultation has closed all feedback will be reviewed prior to a final decision. Another update will be shared once the consultation has finished and a final decision has been made. If you have any questions or comments about this, please email:

SCCTwelve15Updates.Stakeholders@surreycc.gov.uk



What's On

Following requests from parents this page is going to be specifically aimed at sharing information or parental courses that you may find useful for your families. We will also include local events that might interest you. Some weeks we may not have anything to share but do keep checking.



This week we wanted to make you aware of the new 'parenting courses and advice page' on the Family Information Service website. There is a new 'Upcoming Courses' tab which has the names/dates and contact details of parenting courses and support in Surrey.



Contact Us

The School Office is available 8am - 4pm, Monday to Friday. If you require assistance, please message via the Studybugs App or contact us on:

office@thorpe-lea.surrey.sch.uk

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FACE September Timetable

Please see attached the October timetable for FACE.

This code grants all Madeup parents unlimited access to all FACE Parent Talks (usually £24 each) for the next 12 months.

The talks are on a four-weekly rotation and from February will be available as morning sessions (10:00-11:30) as well as the regular evening sessions (19:00-20:30).

The code cannot be used for any other FACE services or shared with parents or staff from other schools.

How to Use the Code:

Visit the PARENTS page of the FACE website (facefamilyadvice.co.uk) to view the 16 regular talks for parents.

Click through the booking calendar to find a date and time that suits you.

At the payment stage of booking, enter the code MU010425 where it says ADD PROMO CODE. This will reduce the price from £24 to £0.

****Note:**** Links to recordings of the talks are available for 48 hours after the session. If you cannot make a live session, book on and then email to request the recording link.

Important:

Please avoid booking the FREE sessions for parents, as these are for parents from schools that have not purchased the discount code. They are shortened versions of the regular talks which you now have free access to.

The code can only be used for Parent Talks and cannot be shared with parents from different schools. Improper use can result in immediate code cancellation for the whole school.

FACE October Timetable	
All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 30 minutes long	
£24 each or FREE with School Membership	
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk	
Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)	
Understanding The Teenage Brain	6 Oct 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	6 Oct 7pm
Supporting A Child With ADHD	13 Oct 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	13 Oct 7pm
Autism Improving Communication	14 Oct 10am
Improving Family Communication	14 Oct 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	20 Oct 10am
Facing Defiance	20 Oct 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	21 Oct 10am
Understanding Anger	21 Oct 7pm
FREE - Raising Self-Esteem	23 Oct 7-8pm
Anxiety Explained	27 Oct 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	27 Oct 7pm
What Is ACT?	28 Oct 10am
Introduction To OCD	28 Oct 7pm



Are you struggling with a defiant child?



Facing Defiance

A six part online course for parents that you can complete in your own time. A step by step guide through a specific strategy aimed to support parents of children aged between 5 to 12 who are displaying very challenging behaviour, including children with ADHD, ODD and PDA.

go to facefamilyadvice.co.uk
Book online £48
on the **Online Parenting Courses** page



Runnymede Family Centre

Family Centres offer one to one family support where family circumstances are impacting on health, development, or well-being of a child/children. We will support families to find solutions to the parenting and relationship challenges they face and to grow in confidence to manage future difficulties.

Our aim is to help families build their own resilience and self resilience.

We also offer the following:

- SEN Drop in Cafe's
- Parenting Puzzle Course
- Keeping Your Child in Mind Course
- Parent/Carer advice drop ins

Please scan the QR code below for further information on locations and times.

You can also regularly check our Family Centre website
www.barnardosfamilycentresurrey.org.uk/what-we-do-at-runnymede

or
Email: runnymedefamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk



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Changing lives.