

The Swan's Bill

Friday 3rd October 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear families,

This week our school value is courage. School life is such a crucial part of children being given opportunities to be brave and make mistakes that they can learn from. We know as adults how often we make mistakes of our own – and children must see that overcoming these is something to be proud of. At Thorpe Lea, we see children being brave every day; in the classroom, playground, school hall, during assembly and much more. For our staff, seeing children succeed through showing courage is incredibly rewarding.

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone for joining in our picnic at lunch time yesterday, especially our wonderful kitchen staff, Danielle and Rosie, for putting on such a wonderful spread. Many of the children were saying they wish it could be a picnic every day! Perhaps not every day, but we're definitely going to do it again.

Please remember that next week we have our school photos taking place on Wednesday 8th October. I'll be making sure to iron my best shirt!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. Please remember that we always encourage families to ask questions and open up discussions with your child's class teacher, or let one of the wider team know if you have any queries or questions. We are always happy to help!

Best wishes,
Mr Collin



Classroom Learning

Nursery

Next week we are going to be starting off Black History Month by learning about the life and achievements of Rosa Parks, and the courage she showed by standing up for herself and her community.

Reception

Next week, we're diving into the sounds of u, b, f, and e in phonics—listening carefully, blending, and spotting them in words all around us! In maths, we're becoming clever counters as we sort and compare different amounts. For PSED, we're learning how to recognise our feelings and exploring different coping strategies to help us manage big emotions. And lastly, in geography, we're creating simple maps of our school, learning about the spaces we move through every day.

Year 1

Next week in Maths we will be completing our learning on place value within 10 and moving on to addition and subtraction. In English we will continue to write up the beginning, middle and end of Beegu to create a simple sentence narrative. Year 1 will be creating their Purplemash avatars in computing.

Year 2

Next week we will be researching features of fact files and facts about bears in order to create our own fact files. In Maths we will be using known facts to help speed up mental calculations.

Year 3

Next week, Year 3 will continue to be writing about our emotions and how we can better identify these in ourselves and others. We have been reading *The Heart and the Bottle* to help us with this. We will also be focusing on subtraction in Maths as we continue to consolidate our place value knowledge.

Year 4

The wait is over – October 3rd, while 13 is unlucky for some, the Year 4 Swifties we have new music and new learning. We've wrapped up our suspenseful narratives, but was it with eerie brilliance? Spoiler alert: it was! Next week in English, we'll be writing letters of advice to the farmers. Comprehension takes us into summarising, we'll also be showgirls and showboys like true Swifties as we prepare for Thorpe Lea's Got Talent and our Christmas song.

Year 5

Next week, Year 5 are looking forward to their first school trip to Thorpe Park. In Science, we are going to make observations about solutions. In Geography, we will be identifying similarities and differences between the local area compared to an Alpine area like Innsbruck, Austria. In PSHE, we will be discussing how family and friend relationships can affect emotions and what we can do when we feel unhappy.

Year 6

Next week, our Year 6 pupils will be completing previous SATs papers in English and Maths under test conditions. This will help us identify specific gaps in their learning and inform our planning for Autumn 2. We are committed to making this experience as supportive as possible. Pupils will be reassured that these assessments are not about judging their performance, but rather about helping us as teachers understand what learning needs to be prioritised moving forward. Our goal is to create a calm and encouraging environment where children feel confident throughout the process.



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 Langton who earned the most house points this week!

1st - Langton with 136 points

2nd - King John with 135 points

3rd - Pope with 113 points

4th - Fitzwalter with 113 points

Weekly House Points

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.

Following a meeting with the Surrey Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer (AAIO) we will be reviewing attendance on a regular basis and letters/meetings will be arranged as necessary to ensure this happens in a timely manner.

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 - 95.7%

Year 1 - 91.3%

Year 2 - 93.4%

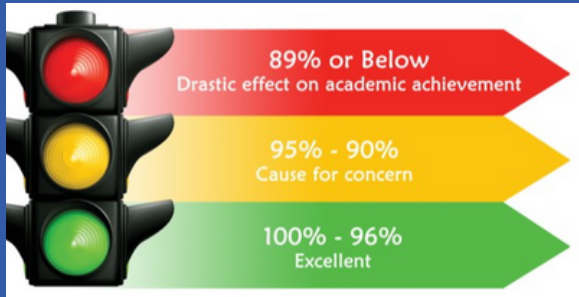
Year 3 - 92.1

Year 4 - 97.9% - This week's winners!

Year 5 - 97.1%

Year 6 - 92.8%

Overall - 94.2%



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.



Upcoming Events

**Monday 6th October –
Thursday 9th October**

SEN Meetings

Tuesday 7th October

Year 5 & 6 to Steam 2025 at Thorpe
Park

Wednesday 8th October

Individual and Sibling Photos

Please ensure your child comes to school in their full school uniform on this day. If your child has PE, please send their PE kit in a bag so they can change into it later.

Friday 10th October

World Mental Health Day

To show our support, we invite all children and staff to wear something yellow on the day. This could be a yellow top, accessory, or even a splash of yellow in their outfit. Yellow is the colour of sunshine, hope, and happiness—perfect for promoting positive mental health.



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!

Star of the Week

This week's winners are:

Nursery – Elsie

Reception – Hunter

Year 1 – Jasmine

Year 2 – Nellie

Year 3 – Senna

Year 4 – Sylviana

Year 5 – Delilah

Year 6 – Harry

Value of the Week

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

Nursery – Finn

Reception – Amelia

Year 1 – Zac

Year 2 – Harvey

Year 3 – Violet

Year 4 – Amelia H

Year 5 – Thea

Year 6 – Alice

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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Egham
TW20 8DY
01784 456398
www.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

Supporting a Child with ADHD



Challenge the stereotypes and get practical help
Monday 13th October 10-11:30am
Tuesday 11th November 7-8:30pm
90 minute session. Recording available for 48hrs
£24.

Available to book now
facefamilyadvice.co.uk



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-runymede or Email: runnymedefamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk



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