

Creativity

Collaboration

Courage

Respect



Thorpe Lea Newsletter

Spring 2026



Dear families,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of this busy Spring term in what feels like the blink of an eye. We're grateful to be seeing more blue sky, sun and warmer days – but a short term for schools often means lots more to fit into a shorter space of time. This term has been no exception!

You will read all about the children's achievements throughout this newsletter, but I have loved seeing so much engagement and passion from our students in all they do. Bikeability has been hugely popular this time around; Year 4 have come on leaps and bounds in their swimming lessons; I've heard renditions of Bruno Mars on ukulele from Year 5; choir have performed in front of huge crowds... the list goes on!

Amongst these wider enrichment opportunities, it has also been wonderful to see the academic progress pupils make throughout the first two terms. Those in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 are making huge strides in the foundational reading, writing and social skills, whilst Year 5 and 6 tackle more complex thinking, problem solving and creativity which prepares them for life after Thorpe Lea – and of course not forgetting everything in between.

Throughout all of this, we continue to ensure that our values embody life at Thorpe Lea. We want them to be brave and creative, working together and being kind, and we love to celebrate this each week. Friday's celebration assembly remains one of my favourite parts of school life. Seeing children's pride in their achievements will never get old!

As always, there's much more ahead in the Summer term that we can look forward to, so I hope you have a restful break and come back refreshed and ready to go!

Mr Collin

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

As parents, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child's attendance at school. During the academic year, pupils are at school for 190 days and at home for 175 days.

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2013, state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher is also required to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

Please complete and submit the form on our website if you wish for the Headteacher to consider your request for your child's leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. We may ask for proof to validate your request. The Headteacher will consider the reasons for the request carefully and you will be notified of the decision. For further information, please refer to our School Attendance Policy.

Unauthorised absence of 5 days or more will result in the following action being taken:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Thorpe Lea Awards Assembly – Spring 2026



Award	Recipient
KS2 Academic Achievement	Leni Year 4
KS1 Academic Achievement	Luca Year 2
Thorpe Lea PE & Sports Cup	Polly Year 2
Thorpe Lea Creativity Cup	Rosie Year 1
Community Cup - Donated by Peter Smyth	Sebastian Year 4
The Thorpe Lea Values Award	Amelia T Year 4
Thorpe Lea Staff Recognition	Mrs Sharma



Star of the week

This week's winners are:

Nursery – Navathish

Reception - Sena-Marie

Year 1 – Kornelia

Year 2 – Lora

Year 3 – Martha

Year 4 – Flo

Year 5 – Delilah-Blu

Year 6 – Alice

Value of the week

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

Nursery - Myla

Reception – Levonna

Year 1 – Tommy

Year 2 – Selena

Year 3 – Reine

Year 4 – Victoria

Year 5 – Mystica

Year 6 – Macy

Attendance

Reception – 84.7%

Year 1 – 93.5%

Year 2 – 90%

Year 3 – 89%

Year 4 – 92.4%

Year 5 – 96.7%- This week's winners!

Year 6 – 88.3%

Overall – 90.5%

Housepoints

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 for this week!

1st - Langton with 259 points

2nd - King John with 240 points

3rd - Fitzwalter with 233 points

4th - Pope with 228 points

Nursery

During Spring 1, the children had lots of fun exploring stories by some of our favourite authors! We shared wonderful books by Julia Donaldson, Michael Rosen, Janet and Allan Ahlberg, Eric Carle, and Sam McBratney. The children loved joining in with repeated phrases, spotting familiar characters, and talking about their favourite parts.

In Spring 2, we stepped into the magical world of traditional tales. The children listened to and enjoyed stories such as Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. There was lots of excitement as we huffed and puffed, crossed rickety bridges, and peeked into the three bears' house! The children especially enjoyed joining in with the stories and acting them out through play.



Science Day

To celebrate science day, we were answering the question can we make dirty water clean? The children explored the materials that we used to filter the water. They used a coffee filter, cotton pads, and marbles. They used children commented on the materials as they felt them. They then poured the dirty water into the top of the filters. The children said "eeewwww it's so dirty!" "It's stinky!" "Yuck!" They then noticed the water coming out at the bottom and said "wow that's so much nicer!" "Wow how did it make it better?"

We then looked closely at the marbles, cotton pads and filter paper. The children were shocked at how dirty the cotton pads were and some commented that one of the cotton pads looked better than the first one.

We decided that the water was still too dirty to drink, but definitely looked much better.

World Book Day

Our Nursery children had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day this year! The room was filled with excitement as the children explored their favourite stories and shared books with their friends. A real highlight of the day was a special visit from Year 3, who came down to spend time with the Nursery children. The older children did a fantastic job reading stories aloud and chatting about their favourite books, creating a warm and inspiring experience for everyone involved.



Reception

It has been a wonderfully busy and exciting few weeks in Reception! The children have been learning all about People Who Help Us, and we were lucky enough to welcome some very special visitors into school. The police, firefighters, and a dentist each came to talk about the important jobs they do and how they help keep us safe and healthy. We even got to interview Mr Collin about his job as the Headteacher. The children listened beautifully, asked thoughtful questions, and loved seeing the equipment our visitors use.

We also had great fun celebrating World Book Day. Reception enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book characters and taking part in lots of story-themed activities. The classrooms were full of imagination, excitement and fantastic costumes! It was lovely to see Reception and Year 6 sharing stories on a sunny day!

As part of Science Day, the children explored bubbles — making them and chasing them. It was a joyful, hands-on session that sparked lots of curiosity!

Alongside all this, the children have been working incredibly hard on their learning. They have now started their weekly spellings, and we have been really impressed with the effort they are putting in at home and in school. In phonics, we are continuing to build on their blending skills, and the children are beginning to apply their sounds confidently. Many are now writing simple sentences, using their phonics knowledge and growing independence — a brilliant step in their early writing journey.

The class has also been practising their sharing skills and using their self-regulation techniques during play and learning time. We are so proud of how they are beginning to talk about their feelings, take turns, and work together with kindness.

Well done, Reception — what a fantastic few weeks of learning and growing!



Year 1

Year 1 have had a wonderfully busy and enjoyable term! In Maths, the children have been exploring measurement including length, height, mass and volume. They have become confident in using rulers and scales to measure a variety of classroom objects, applying their new skills with great enthusiasm.

In English our focus text was Naughty Bus. Inspired by the story's adventurous journey to Africa, the children produced non-chronological reports about lions, showcasing both creativity and growing non-fiction writing skills.

A highlight of the term was the Year 1 class assembly. The children worked hard in preparation and impressed their audience with clear speaking, collaboration and courage.

History

In History children enjoyed investigating what toys were like up to 100 years ago and discussing similarities and differences to the toys they play with today.



Science

In Science, we have been learning about the five main animal groups, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals and fish. The children loved sorting different animal pictures, and they enjoyed the craft activity where they chose materials that matched the animals body coverings.



Author Visit

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed the author visit from Sean Perkins. He showed them how to create their own illustrations using shapes, linking to their learning about shapes in both Maths and Art. The children were captivated by his storytelling and left feeling inspired to produce their own drawings.

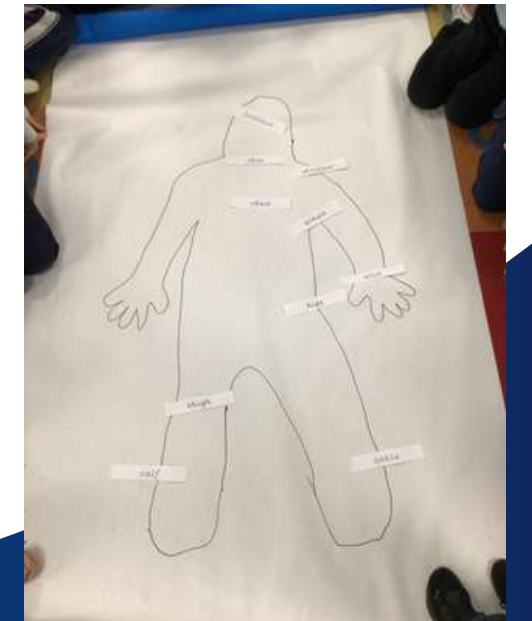
Year 2

Year 2 have had an exciting Spring Term.

From finishing the term by making Easter Cakes, to partaking in multiple experiments on Science Day such as dissolving the sugar on skittles. We started the term off by making a Ferris Wheel made from recycled material. We used our knowledge of spinning on an axis to make a wheel that can fully turn while still being attached to a base. Our science unit was focused on the human body and how we grow as well as keeping our bodies healthy.

In History we studied the invention and development of flight and how an invention of the first engine powered plane allows us to travel the world. In Geography we looked at the world map and labelled the continents and the oceans.

With so much knowledge already under our belt, we are ready for the final term of Year 2!



Year 3

It has been a busy term in Year 3, and the children have shown great enthusiasm in all areas of their learning. They have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of everything they have achieved. The children have also really enjoyed taking part in World Book Day, World Science Day and visiting the church this term.

In Maths, the children have been focusing on perimeter and fractions. They have enjoyed working with fractions and have developed their understanding of the difference between the numerator and denominator. They have also learned how to order and compare fractions and are becoming more confident in applying these skills

In English, the children have enjoyed learning about report writing. They understand the importance of noun phrases and have used them to create detailed character descriptions. They also enjoyed designing a missing character poster, which allowed them to combine creativity with their writing skills.

In Science, our topic was rocks and soils. The children particularly enjoyed carrying out investigations and learning about the different types of rocks. They also learned about sedimentary rocks and began to understand how erosion changes the landscape over time.

In DT, the children learned about sewing. They have enjoyed their needlework, learning different stitches and how to sew buttons and sequins to create their own designs on felt material. This topic encouraged creativity, problem-solving, and hands-on learning.

History The children enjoyed learning about Ancient Egypt and exploring how different life was during this period. They were fascinated by the importance of the River Nile and the daily lives of the Ancient Egyptians.

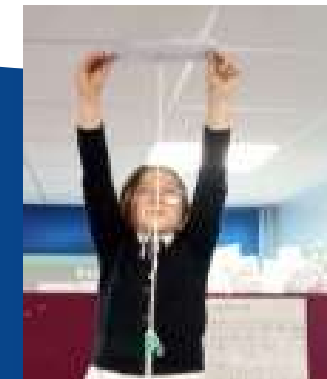
In PE, the children have been learning hockey. They took part enthusiastically while developing new skills and have made good progress in their teamwork and coordination.

RE The children have enjoyed learning about whether scripture is central to religion. Through this, they have learned about the Torah and how it is treated with respect in Judaism.

ICT and PSHE Through ICT and PSHE, the children learned about staying safe online and understanding what cyberbullying is. They have also learned when it is appropriate to call 999 in a medical emergency and the importance of staying calm and seeking help quickly.

Thank you for your continued support this term. We hope you have a restful break and look forward to another exciting term ahead.

Celebrating World Book Day and sparking curiosity through Science . The children enjoyed sharing stories with their nursery buddies as part of our World Book Day celebrations. On World Science Day, they became young scientists, investigating how size and shape affect parachute design. Through hands-on testing, teamwork and careful observation, they explored how to make their parachutes fall more slowly and safely. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm for learning in action.



Year 4

What a fantastic Spring Term it has been in Year 4! Our classroom has been buzzing with curiosity, creativity, and confidence as we've dived deep into a wide range of learning across all subjects.

In English this term, we've stepped into the shoes of characters from *The Lion and the Unicorn*, crafting thoughtful diary entries from Lenny's perspective. Earlier in the term, we also explored *FaRtHER*, analysing how emotions are conveyed through text and image, and used this understanding to write beautifully descriptive postcards. Our focus on fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, and rich vocabulary has truly elevated Year 4's writing.

Through our comprehension reading of texts like *Zombierella* and the illuminating story of *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*, we've strengthened our retrieval, inference, prediction and summarising skills. We explored how images change meaning, deepened our understanding of author's intent, and learned to justify answers using evidence from the text.

Our Maths Spring Term saw us conquer fractions, from identifying unit and non-unit fractions to exploring improper fractions, mixed numbers and equivalent fractions. We continued our journey through multiplication and division, mastering the 3, 6, 9 and 7 times tables, and exploring factor pairs to deepen our number sense. Area, addition, and subtraction have also been key parts of our mathematical adventures.

From the classification of living things to exploring electricity and circuits, Year 4 have been brilliant budding scientists. We also measured decibels during our sound enquiry using a real-life fire truck thanks to reception class, and got hands-on during our school-wide Science Day, where colour, curiosity, and creativity took centre stage!

This term we've uncovered where our food comes from in Geography, learning about global responsibility, fair trade, and how the choices we make affect communities around the world. While in History, we took ourselves back in time looking at how children from the past lived and the effort Lord Shaftesbury went to to help us have the education and rights we have today.

Year 4 continued developing their ukulele skills, performing confidently and learning new chords. Our musical moments have been filled with rhythm, teamwork, and (of course)... plenty of Taylor Swift sing-alongs!



Year 6

It has been fun yet busy term for our Year 6 cohort. The children have shown resilience and enthusiasm, balancing their academic commitments with a variety of enriching experiences. Below are some of the highlights of this term:

Bikeability: The class took to the roads to develop essential cycling skills. It was wonderful to see them build confidence in road safety while demonstrating great responsibility and peer support.

Science Day: Using paper-mâché, the children worked in groups to sculpt the iconic conical shapes, showing great patience as they waited for the layers to dry before applying vibrant paints to create realistic landscapes. By mixing bicarbonate of soda, dish soap, and vinegar, they triggered a chemical reaction that sent bubbly, crimson "lava" cascading down the sides of their creations.

World Book Day: It was lovely to see the variety of costumes on show for WBD. The pupils took part in several reading activities including reading with the Reception class and creating a poster of their favourite book, some of which have gone on display.

'The Wizard of Oz' at Magna Carta: The children were mesmerised by the production, which provided a fantastic insight into secondary school life and the performing arts.

As we approach the SATs tests in May, the children have entered a demanding period of revision. We are immensely proud of the maturity they have shown in tackling practice papers and refining their skills; their hard work is a testament to how much they have grown this year.

Have a wonderful Easter holiday



Wellbeing Warriors – Making a Difference!

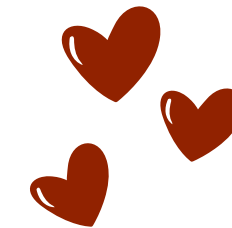


Wellbeing Warriors Update!

Our incredible Wellbeing Warriors have been busy spreading kindness and making a real difference in our school community this term! Recently they proudly supported our fundraising efforts for the Brain Tumour Charity, helping to run a vibrant coffee morning for parents and carers. Their welcoming smiles, confidence, and teamwork helped make the event a real success.

In addition, the Warriors rolled up their sleeves for our after-school cake sale, helping to set up, serve treats, and encourage everyone to get involved. Thanks to their enthusiasm and hard work, both events were wonderfully supported and raised important funds for a cause close to our hearts. In addition to this, Ellis and friends raised funds for the Brain Tumour Charity by participating in the 10K Twilight Walk in London.

We are so proud of the role our Wellbeing Warriors play in championing kindness, empathy, and community spirit across the school.





Choir

Choir have had a busy Spring term. Young Voices is the largest children's choir in the world, and in January Thorpe Lea choir were part of that experience. Singing with around 8000 other children at the O2, the choir sung and danced to a variety of songs from a Wicked Medley to old favourites like 'Power in Me'. It's hard to convey the atmosphere of Young Voices – you really have to be there to soak up the magic of the music, lights and children singing their hearts out.

Straight off the back of Young Voices, choir started learning ten new songs for the Surrey Primary Singing Festival. This was a different sort of challenge with songs spanning from the 15th century to 21st. Luckily, our talented bunch were able to pick up the songs and actions quickly and we had a great evening performing them at Dorking Halls alongside seven other schools. It was a very different experience to Young Voices – by sitting so closely together the children were able to hear the amazing sound when they performed in a canon. Shanvi said her highlight of the evening was when the audience shone their phone lights during 'Let Your Light Shine'.

Choir are now preparing for their next performance in April! What a talented, hard-working bunch.



KS2 French Easter Egg Hunt



Key Stage 2 recently took part in a French Easter egg hunt in order to practise their speaking and listening skills. The aim of the game was to find the missing letters to spell a French phrase; the challenge was trying to find the letters! Year 6 practised their pronunciation skills and told the children what to look for, for example, "dix lapins rouges". Years 3,4 and 5 then had to translate the phrase and go and find the appropriate number and colour of bunnies - no mean feat when they had to find ten missing letters! Year 6 were excellent at helping the younger ones with the hunt and it was great to see children using their language skills in a practical context. Everyone was rewarded with a mini basket of Easter eggs for all their hard work.

Joyeuses Paques!



FACE April Timetable

Please see the April timetable for FACE.

FACE offers parents practical advice, information and support, across a wide range of topics, including supporting neurodiverse children, understanding emotions and managing behaviour.

Go to facefamilyadvice.co.uk or [click here](#) Go to PARENTS – Live talks page.

Accessing the talks free of charge: Thorpe Lea Primary School and Nursery access code is TL270325

This can be used by any parents or staff from our school for unlimited access to all the regular FACE Parent Talks (usually £24 each). The code cannot be used on any other FACE services and must not be shared with parents or staff from other schools.

At the payment stage of booking, add the school code where it says ADD PROMO CODE. This will drop the price from £24 to £0.

 April 2026 Timetable All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long £24 each or FREE with School Membership Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk Recordings available for 48 hours	
Understanding Anger	6 April 10am
School Anxiety	6 April 7pm
Facing Defiance	7 April 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	7 April 7pm
Anxiety Explained	13 April 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	13 April 7pm
Introduction to OCD	14 April 10am
What is ACT?	14 April 7pm
Decreasing Depression	20 April 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	20 April 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	21 April 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	21 April 7pm
FREE Decreasing Depression	23 April 7-8pm
Improving Family Communication	27 April 10am
Autism: Improving Communication	27 April 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	28 April 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	28 April 7pm



Family Advice - Communication - Education