



# Thornden Wood BULLETIN

Dear Parents & Carers

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back for the start of the new school year following the summer break. The school has been full of excitement, enthusiasm and smiling faces as our children have settled quickly into their new classes.

A very warm welcome goes to all of our new families joining our school community. We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to working together throughout the year ahead.

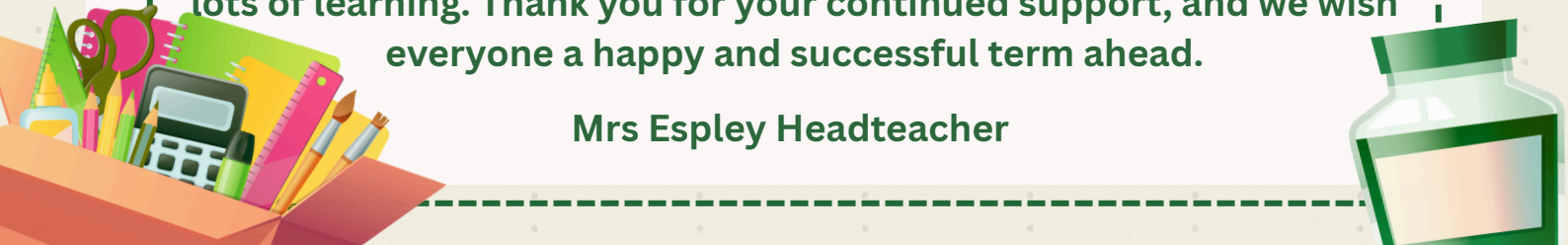
Our children have been thoroughly enjoying the new additions to our OPAL play provision. The enhanced equipment has already encouraged creativity, teamwork and imaginative play, and it has been fantastic to see the playground buzzing with activity and laughter.

We are delighted to welcome our six lovely new hens! As they are still young and settling into their new home, we kindly ask children and adults to wait quietly around the chicken enclosure (by the chicken gate) at the start and end of the day. We will soon be collecting name suggestions for our new feathered friends and look forward to the children having the opportunity to help care for them, providing valuable experiences in responsibility and teamwork. Thank you for helping us give them a calm and welcoming start! 🐔😊

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new teachers who have joined the staff team this term. We are delighted to have them on board and know they will make a valuable contribution to our school community.

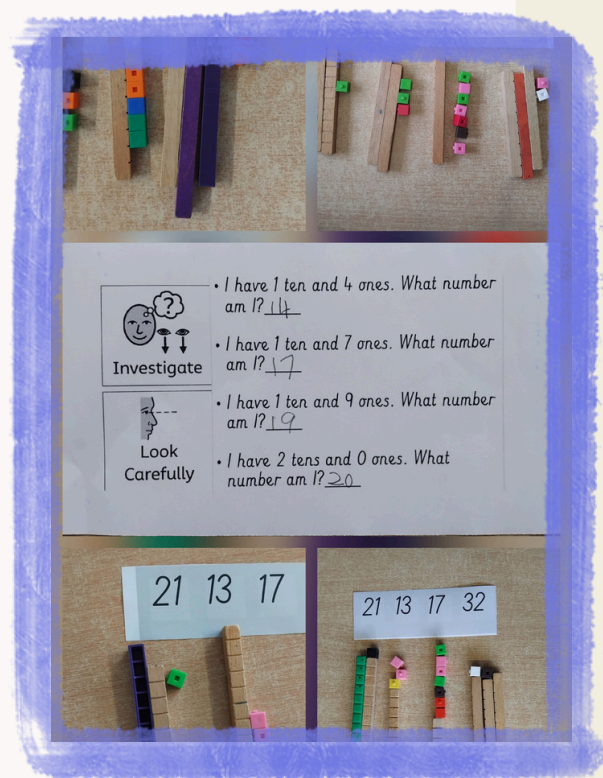
As we begin this new academic year, we are looking forward to a term filled with exciting opportunities, memorable experiences and lots of learning. Thank you for your continued support, and we wish everyone a happy and successful term ahead.

Mrs Espley Headteacher

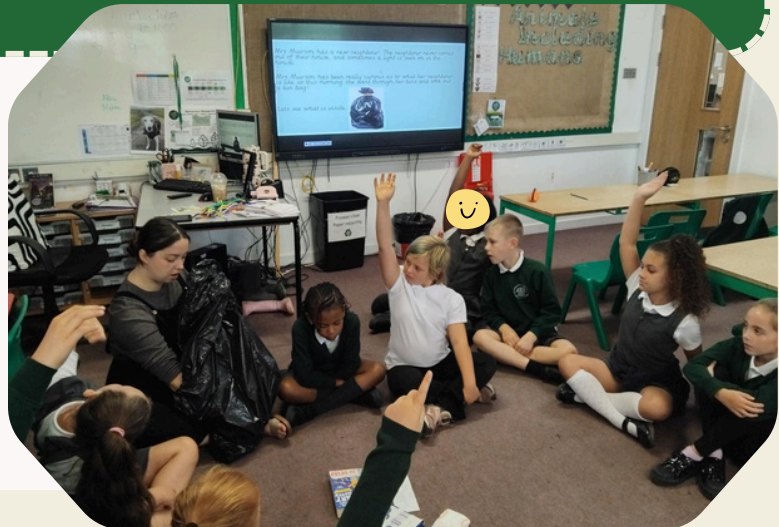


# INSIDE THE SCHOOL DAY

Year 2 have been practising their part-whole models in Maths. They have been using their knowledge of number bonds to partition numbers and understand how numbers can be broken down into different parts. The children have worked hard and shown great enthusiasm while developing their mathematical understanding. Well done, Year 2!



During a recent Guided Reading session, Year 4 put their inference skills to the test. Mrs Muirson became a little "nosy" and investigated some items she had "retrieved" from the bins of a neighbour she had never met! Using the clues they discovered, the children worked together with Mrs Muirson and Miss Price to infer information about the mystery neighbour. From daily habits to possible hobbies and interests, the children used their reading skills brilliantly to justify their ideas with evidence. The activity was a huge success, and Year 4 absolutely loved being reading detectives for the afternoon!



# INSIDE THE SCHOOL DAY

Our OPAL play provision has been in full swing since we returned to school, and the children are absolutely loving all the exciting new additions that appeared over the summer holidays. It has been wonderful to see them exploring, creating, collaborating and making the most of their playtimes.

As the weather is particularly unpredictable at the moment, please can we remind all parents and carers to ensure that their child has a raincoat and a pair of wellies in school at all times. We want every child to be able to enjoy their valuable outdoor play opportunities, whatever the weather.

Thank you for your support in helping us make outdoor play enjoyable and accessible for all children. ☁️ 🧥 🦶



Year 5 enjoyed taking their maths learning outdoors today! Using objects found in the outdoor classroom, the children applied their place value knowledge to represent a range of 5-digit numbers. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, teamwork and mathematical thinking in action.



# COMMUNITY THANK YOUS

This week, we were delighted to welcome a visit from our Tesco Community Champion, Sam. We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations received and look forward to working together on future fundraising opportunities for our school.



A special thank you also goes to Travis Perkins, Whitstable, who have kindly provided us with a large amount of timber and have generously offered additional support with materials whenever needed.

We would also like to thank Hills Home and Gardens for their fantastic donations of materials, including some huge boxes which will help us begin the groundwork in our polytunnel project.



An enormous thank you goes to The Hygiene Bank, who have provided a huge donation of toiletries, laundry products and nappies this week. We know that many families continue to feel the impact of rising household costs, and we hope this support will help to ease some of that pressure. If you are finding finances difficult at the moment, please feel free to pop in and see Mrs Wilson at the end of any school day. We would be very happy to help you top up essential supplies. Just remember to bring a bag!

In addition, The Hygiene Bank has kindly supplied toothbrushes and toothpaste for every child in Year R and Year 1, helping us to support good oral health habits from an early age.

# LET'S CELEBRATE!!!

We are thrilled to announce that we are now a Gold Parent Friendly School! 🏆💖

This fantastic achievement recognises our commitment to building strong partnerships with families and creating a welcoming, supportive environment where every child can thrive.

A huge thank you to our wonderful parents, carers, staff, and pupils for being part of this journey. Together, we've made this possible!

★ Here's to continuing to work together and putting families at the heart of everything we do. ★



Gold  
Award  
2026 - 2028

## OPAL Gold Award Success!

We are delighted to share some fantastic news with our school community – Thornden Wood has been awarded the OPAL Gold Award following our recent accreditation assessment!

This is a wonderful achievement and reflects the commitment we have made to providing our children with rich, exciting, and meaningful play opportunities. Seeing our pupils enjoy such positive and varied play experiences is something we are incredibly proud of.

A special thank you goes to Sarah Wilson and the OPAL Play Leaders, whose hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication have helped drive this project forward. Their efforts to continually develop and improve play opportunities for our children have been truly remarkable.

This award is a celebration of the whole school community, and the journey doesn't stop here. Next year, we look forward to taking OPAL from strength to strength, with even more opportunities for children to learn, grow, and thrive through play. We would love all members of our school community to be involved in this exciting next chapter.

# LAST TERM'S HIGHLIGHTS

## Year 6 Enterprise Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Year 6 pupils with their Enterprise project last term. Thanks to your generosity and enthusiasm, they have raised just over £700!

The money raised helped fund their Leavers' Party, Leavers' Production, and Leavers' Assembly, ensuring some wonderful memories were made before they moved on to the next stage of their education.



## Year 4 Camp Night Adventure

Last Term our Year 4 pupils enjoyed a fantastic camping experience right here at school. Throughout the event, they demonstrated tremendous grit and resilience, truly living out our Thornden Wood values.

The children were happy, engaged, and showed excellent teamwork as they worked together to put up their own tents. It was a wonderfully wholesome evening filled with fun, laughter, and memorable experiences.

The campers enjoyed a delicious chip shop dinner, followed by homemade s'mores, before settling down with a comforting hot chocolate. After a night under canvas, they woke up to a lovely continental breakfast before being collected by their parents the next morning.

We are incredibly proud of how the children embraced the challenge, supported one another, and made the most of this special experience. Well done, Year 4, for creating such wonderful memories together! 🏕️ ⭐



# EVENTS

## ANNUAL MEETING

FRIENDS OF THORNDEN WOOD

**17TH SEPTEMBER**

**6.30PM**

**Where?** Thornden Wood Primary School

**What?**



- Recap of the last years contributions and fundraising.
- Accounts detailed.
- Headteacher/School liaison.
- Election of the committee.
- Plans and ideas for the coming year.
- Opinions and thoughts from any attendants.

**Who?**

Everyone is invited! Whether to contribute, listen or join the committee. Any parent is welcome along to join the discussion.






Please call the office on 01227 373095 to book your place today!

### DISCOVER OUR SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2027 ADMISSIONS

*"A school where children excel in classrooms made of more than four walls"*

|                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 9.30am & 10.30am    |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 9.30am & 10.30am    |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 9.30am & 10.30am   |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 9.30am & 10.30am    |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 6pm EVENING MEETING |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November 9.30am & 10.30am  |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 9.30am & 10.30am   |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> November 9.30am & 10.30am  |

**Location** Greenhill Road  
Herne Bay  
CT6 7RS






## WINGS & WHEELS WEEKEND 2026

**| 12TH & 13TH SEPTEMBER | 10AM TO 4PM |  
RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM CT12 5DF**



Climb in the Cockpits



BOOK HERE



Fire Engine Rides



Tank Rides



Loads of Vehicles



Museum Entry

**OPTIONAL PRE-BOOKING AVAILABLE**

USUAL MUSEUM ADMISSION PRICES APPLY | RIDE ADMISSION SEPARATE

[info@rafmanston.co.uk](mailto:info@rafmanston.co.uk)

[www.rafmanston.co.uk](http://www.rafmanston.co.uk)



What Three Words - remarried.mornings.pave

Refreshments available



Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to, weather conditions

Kent Community  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Kent Family

is here for your child's growth,  
happiness and health.

[family.kentcht.nhs.uk](http://family.kentcht.nhs.uk)





## Term Dates 2026/27

|                        |                                                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Term 1 - 2026</b>   | <b>Thursday 3rd September – Thursday 22nd October</b> |
| <b>Half Term Break</b> | <b>Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October</b>      |
| <b>Term 2 - 2026</b>   | <b>Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December</b>     |
| <b>Winter Break</b>    | <b>Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January</b>      |
| <b>Term 3 - 2027</b>   | <b>Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February</b>      |
| <b>Half Term Break</b> | <b>Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February</b>    |
| <b>Term 4 - 2027</b>   | <b>Monday 22nd February – Thursday 25th March</b>     |
| <b>Spring Break</b>    | <b>Friday 26th March – Friday 9th April</b>           |
| <b>Term 5 - 2027</b>   | <b>Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May</b>            |
| <b>Half Term Break</b> | <b>Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June</b>              |
| <b>Term 6 - 2027</b>   | <b>Tuesday 8th June – Tuesday 20th July</b>           |

### Staff Development Days

**School is not open for children to attend**

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

### Bank Holidays (School Closed)

Friday 26th March 2027

Monday 3rd May 2027