



# Newsletter

October 2024



## A message from our Principal, Mrs Buley



Happy half term!

It has been a very busy half term since we arrived back in school in September and, although I'm sure we are all ready for a break, it has been wonderful to think about all that has been achieved.

The new pupils who joined us this term have settled in brilliantly and it has been great to get to know them more and begin to support the next steps in their education journey. Our existing pupils have worked hard to welcome their new peers and staff and to settle back into school, embracing new classrooms and opportunities such as the Drumming Project and Bikeability.

Our Hill Brow site is **almost** complete, and we cannot wait for our Key Stage 3 pupils to join EYFS in RG2 from 11<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you to you all for your patience and understanding as we work together to provide more school places to pupils across our local area. We look forward to sharing the finished photos with you in the coming weeks!

This week we also hosted our Autumn Open Evening for prospective families, and it was great to connect with them and discuss how we can hopefully support them moving forwards.



Today, Dr Crossley and Mr Rossiter from our Executive Team both visited us, and our Student Executive Team members Alfie and Marshall C hosted the meeting from our school this term. Dr Crossley also visited EYFS for the first time and had a fabulous morning getting to know these pupils.

Next half term, we will host the Autism Accreditation team again as they look to see whether we have achieved 'Advanced' status which we are very excited about. Miss Edmond and Miss Irwin have also completed training with the Autism Education Trust so they can support our staff in the upskilling of knowledge and staying up to date with our practice within this specific area. Miss Mallon has also been supporting the AET with training, however she has been delivering to a much wider audience by presenting to schools within the Local Authority.

I will also be delivering training externally next half term, by working alongside Best Practice Network on their National Professional Qualification for SEND, training aspiring Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinators across the country.

I am however most excited to continue our work here at Thames Valley School as we strive to provide the best possible education and holistic experiences for our pupils and I would like to thank you all for your continued support with this journey.

Wishing you all an enjoyable half term break,

Mrs Buley

## Pupil Awards

This academic year, in addition to the weekly awards we will be celebrating three pupils each term who have been nominated by staff for consistently demonstrating exceptional standards to our school principles.

We are pleased to announce that this term's winners are:

### **THOUGHTFUL**

**RORY PAGE** has been awarded this term for consistently showing exceptional dedication and always working hard.

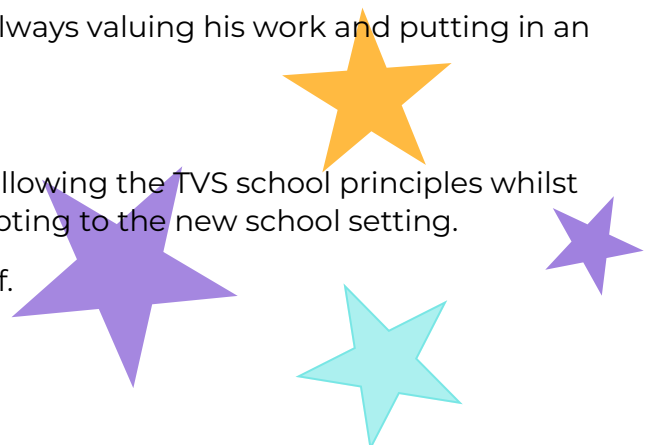
### **VALUE**

**AARON BROWN** has been awarded this term for always valuing his work and putting in an amazing effort with his learning.

### **SAFE**

**CALLUM BLAKE** has been awarded this week for following the TVS school principles whilst navigating a new environment and seamlessly adapting to the new school setting.

A huge congratulations to these pupils from all staff.



## What's been happening at TVS

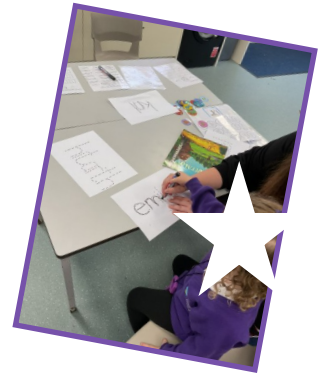
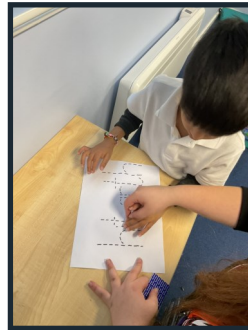
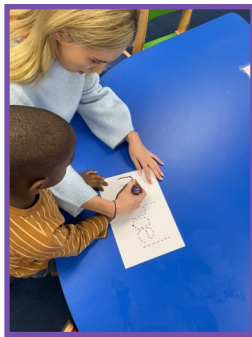


This week, Lynx class visited a care home in Reading as part of their work experience day! The pupils were tasked with helping on the catering side and organising the foods into the freezers, Miles can be seen tearing up the boxes so they're ready to be recycled to support the sustainability learning as a bonus.

The pupils then moved through to assist in the laundry room where they were asked to neatly fold towels, bedding and clothing. At lunch time, Miles and Kian kindly played songs on the piano for the residents. For all their hard work, the boys enjoyed a hot chocolate (or three) courtesy of the staff at CareUK.

## Hill Brow - Mr Moreno

"What a fantastic week and first three weeks in Leo's class! We've been busy exploring mark-making and honing our cutting skills using a variety of sensory materials. We've also re-viewed phonics sounds and had a blast playing and sharing new resources with our friends. This week was filled with exciting Halloween activities that the little ones loved. We hope you all have a wonderful half-term break and can't wait to see you again for more fun!"



This week in Delphinus, the students have worked incredibly hard for their last week before half term. In science, we have been learning all about 'inside our bodies' and carried out a digestive system experiment to learn how food and drinks travel through the body. It was safe to safe, we all felt a little queezy seeing how it would travel inside us! I have been so proud of the work the children have been putting into their English work this week. They have been including key punctuation and grammar independently and have written some beautiful and funny diary entries. Well done Delphinus!

# Transdisciplinary Team



## TDT Updates



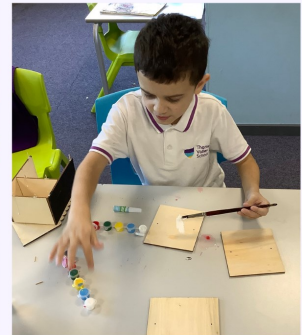
Year 9s did their final bit of housekeeping for their plants we've taken from seed before the break - big thank you to Mr Penfold who is looking after them for us in half term!



## TDT Updates



In Scorpius class we have been completing our Bug Hotels! All pupils were then able to complete a product analysis to decide how to improve them if we tried again.





# Weekly Information



As you may be aware, at Thames Valley School we have been undertaking the Leading Parent Partnership Award certification process and hope to be accredited by December 2024. This process has helped to guide many of our new events and initiatives within school and we hope you can see the ways in which we hope to engage with you all. Many of our actions have been taken following surveys that you have helpfully completed for us and discussions with parents as well as our Governing Body. From this, we changed our Newsflash to weekly communications, increased the number of face-to-face parents' evenings, updated our family events such as the Christmas and Summer fayre, offered training sessions with key staff and drive to have weekly contact from key workers and/or tutors, as well as reports from the Transdisciplinary team.

The Parent Partnership Leaders at Thames Valley School are Becca Archer (DSL), Chrissie Johnston (Assistant SENDCo & Wellbeing Lead) and Gemma Buley (Principal) who are responsible for the development of effective partnership working between home and school and the wider community. We meet on a termly basis to share best practice and identify ways in which relationships can be strengthened.

If you would like to know more the link to the award is available here: <https://www.awardplace.co.uk/award/lppa>

Where parents and carers are experiencing difficulties with children at home, the Director of Safeguarding, Nic Law, is available to support and is a trained Parenting Practitioner; this support is available on request. Please contact: [info@libertytrust.org.uk](mailto:info@libertytrust.org.uk) for more information.

Please do reach out if there are further ways you think we can strengthen our approach to working with you all.



**Reading Families Forum**  
Registered charity no 1166585

A voice for families of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities



## PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD INFO & FUN DAY

LOTS OF INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR FAMILIES WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS AGED 13-25 AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

**23RD NOVEMBER 2024**  
**FREE 2.30 PM - 5 PM**

AT THE AVENUE SCHOOL, CONWY CLOSE, TILEHURST, RG30 4BZ

**CONTACT**

- 07516 185380
- WWW.READINGFAMILIESFORUM.CO.UK
- FRAN@READINGFAMILIESFORUM.CO.UK

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE CHANGING PLACE

HAIR BRAIDS, AIR TATTOOS  
FIRE ENGINE, REPTILES  
REFRESHMENTS

## Year 11 Mock Exams Timetable

Year 11 Mock Examinations November 2024.

|  | <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>     | <b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>  | <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>    |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| AM   |                               | English Language Writing       | Mathematics Paper 1 (non-calculator) |                                  | Mathematics Paper 3 (calculator) |
| PM   | English Language Reading      |                                | Biology Paper 1                      | Mathematics Paper 2 (calculator) |                                  |
| Weekend 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> November |                               |                                |                                      |                                  |                                  |
|  | <b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>     | <b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup></b>    |
| AM   | Physics Paper 1               |                                | Catering<br>Computer Science Paper 1 |                                  | Physics paper 2                  |
| PM   |                               | Chemistry Paper 1              |                                      | Computer Science Paper 2         |                                  |
| Weekend 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov – 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec   |                               |                                |                                      |                                  |                                  |
|  | <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>  | <b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>  | <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>      | <b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup></b>     |
| AM   | Chemistry Paper 2             | Biology Paper 2                |                                      |                                  |                                  |
| PM   |                               |                                |                                      |                                  |                                  |

# What's happening in the local area



**SPOOK-TACULAR POTION QUEST!**

**FREE EVENT**

**Saturday  
26th October  
11am-4pm**

Families are invited to join us for a magical day of potion making adventures!

**BROAD ST. MALL**



It's pumpkin picking season! Hunt high and low for the pumpkins hidden throughout the Museum, can you spot our little mouse along the way? Then collect your prize from Reception and take away your trail to colour in at home. £1 per trail.



26TH OCTOBER - 3RD NOVEMBER

**READING MONSTER MASH**

FIND THE MONSTERS, PICK YOUR PUMPKIN!

Visit Reading this Halloween for some spook-tacular fun with a town centre monster trail – and a pumpkin for those who find them all!

The streets of Reading are full of monsters for Halloween, and it's your job to track them down. Each monster has its own name that you need to find and note down on your map. Join Reading's Monster Mash between 26th October - 3rd November and locate all 9 monsters hiding in shops and businesses around town.

Once you've found them all, take your completed map to the Reading Pumpkin Patch (outside Waterstones on Broad Street) on either **29th or 30th October (11am-4pm)** to pick your own pumpkin. Good luck!



**PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE OCTOBER HALF TERM 2024**

[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>FRANKIE &amp; BENNYS</b><br/>Kids Eat Free deal from Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November.</p> <p><b>MORRISONS</b><br/>Spend £5 from the hot menu and get one free kids meal all day, every day.</p> <p><b>COCONUT TREE</b><br/>One child (under 10) eats free every day Monday 21st Oct- Sunday 3rd Nov 2024</p> <p><b>SAINSBURY'S CAFES</b><br/>Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.</p> <p><b>ASDA</b><br/>Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.</p> <p><b>BEEFEATER &amp; BREWERS FAYRE</b><br/>Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!</p> <p><b>THE REAL GREEK</b><br/>Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult</p> <p><b>TRAVELEDGE &amp; PREMIER INN</b><br/>Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 &amp; up to two kids eat breakfast for free</p> <p><b>SIZZLING PUBS</b><br/>Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.</p> <p><b>TGI FRIDAYS</b><br/>Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)</p> <p><b>PRETO</b><br/>Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms</p> | <p><b>EMBER INNS</b><br/>Kids eat for £1 from Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November 2024 (excludes weekends)</p> <p><b>YO! SUSHI</b><br/>Monday 14th October - Friday 1st November 2024 kids eat free with every £10 adult spend</p> <p><b>GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS</b><br/>Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants</p> <p><b>BILLS</b><br/>2 kids eat FREE Mon - Fri from Monday 21st October - Friday 1st November 2024</p> <p><b>PIZZA HUT</b><br/>Free Kids buffet Monday 14th Oct - Tuesday 5th Nov daily until 3pm with code <b>SPOOKY</b></p> <p><b>BELLA ITALIA</b><br/>Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.</p> <p><b>WHITBREAD INNS</b><br/>Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased</p> <p><b>TABLE TABLE</b><br/>Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!</p> <p><b>PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM</b><br/>Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks &amp; a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm</p> <p><b>IKEA</b><br/>Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am</p> <p><b>HUNGRY HORSE</b><br/>Kids eat for £1 on Mondays</p> <p><b>FUTURE INNS</b><br/>Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.</p> |
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## Key Dates

| Half Term 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 01 <sup>st</sup> Nov            |                  |                                    |  |                         |
|--|------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| November   | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Afternoon                          | World Occupational Therapy Day – afternoon               | All Pupils              |
|  | 11 <sup>th</sup> | All Week                           | KS2 Mocks  | Yr6 Pupils              |
|  | 11 <sup>th</sup> | TBC                                | Anti – Bullying Week 11 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> | Pupils                  |
|  | 18 <sup>th</sup> |                                    | Year 11 Mocks Begin – See Exam timetable                 | Yr 11 pupils            |
|  | 19 <sup>th</sup> | All Day                            | RE Day – Hinduism  | Pupils                  |
|  | 25 <sup>th</sup> |                                    | Year 11 Mocks  | Yr 11 pupils            |
| December   | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | All Day                            | RE Day – Hinduism  | Pupils                  |
|  |                  | 16:00 – 17:00                      | Improving Teacher Programme – parents welcome            | Staff                   |
|  | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 13:00 – 15:00                      | TVS Governor meeting 2                                   | Governors               |
|  | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 13:00 – 14:00                      | Student Exec Team Meeting                                | Pupils                  |
|  | 10 <sup>th</sup> | Tutor                              | Human Rights – Tutor activities                          | Pupils                  |
|  | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 13:00 – 14.30                      | <b>Christmas Fayre</b>                                   | <b>School Community</b> |
| 16:00 – 17:00  |                  | Improving Teaching Programme       |  |                         |
| 19 <sup>th</sup>   |                  | Last Day – Pupils go home at 13:00 | Pupils   |                         |
| Christmas Holiday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec–09 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2025 |                  |                                    |  |                         |

### Report Of Absence for Pupils

To report a pupil's absence, please either contact school office on 0118 9424750 (option 1), email [office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk](mailto:office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk) or using the new function "Report an Absence" on MCAS App.

**To report an absence on MCAS App: Log into MCAS, click onto Timetable and Attendance and on the top left hand corner you will see Report an Absence.**

## Contact Details

### Thames Valley School | Liberty Academy Trust

A: Conwy Close | Tilehurst | Reading | Berkshire | RG30 4BZ

T: 0118 9424750

E: [office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk](mailto:office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk)

W: [Liberty Academy Trust - Home \(libertytrust.org.uk\)](http://libertyacademytrust.org.uk)

HAVE A NICE  
*weekend*