

### Pupil Awards

This week, we felt it appropriate and deserving to award a class for upholding and exhibiting the principles of TVS.

The principles of **Thoughtful**, **Value** and **Safe** have been demonstrated by the Aquilla class as a collective tutor group with some exciting and engaging lessons, value driven teamwork and a calm classroom environment.

A huge congratulations to the pupils of Aquilla class from all the staff.

### RE Day

We are moving RE day to Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

- Primary will be exploring Judaism's core beliefs and looking at how they celebrate marriage and manage the passing of loved ones within the Judaism's culture
- Year 7's will be looking at the history of Judaism and how it developed its culture and traditions.
- Year 8 will explore significance of holy texts and buildings and how they relate to everyday Jews.

### Parents Evening—Booking

Thank you to all the parents that have booked onto our parents evening 12th October 2023.

We have limited availability remaining but for any parents yet to book, please be aware all responses must be returned by 1.00pm Monday 9th October 2023.

**The form can be accessed by clicking the link [here](#)**

For information purposes, the parents evening is face-to-face at Thames Valley School from 3.30-6.30pm.

### This week in Primary

Primary have been exploring number in Maths and writing book reviews in English.

We have been looking at fair trade in PSHE and the life of coco farmers in Ghana. We have been exploring human rights and looking at the rule of law in our tutor times.

For topic we have started exploring human rights and the significance of Rosa Parks to the movement.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead at Thames Valley School is Becca Archer who has been doing this role for over 10 years in different settings, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all those she has worked with. The role is to take the responsibility for safeguarding and child protection, including online safety within the school.

This role involves managing referrals, working with children's services, training staff and supporting them to carry out their safeguarding duties. She works to ensure all record keeping is up to date and accurate for each individual pupil and supports staff to preventing abuse and recognise the signs that a pupil may be in distress, allowing them time and space to share their views and experiences.

In addition, the role also includes supporting families who may be finding situations challenging at home. This could involve working in collaboration with family support, youth services, attendance support workers, alternative provisions, parenting support, respite care, police, other schools, Doctors, CAMHS, etc.

Whilst this is a huge part of the job role, there is more within this which ensures and enables the safety of all pupils who attend Thames Valley School. The DSL also has responsibility for pupil attendance and, if a pupil is finding it difficult to access their school day, it is Becca's duty to explore why this is and offer the right support or signpost to the correct services so that the pupil can access school. Becca works closely with the Transdisciplinary Team reviewing behaviour, support plans and offering support to different interventions and accessing outside services when needed.

Any trips that leave the school site are coordinated with her to confirm all safeguarding measures have been put in place and that the provision is suitable for those attending. This involves carrying out a thorough risk assessment on the trip itself, reviewing the provision's health and safety protocols, as well as ensuring all staff attending have received appropriate training to be able to ensure this goes ahead safely.

Becca is completing her Trauma Informed Diploma and will be using this to upskill the staff and support the pupils at the school. Becca offers support for parents and carers and, if you have any concerns about something that happens both inside or outside of school, Becca can offer support with this. She is also able to look at local offers, services and clubs in your area for your young people to access, if you would like. If there are times you just need to talk or have a worry, you are always more than welcome to call or email her on [becca.archer@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk](mailto:becca.archer@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk)

## The Trans-Disciplinary Team


**Steven Lock**
***Behaviour Coordinator***

Bio: I am passionate about helping the young people of today to build confidence, inspire them to find their voice and motivate them to reach their full potential.

Fun Fact: I can do a backside tail pop shove out on the skateboard!


**Tom Newman**
***Assistant Therapist***

Bio: I am passionate about providing autistic individuals with the skills and confidence to communicate and self-advocate to be happy and fulfilled.

Fun Fact: I am a qualified chef!


**Anastasios K**
***Occupational Therapist***

Bio: My passion is sensory integration, providing sensory equipment and strategies to help pupils achieve their goals in life.

Fun Fact: I enjoy ultrarunning!


**Abbie Stearman**
***Behaviour Coordinator***

Bio: I am passionate about providing autistic young people with the skills and understanding to be able to support themselves and flourish as individuals.

Fun Fact: I love watching live music and my favourite person I've seen live is Ed Sheeran!


**Phoebe Edmond**
***Assistant Psychologist***

Bio: I am passionate about providing our young people with skills, knowledge and the confidence to support themselves in living content adult lives.

Fun Fact: I play the clarinet!


**Lily Dixon**
***Assistant Therapist***

Bio: I am passionate about supporting our young people in multiple areas of their lives in particular speech and language therapy.

Fun Fact: I can play the saxophone, piano and recorder!

**TEMPEST**  
 PHOTOGRAPHY

### TVS School Photos Day

All students and staff were photographed today by the wonderful team at Tempest. You will be able to purchase your child's school photo in the coming weeks. More information will be shared when available.

### TVS Pumpkin Carving & Pizza Making Event

18th October 2023

1.00pm—3.00pm

Come and join your child at TVS to carve a pumpkin or make a pizza.

If you wish to attend, please confirm your attendance by emailing [office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk](mailto:office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk)



### Updates from the Senior Leadership Team

This week has seen Miss Archer participating in vital NSPCC training regarding her role as Designated Safeguarding Lead, refreshing and updating her knowledge of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023, and ensuring she is best equipped to support all staff in keeping each other, and our pupils, safe in school.

Mrs Dudgeon has been busy across the school, collating progress data in English, Maths and Science from all primary and Key Stage 3 pupils, ensuring next half term's lesson planning builds on what the pupils already know. This provides vital support to teachers, encouraging a deeper understanding as to pupils' individual next steps.

Miss Mallon has been kept busy leading Primary this week and she has been ensuring all risk assessments and checks have been completed, ready to restart Primary swimming lessons very soon. She's looking forward to getting back in the pool too, although she's hoping for not too much splashing!

In the office this week, Mrs Saunders has been ensuring plans are in place for parents' evening on 12<sup>th</sup> October and has been booking appointments for all parents and carers; please expect to receive responses to your requests early next week.

Mrs Buley has been carrying out appraisals with the Senior Leadership Team and teachers, supporting their reflective practice and target setting for the year ahead! She was also accompanied by Miss Galloway on her learning walk this week, and it was fantastic to see what the pupils have been getting up to and hear from them how they feel the school year is progressing.

Next week we welcome some visitors to the school. The last few weeks have gone by so quickly and, on 11<sup>th</sup> October, Dr Nic Crossley, CEO of Liberty Academy Trust, will be carrying out her monthly visit with us. We're really looking forward to showing her what we have been up to, and she will be joined this time by her Executive Assistant, Harriet, who is leading on the Trust wide Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy.

On 12<sup>th</sup> October, three representatives from Autism Education Trust will be in school, shadowing members of staff and completing reflective sessions with us to help us to continue to improve our Autism specific practice. They will be looking at two specific areas - understanding the individual and enabling environments - on this visit, helping us to guide our future plans and CPD.

### October half-term SEND short breaks

The short breaks for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in Reading this October half-term are now available. The details of the programme, funded by BFFC, are on the Reading SEND Local Offer and include:

- [Reading Play, Ranger Station](#)
- [Multi-Sport Camps with Reading FC Community Trust](#)
- [Play Camp for 5-7 year olds with Reading FC Community Trust](#)
- [Make/Sense Theatre](#)

### Message from a TVS parent....

TVS parent/carer & child meet up this Sunday 8th October.  
Kanga Calm Autism friendly session.  
5-6pm at Reading Red Kangaroo. £7.95 per child, carer free.  
Need RK socks if bouncing. Children jump, parents chat in café and spy on children, helping when needed.  
Bring proof SEN child, e.g. show school newsletter email.  
Book place with Red Kangaroo here <https://www.redkangaroo.co.uk/>

**To confirm, this is a parent run event, no TVS staff involvement.**

**Thank you to Mrs Padgham for sharing the details.**

Wishing all our families a lovely weekend

