

Mrs Buley-Interim Principal

We have had a wonderful week at Thames Valley School!

Firstly, I had a fantastic day yesterday seeing the pupils and staff dressed up and celebrating all things reading. It was lovely to hear the excitement around school as they participated in various activities and seeing Year 10 teach a lesson to our Year 7 pupils, was a real highlight.

This week, Miss Archer has been off-site, re-accrediting her 'Train the Trainer' for Team Teach and Miss Stearman has begun her National Professional Qualification in Leading Behaviour. Mrs Saunders has been applying for various grants and funding as we continue to develop our environment to ensure it best supports our pupils. We hope to share exciting news soon on our new outdoor classroom!

Miss Galloway and Mr Rossiter from the Executive Team have visited this week to carry out our Quality and Standards visit, providing us with usual feedback as we continue our improvement journey. Miss Johnston also spent time presenting how we are ensuring robust recording and tracking of EHCP outcomes, demonstrating, and monitoring the progress pupils make over time.

In Personal Development, pupils have had a focus on perspective taking, considering how they infer information from an individual's characteristics and careers – essentially discussing how we 'judge a book by its cover' and the psychological reasons this happens. In Pyxis, it was great to see the pupils using images of chosen celebrities to make initial judgements and assumptions, before researching to discuss if these were factual.

Next week, Dr Crossley will be visiting us on Tuesday – please do RSVP to the office if you would like to join for coffee and cake at 2.15pm!

Wishing you a sunny (hopefully!) weekend,

Mrs Buley



Pupil Awards

This academic year, we will be celebrating three pupils each week who have been nominated by staff for demonstrating our school principles.

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

Thoughtful – Rory Page has been awarded this week for working hard and showing great effort during World Book Day.

Value – Yr 10 Lynx has been collectively recognised this week for great teamwork and supporting their younger peers.

Safe – Alfie Allmond has been awarded this week for improved self-regulation and awareness of others whilst keeping himself and his environment safe.

A huge congratulations to these 3 pupils from all the staff.

Occupational Therapist—Anastasios Kofonikolas

Occupational Therapy Tips-Activities of Daily Living Going to the cinema (sensory strategies)

Today, an increasing number of communities are realizing how important cinema is to children's development. From surround sound and special effects to crowds and food smells, going to the movies can be an experience for all the senses. And for some autistic individuals, it can be overwhelming. Here are some tips for how to make movies more sensory-friendly for children—and for having fun while you're there.

Practising for social situations

Social situations can be supported by practising at home. You can set up seating like a movie theatre, take tickets, pop popcorn and create an immersive experience for autistic children. You should lower the lights like they do at any theatre and play the movie at a louder volume that your child can handle in preparation for the volume at the theatre.

Avoid 3-D movies

It might also be a good idea to avoid 3-D movies with children who are sensitive to loud noises and flashing lights. The three-dimensionality is going to be a lot more stimulating than a typical movie.

Investigate sensory-friendly screenings

Loud noises, bright lights, large groups of people, and unfamiliar textures or smells during a movie can cause sensory overload for some young people. Many theatre chains now offer sensory-friendly movie screenings.

Start Early

Start taking children and young ones to the theatre earlier, rather than opting for later. It's easier to build an understanding of the social expectations at a movie theatre when kids are younger.

Choose your seats carefully

Choose a seat that's going to meet your child's needs. For instance, some kids prefer to sit on the aisle so they don't have people on both sides of them. Sitting in the back of the theatre may provide distance if your child gets visually overwhelmed. And if you anticipate having to leave early, you may want to sit close to the exit.

See a film that has been out for a bit

As much as you might want to get out and see the newest movie or the surprise hit, those films are often full of the most people and usually have the most intense ads and trailers running with them, making new movies more difficult for autistics to attend. Instead, it's easier to seek out the movies that have been running for a little while. They draw less of a crowd and they are often in smaller theatres that are less likely to cause sensory overload.

Coffee And Cake

A fundraiser for Autism Berkshire

Thursday 28th March 11.30-12.45pm

Join us to celebrate Autism Acceptance Week.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing
office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk we are looking forward to seeing you there!



Ms Akrivopoulou Head Of English

World Book Day was a great success at TVS! All year groups participated with creative costumes, interesting pyjama choices, and of course our staff also got into the spirit of the day!

Our primary pupils spent a colourful afternoon writing a review and drawing an alternative cover of their favourite book. They also had a fun time making Marv-ellous and Irish Yeti masks and designing their Dread Hood High badges!

Our Y7 pupils were taught how authors create mood and atmosphere for their readers by our Y10 pupils. They also had fun drawing their favourite place to read.

Our Y8 pupils worked together and wrote an excellent short story, and our Y9 pupils turned themselves into book detectives!

We couldn't be prouder of our Y10 pupils! They showed professionalism while teaching our Y7 pupils and read them an extract from 'The Woman in Black'. They enjoyed the experience so much that they wanted to share their comments with everyone.

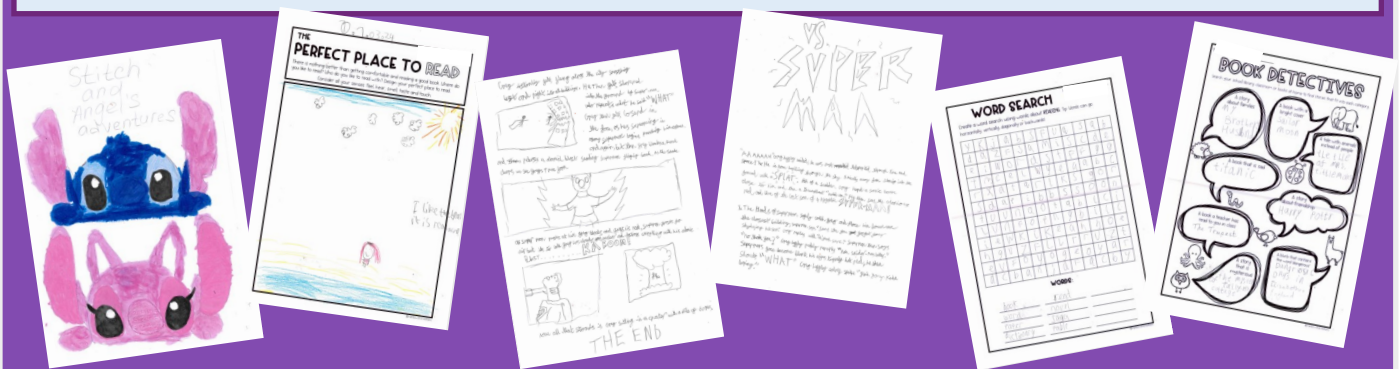
Kian said, "Today we got to teach the Year 7 classes about a book called 'The Woman in Black'. We asked them if they knew what atmosphere means, and they said it's the feeling and mood created in a story setting. They asked lots of questions and answered ours. It was a good day!"

David said, "I was teaching Orion and Pyxis, and they listened carefully. It was a really good time! I enjoyed being a teacher. I taught them about atmosphere and mood in writing. They learned how mood is related to emotions. I liked teaching them and I would definitely do it again. The pupils were really good!"

Miles said, "As a class today, we taught the Y7 pupils. We talked to them about 'The Woman in Black' book and film. They listened carefully, asked questions, and answered ours. They learned about atmosphere in literature. I felt confident, happy, not shy, and excited! I received good feedback from them, and I enjoyed teaching them. I would definitely do it again!"

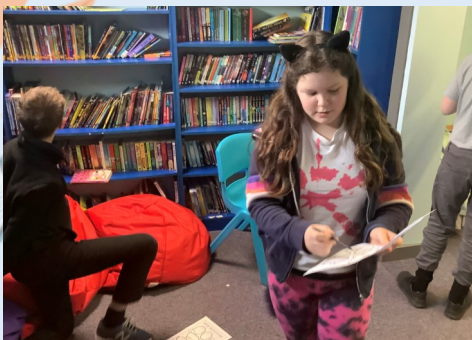
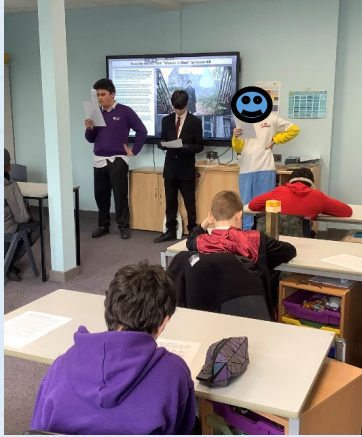
At TVS, our mission is to change lives through reading and share our love of books. We promote reading for pleasure and offer every pupil the opportunity to have a book of their own. Thank you for your support in making yesterday a great success and, remember, the world belongs to those who read!

Have a great weekend.



WORLD BOOK DAY





Career Update from Mr Shepard

For pupils:

This week, we have been acknowledging National Careers Week in school with the pupils engaging in different activities relevant to career choices considering their personal strengths and qualities, as well as employment skills.

Next week, pupils in Year 8 and 9 will have the opportunity to engage in individual Careers Advice from a representative from Adviza who will be in school next Thursday and Friday. Each pupil will be provided with an individual slot and will be supported by a member of TVS staff to access these sessions. They will be given the opportunity to better understand their options, as well as consider different careers and the employability skills they may need to work towards this.

For parents/carers:

On the 21st of March from 5pm until 6pm, we are pleased to be able to offer the opportunity to take part in an online talk given by Maurice George (Managing Director of Ways into Work). Ways into Work are an organisation who primarily support individuals with a range of additional support needs to access sustainable employment. Alongside this, Maurice is a previous Deputy Headteacher with significant knowledge of Post-16 pathways on offer and will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding these.

If you wish to attend this talk, please do confirm your attendance by contacting office@thamesvalleyschool.org.uk and we will be able to provide you with a link.

If there are any specific areas you wish to have covered during this session, please do let us know and we will forward these to Maurice in advance. This event is open to all parents/carers, regardless of your child's current age.

Parents' Evening Reminder:

Parents' evening will be held on 13th March. Slots can still be booked by clicking onto the following link. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

<https://forms.office.com/e/GJfa7uknbF>

Mrs Dudgeon will be on planned absence and will not be included as a teacher for selection.

Sports Day 24th April

SEND Short Breaks – Easter Holiday's (funded by BFfC)

Dear Parent/carers

Please see below SEND Short Breaks available for children and young people in Reading, during the Easter holiday's

SEND Short Breaks Easter Holiday Sessions - Reading Play

Reading Play welcomes you to The Ranger Station as your [SEND](#) half term provider, we will be holding two sessions on the 9th and 11th April 2024.

Each short break day will consist of 2 sessions, unique activity themes for each session like seasonal arts and crafts where young people can take home their work and crafts. Young people will all have access to mini golf, climbing tree, low ropes, archery and more. Each session is 2.5 hours with 8 spaces per session.

Further information and how to book a place can be found here

[Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks Easter Holiday Sessions](#)

Reading Play Education Play and Support, Communications & Bookings

Officer 01189373283E- reading.play@reading.gov.uk

SEND Short Breaks -Chance to Dance Stars CIC - Dance and Multi Activity Program

Short breaks are available for Reading children aged 5 years to 18 years old.

We cater for children 5 years to 25 years at all our activities. (discounted short breaks not available for 19-25yrs)

Chance to Dance Stars CIC will provide group activities for children & young people with disabilities to have new experiences with sport and dance, to have fun and to build upon social and physical needs.

Note Cost - £20 per day for anyone outside of Reading.

Reading Residents - Session are partial funded by Brighter Futures for Children. You receive a 50% discount only paying £10 per day. Don't forget to enter your discount code: EQN344. Proof of residence will be required in booking. If your child requires 1:1 you must contact Vicky before booking on sendanceclub@hotmail.com or 07736343570

Time 10am till 2pm (sometimes we have to run 9am till 1pm) - Location – Reading.

Activities can vary week by week. We will always ask for your feedback.

Sports, dance, drama, singing, arts and crafts, table top games, zumba kids, generation pound, yoga, gymnastics, sensory and messy play.

Further information can be found here [Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Chance to Dance Stars CIC - Dance and Multi Activity Program](#)

SEND Easter Holidays 2024 - Short Breaks - Holiday Clubs - Make Sense Theatre

Make/Sense Theatre will be running our ever popular Easter holiday clubs once again this April!

Our different sessions cater for young people aged 4-25+ and are designed in a way to ensure that we are fully inclusive, giving all young people with SEN the opportunity to attend. We will be running our Primary Sensory, Secondary Sensory and MLD groups over the first week of the Easter holidays (Tuesday 2nd April - Friday 5th April).

[Reading Directory](#) | [SEND Easter Holidays 2024 - Short Breaks - Holiday Clubs](#)

SEND Easter Holidays 2024 - Short Breaks – Reading FC –

will be offering short breaks – awaiting information from Reading FC. Please check the SEND Local Offer later this week -

[Reading Directory](#) | [SEND Short Breaks \(all ability activities & overnight breaks\)](#)

Best wishes,

Family Information Service/Local Offer

Delivering the **Family Information Service**, including the **SEND Local Offer**, on behalf of

Brighter Futures for Children

Reading Borough Council
Civic Offices, Bridge Street,
Reading, RG1 2LU

0118 9373777 (Option 2) (73777)

Family Information Service - www.readingfis.org Facebook - www.facebook.com/readingfis

SEND Local Offer www.readingsendlocaloffer.org - Facebook - www.facebook.com/readinglocaloffer

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



Wishing All our families a lovely weekend!