



Issue 1: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025



**Happy New Academic Year!**



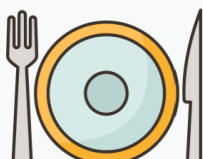

It's great to see all the children back, raring to go. A special warm welcome to all our new children both in EYFS and across the school – Thomas Hickman School is full to bursting with BIRDS!

The theme for Autumn Term is 'The Mystery Seed'. During our assemblies we have shared that the children are the 'mystery seeds' this year – we have no idea what they will blossom into when they are adults, but their teachers and school staff are here to help them grow, ensuring they get all they need – educationally and pastorally' to bloom!

We also planted some real mystery seeds which are in my office; we all wondered what they will be by the end of the year... I'll let you know in July '26!

It's so lovely to have the THS family back in school – it's going to be another fantastic year!

Pippa x

<p><b>School ready?</b> Is your child 'school ready' in the morning? Does your child have the correct school uniform? Reading book? Water bottle? lunchbox? PE kit? Swimming kit? Etc. If your child turns up for school without the things they need for their school day, it <u>does</u> affect their learning. For example, how can they do PE if they don't have their PE kit? All the applicable information has now been shared with parents/carers about the school week so please encourage your child to get everything ready the night before. Start as we mean to go on!</p>	<p><b>Attendance Reminder:</b> If your child is unwell, please <b>call the school</b> (01296 485683) before 8:50am as per usual procedures. Emailing in is not compliant with our safeguarding procedures - <u>you must phone in</u>. If your child is just a little under the weather, we would suggest you bring them in and we will monitor them. Remember Jo Lyons, our medical officer, is available to support and answer any queries. <b>All late arrivals need to be signed in at the office by an adult. This is for safeguarding reasons.</b></p>	<p><b>School Photos – say cheese!</b> Individual school photos will be taking place on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and sibling photographs will take place later in the term on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure your child is in full school uniform, looking spick and span for their snapshot!</p> 	<p><b>Attendance and Punctuality</b> Buckinghamshire Council continues with their drive to remind parents and carers about the importance of children attending school, and promoting the wide range of support available for anyone struggling with school attendance. Follow the link to find out more about the <b>Be Present for the Future project</b> <a href="https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/be-present-for-their-future/">https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/be-present-for-their-future/</a></p> <p><b>The 97Up Club is returns!</b> Consistent, regular attendance is imperative in order for your child to learn. Hence good attendance and punctuality is essential for success. So, will your child be part of the 97Up club for 25-26? Every child whose attendance is calculated to reach 97% or above for the term will be rewarded with a Zoomania voucher.</p>  <p>As a reminder, the 'drop-off' Disco is from 8.30am and the school gates close at 8:45am for a prompt start to learning. The school day ends at 3:15pm, with the gates closing at 3:30pm, to allow for a less congested pick up. Please stick to these timings to support the staff and your child's learning</p>
 <p><b>School lunches</b> For the benefit of new parents/carers, and as a reminder for all, the school dinner booking window opens every week on a Friday and closes on the following Wednesday at 9am. No orders can be accepted after this time. If you haven't booked for next week, please remember that your <b>child will need a packed lunch</b>. We don't cook the meals on-site, they are ordered in so we simply don't have enough spare meals for large groups of children whose parents have forgotten to book. Thank you for working with us</p>		<p><b>'Fortnight of Phonics' and 'A Chapter a Day!'</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b> Have you ever heard your child say, "Special Friends, Fred Talk, Read the Word" and wondered what they meant? Does your child speak about VIPERS and you have no idea what they are talking about? Well now you can come and find out! We invite you to join either your child's RWI lesson (Read, Write, Inc) or if your child is in KS2, The Daily Reading Workout to see how reading is taught. We promise you it is a wonderful way to see how your child learns. If you would love to attend, please book a slot on the impending Google form or speak to Claire Osborne and she will add you to the list.</p> 	
<p><b>Uniform Swap Shop:</b> Don't forget we have the Uniform Swap Shop in the Acorn Centre. For those new to the school, this is a collection of pre-loved uniform items which have been donated by our parents/carers. All items are freshly washed and hung up ready to be hand-picked and used again. If you have any good quality, pre-loved donations please don't hesitate to bring them in.  Please don't forget to clearly label your children's uniform. School jumpers are not cheap, and they regularly go missing. Simply writing your child's name on the label will ensure it gets back to them. Please do this for all school clothing, including coats.</p>	<p><b>School traffic and dangerous parking</b> Can we please remind all parents/carers to be mindful of local residents when parking. There have been a number of complaints this week which we are dealing with. Remember we have a soft start and pick-up to help alleviate congestion. I'm not sure if it's been the rain, but this week has provoked some incredibly dangerous driving by some parents – drive slowly, carefully and remember it's a <b>primary school</b>, there are precious, little ones everywhere!</p>		

Where **CURIOSITY** HATCHES, **creativity** takes **flight** and **lead**

**Bonkers for Conkers**

Our annual conker championship kicks off in October. I have my conker named 'K-Pop Demon Hunter' ready! I'll be seeing off any contenders in the playground.

Mark Lambert will be sending out the sign-up letters – adults, you are welcome to join in the fun!



**Parent Governor nominations**

The governing body are seeking an additional parent/carer governor. More information will be coming out just before half-term, but if you are interested in finding out more about the role, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of SLT. We can tell you more of the responsibilities and commitment to give you some time to consider the post before nominations go out.

**Black History Month**

To mark Black History month at THS this year pupils will take part in an array of lessons culminating in a masterpiece representing an Inspirational Icon: the national theme of BHM '25 is **'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'**. Beginning on the 6<sup>th</sup> the children will be immersed in stories, tributes and discussions to promote this important yearly event.

**Macmillian Coffee Morning**



Don't forget to save the date: This year's event is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September. All cakes are greatly received: more information will follow.

**The importance of PE kit:**

- Sense of pride for House Team (House chants are on back of this letter)
- Safety and Hygiene.
- THS BIRDS having high expectations of themselves in PE.

Coloured THS house t-shirts are available to purchase for a very reasonable price from Bucks Schoolwear. Please visit [www.bucksschoolwearplus.co.uk](http://www.bucksschoolwearplus.co.uk). Speak to the THS office if you need to find out what house colour your child has been assigned. They will stay in this house colour for the duration of their time at THS.

In addition, you will need to provide:

- **Plain** dark shorts (for Spring/Summer)
- **Plain** dark jogging bottoms (for Autumn/Winter)
- A pair of suitable trainers (children encouraged to have comfortable trainers to enable them to be agile)

We expect children to be wearing the correct PE kit and will be monitoring this throughout year.

Bright items of clothing with large logos/football shirts/tracksuits **will not be permitted** and your child will be asked to wear spare kit for PE lessons on these occasions. For safety, your child will also be asked to wear spare plimsolls if the correct footwear is not worn.

**Please note that jewellery of any kind (earrings, watches etc) is not permitted and needs to be removed on PE days.** If for any reason, you have any issues with providing the appropriate kit, please speak to your child's teacher before school.

**THS 'BIRDS' PE Kit 2025-26.**



Thank you for your continued support.  
Mr Lambert

*House Griffin*



1, 2, 3, 4 Griffin's knocking at the door.  
5, 6, 7, 8 We will win, no mistake.  
Go Griffins!

*House Wyvern*



We are the Wyverns, strong and brave.  
We are the Wyverns coming your way!  
Go Wyverns, Go Wyverns!

*House Pegasus*



Be bright like a Pegasus.  
Brave and proud,  
Nothing in the world can hold us down!  
Go Pegasus!

*House Phoenix*



Phoenix fire, burn so bright.  
Keep on trying, we'll win the fight!  
Go Phoenix!

**THS PE TIMETABLE**

**AUTUMN 2025**

<b>MONDAY</b> Year 4 PM	<b>TUESDAY</b> Year 5 AM Year 1 PM Year 2 PM Year 6 PM
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Year 3 AM	<b>THURSDAY</b> Year 6 AM Year 2 PM Year 4 PM
<b>FRIDAY</b> Year 1 AM Reception PM Year 3 PM	

**THS HAWKS**



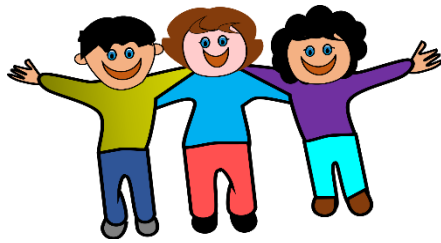
**Muddy Ducks**

The children have settled in beautifully and are thriving in their new environment. Our Field of Study this term is 'I am special' and the children will have the opportunity to learn about themselves and each other. They will explore their feelings, interests, and families, helping to build confidence and self-awareness. Through fun activities, songs and stories, children will discover how they are unique and special. This Field of Study encourages kindness, sharing, and understanding, fostering a positive classroom community.



**Pre-school**

Preschool are settling in beautifully into their new class. They are growing in confidence day by day. We have begun our Field Of Study which is "Incredible me". As a class we have been sharing our favourite things to do, our interests and about our families. We are excited to see you at our Pitstop on Thursday 16th October. We will be going on a autumnal walk down to forest school. Remember to pack your wellies!



**Reception**

The children have settled in beautifully to Reception and are enjoying both the classroom and our outdoor learning spaces. We are very excited for our upcoming events; dressing up as superheroes on Monday and showing off some fun, crazy hairstyles on the 24th September! To finish our Field of Study, we're looking forward to welcoming some of our real-life local heroes into school.



**Year 1**

Over the past few days, Year 1 have been busy with lots of exciting learning. In English, we have been exploring the story *Beegu* and thinking carefully about the lost alien. The children designed their very own "Lost Posters" to help find Beegu, using wonderful describing words and creative ideas. In maths, we have been practising our counting skills, focusing on counting forwards and backwards to 10 with confidence. We also had our fantastic dress up day – it was so lovely to see all the children in their amazing costumes and to celebrate their enthusiasm together. Don't forget we have our DT walk around the local area on the 23rd September - please make sure you have returned the reply slips. Please ensure your child is bringing in their water bottles and reading records daily Their PE kits in their bags on a Tuesday for the afternoon and on a Friday the children can wear the PE kits since their lesson is in the morning.

**Year 1 Woneders**

We have had a 'wonderful' start to the school year. The children have come in and settled beautifully, and I am so proud of the hard work they have already done. We have been looking at the book *Beegu* by Alexis Deacon. *Beegu* is an alien who has gotten lost and is trying to find her way back home. She meets some new friends and some people who do not want her around. Using this, we have been looking at feeling happy and sad. In Maths we have been strengthening our numbers, singing the rhyme '5 little men in a flying saucer'. I am looking forward to working with the children more, and (from our mystery seed assembly) seeing them grow into the most 'wonderous' flowers.



**Year 2**

What a super start to the year! Year 2 has settled into the new school year really well, and have already started writing letters in English about diversity as we have been reading the book 'Who is Rosa Parks?'. In maths, we have started our first topic of place value and have practiced counting in 10s and recognising tens and ones. In art, we have been exploring primary and secondary colours and have used our colour mixing skills to recreate famous Kandinsky paintings! In our Field of Study lessons we have started to explore significant figures, including those who are local to us, such as Ludwig Guttman. We are really looking forward to our Amazing Animals science experience which will be taking place in school at the beginning of October!



**Year 3**

We are off to a flying start in Year 3! In our Field of Study we have begun our learning journey all about the Stone Age. We have discovered that the Stone Age was split into three main periods of time called the Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic eras. We have ordered key events from the Stone Age on a timeline and are looking forward to learning about key archaeological discoveries including Cheddar man and Skara Brae! Talk homework sheets have been sent home so that the children can discuss the learning each week. We are looking forward to our walk to the Quarrendon Leas ruins to find out more about our local history and our visit to the Chiltern Open Air Museum later in the Autumn term!





**Year 4**

What a fantastic start Year 4 has made this academic year! Our English lessons are buzzing with creativity as we dive into character descriptions inspired by the enchanting world of 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell.

This term, we're all set for an adventurous exploration of our Field of Study topic, 'Swords and Settlers'. The children will embark on a journey to uncover the lives of the Saxons and Vikings, learning all about their settlements and battle techniques.

As part of our "pitstop", we'll be getting our hands busy in Design Technology and Art. The pupils will design a healthy snack while honing their artistic skills by sketching and painting butterflies—delving into the fascinating world of hues, tints, tones, shades, and complementary colours.

We can't wait to share our learning journey with you!



**Year 5**

The children have settled brilliantly into the new term and are already diving into their learning with enthusiasm. In our lessons so far, we have been exploring the legacy of the dynasties of China in History, developing our performance poetry skills in English, and building on our maths fluency with regular retrieval and problem-solving opportunities.

A highlight of the term has been our very first swimming lesson – the classes were amazing in the pool, showing great determination and teamwork. We are also really looking forward to welcoming parents to our Pit Stop on **22nd September**, where the children will have the chance to showcase some of the fantastic learning they've already begun this year.

It's been a brilliant start, and we can't wait to see all the exciting learning and experiences still to come!



**Year 6**

Year 6 are off to a flying start already! We have completed the 11+ tests this week and all been brave and resilient BIRDS with this tricky test! Now we can focus on all the fabulous new learning we have to look forward to. Our Field of Study - Stand up Stand out teaches us about Africa, The Slave Trade, The British Empire, The Abolishment of Slavery and associated legal acts as well as Laws including Human and Children's rights - we will be busy!

Our first pit stop is a science based one on **20th October at 2.15pm** in class- come and see! We will bring you information of our trip to The Houses of Parliament soon - put the date in your diary - Friday 21st of November (Autumn 2). During this term we will also be dissecting a Sheep's heart as part of our Science, exploring the Circulatory System. Thank you for ensuring your child is in school on time and with the correct kit - every moment counts!



**WOW! Exciting book news..... Author visits for KS2 children**

**An in-school Author visit for KS2 children. Ross Montgomery is coming to THS on the 3rd October 2025.**

Well known Author Ross Montgomery is coming! KS2 will take part in an in-school Author event with Ross Montgomery where he will talk about his new release "Small Wonder" This is such an exciting opportunity for the children to meet an Author and ask questions about writing and his love of reading.

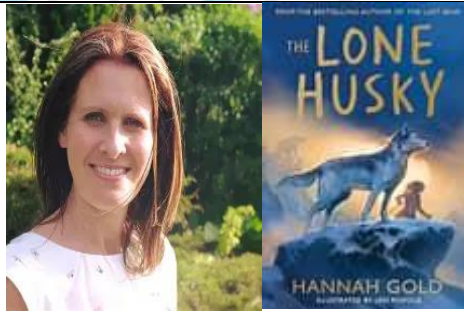
Children will be able to purchase signed copies on the day. WATCH out for a text link soon to purchase signed copies that he will bring along!!



**Hannah Gold - Virtual Author meeting online 22 October 2025 for KS2**

We have had two zooms already with this author, so the children know how fabulous she is and how exciting her books are.

She has a new book out again in an Autumn term! This time going back to the Arctic, but now with a Husky! Children will be able to purchase through our link with the Tring Book shop. Keep an eye out for a link coming for you to order a book signed by Hannah Gold.



## Dates for you diary Autumn 1.....



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <sup>st</sup> September Summer Holiday	2 <sup>nd</sup> September Summer Holiday Yr6 - Secondary school application open Bucks Council	3 <sup>rd</sup> September Inset Day	4 <sup>th</sup> September School Starts 8.30am Welcome back	5 <sup>th</sup> September Yr1 Alien dress up day
8 <sup>th</sup> September	9 <sup>th</sup> September Yr6 11+ first test	10 <sup>th</sup> September	11 <sup>th</sup> September Yr6 11+ second test	12 <sup>th</sup> September
15 <sup>th</sup> September Super hero dress day - Reception	16 <sup>th</sup> September	17 <sup>th</sup> September	18 <sup>th</sup> September	19 <sup>th</sup> September
22 <sup>nd</sup> September Yr5 Pitstop – 2.30pm Yr4 – History People Workshop	23 <sup>rd</sup> September Walk around the community – Yr1	24 <sup>th</sup> September Crazy Hair day – Reception Yr1 – Pitstop Den building	25 <sup>th</sup> September	26 <sup>th</sup> September McMillan Coffee morning 10.00am – 11.00am
29 <sup>th</sup> September Yr6 Heart dissection experience	30 <sup>th</sup> September	1 <sup>st</sup> October	2 <sup>nd</sup> October Yr2 Amazing Animal science workshop	3 <sup>rd</sup> October Yr3 Walk to Berryfield ruins Author visit Yrs 3/4/5/6 Ross Montgomery
6 <sup>th</sup> October Fortnight of Phonics/Chapter a day begins	7 <sup>th</sup> October Reception Pitstop 2.30pm	8 <sup>th</sup> October Muddy Ducks Forest School – 10.30am & 2.15pm	9 <sup>th</sup> October	10 <sup>th</sup> October Yr4 Pitstop – 2.30pm
13 <sup>th</sup> October	14 <sup>th</sup> October Yr1 Planetarium experience	15 <sup>th</sup> October Muddy Ducks Nursery Stay and Play Art/Crafts 10.30am & 2.15pm	16 <sup>th</sup> October Pre-school Nursery Stay and Play Art/Crafts 10.30am & 2.30pm	17 <sup>th</sup> October Fortnight of Phonics/Chapter a Day ends Yr 3 Harvest Festival Yr5 Trip to Ashmolean

<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> October</b>          Nursery – Year 6          Flu Vaccination 9.30am – 1.00pm          Yr6 Pitstop – 2.15pm</p>	<p><b>21<sup>st</sup> October</b>          Parents evening          3.40pm – 6.30pm</p>	<p><b>22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>          Whole school individual photos          Yr2 Pitstop – 2.30pm          Parents evening          3.40pm – 6.30pm</p>	<p><b>23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>          Dine with us for Diwali – 2.00pm</p>	<p><b>24<sup>th</sup> October</b>          Inset Day</p>
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# In the community

The Aylesbury Vale Academy  
 RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

09 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Aylesbury Vale Academy Open Events**

Aylesbury Vale Academy is holding its annual Open Events for current Year 5 and Year 6 students in September and October.

On **Thursday 25 September** the school will host an **Open Evening** from 6pm 8pm, with tours running throughout the evening. There will be presentations from the Principal and other key staff taking place at 6.15pm and 7pm. The evening is open to all Year 5 and Year 6 students and their parents, and no booking is required.

We will also run four **Open Mornings** on **Thursday 02 October**, **Tuesday 07 October**, **Thursday 09 October**, and **Tuesday 14 October** for current Year 5 and Year 6 students. Tours start at 9.15am and 10.15am and last approximately 30 minutes, covering many areas of the school.

**Places on the Open Mornings tours are limited, so please reserve your place [here](#).**

I look forward to welcoming you all then.

Yours sincerely,

MR G GIBSON  
 Academy Principal

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**Buckinghamshire Family Learning**

## Learning Through Play Workshop

For parents and carers of children in Nursery or Reception at Thomas Hickman School

Easy, practical and fun ways to help your child to learn and develop through play. Your child will also join you for some of the workshop.

**Wednesday 17 September, 9-11am**

To book your FREE place, click on the date above, scan the QR code or call 01296 383582 with code FMPL133 10FA to enrol.

**Buckinghamshire Family Learning**

## ONLINE SCHOOLS COURSES for PARENTS and CARERS

To book your FREE place call our enrolment team on 01296 383582, SCAN the QR code or CLICK on the [course code link](#) below

**RECEPTION**

Help your Child Make a Good Start in Reception (5 week online course) **FMSR019**

Monday 22 September- 20 October	9.30am - 11.30am	
Tuesday 23 September- 21 October	9.30am-11.30am	
Thursday 25 September- 23 October	9.30am-11.30am	

**YEARS 1 AND 2**

Help your Child's Confidence with Number-Support for Years 1&2 Parents (6 week online course) **EMMN024**

Monday 15 September- 20 October	6.30-8.30pm	
Tuesday 16 September- 21 October	9.30am-11.30am	
Thursday 18 September- 23 October	12.30pm-2.30pm	

Helping your Child with Confidence, Resilience and their Worries. (5 weeks) **EMWR008**

Tuesday 23 September- 21 October	12.30pm-2.30pm	
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**SEND WELLBEING WORKSHOPS**

Support your Autistic Child at Home (FMAC134)	Thursday 25 September	7.00pm - 9.00pm
Support your ADHD Child at Home (FMAC133)	Monday 8 October	7.00pm-9.00pm

**Buckinghamshire Family Learning**

## Introduction to Supporting your Child's Wellbeing

For parents or carers of children at Thomas Hickman School in years 3, 4, 5 or 6

EAT HEALTHY

EXERCISE

SLEEP WELL

KEEP THINGS SIMPLE

THINK POSITIVELY

**Monday 13 October, 1-3pm, Thomas Hickman School**

To book your FREE place, phone 01296 383582 with course code FMWB009 10FA, scan the QR code or click on the link.

Where **CURIOSITY** HATCHES, *creativity* takes *flight* and *learning* SOARS TO A SKY OF *opportunity*.



**AYLESBURY HOCKEY CLUB**  
**AYLESBURY HOCKEY ACADEMY**  
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[WWW.AYLESBURYHC.COM](http://WWW.AYLESBURYHC.COM)



**ParkPlay**

**Park Play Aylesbury**

Park Play is for everyone - children, teenagers, and adults! With a variety of fun activities for the whole family to enjoy, there's something for all ages. This Saturday, join us for a game of football, basketball or tag rugby.

Every Saturday Morning  
10am - 2pm  
Alfred Rose Park, Aylesbury  
HP20 2DF

**APE Activity Camps**

Buckinghamshire Council