

# THORN GROVE GAZETTE

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026



Dear Thorn Grove Families,

Welcome to this week's edition of Thorn Grove Gazette. It is fair to say the work to our new school building has definitely accelerated and we are really starting to see things take shape. Our children are desperate for an update so I have promised them a dedicated time slot in assembly each week to share the progress. Additionally, in our first working party meeting last week we discussed how we could make sure the children feel part of this unique project and we have some grand plans in the pipeline!

Have a lovely long weekend

Miss Vose

## Key Dates

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May - School Closed for Bank Holiday

Thu 7<sup>th</sup> May - INSET Day

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> May - SATS Begin

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> May - Year 2 Hatworks Trip

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> May - EYFS Stoller Hall Trip

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> May - Year 3 Class Assembly

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May - School Closes

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> June - School Reopens

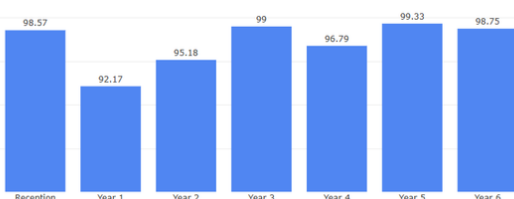
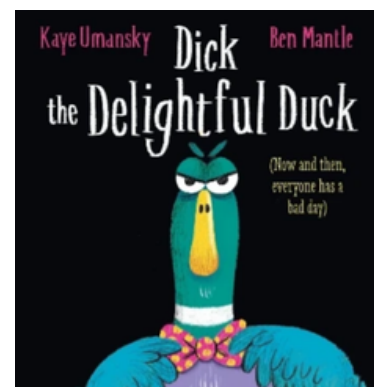
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June - Year 6 Trip



## Reading for Pleasure: Book Box Book

This week we revisited our teacher book boxes from around school. We selected a book from Miss Ridgeway's box and a book from Miss Vose's box.

The children chose Dick the Delightful Duck by Kaye Umansky and Ben Mantle. As we read the children joined in with the reading couplets and discussed how the characters in the book showed empathy. We then discussed how we can apply this to school and home life.



## Weekly Attendance

Together we nurture curious, respectful, aspirational individuals.

## Drama Workshop

On Monday afternoon, Year 3 had the privilege of taking part in a MMU Drama workshop all about the Secret Garden. University students performed an adaptation of the story and we made and decorated paper flowers to add to the garden.



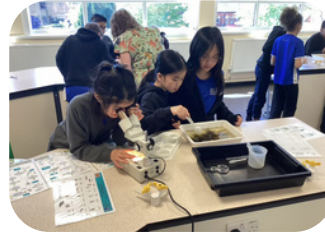
## Fair Milk for a Fair Start Campaign

Did you know? Children currently receive free school milk until their fifth birthday through the Government's school milk scheme. After this point, the entitlement ends. This means that within the same Reception class some children continue receiving milk while others do not, depending on when their birthday falls. At [School name], we're supporting the Fair Milk for a Fair Start campaign, which calls for a simple change so all children can receive free school milk until the end of their Reception year. Find out more or show your support:

<https://fairmilkfairstart.com/>

## Science Workshop

"Team Raúf's final science workshop of the year at Cheadle Hulme School was a splashing success! To wrap up our learning, the class dived deep into the fascinating life cycles of various creatures, discovering how animals grow and change over time. The highlight of the day was our "pond dip" discovery session; using high-powered microscopes, we observed tiny, hidden worlds teeming with life. Every pupil expertly used classification keys to identify the mysterious species wriggling beneath the lens. It was a brilliant, hands-on conclusion to our visits! We are incredibly grateful to Cheadle Hulme School for inviting us to these sessions; we have thoroughly enjoyed them." - Mr Wyngard



## New Build Update

The main contractor, Galiford Try, have now begun work on the construction of our new school. During the holidays a temporary fence was installed on the KS2 playground to create a secure working area, enabling them to start building a new access road. This dedicated route will allow large construction vehicles to reach the site safely, separate from our school community.

The gates at the end of Woodstock Avenue have been replaced and a new road through the KS2 playground is already well underway.



This week alone they have installed the solid perimeter fence for their site compound on the playground and begun preparing the field by removing the top layer of grass in readiness for laying the foundations.

*Together we nurture curious, respectful, aspirational individuals.*

Spark have announced their latest round of competitions and every child in our school is invited to take part! Please see the attached poster and Google Classroom for further details. We can't wait to see what you create!

# Competition page

## Win your own Spark trophy!

Plus a book token to buy books of your choice.

Have your name announced at our online **WINNERS' CEREMONY** and your work shown.



## What do you have to do?

Choose your favourite book in a category and create your own unique response.

Entries will be by year group: **Early Years (nursery and reception), KS1, Lower KS2, Upper KS2 and Secondary.**



There will be three types of entries for each age category - but be as creative as you like - capture your response to the book!

### WRITTEN



You could write:

A new 'blurb' to publish on the book cover

The opening chapter of a sequel

A diary as one of the characters

A postcard to send to a friend explaining why you like this book

A new adventure for one of the characters

A play script for an exciting part of the story

A TV interview with characters from the book

An advert to tell more pupils in school to read your favourite book

A poem inspired by the book or its themes

...Or another idea of your own

### MULTIMEDIA



(using your IT or graphic skills)

You could:

Make a short film advertising the book or even acting out your favourite scene

Create your own blog, vlog or website - as yourself or a character

Design a poster that the authors might use to sell the book

Turn your story into a graphic novel or photostory

Compose a piece of music to be used as a soundtrack for the book

Learn to sign part of your book and film yourself (and maybe your friends!)

...Or another idea of your own - use your IT skills to make a unique response!

### ARTWORK



You could:

Create a significant object from the book in any media you like - clay, plasticine, junk modelling...

Produce a storyboard or picture of your favourite part of the story

Recreate an illustration using your crafting skills...sewing, crochet, collage...

Create a story box or small world for one of the places in your book

...Or another idea of your own - get creative!

## What can you and your school win?

There are **prizes for the best ones** in each category as well as a host of **smaller prizes for our runners up**.

We will also take competition entries into consideration when we are selecting the **Spark! School of the Year for 2026**. One school could **win a trophy and £100 of books for their library** for their overall participation in the Spark! School Book Awards this year!

Winners' work will be shown or read during our **online award ceremony on Tuesday 23 June 2026** and may be posted on our website and our social media accounts.

Entries should be submitted via Google Classroom, or handed to Ms Ridgway, by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June.



**Thorn Grove**  
Primary School

What are you waiting for?!

