

THORN GROVE GAZETTE

FRIDAY 24TH JULY 2026



Dear Thorn Grove Families,

Welcome to the final edition of Thorn Grove Gazette. Thank you for all the kind and generous gifts given to various members of the Thorn Grove Team. We are all very grateful and appreciate the thought and kindness. From everyone at Thorn Grove, we wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you back here on Wednesday 2nd September!

Have a great summer!

Miss Vose

Key Dates

Tue 1st Sept - INSET Day

Wed 2nd Sept - School Reopens

Wed 9th Sept - Rec-Y6 Flu Vaccinations

Mon 14th Sept - Y6 Forest Schools Day

Mon 14th Sept - Front Row Music Assembly

Wed 23rd Sept - EYFS Dental Visit

Thu 24th Sept - Y6 NCMP Screening

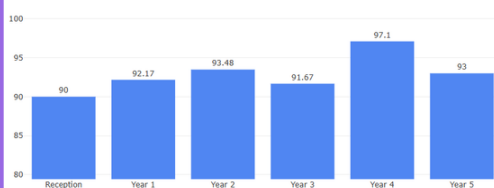
Mon 5th Oct - Y3 Forest Schools Day

Wed 7th Oct - Parents Evening 1

Value Champions



Congratulations to the Class of 2026!



Weekly Attendance

Together we nurture curious, respectful, aspirational individuals.

Year 6 Conquer Robinwood

Our Year 6 pupils recently returned from an incredible residential trip to Robinwood, and we couldn't be prouder of them! Throughout the trip, our children truly shone, showcasing our core school values every step of the way. From tackling high-ropes courses to navigating team challenges, the children demonstrated incredible resilience as they pushed past their comfort zones to overcome tough obstacles. What made the trip extra special was the outstanding empathy and collaboration on display - everyone rallied together, cheered each other on, and made sure no one was left behind.

Their top-tier behaviour made them fantastic ambassadors for our school, setting a brilliant example for everyone.

Well done, Year 6!



A Parents Guide for High School

As our Year 6 pupils prepare for their next big step, we are delighted to share a wonderful new resource with you!

One of our very own parents has published a fantastic magazine packed with practical tips and advice to help guide families through the transition to high school. You might even spot a familiar face inside, as one of our TG staff members has contributed an article to the issue!

The magazine is available to purchase from today in local supermarkets, TG Jones and independent retailers.

We hope you find it a helpful and inspiring read as we support our leavers together!



EYFS Stay & Play

On Tuesday afternoon we had our last EYFS Stay and Play for this academic year. Our summer party was a celebration of what has been a fantastic year for our EYFS Children. We had rhythm sticks, circus activities, crafts, and nail painting. The children had a lovely afternoon with their parents and carers which was made even better by the sun shining and yummy ice creams! We are astounded by the amount of learning we have achieved this year and how hard the children have worked. We are so proud! It is time to rest and recuperate for 5 weeks ready to start the fun all over again. Have a fantastic summer holiday and we will look forward to seeing you all again in September.



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PE and Sport at Thorn Grove: Investing in Healthy, Happy and Active Children

At Thorn Grove, we are committed to helping every child develop a healthy, happy and safe lifestyle. We believe that physical activity, sport and time spent outdoors play a vital role in children's wellbeing, confidence and personal development. Our PE and sport funding has enabled us to provide children with a wide range of experiences that encourage them to be active, develop new skills, build resilience and teamwork, and discover a lifelong love of movement and the outdoors.

This year, our £17,630 PE and Sport Premium funding has been used in a number of important ways to enhance opportunities for all our children.

We have invested in specialist coaching and staff development, including working with a gymnastics coach to build teachers' confidence and expertise in teaching fundamental gymnastics skills. This has helped ensure that children receive high-quality PE teaching while developing their own competence and confidence.

We have also made our lunchtimes more active and engaging, with sports coaches providing children with a wider range of physical activities and sports throughout the week. This gives more children the opportunity to be active every day while developing important values such as confidence, resilience, collaboration, equality and responsibility.

Our funding has allowed us to broaden the range of sports available to children through a new PE scheme of work, introducing activities such as golf, handball and athletics. This means children can experience new challenges, learn new skills and discover sports they may not otherwise have had the opportunity to try.

We are particularly proud of the opportunities we provide for children to represent Thorn Grove in inter-school competitions. Taking part in competitions allows children to practise and apply the skills they have developed in PE lessons and clubs, while building confidence, resilience and teamwork. It also provides opportunities for children who may not otherwise experience competitive sport outside school.

Our commitment to outdoor learning has also been strengthened through Forest School, giving every year group the opportunity to take part in a block of outdoor learning with a trained Forest School teacher. These experiences support children's holistic development and provide opportunities to learn, explore, take appropriate risks and grow in confidence in the natural environment.

The funding has also supported additional swimming provision, helping us to ensure that more children develop the essential life skill of swimming, alongside the purchase of equipment that enables children to participate fully in a wide range of sporting activities.

We are incredibly proud of the positive impact this funding has had on our children. It has helped us to provide more opportunities to be active, more chances to try new sports, more experiences outdoors and more opportunities for children to develop confidence, resilience, collaboration and independence.

Sadly, we have now learned that the government has decided to end the PE and Sport Premium funding. This is deeply disappointing, as this dedicated funding has made a real difference to the breadth and quality of sporting and physical activity opportunities we can offer our children.

At Thorn Grove, we remain fully committed to promoting healthy, happy and safe lifestyles and to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to enjoy being active, develop physical skills and confidence, and build a lifelong love of sport and the outdoors. We will continue to explore every opportunity to maintain and develop our PE, sport and outdoor learning provision so that our children can continue to thrive.



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Galiford Try Crane Viewing



Celebrating Our Leavers and Saying Thank You

As another school year draws to a close, we take a moment to celebrate the wonderful people who have been part of our Thorn Grove family and to say a heartfelt goodbye and good luck to those who are moving on to new adventures.

We would like to begin by wishing Miss Plumb all the very best as she leaves us after two years at Thorn Grove. Miss Plumb has been at the heart of so much of our day-to-day life, looking after children and families, organising lunches and registers, welcoming new children, responding to enquiries and helping families stay connected through our school app. She has also worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support our assessment systems. We will certainly miss our very own 'Queen of Admin' and wish her every success as she follows her passion for cheerleading into an exciting new opportunity.

We also say goodbye and good luck to Mrs Cain, who has been with us for a year, although it feels as though she has been part of our school community for much longer. Alongside Mrs Dawson, she has supported our Year 3 children and has made a valuable contribution to the development of our History curriculum. Mrs Cain is now moving on to support older children who find attending school difficult.

We know that her kindness, care and compassion will make a real difference to the children and families she works with.

After just over four years at Thorn Grove, we also say a very fond farewell to Mrs Arnold. During her time with us, Mrs Arnold has helped us develop more inclusive classrooms where every child can learn, belong and feel part of our school community. She has supported teachers and families and played an important role in helping to keep our school a safe and welcoming place for everyone. We wish her every success as she moves on to support children with special educational needs across two local schools.

Finally, we come to a very special farewell to Mrs Williams, whose journey with Thorn Grove has been truly remarkable. Mrs Williams first came to Thorn Grove as a child, returned as a teacher at the beginning of her career, and has been a much-loved member of our teaching team for an incredible 21 years. During that time, she has taught around 630 Thorn Grove children and supported countless members of staff.

Throughout her career with us, Mrs Williams has made an extraordinary impact. From her time in Nursery, to transforming our Art curriculum and establishing the distinctive Thorn Grove approach to teaching Art, and more recently to her work in Year 1, she has continually enriched the experiences and lives of our children. Her dedication, creativity and care have left an enduring legacy across our school.

We are incredibly grateful for everything Mrs Williams has given to Thorn Grove and for the lives she has touched over so many years. As she begins her next chapter working in a special educational needs school, we know that she will continue to transform lives and make an enormous difference to the children in her care.

To all of our leavers, thank you for everything you have contributed to our school community. You will always be part of the Thorn Grove family, and we wish you all happiness, success and fulfilment in the exciting adventures that lie ahead.

Goodbye, good luck and thank you — you will be missed!

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Spark Award Final Winners

After a wonderful year of reading, our school librarians attended the online winners ceremony for the 2026 Spark Book Awards. We are delighted to announce the following national winners: 'Once I Was A Tree', by Eoin McLaughlin and Guilherme Karsten (Picture Fiction) and 'Choose Your Own Evolution by Jules Howard and Gordy Wright (Non-Fiction). A special thank you to our wonderful 25/26 school librarians James, Anjali, Toby and Delilah, for all the work they have put into our participation in the awards.

Furthermore, we are over the moon to announce that our very own Ayla Gill, from our Reception class, is a national winner in the EYFS age group for her fantastic artwork. Well done Ayla, we are enormously proud!



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**TUES-THURS WEEKLY
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FROM 9 PICKUP BY 4**

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best football camp around!"**

"My boy is very happy and that makes us happy as parents."

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