



July 2024

Celebrations

Events

We need you

Thamesmead Times



SUMMER 2024

Well done to everyone who took part in World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024!

This was a fantastic experience, especially for all those members of staff who dressed up as their favourite literary characters!

Hopefully this event will have encouraged all Thamesmead School pupils to keep on reading.



Local News



ARE YOU TRAVELLING TO SHEPPERTON BY CAR, BUS, TRAIN...OR BOAT?

Pupils and staff at Thamesmead School travel in using various different modes of transport. Some walk, some bike, some come via public transport, and some by car.

But how many of us know about the historic ferry service located right on our doorstep?

For over five hundred years, a small ferry has moved travellers across the River Thames from Shepperton Landing on the north bank to Weybridge Landing on the south bank. Currently operated by the company Nauticalia, the ferry runs every fifteen minutes during daylight hours.

The timetable is flexible, but don't worry – if a boat hasn't arrived within fifteen minutes of your arrival at the landing, you can just ring a bell and the boat will cross over from the opposite side to collect you!

And, if you just want to spend some time by the river on a nice day, there is a riverside coffee shop and mezzanine overlooking it on the Shepperton side.

Finally, the ferry service has provided artistic inspiration to one of perhaps our most famous local novelist. This very ferry service features in HG Wells' 1898 novel *The War of the Worlds*, where aliens attack humans attempting to escape using the boat.

So, next time you're heading to Weybridge, why not take a trip across the Thames by ferry!

REMEMBER: Always stay safe around open water!

- Mr. Macdonald



On Tuesday 5th March 2024, Year 8 students had the privilege of hearing live testimony from Holocaust survivor Annick Lever. It was an honour to welcome Annick into school. Her testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced. We hope that by hearing Annick's testimony, it will encourage us all to learn important lessons from the Holocaust and make a positive difference in our own lives.



HAPPY NEWS!

A teenager with a rare brain condition was able to meet and hug his Disney heroes thanks to a charity event.

Barney, from Ashton under Hill, Worcestershire, was one of more than two-hundred seriously ill children selected to attend 'A Disney Wish', run by the US entertainment firm and charity Make-A-Wish.

The event at the Hoar Cross Hall hotel in Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire gave fourteen-year-old Barney the chance to see some of his favourite characters.

He and his family stayed at the hotel for three days, with his mum Beverley describing it as an "unbelievable" experience. "The storytelling and the way they brought it all to life was absolutely fantastic", she said.

Barney has lissencephaly, a life-limiting condition characterized by smooth brain surfaces that causes seizures and respiratory problems, among other issues.



**Many congratulations to everyone involved
in the Thamesmead School production of
*Matilda!***

Thank you also to everyone who
attended and supported the production.



District Sports

On Monday 8th July 2024, forty-two pupils from Thamesmead School attended the local district sports competition at Walton Xcel, competing against seven other local schools. Thamesmead came sixth in the overall competition, once all of the year group's scores had been added together.

- Text by Flori Walters (7CDE) / Photos by Abbi Taylor (7AKH)





Beaver Trip

During the journey there we were hoping to see some beavers, but we knew we might not have a chance as they are nocturnal. After getting out of the minivan we walked over to a tunnel where we met Elliot, who took us inside. He showed us a beaver skull and explained how they swam and could stay underwater for a long time. Elliot then showed us out the tunnel and into a little area where we talked about how his team make sure the beavers do not escape. They put a metal wire fence around a huge piece of land that had a river/stream, lots of trees and a lake that they could swim in. He asked us if we had any questions, then we moved on.

Next, we walked along a path which led to a little balcony over a lake. Here we talked about how Elliot protected some new trees from the beavers as they like to chew through the trunks of trees. What they did was put little wire fences around the bottom. This prevents the beavers from doing this, because they will not want to ruin or damage their teeth. After this we went around the side of the lake and saw a dam that the beavers had built on their first night there. Elliot told us how they built it. The beavers gathered sticks and large pieces of wood, put them in place then patted them into the correct position using their tails. We even found a small log that had been smoothed down and turned white by the beavers. Elliot told us that the beavers always chew the end of sticks at a 45-degree angle.

As we moved along the lake, we saw a tree attempting to be cut down by the beavers. It looks like they gave up, but they do this smartly. After chewing off some of the tree they leave it to fall naturally. Do not worry, the tree was already dead before they started. Now that tree holds a home for hundreds of insects so even though people think beavers are bad for the world they play a crucial part in our world.

Throughout our whole trip we were not lucky enough to see a beaver but at least we got to know loads about them.

- Alice H. Matthews (7CDE)

Into Film Project

Over the course of the last 10 weeks, a group of Year 10s have taken part in a project called 'Into Film'. The project consisted of the students planning, shooting and editing a short 10-minute film that they were able to view at Shepperton Studios this past weekend.

The students planned this film over 8, 2-hour sessions which gave them an insight into the intricate planning that film making requires. For example, a student who took part said 'It has given me the opportunity to understand the amount of effort that goes into producing a film.' By the end of the planning process, they had created a logline, the script and had developed character ideas. Over a weekend of filming in the school with professional filming equipment, the students managed to fully produce their film to a high standard.

The film told the story of a group of rebellious students in the detention of a prestigious school. They end up being murdered by the school due to their poor behaviour and grades. The moral of the story was that students should not receive a biased education as a result of their upbringing.

During their day at Shepperton Studios, the students were able to view their movie in a cinema and were taken on a brief tour of the site. Another student said that 'the experience has broadened my horizons about the jobs in the film industry.' Overall, this project has given the students an amazing opportunity to explore their future career options. We are extremely grateful that Thamesmead School has been one of the first school to take part in this scheme and we hope that the school will continue creating short films like this.

- Ella Finnerty (10RSI)

Thamesmead Times

Calling all **creatives**,
writers, **reporters**, and
journalists!

Your school newspaper
needs YOU!

If you want to get involved,
please speak with Mr.
Macdonald in September
2024!

