



THE BOOK OF THETFORD

INTRODUCTION

This is *The Book of Thetford*.
This is a guidebook made by children for adults.
This is a way for you to see the town through our eyes.

Thetford is historical and big and fat. It's a bit like the countryside but with forests.

Come and enjoy the beautiful river Ouse and the statue of Thomas Paine. Enjoy Thetford Forest and Nuns Bridge. Have bike rides on Bitten Island with your dad and enjoy all the nature. Go to Redcastle Park and Swan River. Go swimming at the swimming centre. Go to KFC or McDonald's or Fun2Play or Go Ape. Go to Castle Park where there isn't a castle any more but there are stairs you can go up and watch the sun set.

This guidebook will tell you everything you need to know about Thetford. If you are new to Thetford this guidebook will let you know where every place is. If you don't know the area very well we will help you. If you are moving from a different country you may need some facts about Thetford like the best place to ride a bike. Thetford is a town and each town has its own history. We hope this book will get people more interested in this fun place.

For example, you may not know that there's a prison under the Guildhall. You may not know that at Nuns Bridge there used to be an open-air swimming pool and you may not know that on the stone wall by the bridge you can see gunshots. You may not know that in the bushes by Marks and Spencer's there's a good hideout and you may not know that behind some other bushes there's a place where you can just hang out and climb trees and such. You may not know that Portuguese people

live in Thetford. You may not know how to make box forts or pillow forts using all the pillows in your house. You do not know us. But don't worry. This book will help you.

We recommend you read this guidebook in Thetford. Read it in the town centre or read it at the library. Read it in Thetford Forest on a picnic or at the top of Castle Hill. Read it on Button Island surrounded by nature or in your own bedroom where no one can come in and disturb you. Do not read this book near a main road where there's lots of cars or at the train station. Do not read it at the swimming pool as you may get the pages wet with your hands. Do not read it at a Taylor Swift concert or in the middle of World War II. Do not attempt to read this book in a cave with no torch or if you are falling headfirst out of the sky. Do not read it in the cemetery where there is a perturbing silence.

When you are finished reading, you can fill it with pictures of stuff in town. You can use it as a journal or fill all the blank spaces with doodles. Use this book to make paper snowballs and throwing darts. Tear out all the pages and display them in a museum or turn them into paper

aeroplanes and throw them across the town so people know about it. Or you can re-use it. Give it to someone who's new around. Give it to your Polish grandma and grandad because they always visit on holiday but they don't know where anything is. Give it to your nanna from Portugal because they are moving here soon. Give it to your little sister or your half brother that lives in Australia. Give it to your friend Jenny in Latvia or give it to your best friend. Give a copy to US President Joe Biden and to Ariana Grande, Taylor Swift, King Charles, Doja Cat, Ice Spice, Travis Scott, Zach Effron, Dan Reynolds from Imagine Dragons and Tom and Luke Stoltman from World's Strongest Man. They all need to read this book.

Welcome to Thetford, a dazzling and exciting town. It's a happy place and it's our home.



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FACTS & INFORMATION

- The number of people that live in Thetford is 20,000 or 100,000 or 217. There are 12,444 adults and 23,500 children.
- There are 1,253 dogs in Thetford and 500,000 cats. There are 1,012 pigeons and 17 rats. There are somewhere between 0 and 5,000 ghosts.



- The most common jobs in Thetford are ambulance driver, phone shop worker, police officer, firefighter, YouTuber, footballer, mascot, factory worker, bank manager or working at Center Parcs.
- The average adult in Thetford makes either £7 per day, £300 per month or £37,000 a year.
- On a scale of 1-10 the average happiness of people in Thetford is about 4.5.
- The people of Thetford like to eat sandwiches, fish, McDonald's and homemade food.
- For fun they like to make money, go around Thetford Forest, go to Fun2Play and go to Center Parcs.
- At night they dream about getting lost in Thetford Forest, the future, becoming an adult, lots of money, and ancient times in Thetford.

- Some things the people of Thetford all have in common are they live in a flat or a house, they all wear similar clothes, they have all been to Tesco, they are all beneath The Milky Way and the galaxy and they all live in a lovely community.



THIS IS THE TOWN ANTHEM OF THETFORD

*Welcome to Thetford, this is our song
 Come on sing along, ring the bell, ding dong
 This is the town where we all belong
 Don't fall in the river, that would be wrong*

*Welcome to Thetford, surrounded by trees
 We'll give you a tour, come with us please
 With loads of beautiful flowers and bees*

This is where the nature leads

THE SIGHTS OF THETFORD

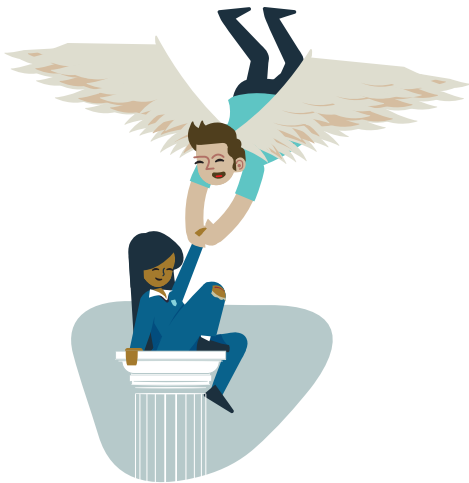
THESE ARE THE FAMOUS SIGHTS OF THETFORD

Good Smelling Museum

This is the Charles Burrell Museum. It is a museum with old cars and steam trains in, to show the vehicles that were used a long time ago. Built in 1995, it is old. Very old. The outside looks boring but inside is very fun and smells good. It is quite interesting for days out. The building creeps us out.

The Best Place

This is a cinema and gym called The Light. It is the best place. Built in 1980, it is a place to relax and entertain people by watching funny or gruesome movies.

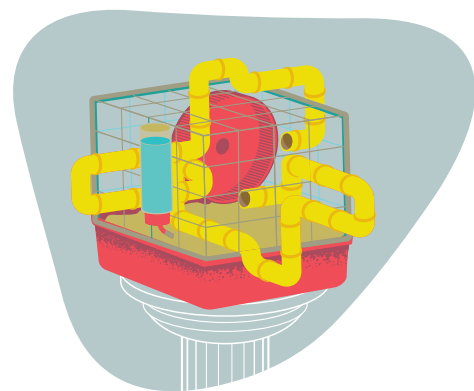


Luke

This is a statue of our friend Luke. You can find it in the middle of the school playground. He deserves to be a statue because he is our best friend. He helps us when we fall.

The Minion Field

Grimes Graves or the Minion Field is a place to discover the past. It was built in either 2000 BC or 1591. It looks high and bumpy. The bumps are sand dunes or WW2 trenches or a field full of rabbit homes. Or there are bumps because they've been digging for flint. We think it is fun to roll down the hills. It is a place for weird holidays.



The Cage

Near the vet hospital there is a monument to honour all pets. It is in the shape of a giant hamster cage. We built this monument to show people what a pet needs.

Center Parcs

This is Center Parcs: a holiday park for families to take a break from work or school. It looks new and it has Pizza Hut and Starbucks and tennis courts and volleyball and it gets you better at swimming. Perfect. We love it here because it is so fun.

Green House Of Parliament

Kings House or Flower House or Green House of Parliament is a luxurious and fancy hotel or visit site. It was built in 1933. Fabulous. Royals might live here. We like this place because it holds lots of plants and it makes us feel calm.

The Bunk Bed

This statue of a bunk bed is to honour all mums. Our mums get us to bed. They make us bunk beds. They also take us outside a lot. They let us play with them. And they do everything for us. And we do everything for them.



Old Dogs Lie Here

This is Thetford Priory or Stone Henge. It is an ancient ruin and a tourist site from the Roman times which protects and inspires people. There are holes in the ground there (we used to think they were toilets). It is old and mysterious at night. We like this place because it reminds us of the olden days. It could be boring but if you climb on the stuff, it's fun. Old dogs lie here, RIP.



Steve

This statue is of Steve. He is the best neighbour. He is so kind in his window.

Average-Sized Museum

This is the Dad's Army Museum. It was built in 1977. It is old and average-sized. You can learn all the different kinds of things about the army and facts about war here. We think there are guns there. We've never been there but we want to go. We think it is educational and unique.

Lucy

This statue is in honour of Lucy the teddy. She will keep you calm if your shoulder is sprained. We built this statue for all our favourite teddies, the ones we have had since we were born.



Go Ape

This is Go Ape at High Lodge. It was built 18 years ago. It gives you something to do and keeps you busy. We like it because it is fun and adventurous, and it uses balance and training. There is a zip line that swings people about and is exciting. It challenges people in a good way. It gets rid of fear of heights.

THESE ARE THE LESS FAMOUS SIGHTS OF THETFORD

Bus Stop

I found this place when I was walking, then I saw the sign, it said Bus Stop. Nobody goes there because they have cars instead of buses.

Blackbird Nest

My mum was gardening, then she spotted it. I think it was cool and cute. No one knows about it because it was in my garden.

Redcastle Family Stone

We have hidden a beautiful pebble near Castle Hill. It is around 7-10cm wide and has 'R.F.S.' and a smiley face painted on the bottom. It signifies that we are happy and proud to be part of Redcastle Family School.

Secret Swing

We have a secret swing. It has a red seat and it's really fun! It even has a hill that we roll down! It's on an old tree, it's very high up. Nobody knows who built it, we just found it.

Blocked Alley

On the way into the graveyard is a little alleyway. It is near a house and it has pine cones, twigs, and one tree! It looks abandoned and somebody blocked the door so no one can come past.

Grandad's Secret Door

I found the secret door when I was in my grandad's house. I think that it's really cool and mysterious! Because it's locked off and hidden by a fence.

Underground Room

There is an underground room below a garden near my place. I was walking when something caught my eye. It is really cool and hidden. Not even the owners know it's there.



The Tree

When I go to my nan and grandad's and I go for a walk, I see The Tree. I really like The Tree because it looks like a pretty hideout. Some people don't know about it because they walk past it. Once I saw a cat in it.



Forest House

There is an abandoned house in the forest and no one knows about it, no one ever went inside and there are some ghosts there. It's very gloomy and no one ever saw a human inside.

Dark Tunnel

My grandad told me about the dark tunnel. It's well hidden. It scares me.

Secret Hole

I dug a hole in the ground and put in something really secret. No one knows about it, only me.

THE ORDINARY STREETS OF THETFORD

If you get away from the town centre you will find the ordinary streets of Thetford, like the streets near our schools where we live.

Our streets are close to a beautiful forest. Deer run there.

There is a big field around the corner and a Londis and there's blackberries. There are cats and dogs. There's an area with a park, corner shops and loads of kids. A lot of our friends from school are there. There's a big hill with a tunnel and we get to ride our bikes down it. It's not very busy and everyone is welcome. There's a retired Royal Guard and a man who looks at his courgettes with a magnifying glass. There's the man across the road with chickens and the man who gets mad at his computer. Our neighbours always have a new car.



Everything is close to everything else. There's only one street sign and the pavement is very small. Tesco is so close we can go on our own. There are stinging nettles and you can see tomatoes growing in the corner of the car park and cat pawprints in really old cement in the alleyway. The neighbours at number 15 play their loud music all the time and the ice cream van comes around every day. There used to be a swing in the forest, teenagers took it down but we will probably make another one.

Our streets are not as glamorous as New York. Sometimes it's nice and calm and you can hear the wind. Other times there are noisy trains and motorbikes going past. We wish there weren't so many cars going by so we can't cross the road. We can hear shouting at night and dogs barking.

The new road is not smooth – it's the worst. There should be less roadworks and less litter. Sometimes there are fights (drama). Sometimes people can be nosy and sometimes they swear. Instead of a wall in the playground they should have a football goal. We wish there were more hills. We wish there was a funfair nearby.

But we remember the fireworks and the whole group of cats. We remember dancing in the rain and when a tree fell in the garden. We remember Halloween and the power cut. We remember being invited to a BBQ and the Christmas thing and when we found a dead bird in the garden. We remember when Eva knocked on the wrong door.

Look closely at our streets and you will see birds and spiders, berries in the trees, people in windows, air, gas, atoms, bacteria, wildlife, moss, flowers, stones, jewellery on the floor, lights in the windows, decorations on the window sills, road signs, lost toys, security cameras, fingernails, wasps, footsteps, insects, lumps of mud, ghosts, license plates, dust, rubbish, vitamin B (maybe).

Under our streets are dirt and roots and bugs. Keys and worms and graves. There are tunnels and rabbit skeletons and diamonds. Leaky pipes and dinosaur fossils. A coffin from an old queen and a treasure chest from 1226. There's a deep passageway leading to an old forest on the edge of Thetford. There's water and rock and the bottom of the world.

The ordinary streets of Thetford are quiet and peaceful and the community is very kind.



THE NEWEST STREET IN THETFORD

If you look around the streets of Thetford long enough, you will find a new street that's different to the others. This the best street in Thetford because we designed it ourselves.

On our street there are clean gardens, cut grass and working street lamps. The road is much less rocky than the old roads and there are no cars allowed at all.

On the street is a corner shop for supplies so we don't have to go all the way to the big supermarket. There's a coffee shop with sweet treats for us and our mums can get a coffee. There's a cinema and remote-control vehicle shop and a place to rent e-scooters. There's an arcade and a park with monkey bars, slides and a fireman pole, a roundabout, a bench, swings, a swingy and wobbly bridge, a rainbow tunnel slide, a ball pit and a wobbly see-saw thing. There's a place where people can rest for hours and there are new houses for old people in the community.

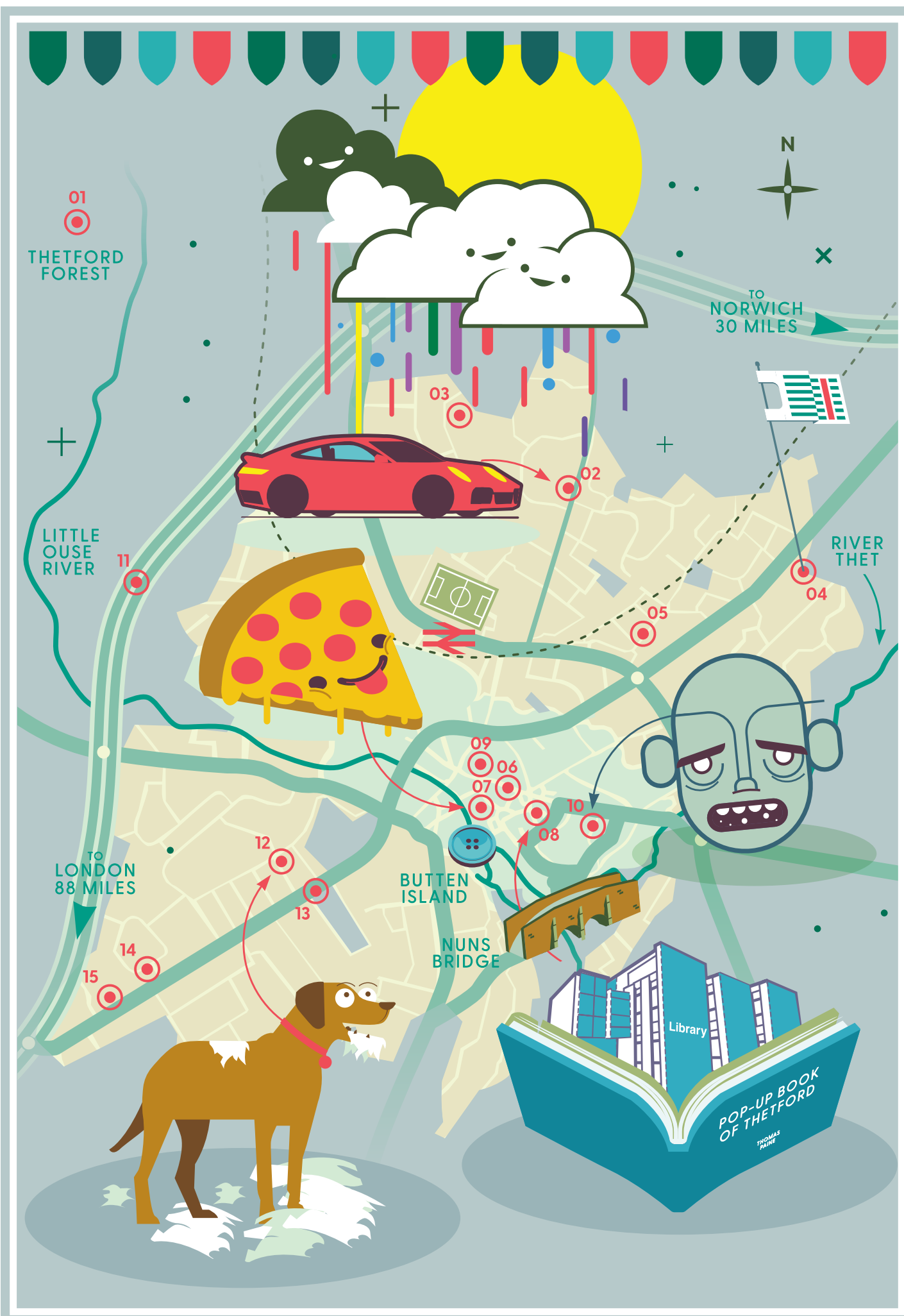
There's a shop that gives away Prime for free. A fun house for everyone so poor people get to play some parkour

to get some food for free. A football pitch because we love football and love playing with our friends. A trampoline park, a climbing tree, a chocolate restaurant, skate park and a fish and chip shop where we go literally every night for dinner.

There's an obstacle course and a World of Tanks, a zoo where we can study animals because we love them, a climbing wall with chocolate and Sour Patch Kids, a music room, a Go Kart centre that's open 24 hours (6am to midnight), a gym tower, a sweet shop on wheels because we are always hungry, and a treehouse with a swing because there are lots of kids near our street and most of them are under 12.

At the end of the road there's a beach and a new swimming pool with a water slide and a zipline into the pool because before whenever it was hot there was no local pool nearby our streets except for lakes full of fish and ducks and duck poop.

In the daytime triple decker buses take you everywhere you want to go, but after 7 o' clock the street goes completely silent.



A MAP OF THETFORD

1. The best place to hide a tiger is Thetford Forest.
2. The fancy cars parked near Londis are where rich people go.
3. A good place for a superhero fight is Fun2Play because there are tons of slides.
4. A place to get completely lost is Tesco Superstore.
5. The best place to do a bungee jump is the Church on the Way.
6. The best place in Thetford is New Saffron Indian restaurant.
7. Domino's Pizza is the best place to shelter during an emergency.
8. The best place to write a story about Thetford is Thetford Library.
9. The most haunted place in Thetford is the Portuguese butchers Pátio Das Cantigas.
10. A zombie apocalypse is most likely to start at Castle Park.
11. The worst place for a garden would be the A11.
12. Redcastle Family School is the worst place to walk your dog because the dog might eat your homework.
13. A place to take beautiful pictures is London Road Cemetery.
14. Home Bargains is the place that best represents Thetford.
15. The best place for a secret laboratory is McDonald's because no one is going to suspect that.

THE SCHOOLS OF THETFORD

A very important part of Thetford is our schools.

Our schools are full of interesting places, like the field and the playground and the nature area. There's a gate where we talk to our friends before school and after. There's a music room that's always quiet and a radio room and a computer room where you go to do computing. There's a Thrive Room and a Calm Port. There's a trim trail where you can sit behind a tree and watch the sunset. The hall is big and the chairs in our classroom are very comfy. The best thing about school is our friends. They care and they make us laugh.

Our teachers are always making jokes. Mr Miles likes planting plants and Mr Horgan is very good at basketball. It's hard when people distract you and it's hard to do gymnastics. In maths we learn additive equations and in art we learn how to mix colours. On Halloween we had a disco and one time we got to go to the O2 for Young Voices 2023. We still remember what it felt like on our first day, making lots

of friends who are still our friends today.

The playground should be bigger and our teachers should help us more. We wish there was a swimming pool and a hot tub and we wish there were new books every day. We wish friendship would never end and that there were no school uniforms. No more homework and no more being rude or sassy. Fix the Year 6 toilets. We should have PE more than two days a week and we should be allowed to run if we really need to (example: toilet). Let us bring our pets to school and let us clean up our own messes instead of the cleaning ladies. Always have a disco and never touch a book. Let us do what we want with no consequences.



SOME INTERESTING WALKS

A Plant Walk

This walk is from Tesco to the garden centre. Start at Tesco and you'll see a wooden-bridge-looking-thing and you walk over the bridge-looking-thing. When you get to the garden centre you'll know because you'll see lots of plants. If you want, you can buy a few plants. There is also an outside bit with more plants you can buy. There's also some fish inside and some really big fish are outside. On the sides you will find more little fish that you can buy if they look very cute.

A Light Blue Walk

This walk takes you from Home Bargains to the Chase. It will be a calm and relaxing walk. You will see a private school and cool houses and cars. When you are halfway you will pass three of our friends' houses. The best thing about this walk is that the flowers are growing, the trees are bright green, and the sky is really beautiful and a light blue colour.

A Long Walk

My long walk is from Castle Park to Duncan Close to the Admiral's Academy to Drake Road to the One Stop on Admiral's Way to Greggs.

A Supermarket Walk

My house is on a very thin road. When you come out of the door, turn right and then left immediately. You are now on a wiggly road called Glebe Close. Follow it. You will get to a straight patch of road. You now have two options. You can go right or you can go left. If you go right, you will go round a large bend and then you will be at my other building. If you turn left you will come to a right angle turn in the road. Take it. Walk along until you see another straight road, on the left. Now you have two options again. You can go straight ahead or you can turn left. If you go straight ahead you will get to school. Next to that is Tesco, where my mum works. If you turned left, keep walking. As soon as you see a road on the right, take it. It's wiggly. If you follow it, you will end up at Aldi.

A Blossom Tree Walk

Take a walk in Thetford Forest.
When you are there you can hear birds tweeting and humming in the trees. You will see deer eating and sleeping, with their babies drinking their milk from the deer's tummy. You will smell lavender and flowers. My best smell in Thetford Forest is the blossom trees.

When you are on your walks you should try and photograph all of these things:

- Trees
- Crumbs
- Books
- A statue of an angel
- Someone running
- Thomas Paine
- Queen Victoria
- A spatula
- A glass of water
- A squirrel
- A rare species of ant queen that doesn't even live in Thetford
- Our sister's sassy moves
- The Guildhall
- The whole town
- A plain colour
- A newspaper
- Litter
- A building

- A speck of dust
- A piece of dirt
- The whole town again
- Thetford Academy
- A whole apartment building
- Your phone flying in the air
- A strand of hair
- A white board
- An ant
- Ten bees chasing a random person
- A little piece of snow
- Clara's little sister
- Our school
- Learning
- A fork
- An egg
- A dot in the middle of an otherwise empty frame
- Grass
- A snail
- A birds-eye view of Thetford Forest
- The whole of the lake
- A grain of sand
- Air
- A demon in the forest

SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Before we go, we have a few questions to ask you:

- What have you learned with *The Book of Thetford*?
- What is your opinion about the book?
- What is your favourite part?
- How many stars would you rate the book out of 5?
- Would you recommend the book to other people?
- Will Joe Biden read this book?
- Where do you live?
- Would you live here?
- Did you move to Thetford and if so, where did you move from?
- What do you like about Thetford?
- Will you spend your holidays here?
- What would you want to change about Thetford?
- What's the population of Thetford?

- How many ant species are there in Thetford? (Name three.)
- What monster is the shiniest? (Frankenshine)
- What is Thetford's favourite car brand? (Ford)
- What did you have for dinner?
- If there was a big game of hide and seek, where would you hide?
- If you would make a new music type, what would you name it?
- If a zombie apocalypse started, what would you do?
- What's your favourite food?
- What's your favourite cookbook?
- What does your fart smell like?
- If you were rich or a prince or princess, what would you do?
- Did you like reading this book or not?

Thank you for reading our guidebook to Thetford. This is a good place.

There's quite a lot to do here and it's actually really fun. The people are nice and it's the only place that has such an abundance of pine trees. Tesco is the best.

Some of us are worried about the future. More people are coming and this town is going to keep getting louder and louder. We don't like the cigarette butts on the ground and we don't like littering. We are worried about the burnt parts of the forest. We're worried about changes. What if the pollution gets worse? What if they made the McDonald's smaller? What if animals start going extinct? What if flying cars start crashing into planes and everything becomes so chaotic?

We hope the forest keeps expanding and that people will start collecting all the trash so the planet won't go boom. We hope there will be more places to live and everyone will be able to live there. We hope there'll be more places for people to go and have a chat. We hope Thetford will be more futuristic, that everything will be electric. There's a lot you can do in the future but at the same time if you make cars too intelligent then robots might take over the earth. We hope Tesco might get bigger.

In the future we want more animals living and being cared for by humans. We want more trees and more scientists in Thetford. We want wild animals like sloths living in Thetford Forest. We want a bigger McDonalds and a bigger KFC. We want bigger trees. We want Thetford to be a city. We want a waterpark and we want Uno to be more popular because it's so fun. We want an animal hospital. We want an end to inflation.

Whatever happens in Thetford in the future, we may or may not be here to see it. We might need to move somewhere else for a better job. We might be in Latvia or Portugal. We might be in Bury St Edmunds. We might be living in a quiet village in Poland. Or we might still be here, working in our favourite doggy daycare. We have lived here since we were so young and life wouldn't be complete if we were somewhere else.

Wherever we are remember us, and remember what we showed you. This is a memento from a moment in time. This is what it was like to live in Thetford in 2024.

The Book of Thetford was created by Key Stage 2 children from Admirals Academy, Drake Primary School, Norwich Road Academy and Redcastle Family School in collaboration with Andy Field & Beckie Darlington.

The book's editors were Adriana, Alexander, Amelia, Clara, Daniels, Dolcey, Jack, Lyra, Mario, Mia, Nikki, Patryk, Theo and Vanesa.

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The Book of Thetford is part of a series of guidebooks that began with *The Book of St Helens* commissioned by Heart of Glass.

andyandbeckie.com





THE BOOK OF RIGA

IF YOU ENJOYED *THE
BOOK OF THETFORD*,
YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE
THE BOOK OF RIGA.

Riga and Thetford both have noisy people and forests nearby. People are friends with their neighbours. There are friendly schools and not many cars and everyone has a cat. But in Riga there are two rivers and in Thetford there aren't.

In Riga and Thetford there are smashed windows and people put their Christmas lights up after Halloween. In both places there are fireworks and a brown friendly dog. But in Thetford there are no small wooden houses like there are in Riga and no ghosts.

Scan here to download your free copy of *The Book of Riga*:





**THIS IS OUR BOOK OF THETFORD.
WHAT WOULD BE IN YOUR BOOK?**

[#thebookofthetford](https://twitter.com/thebookofthetford)