

Year 4 Football Tournament – Our Team’s Story

On Wednesday 19th November 2025, despite the snow, freezing temperatures and really wintry conditions, nine of us Year 4 footballers went to Thame United Football Ground to represent our school in the Thame Partnership Football Tournament. With the support of some fantastic parents, we were ready for the challenge.

Match 1: vs Barley Hill

We couldn't have asked for a better start. In our opening match against Barley Hill, we played with confidence right from the whistle and came away with a brilliant win. Our passing, movement and teamwork set the tone for the rest of the tournament.

Match 2: vs St Andrew's

Our second match was against St Andrew's, and it proved to be a very tough contest. We had lots of possession and worked tirelessly to create chances, coming incredibly close to scoring on several occasions. Despite our effort and determination, we couldn't quite find the goal and narrowly lost the match. Even so, the team showed great resilience and never gave up.

Match 3: vs John Hampden

We bounced back brilliantly in our third game against John Hampden. It was another hard-fought match, but the team stayed focused and worked together superbly to secure a well-deserved win.

Match 4: vs Tetsworth

In our final match against Tetsworth, the team finished strongly, showing great energy and teamwork to claim another victory. It was the perfect way to end the tournament.

Out of four matches, we won three, and although we didn't quite make the final, we can honestly say that we gave absolutely everything and represented our school with pride.

Player Highlights

There were many standout moments throughout the tournament:

- Sam – an incredible long kick from goal to goal that travelled straight down the far right side of the pitch
- Ruairi and Jake – outstanding goalkeeping, with some fantastic saves when we needed them most
- Ted and Archie – strong and reliable defending throughout
- Jos and Digby, alongside our two super scorers Barney and Max – relentless work to win possession, tackle hard and keep us moving forward

Thank You

A huge thank you goes to Mr and Mrs Shepherd and Mr Huntley for transporting the team to and from Thame. Special thanks as well to Mr Shepherd and Mr Huntley for coaching and refereeing the games on the day - your support made a big difference.

Learning Through Sport

Throughout the tournament, we developed important life skills. We learnt how to:

- Work as a team and support one another
- Stay calm and focused under pressure
- Show resilience when things didn't go our way
- Respect opponents, referees and decisions

There were lots of moments we were proud of. We made great passes, strong tackles, important saves and took responsibility for our positions on the pitch.

Recognising Each Other's Strengths

As a team, we recognised and valued everyone's contribution:

- Some of us made crucial saves in goal
- Some defended bravely and worked tirelessly
- Some won possession and never gave up
- Some showed confidence and composure in front of goal

We encouraged one another throughout, which helped us perform at our best.

Gratitude and Responsibility

We are very grateful to the adults who supported us on the day by driving us to and from the tournament and helping coach and referee the matches. Their support helped us feel confident, safe and ready to play.

Looking Back

This tournament helped us grow, not just as footballers but as people. We learnt that trying hard, working together and showing good sportsmanship are just as important as winning. We are proud to have represented our school and will carry these lessons with us in future challenges

