



# Thurlbear Matters

8.9.23

Term 1, Week 1

## In This Issue

- Welcome Back
- Notices
- The Week Ahead

## Our Christian Values:

Thankfulness,  
Hope,  
Friendship,  
Wisdom and  
Trust

## Our Christian focus for this term is:

### Friendship

Our classes will focus on this value around school and in our collective worships, led by Mr Gillan and individual classes.

## Welcome (and Welcome Back)!

Mr Gillan

Week 1 has come to an end and it is time to welcome you all back to Thurlbear and, for our new families across the school, it's a welcome back! As always, our messages at the start of the school year resonate from previous years, so you may have read this before! I have looked back at recent year's newsletters to see what messages I have started with in our opening communication. It makes me very happy when re-read and feel just as excited as I did years ago!

**This paragraph encapsulates our day-to-day living:** I use the 'family' term deliberately. Monday to Friday, our staff are alongside your children for a lot of their waking day; I see your children more than I see my own! We nurture, comfort, guide, communicate, cajole, laugh, praise and play with your children every minute of the school day; the list of verbs is extensive and we work alongside our children in the style of a parent/carer. I walk through our school and think: "Would I want this for my own children?" and I know colleagues, here, do the same. My answer – now into my 12<sup>th</sup> year – has always been a definitive 'yes'.

On the side of our school is the Foundation Stone with the Bible inscription "**Train up a child in the way he should go....**" Fast-forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and let's bring 'they' in for 'he' and it still captures our whole vision at Thurlbear: **to be an irresistible Church School; a place for learning experiences that lead to great life chances in the future...** our pupils are prepared for life beyond Thurlbear and this is always reflected in our Secondary School's successes and into further education. So many of our pupils go on to represent their schools at a higher level in sports, academic or regional representation. We are very proud of every single pupil that leaves our school. **As we celebrate 150 years as a school**, our past pupils and families have been sharing with us some of their achievements on our social media page!

**Just like lots of families, we aren't perfect and we will get stuff wrong.** We try not to make the same mistake twice and always aim to communicate as effectively as possible when things change or we spot an error. You'll make mistakes, too, so contacting us and talking will help us all. You can see our contact details in the blue column, to the left.

### Our Christian Values:

**Thankfulness, Hope, Friendship, Wisdom and Trust** (friendship is this half term!)

We focus on these values in many of our Collective Worships and our Church visitors from the Seven Sowers benefice – Rev Joanna and her team – also use these to keep us all united in thought and vision. In each half term, we look at a new value and classes lead their own Key Stage worships with this theme at its heart. Rev Joanna also sends us updates of Benefice worships in our local churches, which we then pass on to our families. **This year, we plan to invite families back in to see their child's Friday Worship.** This is a very popular request

## Online Resources and Safety:

1. [www.swiggle.org.uk](http://www.swiggle.org.uk)

Safer online searching – it creates search lists from educational sites only. Please do give it a go at home, as it should bring up some very interesting sites for home projects / research.

2. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/> Resources for reading and other online 'bits'.

3. <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/> Some beautiful images and great facts on this National Geographic site.

## Contact Us

Office@thurlbearprimaryschool.co.uk

01823 442277

## Bible Thought:

from families! More on this once we have organised our space safely and effectively.

Your children will be part of 4 church groups in our school:

**St Thomas, St Mary, St Michael and St Peter.**

We use these groups at events, such as Sports Day and for Interhouse competitions!

# General Notices for The Year

Mr Gillan, Mrs Moore, Mrs Carter

**Each week**, I will aim to collate the most important information, updates, signposts and requests from teachers, office team and me, ensuring you don't miss out on key information. For some weeks, there not be that much information! If so, I will notify you if there is no newsletter via our Parental Engagement tools (see below!)

### Social Media / Website / Parental Engagement tools:

1. We do have a Facebook page for both our school and our PTA (more on this later), and this is where I publish a link to the newsletter. Facebook is a wonderful tool for lots of people, but many of you will not use it. You will not miss **any** newsletters or updates if you do not use Facebook, as I paste information into both our website and FB.

#### Subscribe to Blog via Email

Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

SUBSCRIBE

2. Our website has a blog where I post our weekly newsletters as well as any news updates. You can **SUBSCRIBE** to this blog and never miss out on information. Simply got to our school website <https://www.thurlbear.somerset.sch.uk/news/> and enter your email, hitting subscribe, afterwards! You will then be automatically sent blog items (newsletters/news etc).

3. Every class will also have a specific parental engagement tool. For years 1 to 6, this will be **Class Dojo**, where teachers and parent/carers can communicate securely about your own child, as well as post general class messages. Teachers will let you know more about this in their own half termly newsletters. It is a brilliant place to share photos securely and I regularly comment on the work done or updates from families! Foundation Stage pupils will have **Tapestry** and, again, Miss Kelloway will give out more information to Chestnut parents.

4. These tools are excellent, but they have limitations! **PLEASE don't expect immediate responses** if you send messages using FaceBook, as I don't monitor it during school hours and I don't have access to it over the weekends. **Email or phone the office is the route for an immediate response!** Also, please bear in mind that teachers should separate professional and personal lives and, therefore, should not be replying to any messages you send during the evening. We also have many teachers who are not working full-time, so won't be accessing communications on their non-working days. Again, message the office if you have a concern or update for us. **We always try and reply on the same day.**

"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

We are a proud part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells:

[www.bathandwells.org.uk](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk)

## VALUES TEAM:

Each year, we look to our pupils to help us create the ethos in our school, to drive the standards of behavior, attitude and spiritual development. A selection of pupils from each key stage 2 class will, once again, meet and discuss improving our school alongside the staff and parents.



Lord, guide me on the path I should go,  
Help me see the ways I can grow,  
Thankfulness, Hope, Friendship, Wisdom and Trust,  
These values help me be kind and just.

**Uniform:** everyone has turned up looking incredibly smart! During the year, the main things that happen are:

**1. Shoes fall to bits.** Please just communicate with us if something goes wrong with school shoes. We understand it can take some time to replace them. If possible, keep them plain, **black** and without flashing lights, hidden toys or edible pieces (I made that bit up, but it wouldn't surprise me). Shoes simply need to be sensible, safe and practical. We also understand they can be costly. Perhaps, if shoes are outgrown, some sort of shoe-swap could be organised between classes (perhaps one for the PTA to attempt!)?

**2. Hair accessories.** Without sounding draconian, please ensure that headbands, scrunchies, alic bands, hair clip and bobbles are discrete and simple in colour! We aren't trying to suck the fun out of hair care, but it simply keeps a consistency across the school and we can celebrate the uniqueness of our children through their living and learning in the school day (and they can express themselves through their hair on a Dress Down Friday!).

**3. Pre-loved.** The school has some used uniform that is in very good condition. Families can access and Mrs Linthorne, a parent, kindly oversees this for us. I am sure there will be information regarding this very soon.

**4. PLEASE name everything.** We have a lost property and it saddens me greatly to see so many items that get left in there. The Year 6 try and help me give it back out but the amount of clothes without names makes this almost impossible...the sniff test is not perfect!

**Name all clothes name all clothes name all clothes name all clothes!**

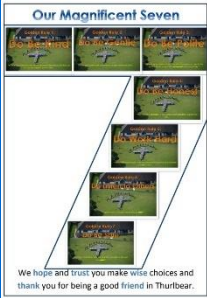
**Lunches:** Just as a reminder: if your child is in Foundation Stage, year 1 or 2, they are entitled to the Universal Infant Free School meal (UIFSM) and, therefore, no payment is required. Children in Y3-6 (Key Stage 2) need to enclose payment with their menu. Lunches are £2.55 a day (unless you receive free school meals) and you can choose your days on the menu; you don't need to order a hot meal for every day! Allergies / dietary requirements? Please let us know ASAP. **Currently, we have nut, egg and sesame seed allergies in school, so please be very mindful of these restrictions when sending in your child's lunch.** We would never discard your child's food for containing these and would always communicate with you. Regarding egg content in lunches, we say:

**NO mayonnaise NO egg sandwiches NO mini picnic eggs /scotch eggs.** These measures are put in place for the protection of our pupils who will

Well done,  
Molly! Great  
donation!







be at risk if these requests are ignored. We monitor lunchboxes as effectively as possible, but no system is perfect and we rely on families supporting us by following our rules.

**A common year-on-year concern** for families is the route in to and out from our school! As of today (Friday) this has been very successful and, dare I whisper it, the best start to a (normal) school year I can remember! Just some things to consider:

1. We are a rural school and tractors / combines rightly need to use our roads around school; please be mindful of them at key times in the day.
2. The speed limit outside of our school is a ludicrous 60mph! I am a little opinionated when it comes to the safety of my families and have been trying for some time to get this changed to 20mph during school hours. **There is an now advisory 20mph during the start and end of the school day and we have flashing signs that should warn motorists.**
3. If families could just TRY and stick to our suggested route to and from school in a one-way system, it really does make it seamless! Every day this week we are clear by 3:36pm! The downhill corner is a particular bottle neck solvable by cars trying to flow one way. As I have said many times, I can only control the environment inside our fence and you will decide what you want to do as grown-ups on the roads! There will be families who are travelling in the opposite direction, as they live Staple Fitzpaine direction – and our taxi also travels this way. Please be respectful that they are not going against advice!
4. Please drive safely through the village, for the sake of the whole community. **And please remember that we have a small number of families who walk to school.** Please pass them slowly and with consideration.

**Throughout** the year, the teachers will be monitoring the opportunities for any visits OFF the site as well as inviting experts in. Where these visits are planned, we will give families as much time as possible to plan for payments. Teachers will communicate via their own newsletters and Class Dojo. We will also be very mindful of costs of trips. As we have mentioned before, our location makes it very expensive for coaches, so this will be taken into consideration when we plan trips. **We do NOT make a profit from trips!** Every penny requested is for the event.

## Safeguarding Mr Gillan

- **Safeguarding** is not just child protection; it is the every-day guarding-the-safety. It's why we walk around school, why we hang up bags rather than leave them on the floor and why we have **Golden Rule no.7: Do Be Safe!**
- **Alongside** this is our safe contact with you, our parents and carers. Please ensure that we have your most up to date information in school, including your mobile number, a work number, a home number if applicable and an email address. It is also necessary for us to have **at least one other** emergency contact should we not be able to reach you;

someone local, ideally! Over the holidays, lots can change in your lives so, for example, if you move, let us know. If there are split families, we will **always** endeavor to get **consistent** communications to both parents, so please do work with us to achieve this.

- **We have your consent for photos, photos on the website and on our social media, and to be displayed in school.** I love to publish great things about our pupils and an image will never be accompanied by the child's full name etc.
- **Communication on pick-ups:** one of our biggest issues can be when your pick-up plans change suddenly! We fully understand that things crop up, but please do communicate with us as soon as you can. We won't let your child go with someone else if we haven't been given the permission by the main carer / parent **to the office team (please** not notify us on class dojo, as it might not be read in time). In these instances, we contact the family and speak directly. Please do not be upset if we respectfully keep the child until we have verified; it is done with the very best of intentions!
- **Allergies:** in school, we operate a strict no-egg and no-nuts policy due to pupils with severe allergies, as mentioned above! A polite reminder that, if you have a child with asthma, you should ensure we have an up-to-date inhaler available in the classroom.
- **Just as a general reminder,** I (Mr Gillan) am the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Miss Kelloway is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Both Mrs Lucas and Mrs Moore have also had the relevant safeguarding lead training. All TAs have had up to date safeguarding training and know what to do if they have any concerns regarding our children, concerns about staff and if they have concerns about my conduct. I feel it important for families to know that **everyone** in school is accountable for their conduct and we are equitable in our professionalism.

---

## General updates for Week 1

1. **Our after-school sports clubs start on Monday. The clubs list will be published online in all the usual places. Monday starts with Cricket for Years 3 to 6.** Just turn up on the day and we will then create a register on day 1 and you can pay online using our payment system. Contact the office should you need assistance with payments (and check our posts on the blog for how-to!). Thanks to Mrs Powell for volunteering her time to run a choir club for us! Please note that her limit is approximately 25, so we will need to monitor how many come next Friday and, if there are too many, then allocate spaces by. Into the next half term, we will pick up other non-sport clubs.

2. **PTA NEWS!** Just a reminder about the **PTA AGM. It is planned for Tue 12 September 5.30pm in the school hall.** This vital group work alongside us to

ensure best value for money in what we deliver to our families. Please do come along and find out more!

3. At the moment, we have Mr Lloyd delivering drum tuition and Mr Snowden with guitar lessons. Both are fantastic professionals and work with pupils across the age ranges. We may have the opportunity for violin tuition! Ms Driscoll might be available on a Wednesday morning so, if anyone is interested, please drop me a message via dojo or email ☺ .

4. From Mrs Moore: "One of the questions we have been asked this week regarding the new School Gateway App Account is: **can both parents have a School Gateway account?** The answer is yes but it is not possible to have different balances displayed for separated parents based on what they have booked and paid individually because the account relates to the child. This means that if there is an outstanding balance the app will not let any more bookings be made until the outstanding balance has been paid. For those parents/carers who have not had an opportunity to download the app please see below for further details on how to register for a School Gateway account.

- Via the app, you will need to download the School Gateway app via App Store for Apple devices and Play Store for Android devices

- If accessing via the web, please go to <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>

- Go to the login screen on the app/web If using the web version of School Gateway, ensure the NEW USER tab is selected before inputting any details

- Enter the email address and mobile number that is registered with the school

- You will then receive a PIN on a text o Enter the 4-digit PIN number received via text

- Once logged in the home screen will be displayed

5. A message from Miss Warrington: "We are looking for volunteers, who are competent riders with their own bike and helmet, to help with the year 6 Bikeability courses this October. We have Road Safety Trainers from Somerset Council taking the sessions, but would very much appreciate some parents to aid the ratio of adults to children.

**10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> October: 2 adults needed for group 1**

**12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October: 3 adults needed for group 2**

Volunteers would be needed all day (9-3.30) and, ideally, to complete the 2 days with a group. However, please do let us know, by emailing the office, if you can do any of these days.

Thank you in advance.



# The Week(s) Ahead

Mr Gillan

Next week, we will finalise all dates and put them into our web calendar. This will include Dress Down Fridays, Harvest Service, Parent Consultations and other school events.

## NEXT FRIDAY is our 150<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration!

Mrs Hampson has passed on some fascinating research about the earliest times at Thurlbear School and it points to the school being operational by July 1873; we aren't that far out with our 150<sup>th</sup> timings!

Below, you will see a poster for the day as planned.

**Thurlbear  
Primary School's  
150th Celebration**

**Friday 15th  
September 2023** | A day of celebration at school and  
parents are invited to join us from  
2.45pm on the school field.

**Dress Code:**

- Year R - Current
- Year 1 - 1980s
- Year 2 - 1960s
- Year 3 - 1940s
- Year 4 - 1920s
- Year 5 - 1900s
- Year 6 - 1880s

During the day, we will be thinking about life in our chosen decade, including: school life, music and art.

In the afternoon, we will be bringing the school together in a street-party-style to share our learning, with each child bringing in their own small street party snack (provided from home).

It looks to be a fabulous day in which we can celebrate the school and its history. We hope that you'll be able to join us.