



Thurlbear Matters

22.9.23

Term 1, Week 3

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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.

Online Resources and Safety:

1. www.swiggle.org.uk

School Community Round-Up

Mr Gillan

It has been a real pleasure looking at the pictures of the 150th celebrations across our school, last week. Our pupils have shown how proud they are of Thurlbear School and that feeling is reciprocal. All staff working here appreciate and respect the pupils for their unique personalities, interests and motivations. All of our pupils are on different journeys, but we try our best to ensure their happiness and safety align with their hopes and expectations.

- Morning drop-off is going well and it is great to see even some of our Chestnut Class being dropped into the playground and grown-ups happy to leave them in the line. Parents are welcome to leave them with us! I know the transition is sometimes hard, but there are staff always in the playground and our Year 6 Buddies also love to stand with them and talk warmly. **Please remember** to use our drop-off in the car park, too! It is there to ease parking congestion and, hopefully, ease your start to the morning.
- **FLU VACCINATION DEADLINE:** Booking for the flu vaccinations, to be held in school next Thursday, will close midnight Wednesday 27th.
- **Our Harvest Services will be supporting Taunton Foodbank, once again, this year.** More details to follow.
- Thanks to the parent ringing in to ask about Friday Worships, which are predominantly class-led. If you are not aware, we use a Friday Worship as a time to allow each class the opportunity to show their learning or understanding based our Christian values. Pre-pandemic, this was a time to invite the parent/carer group in to watch, too, and share in the ethos and warmth of the worship. Since then, there have been obvious challenges with resurrecting this, not least our end-of-day pick-up system which has improved our quality of home-time experience more than thought possible! Year 6 and Year 2 are the hardest logistical nuts to crack, as these classes have our car-systems. I know how hugely popular they are with families. Therefore, from NEXT WEEK 29th September, we will invite our Year 5 families in for our Friday Worship. **What they are:** they are worships, a time to celebrate the values of the school and share some learning around these thoughts. They simply reflect the weekly flow of learning at our school. **What they are not:** they aren't grand performances, with complex scripts and large parts for actors. It isn't a chance to bring extended family, so please make sure you simply turn up with the usual person that picks up. If we have too many adults, we will have to abandon the plan as we will not be allowed in our hall over-capacity. **Year 6 families:** apologies you are not in for today's Worship, but you will have more chances to come and see your

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.

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Bible Thought:

"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

children in bigger performances in the school year - and we will see you in for our harvest Services in just a few weeks!

- Our payments system is fully operational and families can pay for after school sports, now, online. From October, the whole academic year is available for Breakfast and After School Club bookings, via The School Gateway App. **Please** ensure you make your bookings, so we have the correct details of those attending and we are keeping within our safe ratios. **Also, please** be aware the Breakfast Club begins at 8am when staff are fully prepared for our pupils.
- **Our lunchtime suppliers BAM FM are looking for lunch staff** to work in school. Please see the post on our news blog: <https://www.thurlbear.somerset.sch.uk/lunchtime-post-available/> and, as I write, it can be a great way into working in schools for anyone interested. As always, stringent safeguarding checks are carried out by the company to ensure the very best people are working safely with our pupils.
- **Well done** to our sports teams in recent tournaments. As usual, they competed brilliantly and were very successful!

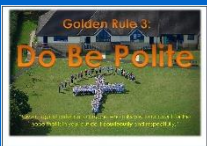


- Our Christian Values is **Friendship**, this half term and, I will be celebrating those golden moments that go above-and-beyond our usual high standards. **This week, I give thanks Milo, a good friend around school, a big brother, and a wonderful pupil to share some class moments with at school!**

School Prayer



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.



Safeguarding

Mr Gillan, Mrs Moore, Mrs Carter

You can find our latest safeguarding policy on the following link:

<https://www.thurlbear.somerset.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding/> and our governors will be agreeing on the 23/24 updates in our AGM, next week.

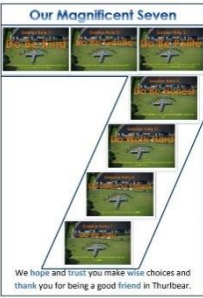
Safeguarding is not just child protection; it is the every-day guarding-the-safety. It's why we walk around school, why we hang up bags rather than leave them on the floor and why we have **Golden Rule no.7: Do Be Safe!**

- **Up-to-date CONTACT DETAILS are essential for every pupil.** This week, we have had a number of families with a change of address, and we thank them for telling us as quickly as possible.
- **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.

The Week Ahead

Mr Gillan

In Monday Worship, our new Values Team will be announced. Mrs Foster-Burnell and I were absolutely blown away by the candidates' passion, thought and commitment to our school.



Thanks to all that took time to write something. We listened to every entry!

Monday: Years 3 to 6 Cross Country

Tuesday: Governors' AGM

Tuesday: Girls' Football

Wednesday: Year 1 Reading Meeting

Thursday: Flu Vaccinations

Thursday: Years 5 and 6 Mixed Tag Rugby @ Ash Meadow

Friday: Year 5 Celebration Worship

