



Thurlbear Matters

11.9.20

Term 1, Week 1

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Online Resources and safety

www.swiggle.org.uk

[Safer online searching – it creates search lists from educational sites only.](#)

www.childnet.com

Lots of online safety tips and games

www.somersetchoices.org.uk

One-stop shop for information for families

Contact Us

Thurlbear@ed
uc.somerset.gov.uk

01823 442277

Bible Thought:

“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as

Welcome Back! Mr Gillan

It's September...and we are all back together! We are absolutely delighted to see our school full of bright, happy pupils, all raring to go with their learning. I have been helping with our lunch duty and checking on our safety protocols around school and, I am so proud to say, our pupils have taken to our safety measures like Thurlbear ducks to water. **For example**, our toilets are single-entry and we have zones on the field and on the playground for specific classes in which they can play. This has not phased any pupil and no-one has taken issue with such rules. The atmosphere has been delightful and I know that every staff member is just so pleased to get back to 'as normal' as we possibly can. As I write, across the school, books are being changed, pupils are asking key questions, methods are being revisited and pupils are deep into a review of their week, so far.

So far, our detailed plan for staggered drop-offs and pick-ups seems to have worked very well, overall. The vast majority of pupils are in the right place at the right time and getting to and from our school is successful. Thanks to so many of you for sticking to the notion of a 30-secs turnaround. There's nothing we can do about tractors, diggers and horses on the roads – as is their absolute right – but we can maintain our own good systems:

- Try and approach school from the Thurlbear Straight end of school (past the church);
- Try and leave by going down the hill and through the village;
- Travel through the village safely and slowly, please.
- Drop-off and pick-up in the zones provided. We ask every parent/carer to stay in your vehicles, **as much as is possible**, and do not park on the road and walk your child in. We are trying to keep adults off the premises for the safety of you, your child, your child's best friend and every member of staff at school.
- Stick to your time slot! Being early or late can affect the queue and flow of cars.

As always, we will monitor our procedures regularly and make changes where necessary for the benefit of our families.

Your class teacher will publish a termly letter, outlining the main learning foci as well as personalised messages for that particular class. The common themes across the school are the Christian values that underpin everything we do at Thurlbear. These letters set out the curriculum areas, as well as ways in which you can support your child at home. Post-lockdown, we're presuming you are all experts in teaching after all that practice you had!

Notices and Safeguarding Mr Gillan

Communication, during these times, is vital for you and us. An excellent by-product of COVID safety measures is that the teachers have actually found, especially in the older year groups, that they are seeing the parents more than ever before, as they are at the pick-up point to say hello and goodbye. Little messages are shouted from a car window or passed on quickly which is a quick-win for many families. However, should you wish or need to have a longer chat, then we have asked you to email or

God in Christ forgave you."

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

www.bathandwells.org.uk

ring school for a time to talk. We will also be continuing with **CLASS DOJO** as an important tool for parental engagement. For those that do not know, **CD** is an effective online resource where teachers can securely share messages, post announcements, updates, events, and photos from class directly to you. It's the easiest way for you to get in touch with class teachers. It's simple, secure for each class, and gives you a window into what is happening in the classroom! Teachers are in charge of moderating and publishing posts and it is e-safer as it makes a direct link between your family and the teacher, which no other family can see. Throughout the lockdown period, it was used extensively and effectively and all teachers want this to continue.

Class Dojo will: provide a secure system of communication between school and home; provide a safer line of communication to your class teacher; be an effective place to post your messages; be a space to learn about the class events for that week / term.

Class Dojo won't: give you 24/7 access to your teachers; be monitored all day every day; be like tapestry, as teachers will not have time to post personalised photos of the learning journey in school; be the place to put urgent messages, as those should go STRAIGHT to the office.

Your teacher will set times in which they can read or respond to anything you add to **CD**. This will depend on the teacher and their own patterns of working.

Also, please bear in mind those teachers that have set working days. Look out for your teacher's own **CD** guidance!

Your brilliant PTA, despite this socially-distanced world we are currently experiencing, are still raising funds to support our fantastic School. Don't forget the AGM is due to take place via Zoom 7pm on **Wednesday 23 September** and all are welcome! Contact Thurlbearpta@hotmail.com if you would like to attend, as it will be a secure online meeting.

Safeguarding is all about guarding safety! It's not just about child protection and stories on the news. We think all the time about our walkways, our school site and the access to all areas in a safer way for all pupils. Your children may have told you that the rooms are a little cold at the moment! This is due to guidelines concerning doors to be left open and windows open for maximum room ventilation. With this in mind, please do ensure your child has a jumper or cardigan at all times for use in the classroom.

The Week(s) Ahead Mr Gillan

Due to the ongoing COVID regulations and constraints, we have very few visitors into school and no plans to leave the school site for educational visits. Teachers will inform you of any in-class experiences planned and these will feature in class letters you receive.

End of term activities are always so popular and we are looking at ways in which we can still share these with you in a safer environment, so watch this space for further details. These newsletters will continue in a regular fashion and touch on safety, learning and resources available for families.

Term 1 dates of interest:

Dress Down Friday: They occur on the first school Friday of a new month. Here are the dates for the rest of the year (hopefully):

2nd October, 6th November, 4th December, 8th January (My birthday!), 5th February, 5th March, 23rd April, 7th May, 11th June and 2nd July.