



Thurlbear Matters

11.12.20

Term 1, Week 13

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www.childnet.com

Lots of online safety tips and games

www.somersetchoices.org.uk
One-stop shop for information for families

Contact Us

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Bible Thought:

"She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them" Luke 2

Final Week Mr Gillan

- **Firstly**, I'd like to start with a huge thank you to all families for continued resilience, awareness, positivity and support in these tough times. As a school, we continue to make our decisions based on 'what is best for the majority?' and, so far, we feel it has gone well. Scientifically, the nationwide picture shows that secondary education continues to be hit hard through this pandemic period and our thoughts go out to those schools and their families. Making choices such as closing down bubbles is not done lightly, but I can fully appreciate just how this can affect pupils and families when it happens.
We, ourselves, made the tough decision about staying open next Friday. Again, it was made based on what we feel is best for the *majority* of our families at this time. With such little notice of a closure, we felt the best thing to do was stay open and remain as vigilant as we have been over the last 13 weeks of education.
- **I have asked Public Health England** for a quick-guide on how to report cases to me over the Christmas period. Currently, one does not exist but they thought it was an excellent idea. Heads must be on duty up to, and including, Christmas Eve, as this fits with the COVID time-line. Next week, I will publish a full how-to guide for anyone needing it. Obviously, your vigilance next week is critical to your own festive period, as no-one wants to be self-isolating for 14 days! So, **please**: stick to the guidelines that are out there and keep your hands-face-space routines; stick to the govt guidelines for tier 2 regions about households etc; stay in your cars as much as possible at drop-off and pick-ups and ring /email school with any enquiries rather than coming onto the site.
- **Thank you** for a brilliant response to the raffle organised by your wonderful PTA. At the risk of omitting an important name in this set-up, I must pay tribute to the tireless work of Mrs Hampson in the communication, planning and execution of this idea. She has been instrumental in the success of our Christmas Raffle, so a huge thanks to her and also the team around her making this so much fun. **The big prize draw will be done next Tuesday, so get your tickets in ASAP!**
- **Our new website** now has a 'new starters' page where anyone interested families can watch a small film of our school through selected photos. It can be found here: <https://www.thurlbear.somerset.sch.uk/about-us/new-starters/>
- **FREE SCHOOL MEALS Over Christmas:** Mrs Carter has contacted everyone if eligible. Her message is as follows: "Following the Government's announcement regarding the provision of free school meals, for those children who are entitled to them, we have arranged to provide you with a voucher from Asda, for the sum of **£30.00 per child**. This is to cover lunches during the Christmas break. You should receive this voucher in the form of an e-voucher direct to your mail box before the end of term. I would be grateful if you could to let me know when you have received your voucher." Thanks to Mrs Carter for her work on this important offer.
- **On the final Friday (18th)**, we would like to support local charities by holding an

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www.bathandwells.org.uk

impromptu **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY!** If you would like to support it, simply send your child in wearing a festive jumper or a festive 'thing' if you don't have a jumper. I do not want any family feeling they have to buy a jumper for the day. Treat it like a dress-down and so you don't need to worry about uniform for the Friday! We will notify you of the charity chosen early next term.

WORKERS OF THE WEEK! A huge congratulations, this week, goes to...

Chestnut: Franklin Rowan: Alila Cherry: Henry H Hazel: Imogen
Willow: Isla Pine: Aleiya Oak: Ben

Safeguarding Mr Gillan

- **Whilst thanks** are being announced, our thanks goes to Mr Dean who came in and filmed our nativity! We will be making this available through our school YouTube channel, on an unlisted setting. It will be a linked emailed to you, so no member of the public can see it. **Please keep this link private** and it will be deleted before the end of term. Our Key Stage 2 pupils are also devising their own Christmas through Carols performances and this, too, will be shared in the same way. **Therefore, please ensure we have your most up-to-date email address.**

The Week Ahead Mr Gillan

Monday: VIP visitor

Tuesday: FS and KS1 Nativity launched online!

Thursday: Mr Snowden guitar tuition

Friday: Final day: **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

Friday: Mr Lloyd drumming

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:

8th January, 5th February, 5th March, 23rd April, 7th May, 11th June and 2nd July.



2d shape monsters
in Foundation
Stage!