



Thurlbear Matters

26.11.21

Half Term 2, end of week 4

In This Issue

- Notices
- Safeguarding
- The Week Ahead

Our Christian Values:

Thankfulness,
Hope,
Friendship,
Wisdom and
Trust

Our Christian focus for this term is:

HOPE

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

Notices in a Busy Week Mr Gillan and Mrs Carter

The last week of November and lots to report back to families:

- **Mrs Sweeney:** Sadly, our SENDCo Mrs Sweeney will be leaving us at the end of this term. Happily for her, she has taken a senior, strategic role at the Local Authority. In her time at school, many families have worked with Mrs Sweeney and they will share in my wish that she has a brilliant next-step in her career. We are working hard to find the very best replacement that we can for our school and I will have news on this, soon. Mrs Sweeney will be liaising with families working with her, currently, and discuss any transition needs.
- **4th January:** In lieu of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, we were given a choice by the Local Authority of an extra day holiday in October, January or late July. As 2 of the 3 options were already our INSET days, we have apportioned **4th JANUARY** as our extra day. So families will return to school on Wednesday 5th January. Hopefully, with the current news of COVID in our area – the highest rates in the whole country – and the national guidance being very vague for post-Christmas, even an extra day as a 'fire-break' may work as every-little-helps steps to our start to 2022.
- **Our Parent Governors have been decided** and all three candidates had fantastic support. It is testament to them all that they were so well supported. **A message from Helen Hill, Clerk to the Governors:** "The Board at Thurlbear are delighted to say that following an extremely close ballot, we would like to welcome **Mrs Ariana Linthorne** as our new Parent Governor. **Mrs Sarah Hetherington - Prissell** will also be joining the Board of Governors from January 2022, as second placed, when a new position becomes vacant."
- **COVID OFFICER Update:** We have had a very interesting regional meeting with our South West COVID Officer, who has given us guidance in the run up to Christmas. As always, this is a fast-moving scenario and this is what we have been told can happen right now. Firstly, larger events can be held if a school does not have significant outbreaks. Even though we are still under Amber Status, **we feel we can deliver some of our special events safely with Covid protocols in place.** Therefore, our trip to decorate the tree at St Mary Magdelene Church **will** go ahead – with safety measures – as will our Nativity play in school 'live', as will our Key Stage 2 Carols 'live'.
For all of these events, we will be creating 'bubbles' of families. Through our channels of Class dojo and letter-form, teachers will be

Online Resources and Safety:

1. 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.

Contact Us

Thurlbear@educ.somerset.gov.uk

01823 442277

Bible Thought:

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have **hope**."

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

www.bathandwells.org.uk

communicating to you all directly about what will be put in place. I hope this is viewed as good news! We will publish specific guidance for each event separately so it can run as smoothly and safely as possible, so please look out for the dates and information **in the dates' section, below**. Our last week is going to be very busy with many changes in place – and we apologise in advance – but we think it will be worth it! The **easiest** thing for us to do would be to film it and deliver this remotely, but I feel that may not be the **right** thing to do. As always, this school tries to find a compromise and put you at the heart of it. The contingency for poor weather (for carols) will see us record it for you, instead, so let's pray for good weather in the last week. If any advice / rules change in the meantime, we will have to review our offer.

- **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** It's the most wonderful time of the year and our PTA are gearing up for another brilliant Christmas raffle. These are the suggested colours for your contributions, to be made on our next Dress Down Friday 3rd December:

Chestnut – Red
Rowan – Green
Cherry – Blue
Hazel – Yellow
Willow – Orange
Pine – Black
Oak – Gold...



So, instead of the usual £1 contribution, a Chestnut pupil would bring in, for example, a box of red maltesers!

If anyone is willing to give a standalone prize these would also be gratefully received and should drop it to the School Office or message the PTA! Raffle tickets will be coming home next week!

- Josh, Jayden, Rory, Noah and Charlie from Y6 all came to see me and asked me to pass on the following message: "It is horrible to think what some people are going to feel like this Christmas so please try and help the homeless by giving them some things like toothbrushes and combs. Some stuff to make them feel like Christmas." It was a message from their heart and supporting the ARC boxes (sent out last week) would be an ideal way of doing something about their request.

Safeguarding Mr Gillan

As a practical solution to some of the COVID issues that we have all faced, families have devised effective drop-off and pick-up systems with friends or neighbors over the past 2 years. Can we just politely ask that you keep us up to

date with these arrangements and, should there be a diversion from the norm, that you let us know? This saves us chasing families with phone calls to check that alternative plans have been made. Thank you!

The Week(s) Ahead Mr Gillan

It is worth posting here our PROVISIONAL dates for the weeks ahead. These are subject to short-notice change should the local COVID picture change.

Monday: Mr Timms piano sessions

Monday: Yrs 4 – 6 cricket club

Tuesday: Years 3 and 4 Tag Rugby Club

Wednesday: Pupil Progress Meetings

Wednesday: Years 5 and 6 Tag Rugby Club

Friday: DRESS DOWN FRIDAY – please bring in a raffle item corresponding to your class colour!

Friday: Mr Lloyd drumming, Mr Snowden guitar sessions, Years 1 and 2 Multi Sports Club

Provisional dates (subject to cancellation at short notice should the local guidance change):

Tuesday 7th : Carymoor Recycling Centre virtual workshops Yrs 2 - 6

Tuesday 7th: FS and Y1 visit to St Mary Magdalene Church to decorate the tree.

Thursday 9th: Christmas lunch

Friday 10th: Nativity dress rehearsal

Monday 13th: 2pm Nativity performance (final audience details TBC)

Tuesday 14th: 2pm Nativity performance (final audience details TBC)

Wednesday 15th: 2:30pm Key Stage 2 Carols for Yrs 3 and 4 families (on the playground weather permitting)

Thursday 16th: Christmas raffle drawn

Thursday 16th: 2pm Nativity performance (final audience details TBC)

Friday 17th: 2:30pm Key Stage 2 Carols for Yrs 5 and 6 families (on the playground weather permitting)

Dress Down Fridays: They occur on the first school Friday of a new month. Here are the dates for the rest of the year: **3rd December, 7th January, 4th February, 4th March, 1st April, 6th May, 10th June and 1st July.**

