



Thurlbear Matters

18.9.20

Term 1, Week 2

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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 God in Christ forgave you."

School and its procedures

Mr Gillan

Being on the gates every morning and afternoon is an intensive experience, but it is an excellent way for us to quickly assess any needs from our parents and carers.

One thing that has cropped up, especially this week, is some fear over cold vs COVID and whether your child should be in. Let me start by re-stating that we trust your judgement. Our view is your child should be in school, unless they have any of the 3 symptoms stated in all official guidance. I can categorically state that we will never intentionally turn away your child at the gate who has a cold. Lots of you have contacted the office to discuss the mucus levels of your children ☺ and we simply say: "If you need to talk to us, pick up the phone."

Thank you for: A) staying in your cars as much as possible and; B) understanding we cannot chat for any length of time at that pick-up / drop-off point. The system has served us well, so far, and we have tweaked our Reception Class (Chestnut) pick-up to a two-gate system, which we will monitor.

As a reminder:

- 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/carers 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. It can also cause a snag around the entrance of the school car park, so please simply join the queue.
- Stick to your time slot! Being early or late can affect the queue and flow of cars.

We are delighted that we are now in the position to offer all our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 a hot school dinner as from Monday 5th October. As from the 5th October, we will also be able to offer our KS2 pupils a cold picnic style lunch option and, as from Monday 2nd November, all classes will be able to order a hot school dinner. You should have already received menus for both options. Menus **MUST** be returned BY WEDNESDAY 23RD September. Unfortunately, we will not be able to process any menus received after Wednesday. **Why are KS2 only being offered a cold picnic style lunch at the moment?** Both the caterers and ourselves have had to look at our lunchtime arrangements so that pupils are able to be served a hot dinner in a safe environment, whilst also ensuring they do not mix with other bubbles. By offering a cold lunch initially, it will help us identify any areas that may need addressing, whilst not spoiling the quality of the food, eg becoming cold. We know that some of you will be owed credits for meals ordered during March, which were not taken due to lockdown. Please deduct any credits you are owed from this first order, accordingly. If you have any questions, or have not received a menu,

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

www.bathandwells.org.uk

please contact the Office Team.

You've asked: "How will hot lunches be served safely under our present restrictions?" An excellent and fair question. Lunches will be in the hall and served by our caterers as before. As in line with Government guidelines, lunchtimes will be staggered, children kept within their 'bubbles' and 2 metres socially distanced. They will also be sitting at allocated tables for their 'bubble'. We will be meeting next week to discuss and finalise arrangements and we will then update parents fully.

The Den: For those that use vouchers for payment, please note the SIMS pay voucher option is now up and running. Ensure you book in the usual way for your child to appear on our register, which then makes after school organisation far quicker.

COMING SOON!

The Office Team and I are working hard to populate a brand new website for school. This will be extremely beneficial to parents and carers as, for the first time, you will be able to subscribe to the latest news blog, meaning that notifications will come straight to your inbox and you won't miss any announcements! This, I am hoping, will be a huge step forwards for the school in terms of 24/7 access to our latest 'things' in school.

JOB! A general catering assistant is needed for BAM FM, our lunch providers, to cover a maternity post. 15hrs per week, term time only. 11:15 – 2:15pm. Start date 2nd November 2020. Successful candidates will need to undergo an enhanced disclosure check (DBS) and provide proof of right to work in the UK. **For further details or to apply please contact Dean Waller on 07909 007291 dwaller@bam.co.uk**
Closing date: Friday 2nd October 2020

Notices and Safeguarding Mr Gillan

The Somerset School Aged Immunisation Team (SAINT) will be visiting our school in the future to deliver flu vaccinations – the date will be at the beginning of December. A full letter is coming to every family which includes the following link <https://saint.sompar.nhs.uk/flu/2020/west> where you **must** register yourself and fill in an online consent form. **The link will close by 23rd October 2020;** all forms will need to be submitted electronically by this date. Please do this asap, as this could be the only notification you receive from us regarding this. The SAINTs have also created a useful YouTube video to demonstrate how school based flu sessions will run this term during these uncertain times. https://youtu.be/cdqueH97_aU

Should you need to isolate due to track and trace, or awaiting results of a test, it is valuable to know that Class Dojo will be a place where you can engage effectively with your child's teacher. Last week, we gave this information and I appeal to all families to get signed up asap:

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!

You've asked: "Can my child give out sweets for their birthday?"
Unfortunately, at this moment, we ask you not to bring in any items that can be shared around, for us to be COVID-safe.

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.

The Week(s) Ahead Mr Gillan

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.

Tuesday Morning: Guitar tuition with Mr Snowden

Friday afternoon: Drumming tuition with Mr Lloyd

THURLBEAR PTA PRESENTS

BAGS2SCHOOL COLLECTION MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

The end of the summer often means a sort out of unwanted clothes. With many charity shops still not open you may be left with piles of items and no where to take them. The good news is Bags2School will be collecting unwanted items at the end of this month and by donating your unwanted items to Bags2School you would also be helping to raise money for Thurlbear School.

To avoid any confusion with the School drop-off system your bags of unwanted items should be dropped at Higher Broughton Farmhouse, Stoke St Mary, TA3 5DE before 10am. This is the last house on the right hand side as you leave Stoke St Mary heading towards Taunton. Please park alongside the white barn, and leave your bagged items where indicated on the entrance to the driveway.

Items must be in black bin bags and not loose!

- ✓ Clothes, shoes, bags, hats, scarves, ties, socks, belts, towels, curtains, bedding
- ✗ Duvets, blankets, pillows, cushions, school uniform, cuddly toys, corporate branded clothing

