



# Thurlbear Matters

10.9.21

Term 1, Week 1

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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.

## Welcome (Back)!

Mr Gillan

**A huge welcome back to our families in Years 1 to 6 and a gigantic welcome to our new starter families in Chestnut Class, as well as new families joining the Thurlbear family across the school in other classes.**

I use the 'family' term deliberately. Monday to Friday, our staff are alongside your children for a lot of their waking day; I see your children more than I see my own! We nurture, comfort, guide, communicate, cajole, laugh, admonish, praise and play with your children every minute of the school day; the list of verbs is extensive and we work alongside our children in the style of a parent/carer. I walk through our school and think: "Would I want this for my own children?" and I know colleagues, here, do the same.

On the side of our school is the Foundation Stone with the Bible inscription "**Train up a child in the way he should go....**" Fast-forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and let's bring 'they' in for 'he' and it still captures our whole vision at Thurlbear: **to be an irresistible Church School; for us to be a beacon for learning experiences that lead to great life chances in the future...** our pupils are prepared for life beyond Thurlbear and this is always reflected in our Secondary School's successes. So many of our pupils go on to represent their schools at a higher level in sports, academic or regional representation. This year, we are delighted to say that Georgia Merrell is Head Girl of Bishop Foxs! A former pupil, Georgia also volunteered to come back to Thurlbear and helped with some After School Clubs and we are hugely proud of her achievement.

Just like lots of families, we aren't perfect and we will get stuff wrong. We try not to make the same mistake twice and always aim to communicate as effectively as possible when things change or we spot an error. You'll make mistakes, too, so contacting us and talking will help us all. You can see our contact details in the blue column, to the left.

## General Notices

Mr Gillan, Mrs Moore, Mrs Carter

- **Each week**, I will aim to collate the most important information, updates, signposts and requests from teachers, office team and me, ensuring you don't miss out on key information.
- **Social Media / website / Parental Engagement tools:**
  1. We do have a Facebook page for both our school and our PTA (more on this later), and this is where I publish a link to the newsletter. Facebook is a wonderful tool for lots of people, but many of you will not use it. You will not miss

## Online Resources and Safety:

1. [www.swiggle.org.uk](http://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.

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.

## Contact Us

Thurlbear@educ.somerset.gov.uk

01823 442277

any newsletters or updates if you do not use Facebook, as I paste information into both our website and FB. **2.**

Our website has a blog where I post our weekly newsletters as well as any news updates. You can **SUBSCRIBE** to this blog and never miss out on information. Simply go to our school website

<https://www.thurlbear.somerset.sch.uk/news/> and enter your email, hitting subscribe, afterwards! You will then

be automatically sent blog items (newsletters/news etc). **3.** Every class will also have a specific parental engagement tool. For years 1 to 6, this will be **Class Dojo**, where teachers and parent/carers can communicate securely about your own child, as well as post general class messages. Teachers will let you know more about this in their own half termly newsletters. Foundation Stage pupils will have **Tapestry** and, again, Miss Kelloway will give out more information to Chestnut parents. **4.** These tools are excellent, but they have limitations! PLEASE don't expect immediate responses if you send messages using FaceBook, as I don't monitor it during school hours. Email or phone the office!

- **Uniform:** everyone has turned up looking incredibly smart! During the year, the main things that happen are: **1. Shoes fall to bits.** Please just communicate with us if something goes wrong with the school shoes. We understand it can take some time to replace them. If possible, keep them plain, **black** and without flashing lights, hidden toys or edible pieces (I made that bit up, but it wouldn't surprise me). Shoes simply need to be sensible, safe and practical. We also understand they can be costly. Perhaps, if shoes are outgrown, some sort of shoe-swap could be organised between classes? **2. Hair accessories.** Without sounding draconian, please ensure that headbands, scrunchies, alice bands, hair clip and bobbles are discrete and simple in colour! We aren't trying to suck the fun out of hair care, but it simply keeps a consistency across the school and we can celebrate the uniqueness of our children through their living and learning in the school day (and they can express themselves through their hair on a Dress Down Friday!). **3. Pre-loved.** The school has some used uniform that is in excellent condition. Families can access and Mrs Linthorne, a parent, kindly oversees this for us. I am sure there will be information regarding this very soon.
- **Lunches:** A new lunch menu is coming home today (Friday) and this menu will be for the week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> for 3 weeks. **PLEASE** return these by no later than Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Just as a reminder: if your child is in Foundation Stage, year 1 or 2, they are entitled to the Universal Infant Free School meal (UIFSM) and, therefore, no payment is required. Children in Y3-6 (Key Stage 2) need to enclose payment with their menu. Lunches are £2.40 a day (unless you receive free school meals) and you can choose your days on the menu; you don't need to order a hot meal for every day! Allergies / dietary requirements? Please let us know ASAP.
- **A vacancy has arisen** within our premises team for a cleaner. The role is to work alongside other members of the team to help maintain a clean and safe environment for our pupils, staff and visitors. 8 hours per week, Term Time plus some holiday working – a total of 43 working weeks per

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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](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk)

## VALUES TEAM:

Each year, we look to our pupils to help us create the ethos in our school, to drive the standards of behavior, attitude and spiritual development. A selection of pupils from each key stage 2 class will, once again, meet and discuss improving our school alongside the staff and parents.

year. Ideally these hours will be worked between 3.15pm – 5.15pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, however, there may be some flexibility regarding times for the right candidate. Rate of pay: Grade 17 Point 1 (£9.24) per hour. For further details, please contact our School Business Manager, Mrs J Moore either via email at [jmoore@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jmoore@educ.somerset.gov.uk) or telephone 01823 442277. Thurlbear School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure together with other pre-employment checks.

## Safeguarding Mr Gillan

- **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!**
- **Alongside** this is our safe contact with you, our parents and carers. Please ensure that we have your most up to date information in school, including your mobile number, a work number, a home number if applicable and an email address. It is also necessary for us to have an alternative emergency contact should we not be able to reach you; someone local, ideally! If you move, let us know. If there are split families, we will always endeavor to get consistent communications to both parents, so please do work with us to achieve this.
- **We will be** sending home a consent form, next week, which will cover a range of subjects and scenarios for you to complete and return. Items such as local visits to the woods, photos on our website and food tasting that, hopefully, will cut down on the necessity to keep asking families.
- **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 on class dojo, as it might not be read in time)**. In these instances, we contact the family and speak directly. I cannot think of a single example where an adult has been angry when we have enforced this, but it is worth mentioning.
- **COVID:** how could we not mention it?! Obviously, this is still an ongoing issue locally and nationally and, therefore, is still at the forefront of our thinking. Advice to schools has changed regarding cases and isolating, so please contact us if you have any questions. For example, Individuals identified as close contacts are now not required to self-isolate if they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months. **As a school**, we are taking measured steps to the return to things around school that, in the past, were more social and mixed. Therefore, up to the Christmas break, we will not be inviting families back into school for events such as Friday worships and services like Christmas nativity plays. Our first Parent Consultations will also be held over the phone as last year. This had very good feedback and we will continue this, reviewing it for the summer term.
- **Allergies:** in school, we operate a strict no-egg and no-nuts policy due to pupils with severe allergies. Please, for example, don't send egg mayonnaise sandwiches or hard-boiled eggs. 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.

## The Week(s) Ahead Mr Gillan

- **Throughout** the year, the teachers will be monitoring the opportunities for any visits OFF the site as well as inviting experts in. Where these visits are planned, we will give families as much time as possible to plan for payments. Teachers will communicate via their own newsletters and Class Dojo. We will also be very mindful of costs of trips. As we have mentioned before, our location makes it very expensive for coaches, so this will be taken into consideration when we plan trips. **We do NOT make a profit from trips!** Every penny requested is for the event.
- **We will be conducting distanced PARENT TOURS for our 2022 intake.** If you know a family who is interested, get them to look at these dates:  
**September:** 21<sup>st</sup> 10am and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2pm  
**October:** 5<sup>th</sup> 10am, 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm, 12<sup>th</sup> 10am and 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.
- **Next week**, we will announce AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS for Yrs 3 – 6 coming very soon. It is a quick turnaround as we feel that the term has started so well and we can, actually fit in some groups safely. We endeavor to organise clubs for Key Stage 1 soon.

### Dates for Term 1 to come:

Harvest Celebration Worship  
Parent Consultation Week  
Christmas Play  
Christmas Services  
Christmas Lunch

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

**1<sup>st</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 7<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July.**