



Thurlbear Matters

9.9.22

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 (and Welcome Back)!

Mr Gillan

A huge welcome back to our families in Years 1 to 6 and a very warm welcome to our new starter families in Chestnut Class, as well as new families joining the Thurlbear family across the school in other classes. Lots of the information at the start of this newsletter is very similar to last year, as the messages don't really need to change! Please read on for more insights into our school life.

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. My answer – for 10 years, now – has always been a definitive 'yes'.

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 21st Century and let's bring 'they' in for 'he' and it still captures our whole vision at Thurlbear: **to be an irresistible Church School; a place 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 4 out of 6 Head Prefects at Bishop Fox's Secondary School are former pupils of Thurlbear. We are very proud of every single pupil that leaves our school.

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.

Our Christian Values:

Thankfulness, Hope, Friendship, Wisdom and Trust

We focus on these values in many of our Collective Worships and our Church visitors from the Seven Sowers benefice – Rev Joanna and her team – also uses these to keep us all united in thought and vision. In each half term, we look at a new value and classes lead their own Key Stage worships with this theme at its heart. Rev Joanna also sends us updates of Benefice worships in our local churches, which we then pass on to our families.

Your children will be part of 4 church groups in our school:

St Thomas, St Mary, St Michael and St Peter.

We use these groups at events, such as Sports Day and for Interhouse competitions!

General Notices

Mr Gillan, Mrs Moore, Mrs Carter

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.

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

- **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. For some weeks, there not be that much information! If so, I will notify you if there is no newsletter via our Parental Engagement tools (see below!)

- **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 **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 got 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 is the route for an immediate response!**

- **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 (I wanted to do this last year, but events overtook us once more)? 2. **Hair accessories.** Without sounding draconian, please ensure that headbands, scrunchies, alic 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

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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

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.

access and Mrs Linthorne, a parent, kindly oversees this for us. I am sure there will be information regarding this very soon.

- **Lunches:** 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. **Currently, we have nut, egg and sesame seed allergies in school, so please be very mindful of these restrictions when sending in your child's lunch.** We would never discard your child's food for containing these and would always communicate with you. Regarding egg content in lunches, we say: **NO mayonnaise NO egg sandwiches NO mini picnic eggs /scotch eggs.** These measures are put in place for the protection of our pupils who will be at risk if these requests are ignored. We monitor lunchboxes as effectively as possible, but no system is perfect and we rely on families supporting us by following our rules.
- **A common year-on-year concern** for families is the route in to and out from our school! As of today (Friday) this has been very successful after one day of snarl-ups! Just some things to consider:
 1. We are a rural school and tractors / combines rightly need to use our roads around school; please be mindful of them at key times in the day.
 2. The speed limit outside of our school is a ludicrous 60mph! I am a little opinionated when it comes to the safety of my families and have been trying for some time to get this changed to 20mph during school hours. I believe there may be some movement on this, soon.
 3. If families could just TRY and stick to our suggested route to and from school in a one-way system, it really does make it seamless! 3 days this week we are clear by 3:36pm! In the first week! The downhill corner is a particular bottle neck solvable by cars trying to flow one way. As I have said many times, I can only control the living within out fence and you will decide what you want to do as grown-ups!
 4. Please drive safely through the village, for the sake of the whole community.

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:** we are trying to turn the corner from some very challenging years! Gradually, we will be bringing back more face-to-face opportunities, including parent/carer consultations which **will be back in school!** Dates to follow!
- **Allergies:** in school, we operate a strict no-egg and no-nuts policy due to pupils with severe allergies, as mentioned above! 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 PARENT TOURS for our 2022 intake.** If you know a family who is interested, get them to look at these dates:

Dates available:

Tuesday 20 th September 10am	Thursday 22 nd September 2pm
Tuesday 27 th September 10am	Thursday 29 th September 2pm
Tuesday 4 th October 10am	Thursday 6 th October 2pm
Tuesday 11 th October 10am	Thursday 13 th October 2pm

Ring our Office Team to book a place: 01823 442277

THIS Monday: After School Sports clubs begin....Street Surfing Year 4

Tuesday: Football Years 5 and 6 Ukulele Year 3

Wednesday: Football Year 3 Dance Year 6

Thursday: Netball Years 3 and 4 Tag rugby Years 5 and 6

Friday: Multi-skills Years 1 and 2 Healthy Metres Matter Years FS, 1 and 2

Dates for Term 1

Harvest Celebration Worship (FS,Y1 and Y2) 9:15 20th October 2:30pm Key Stage 2.

Parent Consultation Week – October 11th and 13th

Individual portrait photos – 13th October

Bikeability (Year 6) – 10, 12,13 and 14th October

Whole school flu vaccinations – 19th October

INSET Day 21st October

Christmas Play TBC

Christmas Services TBC

Christmas Lunch TBC

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):

9th September, 7th October, 4th November, 2nd December, 6th January, 3rd February, 3rd March, 21st April, 5th May, 9th June and 7th July.

It was lovely, today, to get families to sign our book, created by our Key Stage 2 pupils. They have shared their thoughts on the sad loss of Queen Elizabeth and we held a wonderful celebratory Collective Worship, looking at her life and achievements.

