



Thurlbear Matters

14.5.21

Term 3 Week 4

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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:

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

Philippians 4

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

www.bathandwells.org.uk

Learning Matters Mr Gillan

This week, there have been around 60 visitors to my room, bringing with them a range of brilliant learning to celebrate. In particular, our creative writing around school has been highlighted and I was so impressed with what I read. Year 2, in particular, have produced some wonderful persuasive texts, filled with clever devices to engage the reader and included some great details that they had researched themselves. Some of that standard would not look out of place in a Year 4 class in other schools. While we read lots in the national news about 'lost learning' and a generation affected by lockdown, they sometimes fail to recognise the sheer resilience and determination of children to bounce back and catch up quickly.

There is no doubt that there will be gaps in knowledge and coverage, but we are adapting our curriculum to tackle this, as well as maintaining our push to provide key interventions where necessary before, during and after school, to groups and individuals. This has proved very successful and I thank those families for engaging so positively.



- **Trainee Teachers:** Currently, we have Ms Rogers in Chestnut Class (who has returned to us for her placement as she enjoyed the first one so much), Ms Weech in Year 1, Ms Griffith in Year 2, Ms Hardie in Year 4 and, finally, Ms Butcher in Year 6. All are incredibly professional, have settled in brilliantly and bring new ideas and styles to our school! They are fully supportive of our COVID regulations and follow the same guidelines as our teachers. Our new Teaching Assistants Mrs Ayres and Mrs Thompson have also slotted into the Thurlbear family brilliantly.
- **Activity Days:** These have gone incredibly well and every single Year 4 pupil I have spoken to said they had a great time throwing axes and doing archery! Next up, Year 6 have a full week of exciting 'stuff' lined up by Mrs Yellowley.
- **Rewards Policy:** Our 'Professional Development' time, as a whole staff, has been focussing on wider issues, once again, of school improvement, standards and our vision for the future. This half term, so far, we have been investigating our rewards policy linked to our overall school ethos; how we reward pupils for
1. Their learning
2. Doing the right thing at the right time.
We will be talking to all pupils about how we will celebrate their positive behaviours around school and how everyone on the Thurlbear staff team is involved in this. There will be some new resources on show, so look out for them in the near future!
- **Books:** Mrs Lucas has mentioned that a number of reading books have come back to school very wet. Obviously, this is a finite resource and these books can cost us up to £5 a book so, if possible, make sure that water bottles are securely stowed away in book bags and the bag itself is fit for purpose! Please return any outstanding books back to us.
- **Celebration Worships Online!** TODAY, Friday, our new Class Worships are launched online. Oak Class have produced a video of some of their learning in Year 6, as well as a prayer to celebrate their time together. This film will be available for families to watch on

our secure online space in **Google Classroom**. Every family has a username and password for this, as we used it during lockdown! We think this is an excellent route to maintaining our online presence together, even with everyone back in school. If you have forgotten your password (!), you will need to email

Thurlbearitsupport@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Every Friday, a new class will launch their Class Worship for families to watch at home and engage in our school life from a distance. The order of worships will be for the next 7 Fridays:

Oak, Pine and Willow (this half term) **Hazel, Cherry, Rowan** and finally **Chestnut** (next half term)

- **Health Week:** Miss Crook has given all teachers information to share regarding our Relationships and Sex Education week – the first week back after half term – using 'Jigsaw PSHE' learning programme. Please look out on your Class Dojo for full details and a letter fully explaining the approach, content and statutory details of coverage.
- **We are still looking for a Midday Supervisor:**
4hrs & 15 mins per week, Monday to Friday between the hours of 12.15 – 1.30pm, £9.43 per hour. A vacancy has arisen within our busy lunchtime team for a Midday Supervisor. The role is to help and support children within the dining room and at outside play. If you are interested in applying for the role or would like further details please contact Mrs Moore within the school office or email **jmoore@educ.somerset.gov.uk**
- **Lunch menus:** these have come home today (Friday) and these have to be returned by **Wednesday 19th at the very latest**. Last time, we had a number of late entries, which put a strain on the systems we have in place i.e. ordering correct numbers in advance with the company.
- **Clubs:** They are coming back! As a school, we fully appreciate the value that after-school sports clubs brings to our pupils but, in the current climate, it has been very difficult to accommodate. We feel we are now in a position to trial one year group per day in the first week back after half term:
Monday: Year 4 **Tuesday:** Year 6 **Wednesday:** Year 5 and **Thursday:** Year 3. This does not cater for a Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1 club, currently, but this is something we hope to offer as soon as possible.
The club will be run by Mr Gunstone, our sports coach, and will be 'Summer Fun' skills: a range of cricket, athletics, team games and maybe even street surfing...letters will be out next week.
- **Community News:** Our school will be supporting 'Churches Count on Nature' during 'Love Your Burial Ground 5-13 June'. Mary Bell from Staple Fitzpaine Church: "This is an opportunity for everyone, especially for families and for those who might not otherwise visit churchyards, to come and explore and count the variety of plants and small creatures which live in these special green spaces. Churchyards have been uncultivated for hundreds of years, so often they are habitats for many rare and precious species." There will be a poster at the end of this newsletter. Classes will also be supporting this by visiting St Thomas' churchyard during the week.
- **Community News 2:** Your PTA has agreed to purchase a bird box and caller, meaning we will be part of the work by a local group monitoring swift numbers in the region. Hopefully, this will encourage swifts to nest at Thurlbear! We already get housemartins, I believe, so this is a very exciting development with which to engage and inspire our pupils: " it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing" the Bible celebrates and we, too, will hopefully be rejoicing with the sight of swifts around school!

Safeguarding Mr Gillan

- **Class Dojo** is not monitored during the day, as teachers are teaching. Please email the school office should you have a message that needs looking at for that day, otherwise it will be missed **e.g.** a different adult picking up that day / a medical appointment that day / reporting an absence.
- **Moving** into the summer months, please ensure your child has a suitable (named) sunhat and any sun cream will have to be self-administered due to safeguarding protocols. However, coats are also still needed!

The Week Ahead Mr Gillan

Monday – Friday = Year 6 Activity Week.

Monday: Mr Timms piano lessons.

Wednesday: Full Governing Body Meeting.

Friday: Mr Snowden guitar lessons and Mr Lloyd drumming lessons.

Term 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:

11th June and 2nd July.

LOST: a blue and white fitbit. Please ask your child if they have seen it on the field.

Finally, a huge well done to Sophie, in Year 2, for donating her hair to the Little Princess Trust!



Just a few shots from the Y4 activity day session, held at school. The pupils were very excited and thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. Behaviour was excellent and enthusiasm was at 100% level for 2 days!

COME & EXPLORE WILDLIFE IN STAPLE & BICKENHALL CHURCHYARDS

WEEK 5-13 JUNE 2021

CHURCHES
COUNT ON
Nature

STAPLE FITZPAINE
& BICKENHALL



For Centuries our Churchyards have been Green spaces, rich wildlife habitats preserving many diverse plant and animal species.

Visit, Explore & Discover!

By counting and recording wildlife during 'LOVE YOUR BURIAL GROUND WEEK' 5-13 June **St Peter's Churchyard** and **St Paul's Churchyard** by **Neroche Hall** in **Bickenhall**, can contribute records to a national database of species found in burial grounds throughout England and Wales.



- Recording sheets
- Identification Charts
- I Spy Trails
- Colouring In



Available at **St Peter's Church, Staple Fitzpaine**
Recording sheets, Trails and Colouring in **Bickenhall churchyard** too