



# Thursfield News



## Friday 13th February Edition



**Weekly Joke:** Why did the school girl carry ladders to her lesson? Because she wanted to go to high school!

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Headteacher's Message

As we reach the end of another busy and productive half term, it is a wonderful opportunity to pause and reflect on all that we have achieved together. The past few weeks have been filled with memorable experiences, important conversations and meaningful opportunities for our children to grow—academically, socially and personally. It has been a half term that truly reflects our commitment to nurturing confident learners who continue to dare to dream.

This week saw the final of our Special Person Lunches, and what a joy they have been. Over the past four weeks, it has been delightful to see our children sharing lunchtime with a family member or special guest. The smiles, conversations and shared moments were a pleasure to witness, and the pride the children felt in welcoming visitors into their school environment was clear to see. My sincere thanks go to our incredible kitchen and lunchtime supervisor teams, who worked tirelessly to prepare and serve so many meals with such care and efficiency. Their hard work ensured each event ran smoothly and was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to the parents and carers who joined us for the Aspens catering information event. We are grateful for your engagement and thoughtful questions. A particular thank you to Katherine and Gemma for giving their time so generously and for providing such delicious tasters on the evening—it was a wonderful opportunity to sample what is on offer and to learn more about the catering provision. We will share further information and updates, including next steps, after the half term break.

On the same evening, we also held our Computing Information Event. Unfortunately, this was not as widely attended as we had hoped, with three parents joining us. However, I would like to sincerely thank those who did attend for their interest and support—it is always valuable to have opportunities to work in partnership. My thanks also go to Mr Reddish for preparing and leading such an informative session. The event coincided with Safer Internet Day, which this year included an important focus on the use of Artificial Intelligence. As AI becomes increasingly present in our daily lives, understanding both its potential benefits and its risks is crucial. Supporting children to use technology safely, responsibly and thoughtfully is a shared responsibility, and we will continue to promote this through our curriculum and wider school discussions.

On Wednesday afternoon, we were pleased to welcome several of our governors into school to take part in a learning walk with a focus on inclusion. This provided an opportunity for governors to see first-hand how inclusive practice is embedded across our classrooms and wider school environment. They observed lessons, spoke with staff and pupils, and explored how we ensure that all children—regardless of need—feel supported, valued and able to succeed. My thanks go to Mrs Tapp for leading this informative and purposeful session and for showcasing the thoughtful, child-centred approaches that underpin our inclusive ethos.

As we head into the half term break, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership. I hope you are able to enjoy some special time together as a family, take the opportunity to rest and recharge, and perhaps even spot the first signs of spring. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for Spring Term 2 as we continue our journey of daring to dream.

Wishing you all a lovely, restful weekend.  
Mrs Bradbury



### Special Person Lunch



A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our special person lunch — it was so special to share that time with you. The children absolutely loved seeing you there, and your presence made the day even more meaningful. We're so grateful you could join us!



### Year 6 Fundraising Event



This week we are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils for organising their recent fundraising event, which included a fantastic cake and bracelet sale. A huge thank you to the children themselves, many of whom spent time at home over the weekend baking and creating beautiful handmade items to sell. Their enthusiasm, creativity and teamwork were wonderful to see, and they demonstrated great responsibility in organising and running the event. Thank you also to the parents and carers who kindly donated items and to everyone who supported the sale through their purchases. Your continued support is very much appreciated and makes such a difference in helping our Year 6 pupils work towards their fundraising goals.

### Key Dates

16<sup>th</sup> February - 20<sup>th</sup> February- Half Term

## MARCH

- Monday 2nd:** Ashley Thorpe - Author Visit
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Reading Sponsored Event
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>:** Tilly Mathews - Author Visit
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>:** World Book Day
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>:** Sports 4 all Festival - Yr 4&5 pupils
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup>:** PTFA Mother's Day Secret Room
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup>:** 5/6 Football Match
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>:** EYFS Mother's Day Workshop @9am
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>:** Usborne Book Sale - After School
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>:** KS1 Mothers Day Workshop @2pm
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>:** Usborne Book Sale-After School
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>:** KS1 Trip to Chester Zoo
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>:** Trust TT Rockstars Competition
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup>:** Comic Relief
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Year 6 Fundraiser Event
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Year 6 Bikeability - all week
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>:** Parents Evening (Not 5/6 Classes)
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>:** Year 3/4 Easter Performance
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>:** Easter Bonnett PTFA Event

30<sup>th</sup> March - 12<sup>th</sup> April- Easter Break

INSET Day - 13<sup>th</sup> April - Children return on the 14<sup>th</sup> April

### Year 5/6 Football League



A huge well done to our Year 5/6 boys' football team who have played amazingly throughout the league — finishing as overall winners! You've all shown fantastic teamwork, encouragement and determination in every match, supporting each other and making us all so proud. Keep up the brilliant effort — well done, team!



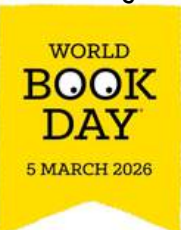
### Boccia Competition



A huge well done to some of our children who took part in the Trust Boccia competition — you were amazing and had such a lovely day! We're incredibly proud to share that the team came first overall. Fantastic effort and teamwork — well done everyone!



### World Book Day



Please keep an eye on your emails today — we'll be sharing exciting information about our World Book Day and Book Week! We have so many lovely and fun things planned throughout the week, and we can't wait for you to be part of the celebrations!



### Parents Evening



Please note that Parents' Evening will now take place on **Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March**. Bookings will be available via Arbor once it opens. Thank you for your support—we look forward to seeing you there!



### Young Voices



We were thrilled that a group of our pupils had the incredible opportunity to take part in the Young Voices concert at the Cop Live arena in Manchester. This experience is truly magical, and this year was particularly special as Young Voices celebrates 30 years as the world's largest children's choir event. Performing alongside thousands of other children in such an impressive venue was an unforgettable moment for our pupils. The concert repertoire was packed with high-energy medleys and uplifting anthems, including All Over the World, a fantastic Wicked Medley, a rousing Sea Shanty Medley, Disco Fever, and the much-loved staple song Power in Me. Our choir were absolutely amazing—they sang confidently, enthusiastically and with great pride, representing our school beautifully. A heartfelt thank you goes to the staff who gave their time to rehearse with the children and chaperone them at this memorable event; opportunities like this simply would not be possible without their dedication and support. Thank you to all the parents and carers who purchased tickets and supported us at the event—your encouragement and presence made the evening even more special for our children.



## Our Next Curriculum Block

For the next two weeks, the curriculum block for Years 1-6 will be **Geography**

## Winter Weather


Please can all children ensure that they are dressed appropriately for the winter weather. Coats must be worn to school. Please bring hats, scarfs and gloves to wear.

## Children's Wellbeing

This week, Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, has published a new guide offering practical support and advice for children, families and professionals. The guide highlights key issues affecting children today and provides clear, helpful guidance to support their wellbeing and development. We encourage parents and carers to click on the online link to read the report in full and access the advice available.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>





## Parking

We have received a number of reports this week of dangerous parking outside school — cars mounting the kerb and ignoring pedestrian safety.


This creates a serious risk for our children and families. Please park with care in surrounding streets and watch out for pupils at drop-off and pick-up.

**Vehicles parked unsafely will be reported to parking enforcement.**

## Reviewed Policies

The policies reviewed at our recent Governors' meeting are now available on the school website. These include key policies relating to teaching and learning, early years, safeguarding, and health and safety. Some policies have also been updated with additional information specific to nursery and wraparound provision.





## School Dates

**School closes for Half Term:-**  
Friday 13th February


**Children return:-**  
Monday 23rd February

**SAVE! THE DATE!**


## Peanut Allergy

Please be aware that we have a child at Thursfield with a peanut allergy. For this reason, please do not bring in any food items containing peanuts. Thank you for your cooperation.





## Water Bottles

Please ensure that all children bring a water bottle to school each day. We are currently using a large number of plastic cups, which is not environmentally friendly and also incurs unnecessary costs—funds that could be better used elsewhere. Thank you for your support.



## Nursery Places

We currently have a small number of places available for 3-4-year-olds in our nursery. Please collect a Nursery Information Pack from the school office for further details.

## Class of the week!

Year 5P For their fantastic performance at Young Voices.



## Golden Book Winners

Theme:- History Focus

<b>RB</b> - Lola W.	<b>Y3H</b> - Leo H.
<b>RSB</b> - Issac D.	<b>Y3/4R</b> - Orlagh G.
<b>Y1P</b> - Isabella H.	<b>Y4W</b> - Ruby L.
<b>Y1/2R</b> - Roux H.	<b>Y5P</b> - Rossi H.
<b>Y1/2T</b> -Archie M.	<b>Y5/6B</b> - Thea M.
	<b>Y5/6O</b> - Isabella S.

*Well done!*

## Attendance 100%



Well done to 1/2TT & 3H Class for achieving 100% attendance last week!

## Facebook Page

Thursfield has a Facebook page. The purpose of the page is to provide parents with a window in to the school day. To join search Thursfield Primary School.



## School Website

Please visit our website for information regarding school policies including mobile phones and attendance. You will also find information regarding our curriculum.



## ARBOR

Please remember to update your personal details in Arbor if there are any changes. It is essential that we have multiple contact details for each child to ensure smooth communication. Additionally, you can adjust your photo permissions through Arbor at any time.

## Good To Be Green Winner

**Reggie B.**

## House Points

**Bridgewater - 1337**  
**Wedgwood - 1101**  
**Doulton - 1055**  
**Moorcroft - 955**

**GO TEAM!**



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH MISINFORMATION ONLINE

A research study by Ofcom revealed that children aged 9-18 increasingly use online platforms like TikTok for mental health advice, with 50% relying on social media for information. Unverified medical content online is concerning, with the potential to cause confusion, anxiety, or incorrect self-diagnosis. This guide provides expert strategies to help parents and educators tackle misinformation effectively and ensure safer digital experiences for young people.

**POPULAR ONLINE SOURCES**  
Platforms like TikTok and Instagram are key for the main sources of young people's mental health content. Videos and posts frequently feature unqualified influencers, contributing to misinformation, myths, and unrealistic expectations. While content can reach young audiences, this unverified content can distort perceptions, and create unrealistic expectations or misunderstandings about mental health conditions.

**RISK OF SELF-DIAGNOSIS**  
Social media's misleading content encourages young people to self-diagnose complex mental health conditions inaccurately. Misdiagnosis can exacerbate symptoms, cause unnecessary anxiety, or delay essential professional intervention. This has the potential to increase management complexity and more significant mental health issues requiring comprehensive clinical support.

**LACK OF FILTERS**  
Social media platforms struggle to filter misinformation effectively, allowing false content to spread rapidly and widely. Without proper guidance, young viewers may not discern fact from fiction, leading to increased exposure to harmful misinformation, facilitating safer digital health and educational content sharing about mental health.

**IMPACTFUL PAST TRENDS**  
Historically, online mental health misinformation has led to harmful trends, including 'challenge' coping strategies or sensationalized symptoms. For example, 'iceberg' trends on social media encourage users to spread disturbing myths, undermining the effectiveness of professional interventions and potentially leading to self-harm or other adverse outcomes.

**MISLEADING CLINICAL TERMS**  
Online trends often include the misuse of clinical terms, such as 'biological' or 'chemical' imbalances, which can lead to unnecessary medical interventions. This can also lead to young people potentially overlooking or dismissing their symptoms, potentially preventing them from identifying real mental health issues in themselves or others.

**REPLACING PROFESSIONAL HELP**  
Frequent reliance on digital content can deter young people from seeking professional mental health care, substituting expert support with unverified online advice. This substitution can prevent timely and appropriate professional intervention, potentially impacting overall mental health and wellbeing negatively.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

**MONITOR ONLINE ENGAGEMENT**  
Regularly review and discuss a young person's online activity, providing appropriate guidance on discerning accurate content. Tools such as parental controls or co-viewing content can help reduce exposure to harmful misinformation, facilitating safer digital health and educational content sharing about mental health.

**SCHOOL-HOME COLLABORATION**  
Strengthen collaboration with educators to integrate digital literacy into the school curriculum, emphasizing misinformation awareness. Jointly delivered education sessions on identifying and reporting misinformation can significantly improve young people's ability to critically assess mental health content, supporting their mental wellbeing effectively both online and offline.

**IDENTIFY RELIABLE SOURCES**  
Teach young people to critically evaluate mental health content by checking credentials, source authority, and evidence-based information. Encourage them to refer to trusted medical or educational platforms and to consult healthcare professionals for clarification. This reduces young people's reliance on potentially harmful or misleading online sources.

**ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE**  
Foster a non-judgmental environment where young people feel comfortable discussing online content. Regularly talking about their online experiences and parental/professional health literacy can help young people recognize misinformation, and build trust, thereby enhancing their resilience and ability to safely rely on social media for health advice.

Meet Our Expert  
Anna Bateman is Director of Holroyd Education Ltd, Director for Wellbeing and Family Resilience at High Tech, and lead expert for mental health at The National College. Anna specializes in strategic mental health solutions for schools, supporting educators and families to improve resilience, emotional literacy, and overall wellbeing for children across the UK.

Wake Up Wednesday  
The National College



# PTFA

## Upcoming Events...



We've just purchased these frames for the children to use during their playtimes and lunchtimes as part of OPAL. Thank you so much for your donations and continued support — it really does make a difference for our children!



Do you have any old construction toys at home that your children no longer play with? If so, we would love them to be donated to the school. Thank you for your support!



Can anyone help us make something like this? If you're able to, please get in touch! We're happy to cover the cost of materials — we just need someone who can put it together. We'd really appreciate your support!



## Future Events:

- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February:** Valentines Disco
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March:** PTFA Mother's Day Secret Room