



# Thursfield News



## Friday 6th February Edition

**Weekly Joke:** Why did the Cyclops stop teaching? Because he only had one pupil!

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Headteacher's Message

As we come to the end of another busy and enjoyable week at Thursfield, I would like to thank you for your continued support and involvement in school life.

This week, pupils across the school have been immersed in their history learning, completing their current history block. The children have been developing their understanding of chronology and exploring exciting units such as the Space Race and the Stone Age. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and enthusiasm as they make connections between different periods of history.

It was also lovely to welcome so many parents of pupils in Years 5 and 6 to our Special Person Lunch. We hope you enjoyed sharing this special time together and seeing a little of everyday school life with your child.

Regarding school catering, a number of parents have asked for the opportunity to find out more about our new catering suppliers, Aspens. We have therefore arranged a number of information events taking place on Tuesday after school. I would strongly encourage parents to come along to find out more and ask any questions you may have.

On Wednesday, we welcomed parents of pupils in Year 1 into school to observe phonics lessons in action. Thank you to everyone who attended. We hope you found the session useful and that you are able to use the shared teaching approaches to support your child at home with their phonics and reading journey. I would also like to thank the Key Stage 1 team for facilitating and leading this workshop.

Wednesday evening also saw our PTFA Valentine's Disco take place. The children had a fantastic time, with plenty of dancing and partying throughout the evening. A huge thank you to our amazing PTFA, who work tirelessly to organise these fundraising opportunities for our Thursfield pupils. As we head into the weekend, I would like to wish everyone a relaxing break. It is hard to believe that when we return on Monday, we will be starting the final week of this half term.

Wishing you all a lovely, restful weekend.  
Mrs Bradbury



### Aspen's Catering Meeting



We are hosting an after-school meeting with Aspens Catering on Tuesday 10th February. Sessions will take place at 3:30 pm, 4:30 pm, and 5:30 pm. All parents are warmly invited to attend whichever session suits them best.



### Key Dates

## FEBRUARY

- Monday 9<sup>th</sup>:** Year 6 Fundraising Event
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup>:** 5/6 Football League
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup>:** Parents E-Safety Meeting @5:30pm
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>:** Reception Special Person Lunch
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>:** Safer Internet Day
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>:** Year 5/6 Classes Parents evening
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>:** Young Voices

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

## MARCH

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>:** 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>:** Usbourne Book Sale - After School
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>:** KS1 Mothers Day Workshop @2pm
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>:** Usbourne 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 5/6K and 5/6BA Parent Consultations

Parent consultations for classes 5/6K and 5/6BA will take place on Wednesday 11th February. Please book your appointment via Arbor. Consultations for all other classes will be scheduled before Easter — further details will follow.

### Special Person Lunch



Next week, our Special Person Lunch will continue. Next week it will be Reception's turn.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>:** Mrs Bennett's and Mrs Bathew's Class  
We can't wait to see you there!

### Year 5/6 Visit to Manchester Science Museum



Well done to our Year 5/6 classes who visited the museum on Monday and had a fantastic day. Their behaviour was impeccable — we are very proud of everyone!

### Year 1 Phonics Workshop



A huge thank you to all our parents who attended our Year 1 Phonics Workshop! We hope you enjoyed seeing phonics in action at Thursfield and learning more about the upcoming phonics test, as well as how we support your children on their learning journey. Your engagement and support mean so much to us!

### Valentines Disco

A huge thank you to our PTFA for organising such a wonderful Valentine's disco for the children. It was a fantastic event — the children absolutely loved it!

We are delighted to share that an amazing £1,268 was raised. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.

### Good Luck Young Voices Choir

We would like to wish our Young Voices choir the very best of luck for their performance next Thursday. We are incredibly proud of them and know they will do a fantastic job!



### Year 6 Cake Sale

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February**



**STRAIGHT AFTER SCHOOL**

**£1 per Cake**





## Our Next Curriculum Block

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

## 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 5/6 For their fantastic behaviour during their trip.



## Golden Book Winners

Theme:- RE Focus

<b>RB</b> - Elsie H.	<b>Y3H</b> - Hollie A.
<b>RSB</b> - Paislie B.	<b>Y3/4R</b> - Annie M.
<b>YIP</b> - Theo C.	<b>Y4W</b> - Isaiah K.
<b>Y1/2R</b> - Libby G.	<b>Y5P</b> - Esmee T.
<b>Y1/2T</b> - Jacob B.	<b>Y5/6B</b> - Heiren P.T.
	<b>Y5/6O</b> - Ava A.

*Well done!*

## Attendance 100%

Well done to 1/2TT 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

**Louie P.**

## House Points

**Bridgewater - 1247**  
**Wedgwood - 1031**  
**Doulton - 980**  
**Moorcroft - 903**

**GO TEAM!**



## Meet the Caterers

We provide the catering at Thursfield Primary School and we would like to introduce ourselves to you.

**Tuesday 10th February at 3.30pm, 4.30pm and 5.30pm**

We will bring samples of the great food we provide the children at school and you will have an opportunity to ask the Aspens Catering Team any questions that you may have.

**Look forward to seeing you there!**



## World Book Day Fancy Dress Costume Swap!

16th Feb - 5th March

Donate your old costumes from 7th Feb Swap from 16th Feb - 5th March

**KIDSGROVE LIBRARY**

**GO ALL IN.**

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

A research study by Ofcom revealed that children aged 9-16 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-diagnoses. This guide provides expert strategies to help parents and educators tackle misinformation effectively and ensure safer digital experiences for young people.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- POPULAR ONLINE SOURCES:** Platforms like TikTok and Instagram are key sources of mental health content. Videos and posts frequently feature influencers, contributing to misinformation, myths, and unverified advice. While appealing to young audiences, this unverified content can divert attention from professional support and potentially cause harm.
- RISK OF SELF-DIAGNOSIS:** Social media's misleading content encourages young people to self-diagnose complex mental health conditions inaccurately. Misdiagnosis can exacerbate anxiety, cause unnecessary medical or therapy sessions, and delay professional intervention. This has led to a rise in self-harm and suicidal thoughts among young people.
- 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 credible information from unverified content, leading to harmful beliefs about mental health. This can negatively impact their mental health and professional help or managing mental wellbeing.
- IMPACTFUL PAST TRENDS:** Historically, online mental health misinformation has led to harmful trends, including dangerous coping strategies or self-harm. For example, 'challenge' videos on social media have spread dangerous advice, undermining the risk when misinterpreted or not properly addressed or corrected by professionals.
- MISLEADING CLINICAL TERMS:** Online trends often include the misuse of clinical terms, such as 'bipolar' or 'OCD', making serious conditions seem trivial or oversimplified. Such misrepresentation can diminish empathy and lead young people to underestimate the severity of their condition, potentially preventing them from seeking real mental health support 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 prolong issues, complicate recovery, and reduce the effectiveness of future professional interventions, ultimately impacting 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. Encourage parents and educators to monitor a young person's exposure to harmful misinformation, facilitating safer digital habits and informed critical thinking about mental health.
- 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.
- SCHOOL-HOME COLLABORATION:** Strengthen collaboration with educators to integrate digital literacy into the school curriculum, emphasising misinformation awareness. Jointly delivered education sessions on identifying and responding to mental health misinformation improve young people's ability to critically assess mental health content, supporting their mental wellbeing effectively both online and offline.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE:** Foster a non-judgemental environment where young people feel comfortable discussing online content. Regularly talking about their online experiences and parental/educational support helps normalise mental health conversations, encourages open dialogue, and builds trust, thereby enhancing their resilience and digital literacy. Model situations where you have sought advice from credible sources and not solely relied on social media for health advice.

**Meet Our Expert**

Anna Bateman is Director of Holroyd Education Ltd, Director for Wellbeing and Early Years at High Tech, and Lead Expert for Mental Health at The National College. Anna specialises 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...



## Future Events:

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