



Thursfield News



Friday 30th January Edition

Weekly Joke: Why do calculators make great friends? You can always count on them!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Message

As we come to the end of another busy and positive week at Thursfield, it has been a pleasure to see the children so engaged, enthusiastic, and proud of their achievements. There has been a real sense of togetherness across the school, with many opportunities to celebrate success, strengthen relationships, and showcase what makes our community so special.

Congratulations, to all the children who have represented the school in various sports competitions this week. The teams played extremely well and demonstrated great sporting skills, alongside our core values of teamwork and resilience. Thank you to the parents and staff who helped to facilitate these events – your support is very much appreciated.

We also enjoyed another successful week of Special Person lunches for Years 3 and 4. It was wonderful to see so many families attend, and we hope you enjoyed spending this special time together.

On Tuesday, Thursfield was visited by four trustees from the Creative Learning Partnership. It gave me a great sense of immense pride to show them around our school and to have valuable time to discuss our strengths and next steps. They valued seeing the school in action, and it was encouraging to hear how the Trust Board will continue to support us moving forward.

Looking ahead to next week, we have Special Person lunches for Years 5 and 6, the PTFA Valentine's Disco, and the Year 1 Phonics Workshop. I look forward to welcoming many of you to these events.

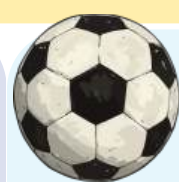
As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school. I hope the weekend provides a valuable opportunity to rest, recharge, and enjoy time together as a family. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday, ready for another positive and productive week of learning.

Wishing you all a lovely, restful weekend.
Mrs Bradbury



Year 6 Booster Sessions

Just a reminder that sessions run every **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 8:00 AM.**



Year 5/6 Football League



Well done to our Year 5/6 football team! You played brilliantly this week, showing fantastic teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. What an amazing team – we are so proud of you all!

Key Dates

FEBRUARY

- Monday 2nd:** Y5/6 Visit to Manchester Science Industry Museum
- Tuesday 3rd:** 5P Special Person Lunch
- Tuesday 3rd:** Netball Tournament
- Wednesday 4th:** 5/6K Special Person Lunch
- Wednesday 4th:** Year 1 Phonics Workshop 9am
- Wednesday 4th:** Valentines Disco
- Thursday 5th:** 5/6BA - Special Person Lunch
- Monday 9th:** Year 6 Fundraising Event
- Monday 9th:** 5/6 Football League
- Monday 9th:** Parents E-Safety Meeting @5:30pm
- Tuesday 10th:** Reception Special Person Lunch
- Wednesday 11th:** Safer Internet Day
- Wednesday 11th:** Year 5/6 Classes Parents evening
- Thursday 12th:** Young Voices

16th February - 20th February - Half Term

MARCH

- Monday 2nd:** Ashley Thorpe - Author Visit
- Monday 2nd:** Reading Sponsored Event
- Wednesday 4th:** Tilly Mathews - Author Visit
- Thursday 5th:** World Book Day
- Monday 9th:** PTFA Mother's Day Secret Room
- Monday 9th:** 5/6 Football Match
- Tuesday 10th:** EYFS Mother's Day Workshop @9am
- Tuesday 10th:** Usborne Book Sale - After School

Special Person Lunch



Next week, our Special Person Lunch will continue. We can't wait to see you there! Next week it will be Year 5 and Year 6's turn.

Tuesday 3rd: 5P - Mrs Page's Class

Wednesday 4th: 5/6K - Mrs Keeler's Class

Thursday 5th: 5/6BA - Miss Brookes/Mrs Austin's Class

See you all there!

Dodgeball Competition



A group of children took part in a dodgeball competition this week. Well done to everyone involved – you represented the school amazingly and showed great teamwork and sportsmanship!



YEAR 1 PHONICS PARENT WORKSHOP

We are excited to invite you to a Year 1 Phonics Workshop on:

Wednesday, 4th February at 9:00 AM

This workshop is a great opportunity to:

- Learn about the Phonics Screening Check your child will complete in the summer.
- Discover ways to support your child's phonics learning at home.
- See how phonics is taught in the classroom with your child.

There will also be plenty of time for any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you there!

e-safety parent workshop

We are pleased to invite you to our ESafety Parent Workshop on **Monday, 9th February, at 5:30 PM.**

This session will provide valuable resources and tips to help you keep your children safe online at home. We'll cover:


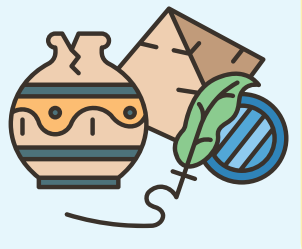
- Managing screen time effectively.
- Guidance on how to talk to your child about online safety.

We hope you can join us to learn more about how to support your child's digital wellbeing.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Our Next Curriculum Block

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

Winter Weather

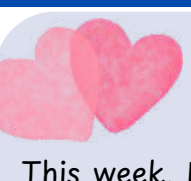
Please can all children ensure that they are dressed appropriately for the winter weather. Coats must be worn to school. Please bring hats, scarfs and gloves to wear.

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 Christmas:-
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 1/2
For their amazing writing!



Golden Book Winners

Theme:- RE Focus

RB - Noah W.
RSB - Grace S.
Y1P - Blake A.
Y1/2R - Alfie C.
Y1/2T - Reggie

Y3H - Sonny D.
Y3/4R - Lily C.
Y4W - Milo B.
Y5P - Georgia W.
Y5/6B - Noah H.
Y5/6O - Charlie C.

Well done!

Attendance 100%

Well done to RRB, 1/2R, 4W, 5/6BA 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

Tabitha B.




House Points

Bridgewater - 1164
Wedgwood - 965
Doulton - 930
Moorcroft - 817

GO TEAM!

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY THIS FEBRUARY - OUR VALENTINE'S INVITE TO YOU! --FOR CHILDREN/FAMILIES--

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, AT 2 PM WE HAVE "ONCE UPON A TIME," A FAMILY STORYTELLING EVENT BY MARIA CREDALI. ENJOY A MIX OF FOLK AND FAIRY TALES TOLD IN A TRADITIONAL MANNER, INVITING AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES (5 TO 105) TO LISTEN AND PARTICIPATE WITH RIDDLES AND LAUGHTER.

TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 10.30AM - "FOX FINDS LOVE", STORYTIME AND CRAFT WITH AUTHOR/ARTIST ROSELYN BARKS. BOOKING ESSENTIAL. AGES 6+ *SLIGHTLY YOUNGER SIBLINGS WELCOME COME ALONG AND MEET AUTHOR ROSELYN BARKS AS SHE READS FROM HER STORY "FOX FINDS LOVE"

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 10:30 AM - MARY POPPINS IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE OF THE CLASSIC STORY BY P.L. TRAVERS. TRANSFORMING THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY INTO A MAGICAL SPACE. FREE EVENT. BOOKING REQUIRED.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2 PM - THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN FREE DROP-IN STORYTIME EVENT FEATURING THE CLASSIC FOLK TALE. CHILDREN WILL BE RETURNED SAFELY AT THE END.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 11 AM - MUSICAL STORYTIME WITH LIBRARY STAFF FREE DROP-IN EVENT FOR AGES 0-11 YEARS. JOIN FOR ACTION SONGS AND AN INTERACTIVE STORY SESSION.

FOR BOOKINGS: CALL 01782 485311. EMAIL: NEWCASTLE.LIBRARY@STAFFORDSHIRE.GOV.UK



HALF TERM FUN AT NEWCASTLE LIBRARY

ACTION SONGS & AN INTERACTIVE STORY

Happening Friday 20th February 11:00 am - 11:30 am

Suitable for ages 0 - 11 yrs

Drop-in session. Booking not required

GO ALL IN. National Year of Reading 2026



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME**: Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is moderated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with most games. Some content of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.
- MATURE CONTENT**: With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-reporting, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences are specifically intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content they may deem inappropriate.
- IN-GAME SPENDING**: Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics feature optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.
- RISK OF ADDICTION**: Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that compel users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use incentives, such as rewards or limited-time encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending large amounts of money on virtual items, in-game purchases, or other activities is hazardous and not recommended.
- COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS**: Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat to other game users. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, many investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age recognition technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**: Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review chat history. Roblox's supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.
- PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE**: Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetization works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something has gone wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS**: Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialize with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert: Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechCrunch, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

See full reference for GOV.UK website





PTFA

Upcoming Events...



*Wear what you love
Disco*

WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY
RECEPTION & KS1: 3:30PM-4:15PM
KS2: 4:30PM-5:30PM
£3.50 EACH



PLEASE BOOK VIA THE ONLINE PLATFORM
TUCK & MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE:
SNACKS & DRINKS: 50P - £1
CANDY FLOSS: £1



Future Events:

- Wednesday 4th February: Valentines Disco
- Monday 9th March: PTFA Mother's Day Secret Room