



Thursfield News



Friday 24th October Edition

Weekly Joke: Where can you learn to make ice cream?

At Sundae School.

Headteachers Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this first half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fantastic start to the new academic year. The enthusiasm, hard work, and positivity shown by our pupils, parents, and staff have made these first weeks back a real joy. Thank you to everyone for your continued support—it truly makes a difference and helps our school community to thrive.

On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome Mark, the Kingsgrove Ranger, who came to visit our Year 3 and 4 classes. He delivered a brilliant session all about caring for our local environment and the importance of protecting the wildlife and green spaces that surround us. The children were fully engaged, asking thoughtful questions and sharing their own ideas for how we can all make a positive impact on our community. It was wonderful to see them inspired to take real pride in the area we live in.

On Wednesday, our Year 6 pupils were presented with their roles and responsibilities for the academic year. In the weeks leading up to this, I was blown away by the quality of their job application letters—each one carefully written and full of insight into the skills and attributes they bring to their roles. Watching them stand proudly on stage with their new badges was a special moment, and everyone at Thursfield wishes them the very best as they take on these important positions of leadership and service across the school.

That same evening, we were thrilled to welcome a number of local families to our Early Years Open Evening. It was lovely to see so many visitors and to have the opportunity to share what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow. A huge thank you to the many Year 6 pupils who returned in the evening to act as guides—escorting families around the school, sharing their own experiences, and answering questions with confidence and pride. They were fabulous ambassadors for Thursfield, and I could not have been prouder of the way they represented our school.

Yesterday after school, we enjoyed one of the highlights of our autumn calendar—our annual Pumpkin Patch event! A massive thank you goes to the dedicated members and volunteers of our PTFA, who once again organised a spooktacular evening full of fun and community spirit. We are so grateful to everyone who came along to support the event. Your continued contributions to school fundraising help us to provide even more enriching experiences and opportunities for our pupils.

As we head into the break, I'd like to wish all our Thursfield families a happy, safe, and relaxing half-term holiday. Take the time to rest, recharge, and enjoy time together—I look forward to seeing everyone back in school refreshed and ready for an exciting second half of the term.

Warm regards,
Mrs Bradbury



PTFA Pumpkin Patch

We want to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone who came out to our Pumpkin Patch event tonight! Your support made it a truly wonderful evening.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise the event and to those who generously supplied the pumpkins. The entire set up was incredible! We'd also like to give a special shoutout to our PTFA—your dedication to putting on these events is amazing, and the children absolutely adore them.

Your support means the world to us, and we can't wait for more fun events in the future! Together, we truly make the Thursfield family special! #PumpkinPatch #ThursfieldFamily #CommunitySupport #ThankYou #PTFA



Thank you



We will miss you

Sorry You're Leaving!

Today we say a fond farewell to Rachel Hall, our wonderful Nursery Assistant, as she spends her last day with us at Thursfield. Rachel has been a valued member of our Early Years team, and we are so grateful for her care, dedication, and commitment to the youngest members of Team Thursfield. On behalf of all the staff, pupils, and families, we wish Rachel every success and happiness in the future. She will be greatly missed by us all.

BEST WISHES

Reception Open Evening



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Reception Open Evening on Wednesday. It was lovely to see so many of you there.

If you were unable to attend and would like to visit, please contact our school office to arrange an appointment for a walkaround with our Headteacher.

Books

Reading Awards

Books



A huge well done to this half term's reading award winners! Your love and passion for reading shine through, and we hope you enjoy your new books.

Remember, reading at least three times a week gets your name entered into our reading draw.

Year 6 Job Roles Badge Presentation



Congratulations to our Year 6 children who have now received their job roles! We are so proud of each of you and can't wait to see all the amazing things you'll achieve this year. Keep up the great work!



Poppy Appeal



From **Tuesday 4th November to Friday 7th November** children may purchase a poppy to wear on their uniform to support the national poppy appeal.

- Bracelets - £2
- Slap Bands £2
- Poppy Keyrings: £1
- Paper Poppy: 50p

On **Tuesday 11th November** at 11 o'clock we will take part in the two minutes silence. If your child attends a uniformed group e.g. Beavers, Rainbows, Brownies, cubs they are welcome to come to school in their group uniform on this Tuesday.

Key Dates

27th - 31st - October Half Term



NOVEMBER



- Monday 3rd:** INSET Day
- Tuesday 4th:** KS1 Trip to National Arboretum
- Wednesday 5th:** EYFS Open morning @9:15am
- Monday 10th:** Year 5/6 STEM Workshop - parents invited. 1:45pm-3:00pm
- Thursday 13th:** Reception Trip to Library
- Friday 14th:** Children in Need (Non-Uniform)
- Monday 17th:** Year 5/6 Football League
- Tuesday 18th:** Yr5/6 Dodgeball Competition @Keele
- Wednesday 19th:** Year 5/6 Dodgeball Competition
- Thursday 20th:** Reception Trip to Apple Tree Town
- Wednesday 26th:** School based yearly Flu vaccinations
- Wednesday 26th:** Reception Meet the Police.
- Friday 28th:** Year 1 - Year 6 Trip to the theatre - The Little Mermaid

DECEMBER



- Monday 1st:** Year 6 Fundraising Event
 - Monday 1st:** Year 5/6 Football League
 - Wednesday 3rd:** Year 3/4 Winter Workshop- parents invited @2pm
 - Wednesday 3rd:** Reception Nativity @5:30pm
 - Thursday 4th:** Reception Nativity @2:30pm
 - Tuesday 9th:** KS1 Christmas Show @2pm
 - Wednesday 10th:** Parents Evening
 - Thursday 11th:** KS1 Christmas Show @5:30pm
 - Friday 12th:** Non-Uniform Day PTFA Donation
 - Monday 15th:** Year 6 Booster Meeting @3:30pm
 - Tuesday 16th:** Reception Trip - Dear Santa Theatre
 - Thursday 18th:** Community Christmas Party
 - Thursday 18th:** Year 5/6 Carol Service
 - Friday 19th:** Non-Uniform Day and Toy Day
- 22nd December- 4th January - Christmas Break**

SORRY! WE'RE CLOSED

INSET DAY

SORRY! WE'RE CLOSED

Monday 3rd November
school closed to pupils
(Return Tuesday 4th)



Water Bottles

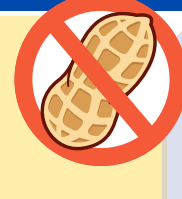
Bring a reusable water bottle every day!

Please label it with your child's name — let's cut down on plastic and be a greener school together.



Allergy Awareness - Important Reminder

We have pupils at Thursfield with severe peanut allergies, and their safety is a top priority. Please be mindful of this when sending food items into school, and avoid products that contain peanuts or peanut butter. Thank you for helping us keep all of our children safe and well.



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.



Wellies In School



We'd love every child to bring a pair of wellies to keep at school. With the weather changing, wellies mean we can splash, stomp, and enjoy the field all year round!

From after half term, only children with wellies in school will be allowed access to the field for our OPAL playtimes at lunch.

Please make sure your child brings their wellies into school from next week.



Clubs



Clubs are underway!

Haven't signed up yet? Book via Arbor today and don't miss the chance to try something new this term!



Wraparound Survey



A huge thank you to all our pupils who took the time to share their thoughts and feedback in our recent Wraparound Care Survey. Your contributions are incredibly valuable and will play a key part in helping school leaders and governors as we plan and make important decisions about Thursfield's provision moving forward.



Our Next Curriculum Block

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



Class of the week!

Year 4 for their knowledge in Geography.



Attendance

100%

Well done to Year RSB Class for achieving 100% attendance last week!

Golden Book Winners

Theme:- Geography

- RB - Harlow H.
- RSB- Juniper I.
- Y1P- Ava P.
- Y1/2R -Evan B.
- Y1/2T -

- Y3H- Olivia H.
- Y3/4R - Tommy H.
- Y4W - Mercedes F.
- Y5P - Rossi H.
- Y5/6B - Sebby H.
- Y5/6O - Isla-Rose B.

Well done!

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.



Additionally, you can adjust your photo permissions through Arbor at any time.

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.

Good To Be Green Winner

Jacob B.



House Points

- Bridgewater - 493
- Wedgwood - 379
- Doulton - 347
- Moorcroft - 327



Reception Open Events

Open Events:

Wednesday 5th November @ 9:15am

No need to book - just turn up!
We can't wait to meet you all!

Visits to see our Reception can still be arranged if you are unable to attend our open events. Please call our office to arrange.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ALWAYS ONLINE**: Fortnite is free to play, but it is always online. This means that children are always connected to the internet, which increases the risk of cyberbullying and online predators.
- IN-GAME COSTS**: Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer optional in-game purchases. These include cosmetic items, such as skins, emotes, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on 'V-Bucks' - the in-game currency - to buy these items, particularly on exclusive items that are frequently sold for a limited time.
- VIRTUAL VIOLENCE**: There is no shooting or other violent actions in Fortnite. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent pauses to lighten the mood, such as when characters are killed and other weapons are dropped. Post-release, we have introduced character and reference icons that are more suitable for children.
- CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT**: Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows children to play with each other, regardless of whether they are on Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC. The Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put young people at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.
- FREQUENT UPDATES**: Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Original updates can take a long time and potential for obsession as children try to get the latest items before the season ends. These regular releases help to hold players interested, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change the environment.
- POP CULTURE REFERENCES**: Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from Star Wars and DC to Marvel, Rangers and Avatar. The Last Airbender, a cartoon from Nickelodeon, has been a particular collaboration with series, artists, and references to other popular children's franchises, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.
- DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION**: Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for association and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private text chats with strangers and remind them to share personal information. Use the in-game chat to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.
- ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER**: Fortnite also offers a social gaming experience, allowing that less popular children to play with their friends. This can be a great way to encourage them to play together and share their experiences. Remind them to do something fun with their kids, while making sure they're playing Fortnite safely. 'Who knows? You might even have them a little bit better!'.
- SET SPENDING LIMITS**: Fortnite's cosmetic store is a hot-to-burn mechanism for causing players to buy things they don't need or want. Parents should consider getting a prepaid card for the child or disabling their purchase options. Parents can also set spending limits on their account or on the Epic Games app on PC.
- BE WARY OF SCAMS**: The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences - that are generally more trusting - means there's no shortage of scammer's looking to financially exploit parents and other parents. Be wary of offers that seem too good to be true. The scammers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a parent's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.
- Meet Our Expert**: Lloyd Coleman is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for over 10 years. He regularly writes for the site and has published on sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.

Wake Up Wednesday The National College



PTFA

Upcoming Events...



♥ Thank You – PTFA AGM Success! ♥

As we come to the end of a busy and exciting half term, the PTFA would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all our families for the incredible support you have given. From volunteering your time, donating items, to simply turning up and joining in the fun, your involvement helps to make our school such a special community.

This half term has been full of fantastic moments, with the highlight of the season being our Pumpkin Patch event! 🎃 It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the autumn festivities, and we're so grateful to everyone who helped bring the event to life. Your generosity and enthusiasm made it a huge success.

Every penny raised goes straight back into supporting our children's learning experiences and creating memorable moments throughout the school year. Together, we are making a real difference!

We can't wait to share more exciting events with you next half term. Until then, thank you once again for everything you do to support the PTFA — we couldn't do it without you. ♥

Your PTFA Team!

#PTFA #ThursfieldFamily #CommunitySpirit #ExcitingYearAhead #ThankYou



New Books for Reception & KS1

We're delighted to let you know that the PTFA has recently purchased £2000 worth of new books for our Reception and KS1 children.

You'll soon see some of these lovely new books coming home with the children. Please help us by making sure they are well looked after and returned in good condition, so everyone can enjoy them for a long time to come.

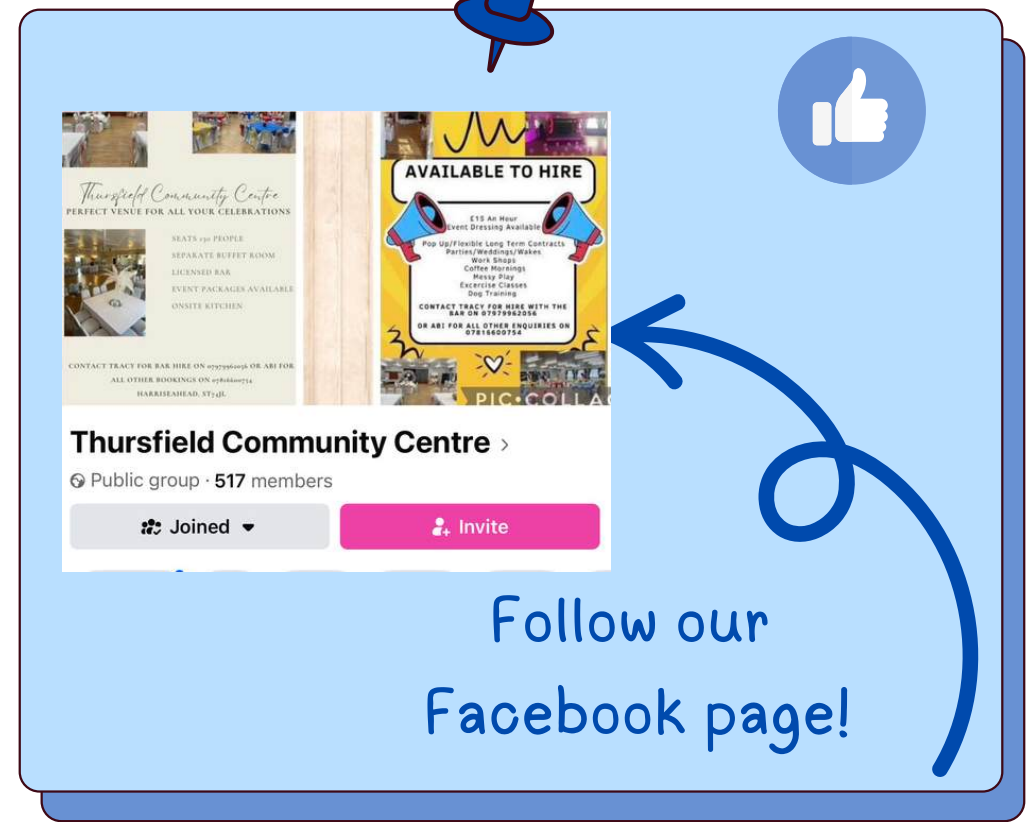
Thank you for your continued support!

Future Events:



Thursfield Community Centre

What's going on...



Thursfield Community Centre
PERFECT VENUE FOR ALL YOUR CELEBRATIONS



- SEATS 130 PEOPLE
- SEPARATE BUFFET ROOM
- LICENSED BAR
- EVENT PACKAGES AVAILABLE
- ONSITE KITCHEN

CONTACT TRACY FOR BAR HIRE ON 07979962056 OR ABI FOR ALL OTHER BOOKINGS ON 07816600754
HARRISEAHEAD, ST74JL



NEW GROUP COMING SOON
Saturday Morning
7.30am & 9am
Opening September

Thursfield Community Centre,
Harriseahead

Call Clare 07584071643

real food, real support, real results



HARRISEAHEAD MINI MATES

Mini Mates Baby & Toddler Group
Come play, learn, and make new friends!

Looking for a fun and welcoming place to bring your little one? Join us at Mini Mates – a relaxed and friendly group for babies, toddlers, and their grown-ups!

- For ages 0+
- Toys, songs, snacks, and free play
- Hot drinks and chats for parents & carers
- Crafts and seasonal activities

When: Thursdays 9:30-10:45
Where: Community Centre, Chapel Lane, Harriseahead
Cost: £3.50 per child and adult then 50p extra person

Whether you're a new parent, grandparent, or carer – everyone is welcome! No need to book, just drop in.

Come along and be part of our lovely community
We can't wait to meet you!

We Are Moving!!

Groove and Burn

Line Dancing

NEW Venue



Starts 28th May

Wednesday, 6:30pm - 9.30pm

£6

Thursfield Community Centre, 7 Chapel Rd, Harriseahead, ST7 4JN

Shamanic Drum Birthing

Guided by Tracey Coulson from Shamanic Earth

Making your own drum is a very special gift to yourself. Once you have made your medicine drum and journeyed with it, it will always be connected to your heart. Tracey will guide us through the day in ceremony to create your own unique and personal shamanic medicine drum. You do not need any prior experience. All you need is an open heart and mind and the desire to do something amazing for yourself.

November 7th
10am - 5pm
Thursfield Community Centre

*Please allow a little extra time as this could run over slightly - we don't rush birth!

Investment
£310 for an 16 inch drum with a choice of hide*
£330 for an 18 inch drum with a choice of hide*

*The hides and woods used are ethically and sustainably sourced by Tracey.

SEN Carer Meet Up

When: First Monday of the Month 18:00-19:30 & The First Tuesday of the Month @ 10:30-12:00

Where: Thursfield Community Centre ST7 4JL

Cake and Refreshments provided, donations welcome

Due to the success of the first meeting, I'm hosting these meet ups on a regular basis. They are for anyone who cares for a SEN child. I want to provide a safe space for a chat, biscuit and a drink with others that just get it. No judgement, no expectations just a swap of knowledge and hopefully friendship building for all. No need to book just walk in, any further info please contact me - Abi on 07816600754

Ps: Children also welcome for those not able to attend school

Christmas WREATH MAKING

Saturday 29th November

10:30-12:30

14:00-16:00

18:30-20:30

£45 PER PERSON

£15 Deposit Non-Refundable

Thursfield Community Centre
7 Chapel Ln, Harriseahead,
Stoke-On-Trent
ST7 4JN



Christmas Market

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER
11:00-14:00
THURSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE
ST74JN

- FREE ENTRY AND PARKING
- OPEN BAR
- SANTAS GROTTO
- *30 LOCAL BUSINESS STALLS
- *HOT FOOD & CAKES
- *REFRESHMENT - MINCE PIES
- *BOUNCY CASTLE
- *FACE PAINTER/GLITTER TATTOOS