

Thursfield Primary School

We Care, We Share, We Dare to Dream



**Thursfield
Primary
School**

We Care, We Share,
We dare to Dream

**Staffordshire's Number
ONE Primary School**

as ranked by the 'Real Schools Guide 2020'.

www.thursfield.staffs.sch.uk



Nursery Parent Information





Headteacher's Welcome

On behalf of the children, staff and Governors, I would like to warmly welcome you to Thursfield Primary School.

We are a village school which prides itself in creating a happy, caring, family atmosphere where everyone is encouraged and inspired to achieve their potential and develop a love of learning. Children lie at the heart of everything we do and every decision within the school is made by firstly considering what is in the best interest of our children.

Thursfield Primary school is a unique and creative environment. We believe that our school is an inspiring place which energises learning and encourages children to develop an enquiring mind, a desire for knowledge, high personal expectations, understanding and respect for others. We recognise that strong self-esteem is essential in enabling our children to lead happy and successful futures and we aim to ensure that our pupils leave us as caring, happy, confident and adaptable young people, equipped with good academic skills, an enthusiasm and passion to continue developing their learning and good social skills.

We believe we have a unique combination of features here at Thursfield Primary School which makes it a wonderful place to educate children, where all members of the community work in partnership to achieve the very best for every child.

At Thursfield children feel valued and parents are welcomed as partners in their child's education. The most effective education is achieved when teachers and parents work together in a genuine partnership which results in all children being proud of their work, personal achievements and their own school.

We look forward to working with you and your child and welcoming you to our special school.



Mrs L Bradbury

Headteacher





Nursery Team Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to Thursfield Nursery! We are delighted that you and your child are joining our nursery community.

At Thursfield Nursery, we pride ourselves on creating a happy, nurturing, and stimulating environment where children feel safe, valued, and excited to learn. Our dedicated team is committed to supporting each child's individual needs and encouraging their curiosity, confidence, and independence through play and exploration.

We understand that starting nursery is a big step—for both children and parents. Please rest assured that we are here to support you every step of the way. We aim to build strong, trusting relationships with our families and work in partnership to ensure the best start for your child. We look forward to getting to know you and sharing this exciting journey with your child.

Warm wishes,

The Thursfield Nursery Team





Early Years Foundation Stage

Our Early Years team provide a nurturing and safe environment which supports our ambitious, coherently planned, sequenced curriculum. The curriculum allows for spaced retrieval which ensures children develop their knowledge and understanding through experiences they will encounter over a period of time. The knowledge we will teach has been chosen to allow children to acquire key skills.

Skills can be learnt through observation, experience and instruction and our curriculum provides opportunities for all three elements of acquisition as well as lots of independent practice.

Resources are carefully chosen to meet the needs of all children and to promote learning. Children are given time to discuss and explore new learning, with regular opportunities to effectively communicate with each other and staff. Books have been carefully chosen to introduce new ideas, concepts and vocabulary. When reading new or familiar books, staff will read in a way which excites and engages, promoting a love of reading and literature. Children are taught to read and write through expert teaching of a systematic, synthetic phonics programme, Little Wandle; children practice reading through books which match their phonic knowledge.

Each of the seven areas of learning have been carefully planned to allow children to build on prior knowledge and experiences throughout their Early Years Journey. Each area allows children to progress through our curriculum, developing in depth knowledge and key skills in order to fill their suitcase at the end of Reception, achieve the Early Learning Goals and be ready to continue on their Thursfield journey with their 'Ticket to Anywhere'.

We understand that children's development and progress is not always linear, staff have expert knowledge to allow them to understand each child's personal next steps to aid their development and progress throughout the year. We carefully plan the environment and enhancements, using ongoing staff assessment to drive this. Through constant communication, all staff can confidently talk about what has been provided and why.

We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised
A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education





Early Years Foundation Stage

Thursfield's Curriculum for Champions is a concept-driven curriculum, where knowledge and skills are embedded and deepened through progressive and sequential teaching and learning, which is inspiring and engaging to empower all children for future success in Modern British Life. Within our Early Years, we provide a solid foundation for the curriculum, allowing children to fill up their suitcase before beginning their Thursfield journey with their 'ticket to anywhere'.

Using our school motto, 'We Care, We Share, We Dare to Dream', we ensure that each of the seven key features of effective practice are met within our Early Years.

We Care

We understand that starting school can be a big step for little people. We provide high quality care to ensure that children settle within their new environment. The prime areas of learning are central to our everyday teaching, ensuring that all children are ready to take their next steps towards learning. Our effective practitioners provide the best for every child, ensuring that all children are given an equal chance to succeed, regardless of their starting point. We narrow the gap for our disadvantaged children through our high quality care and curriculum.

We Share

We develop strong, respectful **partnerships with parents** through effective transition, regular communication and high engagement. We use Famly, an online journal, to allow both school and home to share and celebrate achievements and learning. We use **assessment** to understand what each child can do and how we can deepen or extend their learning. We share these successes with parents, governors, and the children.

We Dare to Dream

Our carefully planned, ambitious **curriculum** allows children to build on their knowledge and experiences over time. It is bursting with language, which is consistently modelled, and new vocabulary is taught to encourage rich language development. Effective **pedagogy** is a mix of different approaches, from play to observation to guided learning. We carefully organise an enabling environment which provides a careful balance of high quality play experiences and effective guided learning. As the children progress through Early Years, the need for more guided learning increases which aids their transition to KS1. We promote the development of **self-regulation and executive function**, allowing regular opportunities for children to focus their thinking, persist and plan ahead.





Early Years Foundation Stage

Below are the educational programmes taken from the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2023). We plan our curriculum based on the statutory framework, ensuring what we teach enables children to succeed within Nursery and Reception and beyond.

Communication & Language

Spoken language underpins all areas of learning. Early back-and-forth interactions support language and cognitive development. A language-rich environment, filled with quality conversations, is essential. Practitioners can build language by commenting on children's interests and expanding their vocabulary. Regular reading and engagement with stories, rhymes, and poems, along with chances to use new words in context, help language flourish. Through conversation, storytelling, role play, and thoughtful adult support, children grow confident in using rich vocabulary and complex language.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is key to children's well-being and underpins cognitive growth. Strong, supportive relationships help children understand their own and others' feelings. With adult guidance, they learn to manage emotions, build self-confidence, set simple goals, and focus attention. They also develop independence in caring for their bodies and making healthy choices. Through interactions with peers, children learn to form friendships, cooperate, and resolve conflicts—skills essential for success in school and beyond.





Early Years Foundation Stage

Physical Development

Physical activity is essential for children's overall development, supporting their physical health, emotional well-being, and learning. Gross and fine motor skills build gradually from early sensory experiences, starting with tummy time, crawling, and interactive play. Through games and both indoor and outdoor play, adults can help children develop strength, coordination, balance, and spatial awareness. Gross motor skills lay the foundation for healthy bodies and social skills, while fine motor control—shaped through activities like puzzles, crafts, and small tool use—supports hand-eye coordination and early literacy. Consistent, varied practice with adult support fosters confidence and proficiency.

Literacy

A lifelong love of reading is vital for children. Reading has two key parts: language comprehension and word reading. Comprehension begins at birth and grows through conversations, shared stories, rhymes, poems, and songs. Word reading, taught later, involves decoding unfamiliar words and quickly recognizing familiar ones. Writing combines transcription (spelling and handwriting) with composition—organizing and expressing ideas before writing them down.



Mathematics



A strong foundation in number is key to mathematical success. Children should count confidently and develop a deep understanding of numbers to 10, including their relationships and patterns. Through varied, hands-on experiences—like using pebbles or tens frames—they build the knowledge and vocabulary needed for mathematical mastery. The curriculum should also offer rich opportunities to explore spatial reasoning across shape, space, and measures. Encouraging curiosity, pattern-spotting, discussion, and a willingness to make mistakes fosters positive attitudes and confidence in maths.



Early Years Foundation Stage

Understanding the World

Understanding the world helps children make sense of their surroundings and community. First-hand experiences—like visiting parks, museums, and meeting community members—build knowledge and awareness. Listening to a wide range of stories, non-fiction, rhymes, and poems deepens their understanding of our diverse world and expands vocabulary, laying the groundwork for future reading comprehension.



Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive Arts and Design enables nursery children to explore their creativity and imagination through a wide range of activities such as drawing, painting, music, dance, role play, and model making. By experimenting with colour, texture, sound, and movement, children learn to express their thoughts, ideas, and emotions. Opportunities to explore different materials and media support their fine motor skills and creative thinking. Through adult encouragement and an environment rich in artistic experiences, children gain confidence and enjoyment in creating and sharing their work.





Nursery Sessions

Our Sessions

Our nursery is open Monday to Friday, from 9:00am to 3:00pm, during term time only.

We offer the following session options:

- Full-Day Session: 9:00am – 3:00pm
- Morning Session: 9:00am – 12:00pm
- Afternoon Session: 12:00pm – 3:00pm



Children can attend on a full-day or sessional basis, depending on your preference and availability. Morning sessions are preferred over afternoon sessions.

If you have any questions about sessions, funding, or the settling-in process, please don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to help!





Nursery Fees

Government Funded Childcare Hours **(from September 2025)**

At Thursfield Nursery, we are pleased to offer government-funded early education and childcare in line with the latest national guidance.

From September 2025, eligible working parents will be entitled to 30 hours of free childcare per week, for children aged 9 months up to school age, during term time (38 weeks per year). Funded hours can be used across our morning, afternoon, or full-day sessions, subject to availability.

Session Fees (For Families Not Using Funded Hours)

If you are not eligible for government funding, or are using additional hours beyond your entitlement, our current session fees are:

- Half-Day Session (9:00am – 12:00pm or 12:00pm – 3:00pm): £15.50
- Full-Day Session (9:00am – 3:00pm): £31.00

Invoices are sent **monthly** through the Famly app, and payments are made by bank transfer. Full payment details are provided on each invoice.

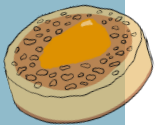
If you have any questions about fees, funding, or payments, please feel free to speak to a member of staff—we're here to help.



Starting Nursery

Nursery starts at 9am and a member of the Early Years team will meet your children on the door. We encourage children to come into our setting independently, find their peg and a member of staff will help them to sort out their belongings. A member of staff will always be available should you need to discuss anything before or after school. Or you can pop a message in the diary for us, we check these daily.

We take part in a variety of activities throughout the day to support our learning, both indoors and outdoors; coats need to be in school every day to allow us to do this. Sometimes uniform gets a little messy, this is just us learning in a creative, fun way.



We enjoy snack during the morning and this is available to purchase from school (via Arbor) or you are welcome to provide your own in-line with our healthy snack policy. Lunch time is spent in the dining hall and then outside at the nursery setting. Nursery children may bring a packed lunch from home, or a hot lunch can be booked via Arbor.



We take part in welly walks each week, so ask that a pair of named wellies are left in school at all times. They are also useful for outdoor play. Children need their own named water bottle in school each day.



Home-School planners will be given at the start of the year and need to be brought in every day. Letters, notices, books and words will be placed in here, another great way to communicate with you. Please use the planner to communicate appointments, reading at home, notification of someone different collecting or any other concerns or queries.



Starting Nursery Continued...

Home - school agreement

We ask you and your child to sign a home - school agreement with us. We take this very seriously as we feel mutual support is of huge importance.

School Bag

It is important that your child brings a bag to school everyday. We will use this to send home your child's planner with any messages and letters from the Office. A book bag is ideal for this or a rucksack big enough to fit an A4 sized folder in.

When children first start school, a change of clothes should also be sent in case of any accidents. We like to keep a bag of spare clothes on their pegs just in case they have a toileting accident or get muddy outside and need a change of clothes.



Toileting

At Thursfield Nursery, we understand that children—especially those starting with us at 2 years old—are all at different stages in their toileting journey. Some children may be fully toilet trained, while others may still be in nappies or just beginning to show signs of readiness, and that's absolutely fine.

We support all children with care, patience, and encouragement, and we follow each child's individual needs and routine. If your child wears nappies or pull-ups, please provide a named supply of nappies, wipes, and any creams they may need. Our team will work closely with you to support toilet training when your child is ready, aiming to be consistent with the approach you use at home.

All accidents are handled sensitively and discreetly. We kindly ask that you send in a spare set of clothes each day, just in case a change is needed.

If you have any concerns or specific preferences regarding your child's toileting needs, please speak to a member of staff—we're always happy to help and support you through this stage.





What to bring to Nursery:-

To help your child feel comfortable and well-prepared for their day, please ensure they bring the following items to nursery:

- Nappies / Pull-ups & Nappy Sacks - if your child is not yet toilet trained
- Wet Wipes
- Cream - if required for nappy changes
- Fitted cot sheet, blanket and any comforters - if your 2-yr old still has a nap - these can be left at nursery and washed at the weekend
- Packed Lunch - if not having a hot lunch (hot meals can be ordered via Arbor)
- Named Water Bottle - accessible throughout the day
- Change of Clothing - including underwear and socks to be left at nursery
- Wellingtons - to be kept at nursery for outdoor play, all year round



Please clearly name all items to help us keep track of your child's belongings.

If your child has any additional needs, medical requirements, or specific care routines, please inform a member of our Nursery Team. This helps us ensure we are fully prepared to support your child's individual needs.





Lunchtime at Nursery:-

At Thursfield Nursery, children can either bring a packed lunch from home or order a school lunch through our online system.

- School Lunches are ordered via the Arbor app and include both hot and cold meal options.
- If you need help placing an order, please refer to the Arbor App Help Sheet or speak to a member of staff in the school office who will be happy to assist.

Whether your child is bringing lunch from home or having a school meal, please ensure they also bring a named water bottle each day.

Packed Lunch Suggestions:

If you choose to send a packed lunch, we recommend including a variety of healthy and balanced foods such as:

- A sandwich or wrap of your child's choice
- A yoghurt
- Fruit or vegetable sticks
- A small treat, such as crisps, a biscuit, or a small chocolate bar



Please note: Thursfield Primary School follows a healthy eating policy, and we encourage nutritious options where possible.





Uniform

At Thursfield we pride ourselves on how smart our children look in their uniform. We are often complimented on how nice they look and how well they behave. Our uniform suppliers are Smart 01782 633003 or Badged 01477 500504. They both provide an online ordering service.

Nursery Uniform

Navy Blue Sweatshirt or Blue Cardigan with the School Logo

Light Blue Polo Top (no logo)

Black or Navy Joggers or Leggings

Trainers or Pumps

Please make sure all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name and class in an indelible ink.

Hair

Long hair should be tied back, and fashion haircuts should be avoided.

We do not allow hair gel for health and safety reasons.

Jewellery

We don't encourage jewellery to be worn for health and safety reasons.

If earrings are to be worn, they must be a small stud that your child can take out by themselves as we don't allow jewellery to be worn during P.E.

If you are thinking of having your child's ears pierced, remember it is at least six weeks until they can be taken out. That's a lot of P.E. to miss!

Coats

A coat should be brought into school every day (the Great British weather can't be trusted!). Please make sure this is named.

Footwear

Shoes should be suitable for running, climbing, jumping etc... Laces should only be worn if children can tie them independently. We would like all children in nursery to have a pair of named wellies in school at all times.



Sickness and Absences

Allergies and Health Conditions

If your child has any allergies, medical conditions, or health concerns, please inform us as soon as possible so that we can ensure the correct care and support is in place. It's important that we are fully aware of any dietary restrictions, medication needs, or emergency procedures.

All nursery and school staff are made aware of children with allergies or medical needs, and appropriate care plans will be followed where required.

Contact Information

Please provide up-to-date contact numbers for your child. We encourage you to list multiple emergency contacts in the order you wish them to be called, in case we are unable to reach you.

If your contact details change at any time (including phone numbers or email addresses), please inform the school office immediately so we can keep our records accurate. We also ask that you provide a current email address, as we send regular communications via email and through our parent apps.

Illness and Absence

If your child is unwell and will not be attending nursery, please notify the school office by 9:30am on the first day of absence. You can contact us by phone or email.

If your child becomes unwell while at nursery, we will contact you promptly using the emergency numbers provided. Please do not send your child to nursery if they are unwell, particularly if they have symptoms such as fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, or any contagious conditions.





Please Remember...

All children are individuals and have different interests. Always be encouraging, but do not put too much pressure on your child to achieve certain targets. We all have different strengths and weaknesses, which is why at Thursfield we aim to develop the child as a whole.

Most importantly, if you have any worries or concerns, even those that seem too ridiculous to mention, please speak to our Nursery Team or email our office on **office@thursfield.staffs.sch.uk**. Sometimes the simplest things that seem nothing to an adult can be a huge problem to a child.

We may not always have all the answers, but we can assure you that we listen and do our very best to help.

We operate an open door policy and are always willing to listen.



Headteacher:

Mrs E. Bradbury

Deputy Headteacher:

Mrs S. Bennett



Contact Us

Chapel Lane
Harriseahead
Stoke-on-Trent
ST7 4JL



School Office Hours: 8:30 - 3:30

01782 512301

office@thursfield.staffs.sch.uk



@thursfieldprimary

School Website:

www.thursfield.staffs.sch.uk

The school website holds all our
policies and other information