

AUTUMN HALF-TERM 2



Part of the Green Hills First federation

Welcome back!



>>> HEAD TEACHER'S WELCOME

What a busy start to the year we have had at Thurstonland!

We have really enjoyed welcoming our new families and pupils into school this term. Thank you to those people who have already been involved in the events which have taken place this year, such as the Wigs and Wellies Walk which was very well attended. We would also like to thank you for coming along to our Harvest Festival and for the very generous donations to the church and to the Welcome Centre. Your donations were very well received and much appreciated. There are lots of other things for you to get involved in and we look forward to seeing many of you at the events we have planned over the coming weeks. Our new pupils have all settled so well and it was wonderful to see so many current and prospective parents on our recent open morning too. We really hope you got a feel for the school and all the fantastic work your children have been doing so far this year.

➤➤ **HEAD TEACHER'S WELCOME CONTINUED.....**

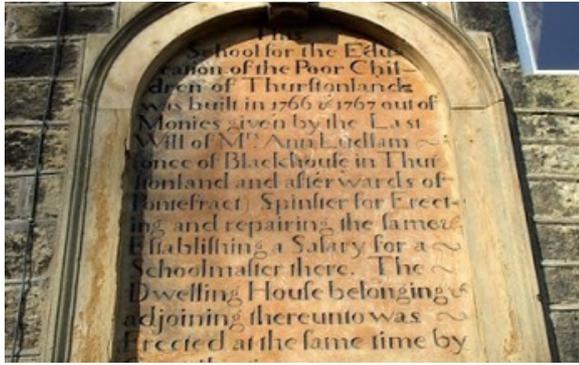
There are many coughs and colds about at this time of year and of course you are the best judge of whether your child is well enough to attend. However, we would appreciate you supporting us with raising and maintaining good school attendance, which can often dip during this term. Please do send them if they are well enough and should we feel they deteriorate as the day goes on, we will always call home. It's often the case that they perk up once in school and are busy playing with friends and learning. Our target for attendance is to stay above the government's recommended threshold of 95% and we would welcome your support to achieve this. Thank you to those of you who used the uniform guidance to support purchasing the correct uniform over the holidays ready for starting back in school. It is important that where guidance and policies are in place that these are followed. It sets the correct expectations we have of all our pupils in all aspects of their time with us in school. If you do have any need for additional uniform to support you financially and for sustainability and to support the environmental benefits of recycling, please visit the following website where uniform can be requested -



You can have this delivered to a convenient location to collect and this can be anonymous or you can use us and have it delivered to school. It is essential for all pupils to have the correct uniform and equipment - reading books, homework and PE kit etc - on the correct days. You will find more information about this on our school website on the class pages.

And finally, a huge thank you and warm welcome to those parents and extended family who have come forward to volunteer their time in school. It is always very much appreciated and we hope that it is of mutual benefit to us and to you if you volunteer your time with us. If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer in school please do come in and let us know.

Mrs Wagstaff



➤➤➤ THE LUDLAM AND HORSFALL TRUST

You may have seen the plaque on the wall of our school which commemorates the endowment of a school in Thurstonland in 1766 to the village by Misses Ludlam and Horsfall. But did you know that the trust is still an active part of school today?

The trust financially provides additional support to Thurstonland First School and look after the School House property which is adjoined to school.

There are seven trustees drawn from different aspects of village life. The chair person is Richard Wood, representing St Thomas' Church and the secretary is Angela Carmichael who is also a Green Hills First Federation school governor. Other trustees are Cllr Richard Smith representing Kirklees Council, Robert Barraclough representing Kirkburton Parish Council, Mr Tony Clifton representing Thurstonland Village Association and Rev. Canon Sean Robertshaw and Lynsey Wagstaff, as Headteacher, are ex-officio trustees.

The trust meets each term to discuss the upkeep of the School House and to decide how best to support the children of our school. Recently they were able to contribute a sizeable sum of money to the refurbishment of the barn and each year they give a grant, as was originally intended in the terms of the trust, for the purchase of books and teaching materials and support the developing life of the school. If you would be interested in finding out more about the trust or joining the trust body, or know someone who would, please speak to a member of school staff who will be happy to pass on your details. We would love to hear from you!

➤➤➤ SOCIAL MEDIA

Find us on Twitter and Facebook via the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551900220070>



<https://twitter.com/ThurstonlandSch>

@ThurstonlandSch



AMAZON WISHLIST <<<

Did you know we have an Amazon 'wishlist'?

Please follow the link below if you would like to help us out with any of the little extras we often need in school for the children:

<https://amzn.eu/5CMkvbp>

We've just updated the wishlist with new books for Rec/Yr1 Reading Area - please take a look if you are able to help purchase a book or two!

We will also shortly be adding some books for Class 2/3 to add to their new reading corner.

Thank you!



>>> WINTRY WEATHER

Please ensure your child has a named warm waterproof coat in school as we head into winter. Whilst fleece coats and jackets are warm when it's dry they're not suitable for school as they're not waterproof.



As we get into winter and the possibility of snow or other conditions which may affect us all please keep us up to date with any changes to contact information. We send out urgent messages via text but also use local radio and Twitter to communicate in case of school closures.

PTA NEWS <<<

Thank you to all parents, friends and families for your fantastic support of our recent fundraising events!



Our **Wigs & Wellies sponsored walk** was well attended with some amazing costumes worn! If you still have sponsor money to hand in that has been collected over the half-term holiday please bring this in to the school office - **so far we have raised £680!!!**

Our **spooky Movie Night** 'Hocus Pocus' was also a sell out event - please watch out for details via email of the next **PTA Movie Night on Wednesday 20th December** which will be a Christmas themed film.

If you would like to know more about helping the PTA please let us know or feel free to come to our next meeting - all parents are welcome!



Thank you to all those who made donations to the Welcome Centre collection for our Harvest Festival this year.

St Thomas Church also send grateful thanks for the collection money donated during the service.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
16+

in UK and Europe;
rest of the world 13+

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients; not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original ... and might not be entirely factual, either.

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know *never* to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except ...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332> | https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245/?helpref=hc_fnav | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private> | <https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>

ADMISSIONS 2024 <<<



Applications have now opened for you to apply online for Reception 2024 and for children moving to Middle School next September.

Leaflets have come home with Year 5 pupils.

If you require any further information please visit:

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/admissions>



>>> SCHOOL MILK

After the sudden closure of our previous milk supplier at the start of the new school year we are pleased to be working with **Cool Milk** as our new supplier.

If you would like your child to receive a carton of milk each day in school please head to the [Cool Milk website](#) to register and pay.

New orders placed by Tuesday 5pm will be delivered from the following Monday.

Cool Milk have also very kindly donated a brand new fridge for us to keep the children's milk in.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISING <<<

We are delighted to let you know about our exciting partnership with local estate agents **SnowGate**! This is a fantastic fundraising opportunity for our schools - if you are selling or renting your home within our catchment area and decide to use Snowgate please let them know you would like them to donate to our school.

SnowGate for Schools



**A great way to help raise
money for your school!**

**Sell or rent your home through
SnowGate Estate Agents and we
will donate a percentage of the
commission to your child's school.**

**Simply reference your school's
name when booking your valuation
and we'll do the rest!**

Holmfirth
26 Victoria Street
Holmfirth
West Yorkshire
HD9 7DE

01484 680800

Mirfield
108 Huddersfield Road
Mirfield
West Yorkshire
WF14 8AF

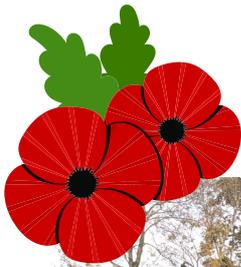
01924 497801

**Estate
agency
done
properly**

**Snow
Gate™**

snowgate.co.uk

Thurstonland First School makes no recommendation of services provided by third parties and accepts no liability.
Individuals should make their own enquiries as to the suitability of an estate agent.



Our pupils attended the Thurstonland war memorial on Friday 10th for Remembrance Day. Thank you to Mr Tony Clifton who played The Last Post beautifully. The children read a poem and laid a wreath and crosses.



Thank you for your support of the Poppy Appeal 2023.

Mr Tinker from the Royal British Legion New Mill branch has collected our funds raised and will confirm how much we donated in due course.

THE GREAT SPOTACULAR



CHILDREN
IN NEED

WE'RE
RAISING
MONEY FOR
BBC CHILDREN
IN NEED

WHAT
WEAR SPOTTY CLOTHES

WHEN AND WHERE

FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

HURSTONLAND SCHOOL!

CONTACT



Thurstonland First – Autumn 2 term 2023 Diary dates

NOV Fri 10 th	3:30 – 4:15pm	DANCE CLUB continues for participating pupils (last session Fri 1 st Dec)
Mon 13 th	All week	Assessment week 13 th – 17 th November
Fri 17 th	All day	Children in Need Day 2023 £2 donation & wear something spotty! Page 11
Sat 25 th		Rose & Crown Christmas Fair 12 noon – 6pm
DEC Tues 5 th	AM	Panto trip – Sleeping Beauty @ Wakefield Theatre – whole school Years 1-5 DANCE FESTIVAL @ Shelley College 4-5:15pm
Wed 6 th	6-7:30pm	PTA Christmas Disco @ Stocksmoor Village Hall – <i>tickets on sale from school office now!</i>
Thurs 7 th	All day	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day 2023 Kirkwood Hospice Reindeer Run fundraiser
Friday 8 th	PM	Year 2 Christmas Journey – trip to Almondbury Methodist Church – transport arranged
Tues 12 th	AM	Christmas Nativity @ St Thomas Church School Christmas dinner day
	PM	Christmas Nativity @ St Thomas Church (evening performance)
Wed 20 th	Evening	PTA Movie Night 3:30pm – 5:45pm
Thurs 21 st	After School	PTA Hot Chocolate Cones for sale
Friday 22 nd		Last day of term
JAN Mon 8 th		First Day back of Spring 1 term