



# Thursfield News

## Friday 17th January Edition



*Our Weekly Affirmation: 'Your brave enough to try'*

### Headteachers Message

Dear Parents and carers,

As we settle into the rhythm of the new term, I am pleased to share some of the exciting developments happening in our school.

Children continue to complete their spring term history learning, developing their knowledge about key historical events and figures that have shaped the world we live in today. Substantive knowledge is a crucial component of our History curriculum, providing pupils with a solid foundation of factual information. By gaining a deep understanding of the 'what' and 'when' they can better appreciate the 'why' and 'how'.

Our spring term clubs have officially commenced, offering students the chance to pursue a variety of interests outside the classroom. From creative arts and sports to computing, these clubs provide a wonderful opportunity for pupils to discover new passions, develop skills and connect with peers. We encourage all pupils to get involved and make the most of these enriching experiences.

This week our Mental Health Support practitioner, Callum, came into school to deliver an assembly focusing on pupil well-being. This session provided valuable insights and strategies to help Thursfield pupils maintain a healthy and balanced approach to their school and personal lives. If you would like to find out about the services available from the MHST please see the poster within this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create a positive and dynamic learning environment.  
Wishing you an enjoyable weekend and week ahead!

Best regards,  
Mrs Bradbury

### Year 6 Booster Sessions



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

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

### E-Safety Workshop

**e-safety parent workshop**

We are pleased to invite you to our ESafety Parent Workshop on **Monday, 10th February, from 5:00 PM to 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.

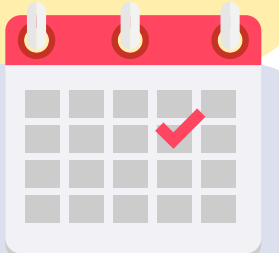
We look forward to seeing you there!

### Year 5 Visit to Kings High School

Year 5 had an absolutely amazing time today at Kings High School! They had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities, including design and technology sessions and a PE lesson. The children were fully engaged, eager to learn, and thoroughly enjoyed trying out everything the high school had to offer. Their behavior throughout the day was exemplary, and they represented our school with pride. A huge well done to Year 5 - we are so proud of you all!



### KEY DATES



### JANUARY

- Monday 20th:** PTFA Meeting 2pm @Thursfield
- Monday 20th:** Reception & Year 6 Height & Weight checks
- Monday 20th:** Times Table Workshop for Year 4 parents @3:30 and 5:30
- Tuesday 21st:** City 7's Year 2 and 3 Assembly
- Thursday 23rd:** Year 5/6 Athletics (Newcastle Academy- 1pm-3pm)
- Wednesday 29th:** Year 5 and 6 football
- Thursday 30th:** RSPCA assembly & class workshops

### FEBRUARY

- Tuesday 4th:** Year 5/6 Netball League (Keele University- 12pm-3:30pm)
- Wednesday 5th:** KS1 Phonics Workshop @9am
- Wednesday 5th:** PTFA Valentines Disco (KS1 3:30 -4:15) (KS2 4:30-5:30)
- Monday 10th:** Parents E-Safety Workshop 5-5:30pm
- Monday 10th:** Year 5/6 Football League- Chesterton Community College- 4pm-5:30pm
- Wednesday 12th:** KS1 Great Fire of London Workshops - Information will be emailed out to parents.
- Wednesday 12th:** Kidsgrove Dodgeball Yrs 5 & 6 (Kings High School 1pm - 3pm)
- Wednesday 12th:** Mrs Bennett and Mrs Keeler's Parents Evening
- Friday 14th:** Book Bus Visiting

**Half Term** - Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February  
**Monday 24th:** Children Return to School

**Tuesday 25th:** Young Voices

We will keep you informed of any changes to the above events and further information will be emailed out to the relevant classes/children regarding certain events.

**THANK YOU!**

### Year 4 Parents



**Year 4 Times Table Test Parent Meeting**

Year 4 pupils will be taking part in a Multiplication check in June. The purpose of the check is to determine whether pupils can fluently recall their times tables up to 12.

We are holding a meeting on **Monday 20th January at 3:30pm and 5:30pm** where we will be sharing more information and ways you can support your child. We hope you can attend one of these times.

Thank you for your continued support

### Year 1 Parents

### YEAR 1 PHONICS PARENT WORKSHOP

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

**Wednesday, 5th February at 9:00 AM**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

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!

## CLUBS

Clubs will be available to book via Arbor during the first week back- they commence the second week back.



## PARKING REMINDER



Thank you for working with the school, police and council regarding parking around the school.

We truly appreciate your support in keeping our school safe for our children, staff and families.

## OPAL UPDATES



Please can all children bring in a pair of wellies or old trainers

## WATER BOTTLES



Please can all children bring a water bottle to school as we are currently providing too many of the single use plastic cups.

## SUITABLE CLOTHING

Please ensure that your child has a coat to wear during break times and lunch times.



## HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES & HEALTHY SNACKS

As a school we promote healthy snacks and lunches. Please ensure that your child is bringing a healthy snack to school please.



All snacks and lunches are ordered via Arbor.

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube - but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**  
While TikTok's following feed only displays videos deemed relevant to users, the algorithm is based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos are harmless but influential, but the app could potentially show concerning content. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the posting of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

**AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
According to Ofcom, most online videos for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and general stunts for boys. Both are present on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was a video showing a young boy encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from lack of oxygen. This led to some families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the wellbeing of their children.

**BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES**  
According to Ofcom, most online videos for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and general stunts for boys. Both are present on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was a video showing a young boy encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from lack of oxygen. This led to some families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the wellbeing of their children.

**IN-APP SPENDING**  
TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy virtual coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from 100 coins for 10p to 10,000 coins for £100. However, the app still allows users to purchase virtual gifts for content creators. In 2020, TikTok is likely to be used by children to buy in-app purchases, but it is possible to bypass this with a bank card.

**CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**  
With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact between users on TikTok is high - especially as accounts created by children (or teenagers) are often public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone who uses the app, it also suggests their videos to others and creates a means to download or repost content.

**MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION**  
Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more lighthearted than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only do there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 15 to 17-year-olds use TikTok as a news source - so you're getting your news from a platform that is not designed for that purpose.

**ADDICTIVE DESIGN**  
With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive for young users. In 2020, children spent an average of 22 minutes per day on the app. That's twice as long as they spent on YouTube. The app's addictive design is linked to young people's sleep patterns - often leading to tiredness - and affects their mood and other, healthier activities. The addictive, addictive nature of the app may also impact children's ability to regulate their emotions.

**ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING**  
Family Pairing allows parents to link their child's account to their own, so they can manage their child's account settings remotely. Parents can then turn on restricted mode (reducing the chance of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages - and if they can't, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

**BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING**  
If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app - sometimes without even realising.

**DISCUSS THE DANGERS**  
If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

**READ THE SIGNS**  
If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and loss of concentration are potential red flags, as is feeling to compare themselves or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there to help, and it's never too late to seek professional help.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechCrunch, Sun's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

**Wake Up Wednesday**  
The National College

## CLASS OF THE WEEK!



Year 5

For their visit to the Kings High School - their behaviour was impeccable.



## GOLDEN BOOK WINNERS

Theme- Following our School Rules

RB - Isaac H.  
RKT - Lawson M.  
Y1M - Rome J.  
Y1/2R - Sebastian D.  
Y1/2B - Darcie B.

Y3TA - Oscar H.  
Y3/4R - Georgia W.  
Y4W - Jake S.  
Y5P - Eleanor L.  
Y5/6B - Isla P.  
Y5/6O - Teddy H.

Well done!

## ATTENDANCE

100%

Well done to 1/2R 5/6B for achieving 100% attendance last week!

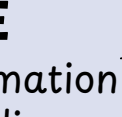
## FACEBOOK PAGE



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



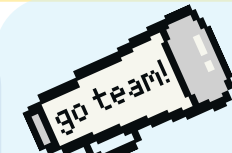
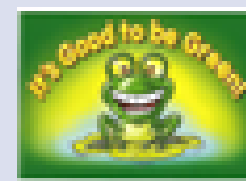
Please remember to update your personal details in Arbor if there are any changes. It is essential that we have multiple contact details for each child to ensure smooth communication.



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

## GOOD TO BE GREEN WINNER

Bobby H.



## HOUSE POINTS

DOULTON - 1,055  
MOORCROFT - 979  
BRIDGEWATER - 951  
WEDGWOOD - 866

LET'S GO!

### MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

Name: Callum

Trainee Education Mental Health Practitioner

**All About Me**  
Hi, I'm Callum, from the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) working within Thursfield Primary School.  
I am an Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP) and my role involves supporting young people and their families with mild to moderate mental health challenges using Low Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (LICBT). Together we work to identify and address difficult emotions and feelings.  
I work in partnership with the school's Mental Health Lead to deliver a whole school approach to mental health; this includes educational workshops, groups, and training to reduce the stigma of mental health and improve outcomes for the whole school community.

**Our Core Offer**  
I support pupils with:  
• Worry Management  
• Anxiety  
• Panic Management  
• Low Mood  
• Sleep  
• Problem Solving  
• Exam Stress

If you would like to know more, please speak to Mrs Bradbury or email: mhstenquiries@combined.nhs.uk

### Nature Tales

at Kidsgrove Library  
Meadows Road, Kidsgrove, ST7 1BS

Come along to enjoy a nature themed story followed by some time to play or do a simple craft activity.  
10.30am - 11.30am  
Wednesday 29 January  
Wednesday 26 February  
Wednesday 26 March  
Wednesday 30 April

Most suited to children under 5 but all ages welcome

www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/events  
Visit our website to see all our upcoming events

Free thanks to funding from The Staffordshire Freemasons  
For more details contact us via [getwild@staffs-wildlife.org.uk](mailto:getwild@staffs-wildlife.org.uk)

### Nature Tales

at Biddulph Library  
Tunstall Road, Biddulph, ST8 6HH

Come along to enjoy a nature themed story followed by some time to play or do a simple craft activity.  
1pm - 2pm  
Tuesday 28 January  
Tuesday 25 February  
Tuesday 25 March  
Tuesday 29 April

Most suited to children under 5 but all ages welcome.

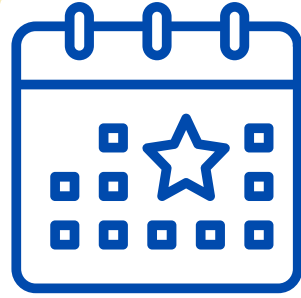
www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/events  
Visit our website to see all our upcoming events

Free thanks to funding from The Staffordshire Freemasons  
For more details contact us via [getwild@staffs-wildlife.org.uk](mailto:getwild@staffs-wildlife.org.uk)



# PTFA

## Upcoming Events...



**PTFA**

Received duplicate presents & don't know what to do with them?

Putting those decorations down & thinking of throwing them away?

If you have any duplicate or not needed gifts this Christmas or are swapping out your decorations for new ones, then please donate them to the school.

Please note we cannot accept any food items due to the storing of our PTFA donations. All donations to be taken to the office.

**"Wear what you love" Disco**

Join us on 5th February  
 KS1 3:30-4:15  
 KS2 4:30-5:30

£3 per child

Tuck shop available on the day

**important**

**PTFA MEETING**

- Come along and meet the PTFA Members.
- Share your suggestions or event ideas.
- Help plan key events for the Spring and Summer Terms.

20 JANUARY, 2025  
 2PM  
 THURSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

Thank you for your continued support!

PTFA