



THURGOLAND

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



LEARNING TOGETHER
IN FAITH & JOY

Information for Reception Class

The Brilliant Blue Whales

Contact Information

Telephone: 0114 288 3300

E-mail: office@thurgolandprimary.org

Website: www.thurgolandprimary.org

Twitter: @ThurgolandPS

* For data protection we will need to accept you as a follower – if you have a unique username, please let the office know it and we will make sure that we accept you as a follower*

Newsletters: Newsletters are emailed each week on a Friday. They are also posted on the school website and can be printed from there.

This booklet aims to introduce our Class and includes initial information which we hope you will find useful. Should you have any further questions, staff will be happy to discuss these with you.

We hope you find it helpful. For further details please refer to the school prospectus, look on the school's website or speak directly to the class teacher or other adults.

Ethos

At Thurgoland CE Primary, we respect the uniqueness of each child and nurture their personal and individual gifts to prepare them for a successful adulthood. Our children have Christian values at the heart of everything they do: caring for others; welcoming everyone regardless of differences; and working together to contribute to a thriving class, school and local community. We strive to provide a learning environment that promotes and develops each child to their 'BEST SELF'.





OUR BEHAVIOUR SYSTEM

1

I have had to be reminded about the class school rules and need to improve my behaviour.

Teacher/TA to discreetly address behaviour 11 with the child.

"I HAVE ASKED YOU ONCE TO BE YOUR BEST SELF I KNOW YOU CAN ..."

2

I have had to be reminded about the class school rules a second time and need to improve my behaviour.

Teacher/TA to discreetly address behaviour 11 with the child.

"I HAVE NOW TOLD YOU TWICE TO BE YOUR BEST SELF I KNOW YOU CAN ... I DO NOT SAY IT A THIRD TIME." "SELF I KNOW YOU CAN ..."

3

I have been reminded about the school rules three times in one session and I will miss some of my playtime.

Child to spend 5 minutes of playtime in 11 with an adult.

ADULT TO DISCUSS CHILD'S ACTIONS IN RELATION TO THE EXPECTATIONS AND HOW TO IMPROVE. PARENTS TO BE INFORMED OF THIS ON THE DAY BY EITHER FACE TO FACE, PHONE CALL OR MESSAGE TO PARENTS.

4

I am still not following the school rules. I will miss Friday reward time.

If a child reaches the third step 3 times in 1 week, they remain inside during Friday reward time.

CHILDREN WHO MISSED FRIDAY REWARD TIME TO BE RECORDED ON CROMS.

5

My behaviour is unacceptable and will be monitored closely.

If a child reaches step 4 twice in a half term, their parents/carers will be invited into school for a meeting with the teacher(s) and a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

BEHAVIOUR WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED FOR A PERIOD OF TIME WITH ONLY FEEDBACK GIVEN TO PARENT/CARER.

Serious behaviour incidents e.g. bullying, fighting, inappropriate language, safeguarding the child is sent straight to Headteacher.

Welcome to Reception Class aka The Brilliant Blue Whales.

The Reception team is made up of Mrs Mackie (teacher), Mrs Bamforth (teaching assistant) and Mrs Eynon (teaching assistant).

The classroom is located at the top of the corridor on the right-hand side.

Our Aim

Our aim in Class R is to help your child to be their BEST SELF. Children are offered a broad and exciting curriculum where we foster their love of learning. We encourage and support them to take increased personal responsibility for their learning behaviours while supporting them to become more independent learners as they prepare for their transition to Key Stage 1, Class 1.

Learning and development follow areas of the Early Years Curriculum known as Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which supports children from birth to the end of their reception year at school. We began implementing the revised EYFS curriculum in September 2021.

The curriculum is planned around four main themes:

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.	Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.	The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.	Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. All areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected.

There are 7 areas of learning and development:

3 Prime Areas		
Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)	Communication and Language (C&L)	Physical Development (PD)



4 Specific Areas			
Literacy (L)	Mathematics (M)	Understanding the World (UtW)	Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

Alongside these areas of development there are also the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning which describe **how** your child learns best.

The 3 Characteristics of Effective Learning are:

1. **Playing and Exploring** - Engagement - Finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to 'have a go'.
2. **Active Learning** - Motivation - Being involved and concentrating, keep trying, enjoying achieving what they set out to do.
3. **Creating and thinking critically** - Thinking - Having their own ideas, making links, choosing ways to do things.

Assessment

From September 2021 Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) became statutory for all children. It is a short and simple check of a child's early literacy, communication, language and maths skills when they begin school.

The assessment forms the start of how schools are helping their pupils to progress between reception and year 6. Our school and families do not receive any 'results' or feedback; it is for the department of education purposes.

Your child does not need to prepare. There is no pass mark or score and your child should not realise they're doing an assessment. It is a sequence of activities.

More information is here: <https://rba.campaign.gov.uk>

Reading

Reading is at the heart of all we do at Thurgoland School because it opens the door to learning. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible. A child who reads a lot will become a good reader. A good reader will be able to read more challenging material. A child who reads challenging material will learn. The more a child learns, the more they will want to find out. We want your child to love to listen to stories, love reading and want to read themselves. This is why we work hard throughout school from Class R to Class 6, to make sure our children develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

In The Brilliant Blue Whales Class

At Thurgoland School, we waste no time at all to ensure our passion for reading is shared by giving every child starting in Class R a book. On home visits and the information welcome meeting, we explain what support and engagement is expected at home and from the liaison diary.

We start teaching phonics using the Read, Write Inc. programme straight away to get the children off to a flying start with both reading and writing. Children learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how these sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children to learn to spell well. As part of this programme, children also practise reading and spelling 'tricky words, such as 'the', 'have' and 'said'. At Thurgoland, we insist that children learn to decode words effortlessly so that all their energy can be put into understanding what they read. It allows them to spell effortlessly so that they can put all their energy into composing what they write.

Once children can blend sounds together to read words, they practise reading books that match the phonics and the 'tricky words' they know. They start to believe they can read and this does wonders for their confidence.

Early readers are taught:

- Grapheme–phoneme correspondences (the sound that is made by the written version of a letter or group of letters) in a clearly defined sequence.
- To blend sounds in order all through a word to read it.
- To segment words into individual sounds for spelling.

Teachers follow a carefully designed curriculum which teaches all word knowledge and skills in the Alphabetic Code. Children are taught in groups according to their phonic knowledge and their ability to read words. The groups are flexible and led by both Teachers and Teaching Assistants. All lessons follow a defined structure using Read Write Inc. planning. All staff undertake training to deliver phonics. Phonics Assessments are undertaken by the Phonics Coordinator on a 7 weekly basis. All staff in Class R regularly read to the children so that the children get to know and love all sort of stories, poems and information books. Two daily story times help to extend children's vocabulary and comprehension, as well as supporting their writing. Children read 1:1 with teachers, teaching assistants, trained reading volunteers, and sometimes to reading partners.

What can parents/carers do to help?

Every child is provided with a reading book which they will be able to decode using their current level of phonic knowledge. We encourage this to read and re-read at home to develop their reading fluency. Fluency is vital. Below is a link to a video clip which shows the programme in action and explains everything, including 'Fred talk'!

<http://www.oup.com/oxed/primary/rwi/aboutrwi/video/>

We ask that the children regularly share their reading books with a grown up at home. Our expectation is **four times per week at least**. This regular practise is invaluable and enables children to progress more quickly and confidently. Each child has a reading diary where parents, teachers and children can make comments on their reading.

Make reading fun! Remember to keep reading *to* your child. They will then come across far more adventurous words than in their own first reading books and you will be helping them to grow a vast vocabulary and develop a deeper understanding of different stories. Most of all, it will encourage them to love books and want to read more. If a child sees and hears an adult reading, they are inspired by them!

If you have any further queries about how we teach reading, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher.

Spelling in The Brilliant Blue Whales Class

Children in The Brilliant Blue Whales Class bring home a key word list/bookmark. Please encourage them to read the words and see if you can find the words within their reading books, your books/magazines and in print in the environment. Then progress to learning to spell the words.

Daily Routine

Our morning bell goes at 8:45 am. The children should be brought to the class side door from 8:40am. Please be aware that the school site will be locked until 8:40am, therefore we request that families do not arrive too early.

Children arriving late to school - after 8:55am - should be brought in through the main entrance as the pupil entrance door will be locked at 8:55am. Any child arriving after the register has been taken is marked as late in the class register.

At the end of the day, children will be collected from their classroom side doors at 3:15pm. The school site will be open from 3:10pm. If you are running late, please telephone to office to inform us – note a member of office staff will be available from 8:15am. Likewise, if it is a different adult collecting, please can you inform the school.

Before and After School Club (TOOSC)

Situated in the youth centre, Thurgoland Out of School Club (OFSTED Outstanding 2018), provides affordable childcare. Run by qualified staff offering both breakfast and after school club as well as holiday club.

Breakfast club opening times are 7:30-8:45am costing £4.50.

After School sessions are 3:15 - 6pm costing £7.50.

Holiday sessions are either 5.5 hours @ £14.00 or 10.5 hours @ £22.00.

Children play like a home from home setting both indoor (wide range of toys/crafts and games) and outside (weather permitting).

Please call 07748 177686, or email toosclub@gmail.com.

PPA Time

All teachers have a statutory entitlement to 10% non-contact time to enable them to plan lessons and assess pupils' work. This is PPA (plan, preparation and assessment). We are fortunate in that Mrs Bamforth covers PPA Time. Planning for these lessons is done in consultation with the class teacher and is within the school's schemes of work. PPA works out at a half day per week. Mrs Mackie has her PPA on a Thursday afternoon.

Absence from School

Please let the office know before 9.30am if your child is going to be absent on a particular day. The school office staff will be available from 8:15am to answer any calls and a message can be left on the answer machine at any time. This avoids us worrying that your child may not have arrived at school safely. The school office will contact you at home if a message has not been received.

Please avoid taking holidays in term time. In particular, please avoid taking children out of school during statutory assessment periods:

Class R= The Brilliant Blue Whales Class – Baseline assessments during the first 6 weeks of the academic year.

Class 1 – Phonics screening week commencing Monday 12 June 2023

Class 2 – KS1 SATs week commencing Monday 15th May 2023

Class 4 – Year 4 Multiplication Check week commencing Monday 12th June 2023

Class 6 – KS2 SATs week commencing Monday 8th May 2022

Uniform

Please ensure that all clothing worn or brought into school is named!

We encourage all children to wear school uniform. This consists of:

Navy sweatshirts / cardigans

White or navy polo shirts

Grey or navy skirts / trousers

Navy / white t-shirts

Blue and white checked dresses (not available from school)

The above items, plus navy waterproof jackets and fleeces can be purchased at:

<http://thurgolandprimary.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Uniform-Order-2018.pdf>

We ask children to make sensible choices with regard to jewellery, shoes or hairstyles, ensuring that they are appropriately dressed for a school environment to be safe.

P.E. Kit

PE in Brilliant Blue Whale class is on a **Thursday** and **Friday** morning.

Pupils in Class R (The Brilliant Blue Whales Class), 1 and 2 will keep their PE kit in school and change for lessons in the classroom so that they learn how to undress/dress themselves.

The new official PE uniform consists of:

- The new PE Team T-Shirt in navy blue
- Plain navy or dark coloured jogging bottoms or leggings
- Plain, dark shorts
- 'Lightweight' Trainers i.e. not boot like trainers (these need to be suitable for outdoor physical activity. Black plimsolls will no longer be suitable as these are not waterproof or as practical to walk to school in/wear all day)
- Pupils can wear outdoor coats, school jumpers, a plain navy sweatshirt or a fleece over their PE uniform to travel to school/play outside.

Indoor P.E. is carried out in bare feet for safety reasons, **but trainers will be required for activities outside for the summer term (after Easter).**

Please make sure that you clearly label all pieces of your child's clothing, as they are very easily lost if not labelled. **Please ensure that all clothing school is named!**

Pupils are not allowed to wear jewellery (this includes earrings) in P.E. lessons. Children need to be able to remove their own earrings as well as put them back in. Children in The Brilliant Blue Whales Class require a P.E. kit. Initially, this should consist of a t-shirt and shorts. In the summer term, a pair of pumps or trainers for outdoor PE and Sports Day. We enjoy P.E. twice a week (Thursday and Friday). We ask for P.E. kits to remain in school for the week, so that we always have them available. No earrings are allowed to be worn for PE and long hair must be tied back.

Water

Children need to bring their own NAMED water bottle. The school has filtered tap water in the classroom, from which refills can be made. Children are encouraged and allowed to drink at appropriate times throughout the day. Please do not put water bottles in book bags-for soggy reasons!

Milk

Children can be provided daily with a carton of milk daily. Children are provided free school milk until the term they are 5. If your child is 5 years old in the Autumn Term and you wish them to have milk, please see the enclosed leaflets about how to order and pay online.

www.schoolmilkuk.co.uk

Snacks

Snacks from home are **not** allowed in school. Children are provided with fresh fruit or vegetables daily for a snack. Sometimes we offer breadsticks, rice cakes or the children make their own sandwiches. We are a NUT free school.

Newsletters

Newsletters are emailed each week on a Friday. They are also posted on the school website and can be printed from there.

School Dinners-There is NO cost.

At school we manage our own kitchen. The meals are sourced locally, of good quality and well balanced. Children have a choice of two main meals or a jacket potato plus salad bar. Menus are shared electronically. Children in Class R choose their meal on a daily basis.

Lost Property

Please could you ensure that **all** items of clothing are marked with your child's name. We endeavour to return items of lost property directly to the owner. Each class has a lost property box which is located in the classroom. At the end of each half term, all lost property is put on the playground for parents to claim.

Contact Details

We would be most grateful if you could ensure that emergency contact details are kept up to date. You must inform the office of any change in phone numbers so that records are always up to date.

Children taken ill during the school day

If children are taken ill during the school day, we endeavour to contact parents and make suitable arrangements for your child to be collected from school. We recognise how inconvenient this can be and therefore only send for parents if we feel it is necessary.

Accidents and Medication

If a child needs medical treatment, parents are contacted immediately.

If they have a minor injury at school, they are given first aid and recorded in a "Mr Bump" book. A copy needs to be signed by the adult collecting your child.

If it is necessary for a child to be given a prescribed medicine at school because the dose has to be administered four times a day, please complete a medicine form which can be collected from the school office.

Health

Staff need to be aware of your child's medical background, in particular, any allergies (e.g., bee stings, dairy food), any dietary restrictions (e.g. vegetarian or Halal) and any medical conditions that are important for us to know (e.g. asthma or eczema).

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

We offer continuous provision in the following areas inside-

- Role play
- Large touch screen computer
- Maths
- Reading
- Writing
- Creative workshop
- Construction
- Storytelling with small world toys, puppets

Outside learning areas match the inside as much as possible with additional areas-

- Bikes, scooters
- Sand and water play
- Large construction
- Mud kitchen

We follow the childrens' interests and in addition we have half termly learning themes, favouring those which the children can see in context to their world. These are on the website, EYFS curriculum overview.

Daily worship is attended in the school hall with classes 1 (The Peaceful Pandas) and 2 (The Spectacular Sea Otters)

In the summer term, to prepare for your child moving to class 1 (The Peaceful Pandas) and begin Key Stage 1 National Curriculum requirements, your child is introduced to the ICT suite and learns to log on to a computer. They also join Key Stage 1 for outside play in an afternoon with adults from Team R supervising them.

Working together

Learning Journey

Throughout the year staff record your child's learning in a book called a "Learning Journey". This forms a unique record of your child's learning and development throughout the year. These books enable staff to track your child's progress and attainment, as well as plan future activities.

We also value your comments about your child's progress and attainment and are aware that the children also do a lot of learning at home, and we would love to hear from you when you see them doing something that makes you proud. You will receive "WOW" moments to complete in due course along with some examples and an explanation letter. When you run out, please just ask for more!

Reading Liaison Book

Please write to us about any reading your child enjoys -it doesn't have to only be their school book. It is a school expectation that this liaison book comes daily with your child and that they read **at least 4 times per week**.

What can parents/carers do to help?

Every child is provided with a reading book which they will be able to decode using their current level of phonic knowledge. We encourage this to read and re-read at home to develop their reading fluency. Fluency is vital. Below is a link to a video clip which shows the programme in action and explains everything, including 'Fred talk'!

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We ask that the children regularly share their reading books with a grown up at home. Regular practise is invaluable and enables children to progress more quickly and confidently.

Make reading fun! Remember to keep reading *to* your child. They will then come across far more adventurous words than in their own first reading books and you will be helping them to grow a vast vocabulary and develop a deeper understanding of different stories. Your child's second and library book are for reading together; to promote a love and enjoyment of reading. If a child sees and hears an adult reading, they are inspired by them and want to read more and more!

Reading homework.

At whatever age this is the greatest support you can give to your children. For children in The Brilliant Blue Whales Class we ask that you:

- Share both picture and story books with your child so that they begin to develop a love of books and reading.
- Look at print in the environment.
- Share books at least 4 times per week and tell us about it using the reading diary and Seesaw platform.
- Help learn to read and spell high frequency words (keywords) on a bookmark when sent home.

Twitter

Please follow us on Twitter @ThurgolandPS to see all the wonderful things happening in school.

For data protection we will need to accept you as a follower – if you have a unique username, please let the office know it and we will make sure that we accept you as a follower.

We hope that this is useful – should you have any questions please feel free to speak to a member of staff. We aim to ensure that your child's experience in Thurgoland School is a happy and rewarding one where they can be their **'best self'**.

We look forward to working with both you and your child.