



Class R's Autumn 1 Newsletter

We are the 'Brilliant Blue Whales.'

WELCOME TO RECEPTION CLASS

Talk for life and learning!

Attached with this newsletter is all of the key words we will be seeing, saying, learning and using in class. It would be great, if you could use these words at home.

Here are a few key words to get you started:

1. Special times
2. Healthy
3. Safe
4. Kind
5. Feeling

Class Attendance Update

Each half term, we will update you on how our class attendance is looking compared to the other classes in school. As a school we are aiming high for 98% attendance this year and we have a saying in school, **'The best ability is availability.'**

Class R's attendance: 100%

School attendance: 96.9%



"Children at Thurgoland CE Primary are encouraged to see that everyone is special and unique and, in this way, gain a sense of ourselves as a unique individual – that true self, or best self, God has created us to be."

Class Specific Events and Information

Below is a list of events and important information specific to our class. For a comprehensive view of whole school events, please refer to the school's website or Mr. Jordan's weekly newsletter.

Upcoming Class Events

- **Friday 11th September**-our class Friday feast. Each class take a turn to sell cakes/treats after school on a Friday. Please note we are a nut free school. The donations can be home made or bought and are brought to the classroom on the morning (11th September). All personal containers/tins/bags etc are returned so please put your child's name on it. To make a purchase-simply go to the table in the walled yard and make a tricky decision as to what to buy and kindly give a donation.
- **Friday 25th September 2026** – Our poetry performance in class at 8:45am. Come and watch us perform a poem that we have been practising.
- **Monday 5th October**-Big Book Swap. These take place monthly. Simply bring a book that your child no longer wishes to own and take one from the table in the small walled yard. A new book for free!

Important Information

Homework is assigned every Friday on DOJO. A little and often is the best approach, 5 -10 minutes daily ideally.

Reading is the priority along with talking together to develop vocabulary and sentence structure. * We ask that families upload to Class Dojo a 2-minute recording (video/audio) of their child reading once per week *

The set 1 letter sounds taught in RWInc phonics are sent home every Friday too.

We make learning fun and memorable by baking, using manipulatives (such as playdough) and love nothing more than getting stuck in with our hands in 'messy play', such as cornflour and also being able to buy new things for our provision to enhance our learning further. As you can appreciate, all these resources incur a cost so we are hugely grateful for any donations made half-



By working and playing together we can love, learn and respect.

"It has been said beautifully and profoundly, that our God in his most inner mystery is not solitude, but a family." John Paul II

termly. We ask for a voluntary contribution of £5.00 per half term that can be put into the purple piggy bank on the window sill by the classroom door. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

OUTSIDE EYFS AREA

We are very lucky to have a wonderful dedicated area outside EYFS and year 1 classroom. This enhances our curriculum and learning through play-based opportunities. As you can appreciate, time is spent planning and organising this provision to meet the needs of our children, so we really would appreciate your support by supervising younger family members to avoid toys and resources being used at drop off and collection times. Thankyou.

For any questions or additional details, please feel free to reach out to the Class Teacher, who will be on the door every morning or email your enquiry to office@thurgolandprimary.org and we will get back to you within 48 hours. Anything urgent please phone or catch us face to face. We look forward to an exciting and productive half term!

As educators we are all passionate about the way children are formed by the environment in which they grow. To become our best self we will need the environment that enables this.



What are we learning about this half term?

THIS HALF TERM'S ENQUIRY QUESTION- Why is it good to be me?

Welcome to Reception class!

This half term, the Brilliant Blue Whales will be settling into their new classroom and provision, thinking about some of their favourite activities. They will be drawing and writing about one of these activities. The children will be joining in with circle games and getting to know each other. They will also be engaging with the indoor and outdoor provision. In maths, the children will be counting in different ways, matching numerals to quantities and learning about the different numicon pieces in the provision.

Our goal is to provide a well-rounded educational experience that fosters children to love to learn, give things a go, be resilient, show respect and aim high. Below is an overview of the topics we will explore.

Reading:

Recommended reading books and library books will be brought home for shared reading. Please talk about the texts and record any shared books in the yellow liaison diary-they can be from home as well as school. Aim for 5-10 minutes, four times per week. A little and often approach is best! These books will be swapped on a Friday, so please make sure they are in school for us to be able to swap each week.

Phonics:

We lose no time at all to begin teaching phonics following the RWInc scheme. Set 1 letter sounds are taught in a particular order so that words can be made to blend and read using 'Fred Talk'.

Writing:

In writing we will be learning how to hold a pencil correctly using a "3 friends hold". Our focus will be on developing core strength; fine motor skills and learning the animal positions of Kinetic Handwriting scheme.

Mathematics:

We will learn the meaning of subitise and focus on counting skills; composition of sets and comparing amounts using correct language-more than, fewer than, less than.

Science:

In science, we will focus on our body; learning the 5 senses and how to keep healthy, including dental hygiene with a visit from dental nurses.

We will look at the day, date and weather to complete our class calendar, particularly noting the changing seasons and any weather patterns.



At Thurgoland CE Primary School, everyone is inspired to reach their full potential and become their best self, to make the world a better place.



By working and playing together we can love, learn and respect.

"It has been said beautifully and profoundly, that our God in his most inner mystery is not solitude, but a family." John Paul II

Physical Education:

Your child's P.E sessions will be every Thursday and Friday. Please ensure that his/her P.E bag and full named kit is in school each week. Thank you. Our focus is getting dressed and undressed; moving safely in different ways in the hall and nursery rhyme dances.

PHSE:

We will be learning what the school values are; creating our classroom rules for Golden Time; making friends and learning to share and take turns.

Art:

We will learn how to sketch and use colours appropriately. We will paint a portrait of our face.

DT:

We will be baking gingerbread and using our imagination to form the dough into whatever we like-could be an animal, maybe a person...who knows?!

Music:

We will be learning to listen appropriately to someone leading a short musical phrase, song or rhyme; exploring spontaneous movement with different parts of our body in response to music and expressing different spontaneous emotional reactions to music (smiling, movement, body language).

Geography:

The primary aim is to introduce pupils to what geography is. It encourages pupils to explore, observe and ask questions to learn what seasons are and find out about Autumn in the school environment.

This half term promises to be an enriching and enjoyable experience for all students in Class R. We look forward to a season filled with learning, growth, and fun!

Statutory Baseline assessment will take place in the first six weeks. If you would like more information, here's a link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/682e31e3e9440506ee953953/2025_Information_for_parents_reception_baseline_assessment.pdf

You can find more detailed information about the knowledge and skills your child will be learning in our curriculum documents, which can be found on the school website: <https://thurgolandprimary.org/curriculum-statement/>

Please encourage your child to complete their homework weekly on Class Dojo's and if you want to spend a little more time on home learning, why don't you try an activity from our half term bingo boards. You can find these on the school website and this half terms bingo board is attached with this newsletter. <https://thurgolandprimary.org/students/>
The bingo boards can be downloaded from the tabs, which are located on the left hand side of the webpage.



At Thurgoland CE Primary School, everyone is inspired to reach their full potential and become their best self, to make the world a better place.