

28th June 2018

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I would like to begin by offering a very warm welcome to yourselves and to thank you for taking the time to come and meet Mrs Green and myself. I joined the Thursfield team last year and I love working here. I previously worked at Hempstalls as their Reception teacher and also at a school in my home town of Leeds for 3 years, again as a Reception teacher. My experience in Early Years allows me to provide a smooth transition to Year 1 for the children and yourselves.

In September, the children in Year 1 will be nicknamed the 'Mini MonSTARS' and our classroom will have a 'monster' theme. Year 1 is a time where children will build upon the skills they have previously learnt during Reception and become more independent learners. Children should enjoy coming to school and I will always strive to make school a joyful place to learn and help your child reach their full potential.

This year I am very lucky to be supported by Mrs Green. Mrs Green is looking forward to moving into Year 1 and is just as curious as the children as to what our days will be like! As a team we do have high expectations of all children in the class and we will continue to maintain these expectations throughout the school year. Reward systems will be used throughout the year; the children will have their own sticker charts to fill and a prize will be rewarded once the chart is full. There will also be opportunities for children to achieve House Points which will go towards whole school rewards. This term, we are continuing to use the Good to be Green whole school behaviour policy. The children are aware of the Good to be Green policy and we are sure they will tell you all about the behaviour process.

Thursfield have adopted a thematic approach to the curriculum, whereby all areas of the curriculum will be linked to one theme for one term, similar to how your child learnt in Reception. The thematic approach enables for a more creative learning, provides fun and exciting learning opportunities and promotes enjoyment in school.

The topics that we will be covering this year are:

Autumn- Marvellous Me! (Launch day costume - scientists, doctors or nurses)

Spring- A Message in a Bottle (Launch day costume - pirates)

Summer- Majestic Majesty (Launch day costume - princes or princesses)

Literacy: Reading and Writing

Children will learn early reading and writing skills through Literacy and Phonic sessions. At the end of Year 1 the children will undergo a phonics screening check where they are expected to decode 40 real words and nonsense words applying their phonic knowledge. It will be a short, simple check to make sure that all children have grasped fundamental phonic skills. We will be ensuring phonics is taught daily and we would appreciate any support at home to help the children with this.

It is important that work is followed up at home in order for your child to make progress. Therefore, children should be heard to read **every night**, spellings should be practiced and weekend homework should be completed. In line with the whole school reading and spelling policy, children **MUST** read and complete their spellings **EVERY** night and if this is not completed the children will have to stay in the following break to complete it. Homework is given out on a Thursday and should be returned to school on the following Tuesday. A homework clinic is also available for your child every Friday where they can get any extra help or resources.

How you can help further at home?

- Talk with your child about their day and your day. Listen to them and ask open questions for them to develop and extend.
- Share books together, especially stories with extended vocabulary that are beyond the child's own reading skills. Talk about the characters, and setting. What do you think might happen next?
- Encourage them to write notes, lists, menus, birthday cards, letters, e-mails and posters.
- Support them reading their Home Reading book and library books. Make it a special time that you can share and enjoy. When you have finished the reading book, please put a note in your diary and we will swap the book.

Numeracy

The children will be having one hour of maths each day which follows the Year 1 Curriculum. The sessions will consist of a mental maths warm up, group teaching and independent learning through hands on activities. We will be continuing to follow the 'Inspire Maths' scheme alongside the curriculum.

How you can help and support?

- What would 1 more/less numbers to 10/20
- Writing numbers and practicing formation, as well as the written number (four, zero, ten etc.)
- Ordering numbers to 20
- Recalling number bonds to 10 using groups of everyday objects to help

Clubs

Clubs will be running in school across the key stages and will be announced at the beginning of the academic year in September.

Trips

We are keen to give the children an opportunity to further their learning through a variety of trips during the school year. Outdoor learning will exist in the school grounds, in the local area and beyond. Trips will be arranged throughout the year, we shall of course keep you informed.

Classroom Support

Schools are very busy places and I welcome any parents who would be willing to help with reading or general classroom jobs. Therefore, if you could spare an hour or two each week to help, please speak to either myself, Mrs Green or Mrs Bradbury. Your support is always appreciated.

Supportive Parents

The continuing use of the Home/School planner will provide an opportunity to share and communicate concerns and achievements as the children will be in KS1, we expect them to come into school independently so might not always see you in the mornings. However, feel free to share any concerns with the member of staff on the door in the mornings and they will pass on messages or at the end of the day with me. Children will have weekly spellings and new reading books regularly. It is so important for you to listen to

your child read each evening. Please try and find a few minutes to do this and you will see the benefits yourself.

Please remember we are always here to help. If you have any queries, concerns or need information, do not hesitate to contact us or call in after school for a quick chat. If you require any further information or wish to discuss any other matters with us, we will be more than happy to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time. We all want to work with you to ensure that your child continues to enjoy school, to develop in confidence and self-esteem, and to enjoy the challenges of new learning.

This is the start of a very exciting year for the children and with your support we can all look forward to making this year a success.

Thank you

Miss Kent and Mrs Green

*“Around here, however,
we don’t look backwards for very long,*

WE KEEP

MOVING FORWARD,

opening new doors,

and doing new things,

BECAUSE WE’RE CURIOUS

and curiosity keeps

leading us down new paths.”

-WALT DISNEY

