

Thurlow CEVCP School BROCHURE

2018/2019



Laying the foundations for a bright future

Hundon and Thurlow Primary Federation



The Information and particulars contained in this prospectus relate to the school year indicated on the front cover and are correct at the time of publication.

It should not be assumed that there will be no change affecting the relevant arrangements or some matter particularised-

- a) before the start of, or during, the school year in question,***
or
- b) in relation to subsequent school years***

**THURLOW CHURCH OF ENGLAND
VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

ACADEMIC YEAR September 2018 - July 2019

Thurlow CEVCP School

Little Thurlow

Nr. Haverhill

Suffolk CB9 7HY

Tel. (01440) 783281

Fax: (01440) 783864

E-mail: admin@thurlowschool.co.uk

Interim Head Teacher - Mrs Sharon FitzGerald

Local Educational Authority

**Suffolk County Council
Educational Department
Grimwade Street
Ipswich IP4 1LJ**

**Director Children & Young People
Sue Cook**

Western Area Office

**Area Education Office
West Suffolk House
Western Way
Bury St. Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 3YU**

**Thurlow School is a Church of England, Voluntary Controlled,
Primary School for children aged four to eleven.**

OUR SCHOOL

Thurlow is a successful and vibrant Church of England primary school. We are a close knit community of children, staff, governors and parents. Our aim is for the time your child spends with us to be happy and successful and feel that it is essential that good relationships are developed between parents, staff and children.

You are always welcome in school, and teachers are available to talk with you on any matters involving your child. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or the class teacher about anything which concerns you and we will be happy to see you at the next mutually convenient time.

On the following pages you will find information about the school, its organisation, philosophy and aims, together with some practical details about daily routines.

Mrs S Fitzgerald

(Head Teacher)

Thurlow CEVCP School

Thurlow CEVCP School is a Church School for children aged 4 –11 years. It is federated with Hundon Community Primary School which means it shares Headteacher and Governing Body.

It is very pleasantly situated in grounds backing onto farmland. There are four classrooms with cloakrooms, a library, a resource room and a Hall, which is used for collective worship, assemblies, P.E., concerts, activities and school lunches. There is a Headteacher's office, Secretary's office, a staff room, and a kitchen where hot and cold school lunches are prepared. There is a Breakfast and Afterschool club run by the school. There is a heated outdoor Swimming Pool, hard play area, physical and imaginative play area, paved shaded area, enclosed Early Years Outdoor Classroom, a pond and Wildlife Area and a playing field.

Legally, children can start school at the beginning of the year in which they are five. There is a meeting, in the Summer term, for parents of all children who will be starting school in the September. At this meeting the Early Years Foundation Stage teacher, will tell parents about Class 1 and give you some idea about the work the children will be involved in when they start school. She will also offer suggestions, which will help you prepare your child for school and support them when they start.

The school serves the villages of :-

Great Thurlow, Little Bradley, Little Thurlow, Great Wrattling, Withersfield, Great Bradley, Cowlinge, Hanchett End Lane, Barsey Grove

If you live in one of these areas a place will be offered to your child. Please let us know, as soon as possible, if you wish to take up this place. If you do not live in these villages but wish to send your child to Thurlow School, please contact the Local Authority [LA] - this can be done online - and the school where we will make a note of your interest. **The website address for online admissions is www.suffolk.gov.uk/onlineadmissions**

The School Admission Code of Practice prohibits all admission authorities from offering a catchment guarantee. However, priority is given to children living in the catchment area of the school. Applications for the catchment area school, which are received after the closing date (eg. from parents moving into the area) can only be accepted if there are places still available.

Thurlow, Bradley and District Pre-school is independently run in 'The Sunshine Building' which is situated in the school grounds. There is an excellent liaison between us. A programme of visits is organised in the Summer term, when Pre-school children join the Early Years class. Pre-school children are invited to many of the school's special occasions, such as theatre visits, church services, concerts, sports day and book fairs. Information about Pre-School can be obtained by ringing 01440 783688.

Suffolk Borders Teaching Alliance

Our school, together with other local primary schools are members of the teaching school. We are able to access training and support.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

At Thurlow School children, parents, staff, governors and community members work together to provide our children with a curriculum that ensures they attain highly and behave well, and are also healthy and secure, confident and caring, creative and independent.

Laying the foundations for a bright future

The School Day

8.40 a.m.	Gates open. Children begin to arrive and go onto Playground.
8.50 a.m.	Children walk into school
8.55 a.m.	Registration
9.05 – 10:15 a.m.	Teaching Session
10:30 – 10.45 a.m.	Collective Worship
10.45 – 11.00 a.m.	Playtime
11.00 - 12.10 p.m.	Teaching session
12.10 - 1.10 p.m.	Lunch & Playtime
1.10 – 1-15 p.m.	Registration
1.15 –3.10 p.m.	Teaching session
2.30 - 2.40 p.m.	EYFS and KS1 Playtime
3.10 p.m.	End of School Day

For children in Key Stage 2 the school week consists of 23.25 teaching hours. For the children in Early Years Foundation Stage [EYFS] and Key Stage 1 the school week consists of 22.50 teaching hours.

Gates are opened at 8.40 a.m. and children can remain in the playground until the bell is rung at 8-50pm.

Registration is at 8.50 a.m. When children arrive late it is disconcerting for them and disrupts the registration period. Late arrivals need to go to the reception foyer and sign the 'Late' book. They then will be taken to class by the Administrative Assistant.

At the end of the school day children should be collected from outside their classroom door. If, for any reason, you are unable to collect your child please let the class teacher know what alternative arrangements have been made. In the interest of the child's safety, **no child will be allowed to go home with another person unless parents have informed the school.** Please let your child know of alternative arrangements also. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher please try to do so after school unless it is a matter of some urgency.

STAFF AT THURLOW SCHOOL

Head Teacher

Mrs Sharon FitzGerald

Teaching Staff

Mrs T Dunn	Class 1
Mrs L Frere	Class 2
Mrs M Mayes	Class 3
Mrs J Betts	Class 4
Mrs Budinger	SENCO
Mrs J Christian	Teaching Assistant - Class 1
Mr P Jones	Teaching Assistant - Class 2
Miss R Start	Teaching Assistant - Class 3
Mrs S Acey	High Level Teaching Assistant-Class 4
Mrs S Tobin	Teaching Assistant

Non-teaching Staff

Mrs A Loosley	Administration Officer
Mrs N Sanders	Administration Assistant
Mrs J Hattam	Cook
Mrs J Pidgeon	Midday Supervisory Assistant
Miss S Emmerson	Midday Supervisory Assistant
Ms Aude Van Craeynest	Midday Supervisory Assistant

THURLOW SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Chair of Governors

Mrs Emma Pitt

Vice-Chairman

Mrs Lizzie Rosewell

Other Governors

Mrs S FitzGerald (Head teacher)

Miss Claire Buckle (Staff)

Miss Sarah Upson

Mrs Zena Chalmers

Mrs Anne Crawley

Mrs Penny Smith

Mrs A Rolland

Mrs V Phillips

Mr A Cassidy

Term Dates for the Academic Year 2018-2019

Autumn Term 2018

Begins 5 September 2018

Ends 19 December 2018

5 and 6 September PD days

Autumn Half Term

Begins 22 October 2018

Ends 26 October 2018

Christmas Holiday

Begins 20 December 2018

Ends 1 January 2019

Spring Term 2019

Begins 2 January 2019

Ends 5 April 2019

2nd January PD day

Spring Half Term

Begins 18 February 2019

Ends 22 February 2019

Spring Easter Break

Begins 8 April 2019

Ends 22 April 2019

Summer Term 2019

Begins 23 April 2019

Ends 24 July 2019

23rd April & 24th May PD days

Summer Half Term

Begins 27 May 2019

Ends 31 May 2019

Teaching Arrangements

At present the children are grouped in four classes.

Class 1	Reception
Class 2	Years 1 & 2
Class 3	Years 3 & 4
Class 4	Years 5 & 6

In each class the teaching will depend upon the task being undertaken and children at any time may be engaged in individual, small group, or whole class work.

Collective Worship

We are a church school and Christian principals influence our lives in school. We start each day with collective worship. The whole school meets together in the hall for stories, songs, celebrations, reflection and prayers.

We follow themes, which are based on Christian values. These are taught through a range of stories, discussion and songs. They are complemented by stories that illustrate the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning [SEAL] curriculum which we use in our classrooms.

A teacher will take the assemblies for a week and explore each theme in a range of ways and from different viewpoints. Children learn a number of different songs, which they sing during assembly. Music is chosen by the teacher or the class responsible for the week.

We encourage visitors to join us in school for our assemblies, and these have included representatives from 'Food Bank', 'Engalynx.', 'The Police', 'Haverhill Library', among others.

Reverend Hollis, who is one of our Foundation Governors, is a regular visitor and frequently leads our collective worship, as well as several Church services throughout the year including 'Christingle' and 'Easter'.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Please let us know if you wish to do this.

Thurlow School was inspected by The National Society on behalf of the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese on 25th February 2014.

The Strengths reads as follows;

- Purposeful and committed leadership by the school's senior leadership team, based on a firm understanding of the purposes of a Church of England School.
- Excellent relationships between school community members grounded in their core Christian principle of love.
- Engaging collective worship which reinstates the school's core Christian values and promotes a shared ownership of what that means in daily life.

To see the full report please go to:

<http://www.stedmundsbury.anglican.org/index.cfm?page=cyp.content&cmid=229>

The Curriculum

Our curriculum is broad, balanced and differentiated [ie plans for the different ability range within each class]. It incorporates Personal, Social and Health Education [PSHE] and Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning [SEAL]. The core subjects Mathematics, English and I.C.T. are taught across all areas of the curriculum as well as in their own right. R.E., History, Geography, Art, Music, Design/Technology and Physical Education are covered throughout the week through a topic based approach.

Early Years Foundation Stage [EYFS] children receive a curriculum based on the EYFS Curriculum and have well resourced Indoor and Outdoor classrooms.

Each class covers a variety of topics during the year, which may be art, history/geography or science based and, where possible, teachers will integrate most subject areas, to provide broad and balanced curriculum coverage and make clear links between subjects. Children's own ideas are incorporated into the planning where it is sensible to do so.

The school operates a two year rolling programme so that all the Key Stage curriculum is covered.

Whilst ensuring coverage of the National Curriculum we aim to teach in a creative and exciting way via a curriculum which is enlivened by 'first hand' experiences, use of ICT, visits and visitors enabling children to develop and progress to a very high level. We encourage children to investigate, discover and become active participants in their own learning. It is our belief that teaching children how to learn is of the utmost importance and develops in them a love of learning which is necessary for their academic, social and emotional development.

Numeracy

Mathematics is an exciting area of the curriculum and we encourage the children to appreciate its fascination and depth, as well as develop a love of calculation and problem solving. We want them to enjoy the subject and develop an ease with numbers. Our levels of expectation are high and we ensure that each child reaches their full potential and produces their best work, whilst taking pride in their ability and achievements.

The fundamental ideas of the Numeracy Strategy are well established in Thurlow School. Supporting skills of mental methods of calculation is emphasized within an environment, which encourages the development of problem solving skills. Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts are learnt and practised so that they can be used quickly within activities. Oral/mental work which develops quick thinking and a rapid recall of number facts together with understanding the use of skills and knowledge in any given problem solving situation is emphasised. Developing flexibility with, and confidence in handling system numbers is important. Children need an understanding of 'place value' in order to have complete control over the number system and we ensure they have many experiences which will enable them to develop a strong foundation on which to build further understanding of mathematics concepts. The ability to use skills is fundamental to the enjoyment and development of Mathematics and consequently all learning is consolidated and children's ability to apply skills they have learnt is paramount.

We teach maths for approximately an hour every day. Children work independently, in groups and as part of a whole class with activities appropriate to their ability. The activities are carefully chosen and monitored by the teacher who will work with different groups throughout the week thus providing in-depth learning and ensuring that each child is being taught at a level that is appropriate for them.

Numbers as well as shape and space, data handling and measurement are taught within the Numeracy session and at other times, when a mathematical topic is being covered or when a number of curriculum areas overlap. ICT is frequently used during numeracy sessions as well as in these multi area sessions. Children are encouraged to use their knowledge to solve problems and become involved in investigations. At Thurlow we aim to provide the children with a rounded view of Mathematics and a realisation of its importance and power in everyday life.

Literacy

Literacy extends into all areas of the curriculum and daily life at Thurlow. The ability to read and write fluently, to express ourselves clearly and concisely affects every aspect of our lives. Emphasis is placed on the planning, teaching and assessing of this subject and giving children an appreciation of the creative aspects. We reflect positively on the way we teach English, and opportunities are given for all staff to further their skills through courses and staff meetings. The Literacy Strategy provides the basis for our programme which is enhanced through activities which are tailor-made to suit the beliefs and aims of our school and its people. Our approach to teaching and learning is flexible and reflects the needs of our children and our on going assessments.

Speaking and Listening

Speaking and Listening skills are taught as an integral part of all lessons. Pupils are encouraged to participate in class discussions and enjoy reading their own work to peers. They are also encouraged to retell stories through role-play activities, become involved in question and answer games and take part in class and school performances. As they progress into KS2 they are encouraged to take part in debates and in presentations on chosen subjects, which they prepare. During church services such as Christingle or assemblies they are taught to read passages clearly and with confidence and develop skills of reading to different audiences. Opportunities to demonstrate speaking and listening skills are given in our weekly 'best work' assemblies and in the school and class performances, which the children enjoy.

It is as important for children to learn to listen to others speak in discussion, as well as perform with respect for the audience and we take great pride in the achievements of our pupils in this area.

Literacy is used in all aspects of the curriculum and children are encouraged to record their work in a number of ways, use their skills in research and develop their speaking and listening in presentation, discussion and debate.

Reading

Pupils at Thurlow School are encouraged to develop a love of literature in many ways, including shared reading, discussion, reviewing and storytelling. We have a good selection of enlarged texts, beautiful Big Books, classic children's literature, factual books and famous/popular authors which children can read for pleasure, and sets of group readers which they enjoy sharing with friends or formal groups. The books have been chosen carefully to develop pupils' individual reading skills and encourage greater fluency.

Alongside developing their love of books we teach phonics through the use of Jolly Phonics and the Letters and Sounds programme. We also have a range of resources, games and computer materials to develop and extend reading skills. Reading for information is a very important part of our English curriculum and children are encouraged to use our well-stocked library for reference material.

Pupils take a reading book home on a daily basis to share with their parents and carers, who are encouraged to share their comments with teachers through a reading record and home/school diary.

Each class is stocked with a good selection of books which includes various reading schemes as well as individual books. Our library has an excellent range of fiction and non-fiction books and children are encouraged to take books home as well as use them for researching any topics. Classroom libraries are chosen from the central stock and changed every half term thus giving children a constant changing source to choose from on a regular basis.

Writing

Pupils are encouraged to write independently from the start of their education at Thurlow. Reception pupils write their own emergent text, which can be translated by the teacher orally, or by scribing. Children's writing will initially be a combination of symbols and pictures. This develops, as children learn more skills, into more recognisable words and letters. Pupils model their writing on the skills they have learnt, through shared writing sessions, which take place during the Literacy Hour and during specific creative extended writing sessions.

Initially whole classes share the responsibility of composing a sentence, a poem or story based on the work they have been doing. Pupils often make their own class 'Big Books', which are shared with the rest of the school. As children move through the school their writing becomes more complex and they produce extended pieces, including poems, menus, lists and stories, in which they are encouraged to use their developing skills. They work together on improving their writing and are encouraged to edit and refine their work. Emphasis is placed on using language creatively yet succinctly and children learn to respect the use of English for different purposes and to achieve different effects.

Handwriting is taught in every year group and pupils are taught correct letter formation. Spelling is taught in every class through a variety of activities and phonics is emphasised from the very first as well as letter patterns and whole words.

Thurlow School strives to improve the standard of every child's spelling through a structured spelling programme and encouragement and praise. Children take home spellings to learn each week, along with reading books for parents to support their children and also as a means of making parents aware of how their child is progressing.

Science

We aim to develop scientific understanding and to stimulate children's natural curiosity and interest in the world.

The main emphasis in Science is on learning how to investigate scientific problems. Skills are developed in the topics: 'Forces'- including electricity, 'Light and Sound', 'Plants and Animals'- in different environments, 'Materials'- their properties and how they can be changed and more.

There is a strong emphasis on active experiments, investigations and collaborative group activities.

I.C.T

In this rapidly changing and exciting area of the curriculum we keep abreast of developments through in-service training, Internet research and by updating both software and hardware.

All classes have Interactive Whiteboards and a generous supply of laptops which can easily be accessed whenever necessary. Other ICT hardware includes iPads, Visual Eyes, several Flip Cameras [basic video cameras] and class cameras.

Children use computers to research topics, process their work and play learning games.

Our Internet connection is provided by a Suffolk County Council approved and secure ISP that specialises in Education Services. The children use the internet under the supervision of staff.

Religious Education

In Thurlow we teach R.E. in accordance with the Suffolk agreed syllabus and we sometimes use a programme called 'Themes and Schemes' in conjunction with this. This is a series of units which provide a vehicle for teaching 'R.E.' in the basic curriculum. Each unit is clearly based on specific objectives from the agreed syllabus and provides background information, teaching strategies and classroom activities to meet these. The materials used help pupils to understand important concepts and ideas and to develop skills and attitudes required by the syllabus.

Children are taught about Christianity and other world faiths, within an atmosphere of sensitive enquiry. Making children aware of the other major religions, beliefs and celebrations gives them understanding and widens their perspectives. We use a very good range of artefacts from these major religions to bring our teaching to life. In order to teach children respect for a diverse range of cultures we hold several multicultural days each year such as Diwali and Chinese New Year.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education. Please let us know if you wish to do this.

P.S.H.E & Citizenship

We consider the personal, social and health education of our children of great importance. The Badger Scheme is our main teaching vehicle for this, together with 'A Journey in Love' which is a programme for teaching children about how they grow and develop in the Primary Years. We also use Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning [SEAL] studying one of its themes e.g. 'Getting On and Falling Out', each half term.

In addition, we place great emphasis on team building, being 'Thurlow People', being good members of a community and helping each other.

As part of this, we encourage children to help others less fortunate than themselves. Throughout the year we may run fund raising days for charities such as Action for Children, Red Nose Day, Children in Need, Jeans for Genes, Sports Relief, Addenbrooke's Hospital Children's section, and others. This year we are raising money for a charity called Engalynx. We are hoping to send 20 goats to Rwanda

In October, we send our Harvest collection to the Haverhill food bank. Every November we join The 'Shoe Box Appeal' where children fill a shoebox with presents. Christmas shoe boxes are then collected and taken to specific countries abroad. Many fund raising events are organised by the School Council, which includes children from each year group.

The cost of these appeals is very little but as a school we want children to appreciate the needs of society and the less fortunate. Parental support is always high and children learn to appreciate their lives and gifts.

Design/Technology

In Design and Technology pupils have the opportunity to design, plan and construct using a variety of materials including wood, paper and fabric. They use various tools and are taught specific skills within each project. The children are encouraged to evaluate their own work and that of others, and to appreciate the designs of art of other cultures. Children studying Greeks may well create Greek Vases, whilst an Anglo Saxon study will produce beautiful clay jewellery. Children involved with castles will construct a castle and impressive models have been made.

Technology is often integrated with other areas of the curriculum such as art, history and geography and forms an important aspect of learning within a given topic

Food technology takes place in each class at various times during the term. Children will make fruit salad, a healthy sandwich or may watch a member of staff toss a pancake on Shrove Tuesday!

Art

Art is an important part of the curriculum at Thurlow School. Allowing pupils to explore the visual arts gives them a means of creative expression and understanding. Pupils are encouraged to study and discuss the art of various artists, when they lived and where they were born. Knowledge and understanding of the work of artists helps pupils model their own work. Thurlow School continues to extend its' resources of prints and artefacts for pupils' study.

During their time at Thurlow, pupils are introduced to many different media and methods, including paint, pastels, clay, collage, textiles and printing, to name but a few. Art from other cultures play an important role in our curriculum, for example, Key Stage 1 pupils have studied Indian Art; Key Stage 2 pupils the Art of Aztecs. I

Art enhances and extends pupil learning when taught alongside other subjects. We use art to extend our understanding of music, creating beautiful displays and interesting musical compositions. We have also used works of art as a launching pad for discussion during extended writing lessons. This leads to exciting written compositions. Art is a very tactile subject and can lead to some wonderful discussions. Vocabulary used by Key Stage 1 pupils when describing the touch and smell of different media complements the Early Years Science curriculum requirements.

Thurlow School celebrates the achievements of pupils by displaying work produced. We are proud of our colourful displays of artwork, which frequently decorate the school.

Music

Music is very important in Thurlow and we have received a Silver 'Sing Up' Award. We aim to develop a love of music and an appreciation of its many aspects. We base our music teaching on programmes such as the National Curriculum Scheme of work and 'Music Express'. Children learn to play tuned and untuned instruments, sing, listen and perform in their lessons, and have an opportunity to perform to an audience during assemblies and concerts. Our main concerts are held at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and in July. The Christmas concert is our largest performance and we hold both afternoon and evening performances in school for the younger children and at the Village Hall for older ones. For several years now, children have been given the opportunity to learn guitar or violin for a small termly charge. Each year our instrumentalists take part in a Musical Celebration in the neighbouring town of Haverhill.

In addition, we hold occasional musical workshops such as Steel Pan, African Drumming or Gamelan Days.

History

History is a very stimulating subject area for children. They are naturally inquisitive about the past and through the provision of the many resources, that we have in school, they are able to follow through with their lines of enquiry.

The history curriculum is wide and varied and the children acquire a good range and depth of historical knowledge and understanding. Young children are encouraged to develop a sense of chronology and are taught how to use historical sources, such as artefacts, pictures, books and people. When looking at British history younger children have studied a local saint - St Edmundsbury, whilst older ones learn about children in World War II. Our children also experience other units of work such as ones on Toys, Victorians, Ancient Greeks and Egyptians.

Wherever possible history topics are brought to life by visits to places of historical significance. For example, Key Stage 1 children have visited Hedingham Castle in connection with their Castle Project; Key Stage 2 children have visited the Imperial War Museum when studying World War II. Sometimes, 'historical' visitors come into school such as a Viking day led by a 'Viking' visitor.

Practical activities enhance our history programme and children may be involved in role play in a large model of a castle or the making of Egyptian jewellery. The internet is an excellent resource for historical research which children often take advantage of.

Geography

Geography provides an opportunity for children to develop a broader knowledge, understanding of and relationships to the world around them.

In their early years of schooling children develop basic map reading skills and an understanding of directional phrases, e.g. behind, far, left, west, etc. They also learn how to use geographical resources such as globes and maps and plans. As they grow older their geographical skills become more refined. They use co-ordinates for map reading and undertake field work experiments using a variety of measuring instruments, e.g. rain gauges.

The children in both Key Stage 1 and 2 will also study an overseas locality. We use Chembokoli, a village in India, and compare its physical and human features with the locality of the school. Children are always keen to find out about other places and people and to compare the similarities and differences. They are also fascinated to discover facts about the weather and the Earth.

We encourage children to make geographical links on short outings that take place throughout the year. From Year 4 onwards children have annual visits to Activity Centres such as African Adventure or Kingswood Centres where they learn skills such as orienteering.

Key Stage 1 children learn about different places through 'Barnaby Bear' a teddy bear who travels with individual children on their visits and then 'tells' the class about the places he has travelled to.

Key Stage 2 children sometimes experience a topic called 'In the News' which studies places that are topical at the time.

P.E.

We are conscious of the need for children to exercise, keep healthy and play in teams. We cover dance, gym, swimming, individual skill activities and team games. All children take part and develop their skills. Children are taught the importance of keeping healthy and emphasis is placed on being a good sport and part of a team.

Children are offered a wealth of physical education opportunities. These include sports coach run clubs before school, at lunchtime and afterschool. Our own PE curriculum includes units on Dance, Gymnastics and Games. Where ever possible we utilise sporting opportunities provided by our secondary 'feeder school'. At various times they are also offered clubs such as Cricket, Rounders, Football skills, Tri Golf, Gymnastics. Thurlow children represent the school at various sporting events in Haverhill and surrounding schools.

The school has a hard play area marked into two playing courts and a field, on which our Sports Day is held. To the rear of the school we have a heated outdoor swimming pool, which is used in the Summer term and the month of September. We employ a Swimming Teacher to give the children weekly lessons. We also have a well resourced hall area with fixed wall equipment and benches.

During the summer term we have a Key Stage 1 and a Key Stage 2 Sports Day and a Swimming Gala to which parents are invited.

Special Educational Needs [S.E.N.]

Provision of Special Educational Needs at Thurlow is guided by "The Special Educational Needs & Disability Act 2001" together with the SEN 'Code of Practice 2014'.

These are designed to improve educational choice and opportunities for children with disabilities or S.E.N. and their parents. At Thurlow we ensure that our school is accessible.

With this in mind, we have:

- Improved the physical access to our building
- Ensured that the curriculum is accessible to all children

- Ensured that information is provided in a way which is accessible to all pupils

Our aim is to:

- Maintain academic standards for all pupils
- Ensure health and safety of all pupils
- Ensure that no child is discriminated against because of disability

Provision for children who have special educational needs is a very important aspect of our school. Our Teaching Assistants work with children to support the ongoing classroom work of the teachers. The school co-ordinator for Special Educational Needs is Miss Illingworth. She monitors and reviews the Special Needs provision and supports the staff in their work with the children who need extra support

Early identification of children with S.E.N. is of paramount importance and children are monitored very closely.

Both the county policy statement on Special Educational Needs, our policy document and the Government document 'The Code of Practice' are available for parents to read should they wish. We are happy to discuss any concerns you may have about your children so please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Safeguarding

At Thurlow CE VCP School, we are committed to safeguarding all children registered at our school. We believe that each and every child has a right to be protected from harm and their safety and welfare is paramount in all that we do.

Our Safeguarding policy applies to all Staff, Pupils, Visitors, Volunteers and Parents at our school and provides a secure safeguarding framework in which to work. Other guidance, provision and policies are also in place to enable both staff and pupils to feel safe and adopt safe practices.

We are committed to safe recruitment, selection and vetting and take all necessary steps to ensure that all staff and personnel are safe to work with children.

Our staff and personnel receive regular safeguarding training and they are fully aware of expected behaviours and the schools legal responsibility in relation to its pupils. The leaflet '*Your Safeguarding Responsibilities to Children and Young People*' can be found in our reception area and our full Safeguarding Policy and procedures are available for any parent or carer that requests a copy.

Sex & Relationships

The Governors and staff have revised the school's policy with regard to Sex and Relationships Education [SRE] and it is available on the School Website. At Thurlow we teach sex education within the context of relationships. We treat children's questions with sensitivity and in a manner appropriate to the age and maturity of the child. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all parts of the Sex and Relationships Education programme provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory N.C. Science curriculum. The DfES can offer a standard pack of information for parents who choose to withdraw their child from S.R.E.

Swimming

Thurlow School has a heated outdoor swimming pool, which is available for swimming sessions and swimming lessons during the summer term, and booked family swim sessions during the summer holidays. Our pool supervisor is fully trained in maintaining and overseeing the pool and close communication is maintained with LA pool officers. Health & Safety is of paramount importance and formal risk assessments are completed and water checks made on a regular basis.

During the second half of the Summer term the swimming pool is prepared and a Suffolk County Council approved swimming Instructor gives **all** children expert swimming tuition. Resuscitation training is given every year to staff and parents. The pool is used after school most day, depending on the weather and parents, who have completed the resuscitation course, supervise. After School Swim is organised by the THSA. who also arrange family Summer Swim in the Summer holidays.

Visits

Visits, relating to the topic being studied, are arranged during the school year. For example, we have recently visited Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, Colne Vally Railway and Daws Hall as well as other places. We also make good use of our immediate locality with younger children going for 'Wellie' walks on a weekly basis.

We do ask parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of school visits. If you are unable to do so your child will still be able to take part. The main costs are borne by the school but any contribution from parents is greatly appreciated and means that the school budget can extend to other things.

Inter-School and Transition Events

Inter-school sporting events have been mentioned in the PE section of this brochure. Apart from the educational benefits, these events help the children to

become accustomed to being part of, and working within, a larger group. They also have the opportunity to get to know children from other schools.

We have an effective induction programme for children starting school with us and for those moving into new classes.

A comprehensive transition procedure has been designed by Samuel Ward Academy which begins when children are in Year 5. This involves amongst other things, presentations by Samuel Ward staff for both children and parents, a week's Summer School, Open Evening, visits to the school, sporting events, a Maths Circus, the writing of Pupil Passports [basic information on friendship groups, subject likes/dislikes] and interviews.

Extra Curricular Activities

These change from term to term but the following list gives an idea of some of those that have been offered at different times:-

- Tennis
- Dance
- Football
- Violin
- JAM club
- Swimming
- Homework

Any extra parental help is always welcome in our clubs and we welcome ideas from parents for any new ones

Homework

Children will be given approximately 1 hour a week in Key Stage 1 and 1.5 hours in Key Stage 2.

Homework consists of research, extending a topic at home, spellings and number facts/tables weekly. Children take home their reading books every evening and we have a home/school diary which enables parents and teachers to keep in touch. A record of children's' spelling, reading and number progress, is kept in this diary.

Your child can choose a fiction or non-fiction book from the school library. We ask that these be returned the following week or brought back for restamping if the child wants to keep the book out longer.

All parents are welcome to see a copy of our homework policy, if you would like to see a copy please ask at the school office.

A code of Good Practice

Good order and discipline are essential to the life of our school community. Learning takes place when pupils understand the need for appropriate behaviour. Children are actively encouraged to be responsible for their own discipline.

Acceptable behaviour is always encouraged. That which is considered acceptable includes:

- * Acting with courtesy and consideration to others at all times.
- * Valuing others, their work and their opinions.
- * Trying to understand other people's point of view, being kind and sensitive to each other's needs.
- * Working hard and doing one's best.
- * Behaving responsibly and appropriately.
- * Always speaking politely to everyone.

The School has a policy with regard to acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. This is our **Reward and Behaviour policy**. It outlines clear strategies for rewarding acceptable behaviour as well as dealing with unacceptable behaviour.

It is based on three simple rules:-

- 1. CARE FOR EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING**
- 2. HAVE GOOD MANNERS AT ALL TIMES**
- 3. FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS**

First and foremost the policy emphasises appropriate behaviour and good attitudes to learning. This is rewarded by one or a combination of the following:-

**Praise
Stickers
Thurlow Stars and Certificates**

'Thurlow Stars' are similar to merits and when children have twenty of these they will receive a bronze certificate. Subsequent twenties earn silver, gold and Headteacher Award certificates.

For children who disregard the rules there are some consequences that become increasingly serious!

- 1. A spoken reminder.**
- 2. A second spoken reminder and name written down.**
- 3. 1-11 minutes missed from playtime and Class Teacher speaks to parents.**
- 4. All playtime missed and Head teacher speaks to parents.**

The key to the success of this policy is a consistent approach from everyone. The three simple rules are just as relevant for home as school so we ask that you discuss them with your child.

Thurlow House Teams

All of the children are placed into four house teams: Oak, Elm Chestnut and Beech. Children receive house points for good behaviour which are then collated each week and at the end of each term the winning house chooses a treat. The house system is also used for competitions throughout the year.

Parents in School

Successful schools are those where parents, governors, teachers and children work together. Parents are welcomed into school and we encourage your participation in school and class activities. If you would like to help in class please let your child's teacher know.

Parental Consultation Days are held three times a year – one each term. These provide a formal opportunity to discuss your child's progress. As well as parents and teacher the teaching assistant and child may also be present. Also, in the Summer Term there is an 'Open Evening' where parents come to look at the work their child is doing and the class your child will be moving into. This is an informal evening where children can show parents around and teachers are available for a short chat. Informal discussion is on-going. We feel that good communication between the parents and teachers is essential in promoting the all round development of each child. Staff will keep you informed of your child's life and activities at school but we also consider it your responsibility to keep us informed and up to date about changes, concerns, problems and developments. Please remember discussion with teachers should not only be when there are problems.

Parents are welcome in the school to help in a variety of ways. This is particularly valued with reading, educational games, computer work and art. If you feel able to give some time please contact us.

General Information

School Uniform

Our Uniform policy is as follows :-

- * Official school royal blue sweatshirt, jumper, fleece or cardigan.
- * Grey/Black skirt/dress, trousers or shorts.
- * Official school polo shirt.
- * Blue checked summer dress.
- * Shoes (NOT TRAINERS)

P.E.

Indoor P.E.

- * Shorts with elasticated waist (no zips)
- * P.E. T shirt (no buttons or zips)

Most P.E. lessons are done in bare feet so alternative footwear is unnecessary.

Outdoor P.E.

- * Track suit bottom and top.
- * Trainers, which are not also worn indoors.

Swimming

- * A one piece costume or trunks
- * A towel for drying
- * A swimming hat (obtainable from the school)

All items should be named and in a clearly marked P.E. or swimming bag.

For all P.E. activities shoulder length hair must be tied back and earrings removed. If, for any reason, earrings cannot be removed for P.E. lessons, they must be taped over. A swim hat must be worn for swimming.

All our school uniform is available to order from :-

Brigade - <http://www.brigadeuniformdirect.uk.co>

School Trends - <http://www.stparent.co.uk>

Book bags, PE bags and Water Bottles are kept in stock in school.

Jewellery must not be worn

Health and Safety

Medicines

We only administer medicines in school in exceptional circumstances. If the child needs medicine during the day, and the parent is unavailable to administer it please contact the Headteacher.

If a child becomes ill, parents need to collect them as soon as possible. It is, therefore, of paramount importance that we have work, home and an emergency contact number of a person who parents have elected to pick up their child, if they cannot be contacted.

Medical Inspections

The School Health Service aims to promote and support the health of children in school. The School Nurse is available to advise staff, pupils and parents on health issues. She is the prime link between the school and other health services, and has direct access to a Senior Clinical Medical Officer who serves as a School Doctor.

Family Doctors are responsible for the health of the whole family at all times and our school services complement those provided by your G.P. by helping pupils to take care of their health at school.

School Nurses are responsible for screening children at school entry, when they ensure that the child's vision, hearing, height and weight are satisfactory. Parents are asked to complete a questionnaire about their child's health and can request an appointment to see the School Nurse if there are problems they wish to discuss. The School Nurse may ask to see parents if she feels that there are health issues she needs to clarify or assess. Our aim, at this time, is to ensure your child has a healthy start to their school life.

Most children are healthy and no further routine screening will be carried out during school years, however, teachers, pupils and parents may seek advice from the School Nurse at any time.

*Children should have regular vision screening (which is free), in particular around adolescence when changes in eyesight often occur.
Regular dental checks are also essential to maintain health.*

School Nurses are available to help with any health needs and disabilities and will work with families should this be useful.

All childhood immunisations are given by the Family Doctors. If your child has missed out on a course, please talk to the Practice Nurse.

School Nurses are involved in health promotion. All nurses work towards achieving the national targets set by the Government and in school may work in the classroom alongside teachers, or through health fairs, displays and meetings. They may also offer confidential drop-in sessions where pupils may seek individual advice.

Accessibility

The Governors are conscious of the need for the school to be accessible to all pupils/visitors with disabilities. Support may involve specialist teaching staff and modifications of the school environment.

Our single-storey building structure means only minor modifications have so far been necessary. We now have an entrance ramp, widened main door and disabled toilet facilities. There is a ramp to the playground and steps are edged with yellow paint to make them accessible for those with visual disabilities. Some classrooms are fitted with a deaf loop to aid those hard of hearing.

The SEN policy is regularly updated and is fully implemented. A copy is available from the school. We also have a Disability Equality Plan.

Children's needs are always fully assessed and actions taken to ensure that they are provided with the necessary initial and long-term support.

Car Park

The car park is for staff only. Please park safely on the road and consider the needs of our neighbours. Please do not park on the grass verges or on the zig-zag lines. For the safety of yourselves and your children please use the pedestrian paths and please do not walk across the car park. Alternatively you can park at the Village Hall and have a 7 minute stroll to school.

The school completed a Travel Plan in February 2009.

Absences

Illness

Please contact the school on the morning of your child's absence.

Holidays

Family holidays should be taken during school holidays. In line with Government guidelines– the school will authorise absences for holidays only under exceptional circumstances. Please make an appointment to see Mrs. Hogg to discuss your situation. Absence has been shown to have a derogatory effect on a child's education and it is important to keep it to a minimum.

The school is required to publish the previous years absences. Unauthorised absences will remain on your child's records throughout their education.

The percentage of absence for the last school year was 3.8%

Emergencies

Parents should ensure that the school knows where to contact them in case of illness or accident to their child whilst in school. In case of an emergency the Head teacher will endeavour to contact the parents concerned, but if this is not possible she will act upon the advice of the Medical Officer consulted.

An emergency name (of an adult to be contacted if parents can't be reached) must be given to the school office. Please name a person who can pick up your child from school if you are unable to or cannot contact us. We will not allow your child to leave school with another adult unless we and they have been informed. In certain circumstances the child will be allowed to leave school with the named emergency adult.

Severe Weather

In severe weather, road conditions have, very occasionally, made it impossible for the staff to get to school and dangerous for pupils to travel. The school website will inform you if school is closed. Also an announcement will be made on local radio and information published on the Suffolk Local Authority website.

Concessionary School Travel

Concessionary school travel is available from the villages of Cowlinge, Great Bradley, Great Wratting and Withersfield. Free transport is only available for children travelling two miles or more.

Enquiries for travel passes should be made to 0345 606 6173

Photography of Children

Parents are asked to fill in a form when their child first comes to school, giving permission for photographs to be taken or not taken. One will be sent to you. During the school year there may be times when children are photographed as part of a normal school activity. The local press is often asked into school to report on specific activities and events. Your child may be photographed on these occasions. If you have indicated that you do not want your child to be photographed or named in newspaper articles, we will ensure your wishes are kept. If you do not want photographs taken for school activities please let us know. Parents may wish to video a school performance. If you object to this please let us know.

Insurance

Children who have accidents during school activities are **not** covered by County Council Insurance. Suffolk County Council insurers only become involved when it

is suggested that the accident or injury may be the result of negligence by the County Council or its employees. It is possible to arrange personal accident cover for your child through a master policy held by the County Council. Further details are available from the School Office.

School Meals

Meals, served at the school, are prepared on the premises by our cook. The price of a meal is currently £2.30 per day for Key Stage 2 children. Please send the correct amount of lunch money (cash or cheque) for the week, in a named, sealed envelope, on Monday morning. If your child is absent later in the week, the money will automatically be credited. A pre-booked meal will have to be paid for if not cancelled by 10.30 a.m. that day. You may pay by cheque for the whole term or half term. Cheques should be made payable to 'SCC Hundon CP School' and have your child's name and your name and address on the back.

Some children may qualify for a free school meal. If you think this may apply to you, please contact the school office.

Drinks may be brought to have with lunch but these ***must not be fizzy***. Children whose parents do not wish them to have a school meal may bring a packed lunch. Please do not send sweets in packed lunches.

Snacks

Children may bring a snack to be eaten at playtime, but this must only consist of fresh fruit, dried fruit or vegetables such as carrots. **No biscuits, crisps, chocolates or sweets are allowed.**

Water

Please give your child a plastic bottle to use in school for water. It is important that they drink water throughout the day and we want it available to them. The bottles can be filled at home if you wish. Bottles need to be taken home in the evening and washed. Durable Sports Bottles are available from the school Office.

School Policies

These policies have been agreed by Governors and staff. They are intended to serve the best interests of our school community.

- a) The school is a smoke free zone. Please do not smoke inside the school, in the school grounds or when accompanying children on school trips.
- b) The school is a dog free zone. Please do not bring dogs into school or onto the school grounds. (Except guide dogs)
- c) Sweets are not allowed in school. Please do not give children sweets to bring to school. It is embarrassing for them and unfair to other children.
- d) Children are not allowed to wear jewellery in school, unless they NEED small studs in pierced ears.
- e) Toys are not allowed in school. Please do not allow your child to bring in toys or valuables.

If you have any questions about these policies please see Mrs Hogg.

Parents' Association

We have a thriving '**Thurlow Parent Teacher Association – PTA**', which works hard to support the school in many ways.

All parents are automatically members and are encouraged to attend meetings and help with fund raising social events.

During a typical year the Association will organise such events as a Christmas Fayre, Book Fairs, Discos, holiday swimming and contribute to the purchase of computers, books, equipment and special visitors.

Complaints Procedures

The governing body has adopted two separate Complaints Procedures.

1. Curriculum Complaints Procedure

The Governing Body is required under Section 23 of the Education Reform Act, 1988, to adopt a procedure for the consideration of complaints about the school curriculum and related matters. Such a procedure has been operating in this school since 1989. It covers issues relating to the National Curriculum, religious education and worship, the operation of charging policies, regulations about the provision of information and other statutory curriculum issues.

2. School Complaints Procedure

The General Complaints Procedure for Parents and Others, adopted by the governing body in 1992, has now been revised and re-named the School Complaints Procedure for Parents and Carers. This revised procedure took effect on 1 April 2005. It covers all issues falling outside the scope of the Curriculum Complaints Procedure, except where there are other statutory procedures e.g. pupil admission process and is as follows:-

School Complaints Procedure for Parents and Carers Raising a concern about a school or your child's education.

Schools are required under the Education Act 2002 to have a procedure for dealing with complaints relating to the school. At present all schools in Suffolk have adopted the county council's model procedure.

The purpose of the procedure is to resolve complaints brought against Suffolk schools. The procedure explains how to make a complaint and what to expect from the school in response. It also tells complainants what they can do if they are unable to settle the complaint with the school.

In practice, the procedure is as follows:

- the person making the complaint should contact the school to lodge their complaint;
- a member of school staff [class teacher in first instance, then Headteacher] will meet or speak with the person making the complaint. They will undertake an investigation into the complaint and try to reach a resolution

If the school fails to resolve the complaint:

- an officer from the local Area Education Office will then ask the complainant what outcome they are seeking and then decide on the level of investigation;
- for most complaints, the officer will check that a thorough investigation has been fairly undertaken by the school and that the school has responded

appropriately, although there may be some instances where it is appropriate for the county council to conduct a further investigation, including interviewing the complainant and witnesses;

- the complainant can write to the Local Area Education Office Authority;
- the complainant will receive a written response from the council, usually within 15 school days.

If the complainant remains dissatisfied, they can ask a committee of the school's governing body to formally consider their complaint.

Strategic Support, Education and Learning,
Endeavour House,
8 Russell Road,
Ipswich,
IP1 2BX;

e-mail: [StrategicSupport- EducationandLearning@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:StrategicSupport-EducationandLearning@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk)

Please note that it is the policy of the school to deal with all complaints as quickly, effectively and informally as possible. And remember:-

When you are pleased with something the school has done – do let us know.

Public Access to Documents and Information

Many documents are available in the school for you to read and most of these are also on our website. Among these are:

1. Safeguarding Policy
2. Anti-Bullying Policy
3. S.E.N. Policy
4. Dealing with Racist Incidents Policy
5. Disability Equality Scheme
6. Gender Equality Scheme
7. Racial Equality Scheme
8. Single Equalities Policy
9. Marking Policy
10. Rewards and Behaviour Policy
11. Health and Safety Policy
12. A full copy of arrangements for consideration of complaints about the curriculum made by Suffolk County Council
13. Minutes of Governors' Meetings
14. OFSTED reports and Church Inspection reports
15. The Code of Practice

Thurlow CE VC Primary School Results 2018
--

Phonics Screening Test	2016	2017	2018
Pupils passed (32+ correct)	93%	81%	70%

End of KS1

	Expected Standard +	Greater Depth
Reading	71%	6%
Writing	65%	12%
Maths	76%	22%

End of KS2

	Expected Standard	Great Depth
Reading	93%	20%
Writing	93%	33%
Maths	80%	27%
GPS	87	33%
RWM (combined)	80%	7%

Our last OFSTED inspection was in November 2017. From January, 2009, copies have been available from the school office and the report may be viewed on the OFSTED WEBSITE.