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Interim Headteacher: Jessica Balado

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10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

And here we are at the end of the ½ term already. It's amazing how quickly weeks fly by!

I have very much enjoyed getting to know the children, the staff and the wider community at Thurlton and am looking forward to developing these relationships further. How frustrating to end my first few weeks with a bout of Covid. Rest assured I will be back after ½ term firing on all cylinders and raring to go both as head teacher and as class teacher for Rabbits on a Thursday and a Friday.

On that front I would very much like to thank Mrs Willis and Mrs Chamberlain for their support and hard work. It has been a pleasure to work with them and to see how well the children have adapted to the new routines. We are all very proud of them and the work they have produced.

This is the same throughout the school. Our entire team has been amazing, and the children have produced some fabulous work. I know many of you are already following the life of Thurlton Primary School on Facebook, but if you are not yet familiar with our page, then please do take a look. We regularly share work being done across the school and I know you will be impressed with what you see.

As I said in my previous newsletter, inevitably there are going to be changes as we develop our school and move towards merging with the Corvus Trust. Over the past weeks the staff team has been working very closely with Mrs Haines and her teams from Aslacton and Manor Field Schools. We have been looking at our curriculum and ensuring we are developing it in line with the recommendations from the OFSTED report of last January. This will continue moving forwards, and will have a really positive impact on the way in which our children can access learning. With shared knowledge and expertise of a bigger team, we are able to ensure teachers at Thurlton have a broader scope of professional support to enable them to enjoy a better work life balance and thereby spend more quality time focussing on the teaching of our children.

You will not be surprised to learn that the major focus of OFSTED is to ensure that our children are keen, enthusiastic readers who develop a love of books and enjoy reading for pleasure. After ½ term we will be focussing our homework activities on this area of learning. We may ask the children to learn spellings or work on times tables, but in the main we would like to ensure that children have the opportunity to read with an adult on a regular basis. We will be implementing this in school as far as we can, and in addition, we will be issuing all children with a reading diary to record their reading at home.

We hope that all children will read at least 3 times a week, younger children to an adult and those who are more independent readers, to themselves but with the signature of an adult to acknowledge an interest in the activity. It would be good to have a short chat with your child about what they have read. More detailed information will come out with the reading diaries.

In line with a focus on curriculum, we are also ensuring the timetable is focussed on supporting our children to have a broad and balanced learning experience that covers all areas equally and thoroughly. Mr West has been organising the residential trip for Badgers. Several curriculum enhancement days have been organised, giving the children a range of different sports to take part in. We have a visit from James Campbell, an author arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> February and there are several other events in the diary. Please do refer to the list of dates at the bottom of this letter for confirmation of what is happening. There will be some changes to dates issued earlier in the school year. Apologies to those who were expecting an attendance assembly on the final day of ½ term. We will be doing this at the end of term only.

You may have heard that Michelle, our gymnastics teacher, is not going to be with us for a few weeks. She is currently experiencing the holiday of a lifetime, visiting Australia. She will be back with us on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

An aspect we have decided to review is the open-door mornings in Badgers and Rabbits, and after school sessions in Hedgehogs. We know many of you enjoy this opportunity, however, for some it is a burden and it also takes away time from valuable learning time and is a strain on the teaching staff. After ½ term, we will be limiting this to one morning a week in Badgers and Rabbits (Tuesday) and one afternoon in Hedgehogs (Thursday) we will review this again later in the term for the summer term.

Thank you to everyone at Thurlton Primary for welcoming me so warmly. Hopefully you will have received the email from Mr Adams explaining the arrangements going forward. I will be staying at Thurlton until at least the end of the summer term as interim head teacher for 3 days a week. These days will be planned to ensure that the school gets the best use of my time and I am available for key events, etc. I will remain teaching Rabbits alongside Mrs Willis until Easter but after this point, we hope to have employed a regular job share.

The team and I would like to wish you all a restful ½ term and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

	<b>Class</b>	<b>Star- For hard work</b>	<b>Diamond- For a 5R- Resilient Ready Resourceful Responsible Reflective</b>	<b>Superhero- For going above and beyond</b>	<b>Sportasaurus- For amazing gymnastics with Michelle</b>	<b>Writer- For an amazing piece of writing</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Feb</b>	<i>Hedgehogs</i>	<b>Elsie</b>	<b>Lilli</b>	<b>William</b>	<b>Elsie (Hedgehogs)</b>	<b>Emily</b>
	<i>Rabbits</i>	<b>Poppy</b>	<b>Ashton</b>	<b>Connie</b>		<b>Mia</b>
	<i>Badgers</i>	<b>Isobel</b>	<b>Lexi</b>	<b>Kathleen</b>		<b>Harry</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<i>Hedgehogs</i>	<b>Eliza</b>	<b>Isla-Mae</b>	<b>Inayah</b>	<b>Kaylee (Badgers)</b>	<b>Alfie B</b>
	<i>Rabbits</i>	<b>Jenson</b>	<b>Ella</b>	<b>Isla</b>		<b>Zachary</b>
	<i>Badgers</i>	<b>Marshall</b>	<b>Freddie</b>	<b>Elizabeth</b>		<b>Tabitha</b>

Best wishes

Mrs Jessica Balado  
Headteacher

## **DATES/EVENTS FOR THE REST OF THE SPRING TERM**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Other info</u></b>
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	James Campbell to visit	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day	We are having a special celebration lunch. Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character (or in pyjamas). Lots of activities are being done in class to celebrate the day.
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 Forensic Science Day	Letters and consent forms have been sent home, if you have yet to return your form please do so as soon as possible.
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Non-Uniform Day	PFA non-uniform day – donate an Easter Egg, for Easter Bingo on 30 <sup>th</sup> March, more information to follow.