

# Thurlstone Primary School

# The Shuttle

17/07/2026

## ACADEMIC YEAR COMPLETE!

WOW! I can't believe we've reached the end of another school year so quickly! What a wonderful year it has been—a year filled with positivity, progress and happiness. Together, we have celebrated so many achievements and created countless special memories. Every one of you has played an important part in making our school such a warm, supportive and successful place to learn and grow.

Thank you for everything you have done to make this year so happy and special.

THINGS ABOUT BEING A  
TEACHER THAT NO ONE ELSE  
THINKS ABOUT:

YOU MAKE A LITTLE  
**FAMILY** AND THEN  
YOU SAY **GOODBYE.**

Friday's Cheesy yet WISE  
WORDS OF WISDOM

## FAREWELL TO OUR WONDERFUL YEAR 6 CHILDREN!

What a truly wonderful group of young people you are! It has been an absolute privilege to watch you grow from the little ones who first walked through our doors during the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic into the confident, resilient and amazing young people you are today, ready to embrace the exciting adventure of secondary school. You have achieved so much during your time at Thurlstone Primary School. We are incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished academically, but even more importantly, we are proud of the kind, caring, thoughtful and responsible people you have become. These qualities will take you far in life and will help you make a positive difference wherever your journey leads.

You have made us proud every single day. Thank you for the laughter, the memories and the joy you have brought to our school. We will miss you enormously, but we know that each and every one of you has a bright future ahead.

Good luck, Year 6—you will always be a special part of the Thurlstone family.

FAREWELL TO THE  
FOLLOWING FAMILIES...

THE.....

Chumas  
Hodgesons  
Blackshaws  
Booths  
McArdles  
Crosslands  
Greens  
Mercers  
Thornhills  
Worths  
Browns  
Lawtons  
Slasors  
O'Connors  
Cuthberts

THANK YOU FOR ALL  
YOUR SUPPORT OVER  
THE YEARS! YOU WILL  
ALL BE GREATLY  
MISSED!

GROW TOGETHER: LEARN TOGETHER: FEEL LOVED

## MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

Dear parents and carers,

As we arrive at the end of another academic year, it's timely to reflect on what a fantastic and dynamic year it's been at Thurlstone. There have been some big and unusual changes this year:

### 1. Change of leadership structure:

In 2025/6 Thurlstone's Senior Leadership Team moved to two part-time Head Teachers with two new internal leadership roles. Governors are keen to ensure that this change is effective for the school and the children, and that it works in practice for the senior leaders and wider staff. We have met regularly with Mrs Gibbins and Mrs Baker and also listened to both teaching staff and teaching assistants. We are pleased to report that while coordination between some staff members has inevitably had to increase, the overwhelming benefit to morale and productivity of senior leaders has been astronomical. It has clearly been a significant change for all staff however, and we will continue to consult with them over the next academic year to ensure the leadership arrangements in 2026/7 remain appropriate and effective.

### 2. Introduction of new phonics scheme:

Under the leadership of Mrs Baker, alongside support from the Local Authority and massive enthusiasm and commitment from the Reception and teaching assistants, we have moved from Rocket Phonics to Read Write Inc. We are already seeing huge improvements in phonics outcomes! Read Write Inc is better suited to SEND children and therefore more inclusive for all children at Thurlstone; it also aligns with other schools in the area. We are really pleased with the progress our Reception and Key Stage 1 children are making and a massive thanks go to all staff involved in rolling this out, which we know has taken a considerable amount of time.

### 3. Year 6 writing assessment:

Mr Hughes has worked incredibly hard, gaining additional writing moderation experience as well as working closely with Thurlstone head teachers and our children. We are delighted to report that our outcomes this year are higher than the local and national average for writing. One child even obtained 'greater depth' which is extremely rare! Huge congratulations go to our Year 6 children, Mr Hughes and the head teachers.

As you know, the release of SATS scores have been delayed this year so governors will be looking at that alongside wider school performance in the autumn term.

We're sure you'll agree 2025/6 has been full of really positive changes! For now though, we wish all Thurlstone staff, and all of you and your families, a very happy and relaxing summer holiday. We also wish our Year 6 children every success as they move to secondary school for their next adventure.

Nicky & Tracy

(On behalf of the Board of Governors)

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