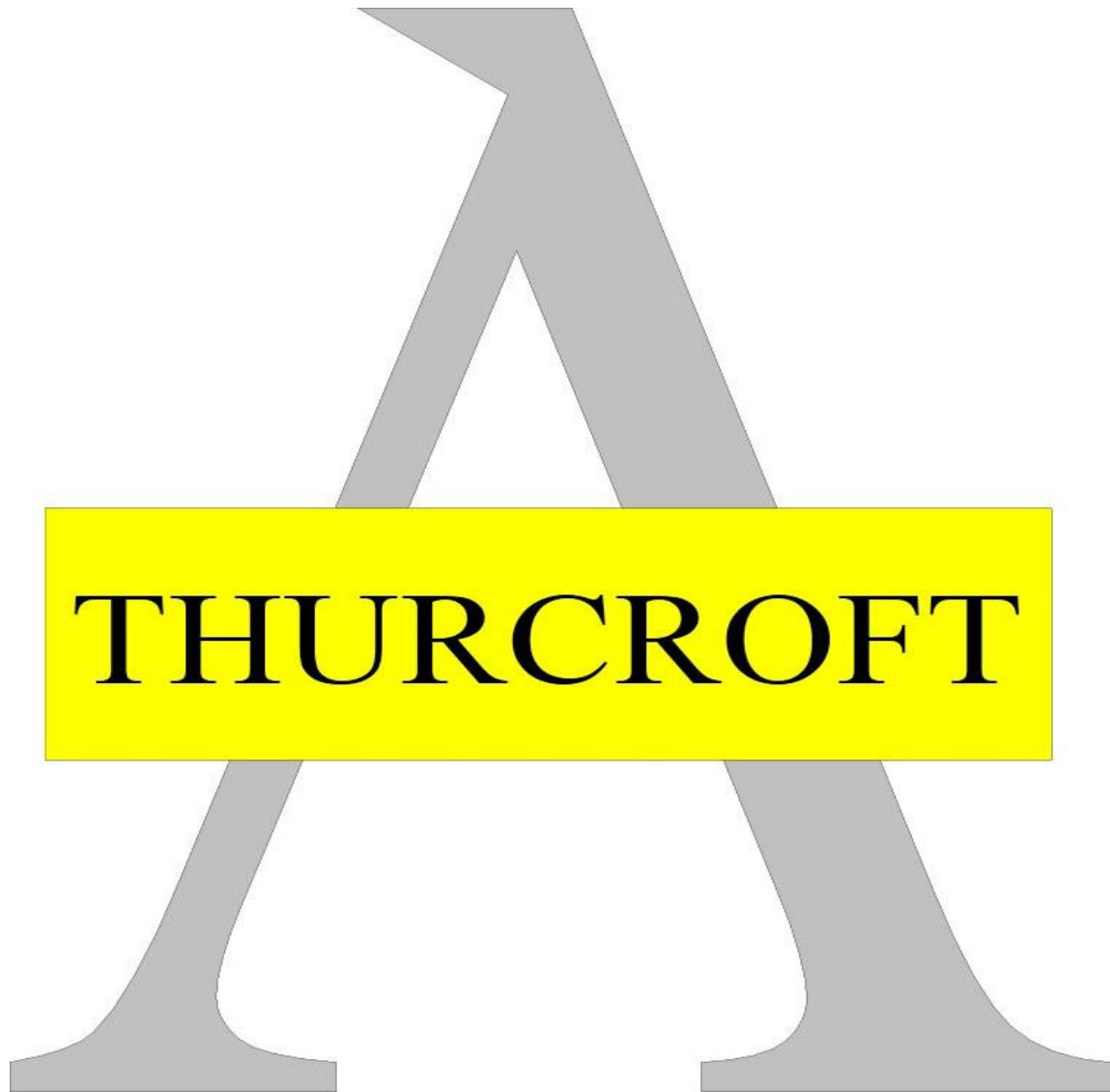


THURCROFT JUNIOR ACADEMY



An ACET Academy
Striving for Excellence
Empowering Achievement

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Thurcroft Junior Academy, Green Arbour Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham South Yorkshire S66 9DD
Tel No: 01709 543194 Email: info@thurcroftacademy.org

'Joir en bien' - take joy in good.

At Thurcroft we are committed to providing high quality learning and teaching, enabling everyone to reach their full potential, whatever their age, ability, gender or ethnicity.

We believe that every person is unique and we work together in an inclusive environment of mutual respect and consideration, valuing everyone's contribution.

Through our partnership with the local and wider community we aim to support our young people in successfully taking their place in society.

All adults in school have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. With your commitment we will exceed expectation.



Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of the staff, children and governors, I would like to welcome you to Thurcroft Junior Academy. We look forward to your child joining our academy; we are sure it will be the beginning of a very happy time in their life.

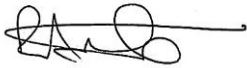
This booklet has been created to answer as many questions as possible that might be asked about our school.

At our school we seek to provide the highest standard of education for all pupils in our care. Our mission statement

We want our pupils to be aspirational, confident and empowered to participate successfully at an academic, social and emotional level in a rapidly changing world.

We provide a positive, stimulating and caring learning environment where every individual is valued and respected and where every child matters. All children have talents and abilities to celebrate, and a part of our role is to help them discover and develop these.

The school values the strong partnership that exists between parents, children, staff and governors and believes that working together the children at our school experience the best possible start in life. I look forward to working with you.



Mrs R Stone
Principal



Principal: Mrs R Stone

SENDCo: Mrs S Booker

Foundations Team: Mrs R Bradley and Miss C Williams

Year 3 Team: Miss A Nettleton, Miss L Cosford and Mrs S Booker

Year 4 Team: Mr D Sharpley and Mrs E Frith / Miss D Brooks

Year 5 Team: Miss R Baldwin and Mrs K Pullinger

Year 6 Team: Mrs C Moore and Miss E Maloney

Inclusion Manager: Mrs S Hosier

Assistant Inclusion Manager: Mr J Grayson

Integrated Resource Assistant Manager: Mrs C Graves

Teaching Assistants: Mrs A Griffin, Mrs C Walker, Mrs S Platts, Mr J Barlow, Mrs H Tilley, Mrs L Montero, Mrs R Fretwell, Miss A Rowbotham

Governing Body Chairperson: Alex Oldfield

Our Aims

Our school will provide the best possible education for all pupils. We will instil in them an enjoyment and thirst for life-long learning to unlock and fulfil their true potential. Our pupils will have the ability and confidence to communicate effectively in a rapidly changing world and be empowered to excel in all they do.

We at Thurcroft Junior Academy aim:-

To ensure that each child receives a rounded education that fulfils their moral, spiritual, academic and social needs.

To create an exciting and challenging atmosphere for our pupils so that they develop a curiosity of the world and a thirst for learning.

To foster excellent behaviour of our pupils through mutual respect and understanding.

To create a community which enables children to develop their knowledge and self-esteem, so that they grow as healthy, confident, articulate and responsible citizens.

To create a happy and secure environment where everyone matters and nothing stops learning.

To help children develop an understanding and respect of their own and others cultures, races and religions.

To enable our children to develop the skills to flourish in our rapidly changing world.

For all stakeholders to work collaboratively as a team to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our children.

We strive for the best education and demand the best of ourselves, until every learner achieves their full potential. We value the strong partnership that exists between parents, children, staff and governors and strongly believe that by working together we ensure the children at our school experience the best possible start in life.

Just as our school is at the heart of our community, our children are at the heart of all we do at Thurcroft Junior Academy.

Our Values and Ethos

We seek to provide the highest standard of education for all pupils in our care. Our vision is to instill in our pupils an enjoyment and thirst for learning so that they are able to fulfil their potential. Our mission statement "Joir en bien' - take joy in good" embodies our whole school ethos.

We want our pupils to be:

- Confident, aspirational and empowered to participate successfully at an academic, social and emotional level in a rapidly changing world.
- Healthy, happy, sociable, young people.
- Self-motivated, determined, positive and fair.
- Hard working and aspirational, confident, independent learners.
- Creative, curious and critical thinkers, collaborators, problem solvers, innovators.
- Respectful and responsible global citizens.
- Generous and compassionate.

At Thurcroft Junior Academy we strive for the best education and demand the best of ourselves, so that every learner achieves their full potential. We provide a positive, stimulating and caring learning environment where every individual is valued and respected as part of the school community.

We offer pupils a dedicated team of staff who are committed to developing the knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding which will enable children to enjoy learning, achieve success and to feel confident and fulfilled. We ensure that our children learn about, and have confidence in themselves as learners so that every child makes good progress. As an inclusive, caring school where every child matters, we recognise that all children have talents and abilities to celebrate, and a part of our role is to help them discover and develop these. We encourage a strong community spirit, where we show consideration and respect for each other, understand differences, and uphold kind, well-mannered behaviour.

At Thurcroft Junior Academy we believe that every child deserves to be successful. We challenge and develop our children to become curious, autonomous learners who are inspired and stimulated through a rich, varied and creative curriculum, appropriate to individual needs. We develop children's learning skills and by setting high expectations and exacting standards, we prepare our children to flourish, have high self-esteem and self-belief.

Our Expectations

What Thurcroft Junior Academy expects of our students:

- To attend regularly.
- To arrive on time, appropriately prepared for the day.
- To report to reception and sign in at the office should they arrive after 8.40am.

What the Academy expects of parents/carers:

- To fulfil their responsibility by ensuring their children attend school regularly and on time.
- To ensure that they contact the academy every day that their child is unable to attend.
- To ensure their child arrives on time and is well-prepared for the school day (student planner, reading book, homework, PE kit)
- To contact the academy whenever any problem occurs that may keep their child away from the Academy.
- To inform the academy and seek authorisation for any appointments and, where possible, arrange appointments outside of the school day.
- To ensure the continuity of their children's education by taking holidays during the school holiday period.

Our Curriculum

Our aim is to provide rich and vibrant opportunities which draw upon meaningful real life experiences and provide our children with the cultural capital to succeed in life. The curriculum is designed to provide a broad and balanced education that meets the needs of all children. It provides opportunities for children to develop as independent, confident and successful learners, with high aspirations for their future, who know how to make a positive contribution to their community and the wider society. The curriculum is coherently sequenced so that the children build on prior learning whilst ensuring the progression of knowledge and skills is extended, year upon year. The children have opportunities to use and apply the knowledge and skills they develop through a topic based approach.

The curriculum celebrates diversity and utilises the skills, knowledge and cultural wealth of the community while supporting the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, ensuring that children are well prepared for life in modern Britain.

Our classrooms



Our Library



Our Quad



Timings of the School Day

Beginning of the day

8:30am school gates open onto the yard. The playground is supervised by staff from 8:30 am until 8:40 am

8:40am Children start their morning tasks / activities.

School gates closed and registers are taken, any children arriving after 8:45am must enter via reception

End of the day

3:10pm school gates will be unlocked

Breakfast club

Breakfast club will commence at 7:45 am. Any pupil attending must be escorted onto the school site and into the care of school staff by their parent / carer.

After school clubs

We offer a range of different after-school clubs on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

After school clubs run from 3:10pm until 4:10pm.

The total time in a typical school week is 32.5 hours

Wraparound Care

Thurcroft Junior Academy currently does not offer extended hours childcare beyond our Breakfast Club and After-School Clubs. The local authority website, which provides information about childminders and after-school care, can be visited using the following links

Attendance and Lates

Regular attendance at school is vitally important to develop children's learning, but we do understand that absences can be unavoidable. If your child is absent from school please notify us by telephone by 9am. All absences have to be recorded as 'authorised' or 'unauthorised' so you will need to inform us of the reasons why your child will not be attending school. To ensure that all of our children are safe, school will contact parents by telephone as soon as registers have been completed if a child is absent and notification of the reason for the absence has not been received.

Collecting Children

At the end of the day we ask that you make clear arrangements for your child to go home. We would expect all our children to be collected from school by a responsible adult for Year 3 and Year 4. Year 5 and Year 6 children may walk to and from school unaccompanied. Parents should meet their children outside in the school playground. If a different person from usual is meeting your child please let your child and the class teacher or school office know. If you are likely to

be delayed please telephone the office to let us know.

We would expect wherever possible for medical appointments to be made outside of the school day. If an appointment is unavoidable during school hours please ensure the school office is informed in advance. You will be asked for proof of the appointment.

School Lunches

Lunch is a time children enjoy together, whether a packed lunch or school dinner. Our school hall becomes our dining room at 12 noon. Your child is able to choose what they would like for lunch during morning registration and will be offered 3 choices:

- Red option is a meat option
- Yellow option is a vegetarian option, this can include jacket potatoes with various fillings.
- Chilled option which is a choice of either a cheese, ham or tuna sandwich.

The menus change twice a year and copies will be sent home to parents.

Children who are not entitled to free school meals will need to pay £2.15 per day which is £10.75 per week. Dinner money can be paid daily or weekly.

Alternatively, pupils may bring a packed lunch from home to eat in the dining area. Packed lunches must be brought in a suitable container clearly labelled with your child's name and class. We regret we do not have refrigeration facilities for lunchboxes and advise that pupils don't have food that requires strict refrigeration.

Snack

If children would like a snack at morning break they need to bring a small, healthy snack, such as fruit, to eat at break time.

After School Activities

Clubs take place after school and cover both sports and other aspects of the school curriculum. These clubs can change on a termly basis and are often linked in with the sporting seasons.

What Your Child Needs For School Uniform

ACET has a duty to make sure the uniform required is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform. We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price. We will make sure our uniform:

- Is available at a reasonable cost
- Provides the best value for money for parents/carers.

Details of the uniform can be found below, on the website.

Tops

- **White Shirt / Blue Shirt:**
 - **Rotherham / Sheffield:** White shirt or yellow polo shirt (Key Stage 2 only).
 - **Derbyshire:** Blue shirt or blue polo shirt (Key Stage 2 only).
- **Jumper / Cardigan:**
 - From **September 2026**, the jumper will change to an **unbranded grey V-neck jumper**.
 - From **September 2025**, pupils may wear a **grey cardigan** instead of a jumper.

PE Kit

- **Indoor PE:** White t-shirt with black shorts.
- **Outdoor PE (colder months):** Pupils should wear a **black long-sleeved top or hoodie (non-branded)**.
- **Long-sleeved rugby-style PE top:** No longer required from September 2025.

Bottoms

- **Trousers / Skirt / Pinafore / Shorts:**
 - Grey tailored shorts, trousers, knee-length skirts, or knee-length pinafores.
- **Gingham Dress / Playsuit (warmer weather):**
 - **Rotherham / Sheffield:** Yellow gingham dress or playsuit.
 - **Derbyshire:** Blue gingham dress or playsuit.

Notes for Parents

- All items should be **plain and unbranded** unless specified.
- Polo shirts are only for **Key Stage 2** pupils.
- Outdoor PE tops should be warm and suitable for colder weather.

The following is not acceptable for school:

- Hair dyed in bright colours
- Coloured nail varnish
- False nails
- Jewellery should not be worn, with the exception of a watch and one pair of small plain gold or silver ear studs.

Final decisions about the uniform policy are at the discretion of the Principal

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery during PE. Children will be asked to take their earrings out for all PE and sports activities. Plasters can be used to cover earrings for PE if your child is unable to remove their earrings however, if they are unable to remove earrings we would recommend that earrings are not worn to school.

If a child has their ears pierced during term time, they will need to bring plasters to cover their earrings in PE lessons during the six to eight week healing period.

Mobile Phones

Pupils must not use mobile phones on the school site. Where ever possible they should be left at home for safe keeping. If in exceptional circumstances a child does bring their phone into the academy, it must be handed in at the start of the school day for safe-keeping. Thurcroft Junior Academy cannot be held responsible for the loss or damage of any mobile phones which are left on school premises.

Special Educational Needs

We take our responsibility in ensuring all pupils get exactly what they need to progress very seriously, and at times this means giving them an extra level of support with their learning. This can be for a wide variety of reasons. Pupils who need extra help, over and above the classroom provision (for example, extra small group work with a teaching assistant) have to be noted on the school's special educational needs register. This means that the child's need has been identified and we have things in place to help them further. Most pupils are on the register temporarily as once the extra support has addressed their initial need they no longer require this additional help. In some cases, a pupil's difficulties are longer term and the support (and their status on the register) is extended and enhanced subject to review.
SENDCo - Mrs S Booker.

Safeguarding

Thurcroft Junior Academy fully recognises its responsibilities in relation to child protection and the safeguarding of children in education. The safeguarding policy is available in full in the school office and on the school website.

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Ruth Stone

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Sarah Hosier

Parent Helpers

We are always very grateful to those parents who come in to school and help. We would love to have more parents helping in school. If you would like to help but are unsure of how, please speak to Mrs Stone. All regular volunteers will require a DBS check.

Admission Arrangements

Our intake limit is 70 pupils for each year group. If you wish to consider applying for your child to attend the school, you are very welcome to visit. We will be happy to show you round and answer any questions you may have. If you telephone the school on 01709 543194, the office staff will be happy to make an appointment for you.

The first step is to contact the School Admissions section at Rotherham Local Authority (LA) who will send you the forms you need to officially transfer your child. Then approach the school to check if there is space available and to arrange a look around. If you are still interested, then fill in the forms and return them to the LA.

School Term Dates 2026-2026

SCHOOL YEAR 2025 TO 2026

See below our term dates, Inset days and bank holidays.

Autumn Term 2025

Term Starts: Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Half Term: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

Term Ends: Friday 19 December 2025

Spring Term 2026

Term Starts: Monday 5 January 2026

Half Term: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Term Ends: Friday 27 March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Term Starts: Monday 13 April 2026

Half Term: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term Ends: Monday 20 July 2026

Bank Holidays 2026

- **Good Friday: Friday 3 April 2026**
- **Easter Monday: Monday 6 April 2026**
- **May Day: Monday 4 May 2026**
- **Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 25 May 2026**

Inset Days

Monday 1st September 2025

Friday 28th November 2025

Friday 20th March 2026

Friday 19th June 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

If you have any further questions please feel free to ring or call in to book a visit to look around our wonderful school if you haven't already done so.

We look forward to hearing from you.