



Thurston CE Primary Academy

Pond Field Road, Thurston,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 3FT
Telephone: (01359) 230444
E-mail: admin@thurstonprimary.net
Headteacher: Mr J. Bayes B.A. Hons. QTS. NPQH.

Monday 8th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Since moving into the new school the number of pupils has been steadily growing. The increased pupil numbers and being unable to use the field during wet weather has presented some challenges at lunchtimes and, from speaking to the children, it is clear that some of the behaviour issues experienced over lunchtimes are a result of boredom when using the outside space and a large number of pupils in a reasonably small space.

At the end of the Autumn Term SLT worked on a plan to try and increase staffing at lunchtimes and create more structured activities for our pupils. This plan went into effect today and was introduced to pupils in Collective Worship on Friday.

We now have additional experienced staff working every lunchtime which means we have been able to create different zones on the playground with a variety of activities. We have also had the Sports Partnership Manager from the Gipping Valley & Thurston Sports Partnership visit school and work with some of our Year 5 pupils to train them as Sports Leaders. Each lunchtime a small number of the Sports Leaders, with adult supervision, will be setting up a variety of games through the week and encouraging pupils to take part. Alongside this we have also introduced areas for skipping, hoola hoops, dodgeball and foam frisbees, still leaving a dedicated area for free play.

As you may have seen we have also recently had areas of seating around astro turf installed, this is a small extension to the playground and will be used as a calmer seating space for those children who prefer not to run around or join games all of lunch time. We have one more exciting addition to this coming later in the term.

We hope these changes will make for happy and safe lunchtimes during the wetter months when we cannot use the field.

Yours sincerely
Amanda Wigzell
Deputy Head



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