

# Thingwall Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents

Happy New Year to you all and all the best from everyone here at Thingwall! We hope you had a restful break; the children certainly seem to have enjoyed the Christmas break based on all their news!

The following items may be of interest to you...

## Parents' Survey:

We have had an impressive uptake with this year's on-line survey so thank you to all of you who have logged on and given us your much valued feedback. So far we have had 56 responses (for a total of 66 children as some responses are for more than one family member) which is a great improvement on our 2014-2015 survey when we received 36 responses. In an effort to gain even more support we have made the decision to extend the survey until January 15<sup>th</sup> so if you would still like to respond but have lost your code, please let us know. Many thanks for your support, we are delighted with the response so far!

## Children's Survey:

This year we have decided to conduct a children's survey as well as the usual parental survey. We are really heartened by the children's responses and impressed by the ideas they had about how to improve school too. Please see the results below...

Do you like this school?	Yes <b>92%</b>	No <b>2%</b>	Yes+No <b>2%</b>	No Answer <b>4%</b>
Do you feel safe at this school?	Yes <b>93%</b>	No <b>0%</b>	Yes+No <b>2%</b>	No Answer <b>5%</b>
Do you learn new things at school?	Yes <b>95%</b>	No <b>0%</b>	Yes+No <b>5%</b> <small>(These children wanted to make the point that we sometimes consolidate things we have learned!)</small>	No Answer <b>5%</b>
Are lessons interesting and fun?	Yes <b>80%</b>	No <b>4%</b>	Mostly <b>15%</b>	No Answer <b>0%</b>
Do you know what to do if you are stuck?	Yes <b>96%</b>	No <b>2%</b>	Sometimes <b>0%</b>	No Answer <b>2%</b>
Do you work hard?	Yes <b>87%</b>	No <b>0%</b>	Usually <b>13%</b>	No Answer <b>0%</b>
Are you shown how to improve?	Yes <b>98%</b>	No <b>0%</b>	Sometimes if I need it <b>2%</b>	No Answer <b>0%</b>
Do other children behave?	Yes/Always <b>38%</b>	No <b>12%</b>	Yes+No (Minor Things) <b>50%</b>	No Answer <b>0%</b>
Do we have	Yes	No	Occasionally	No Answer

bullying at this school?	<b>2%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Do you know what to do if you were being bullied?	Yes <b>100%</b>	No <b>0%</b>		
Do the adults help you?	Yes <b>97%</b>	No <b>1%</b>	Usually <b>2%</b>	
Are you treated fairly?	Yes <b>92%</b>	No <b>5%</b>	Usually <b>3%</b>	
Do staff listen to you?	Yes/Always <b>94%</b>	No <b>0%</b>	Mainly <b>6%</b>	
What do you like about this school? (in brackets denotes number of children who mentioned this answer)	<div> <div> The other children/Our friends – 33 Breaks and lunchtimes – 5 Displays/Classrooms – 7 Assemblies – 3 Staff are fair/Treated equally – 12 Good Facilities – 6 Playground – 8 Eco-friendly – 2 Lovely hot dinners – 2 Buddy Bus Stop – 1 Lovely staff – 55 New Building Work – 1 Nice sized school, not too big – 1 I-Pads and apps </div> <div> We feel safe – 16 Everything – 38 Learning – 24 It's fun – 11 Welcoming feel/Friendly feel – 11 Extra-Curricular Clubs – 5 People attitudes – 3 Wet Playtime Toys - 1 Our heritage (Vikings) – 1 We celebrate differences – 1 Tackle bullying straightaway - 1 We are a family – 3 </div> </div>			
What could we do better at this school? (in brackets denotes number of children who mentioned this answer)	<div> <div> Nothing – 53 Less Playtimes – 1 Another Trim Trail – 5 Extend the classrooms/more space – 4 More sports tournaments with other schools – 1 Another football pitch – 1 New playtime equipment – 7 New Sports Hall – 2 Extend playground – 3 More computers – 1 Improve cleanliness of toilets – 2 More clubs – 2 Earlier lunchtime – 2 Option to stay inside at break if it's cold – 1 More whole school picnics outside – 1 More reading books – 1 Sit with our friends for lunch – 1 More teachers – 2 Have more fun – 1 More I-Pad apps New felt-tips and whiteboard pens More time to practise what I have learned A carriage with princesses in to play with (FS2!) </div> <div> Keep the mobiles – 2 More Playtimes – 12 More toilets – 2 Less chatter - 5 More work – 1 Treat little ones kindly – 1 Swimming Pool – 1 Trampoline – 1 More dinner choices - 7 Bigger dinner portions – 4 Football cage – 1 More goals/nets – 9 Concrete over the grass – 1 More toy cars - 1 More visits – 4 More PE – 3 Two classes in each year group - 1 Longer holidays – 1 More time to explore New story books Don't waste paper More dollies </div> </div>			

### Dogs in Playgrounds:

We have had a few concerned parents contact the school office recently because they tell us that there have been occasions when parents have brought dogs onto the playground. Can we remind you that dogs are not allowed onto the school premises. Apart from the obvious concerns regarding safety and dog fouling, we

also have children who suffer from allergies and medical conditions. Many thanks for your help in this matter.

#### Scooters + Bikes in Playgrounds:

In addition to the above, we have had a few concerned parents contact the school office recently because some children appear to be forgetting to dismount from their bicycles and scooters when entering the school grounds. Can you please remind your children that they need to dismount at the school gates and then wheel scooters and bicycles to the storage area. There have been several near misses and, as I am sure you appreciate, we need to keep the school premises as safe as we can. Many thanks for your help in this matter.

#### Holiday Dates for 2015-2016:

Please find attached a further copy of the 2015-2016 holiday dates. Please note that school is closed on the Good Friday and Easter Monday but then we are back in school for a week before we are closed again for the Spring Break for a fortnight. This is a nationwide arrangement in an effort to fix the term times so they are more equal. In previous years for instance, some half-terms have been less than 3 weeks!

#### Christmas Charity Update:

Many thanks to all of you who supported our two chosen charities this year, as ever your generosity is overwhelming! The money raised will be split between the NSPCC and our Grace House Cambodia Orphanage appeal. We raised a whopping £558.06 which will be equally split meaning each charity will receive £279.03! Please see below a breakdown for the money raised for each event...

Church Junior Nativity - £271.80

Infant School Nativity - £136.16

Warrens Medical Centre Carol Singing - £150.10

Thank you for all of your support.

#### Diary Dates:

Please see a list of dates below for the Spring Term. The dates are the same as those posted on the VLE by Mrs Metcalfe but we may have added a couple of extra events as the year has gone on. One of the survey responses mentioned that they liked the December dates on a newsletter at the end of last year so we thought we would try to do the same for this term...

w/c 4/1/16 and 11/1/16	Year 5 Swimming Fortnight
25/1/16	Reception and Infant Chinese New Year Day (Parents +Grandparents welcome to attend morning session 9am-12)
29/1/16	Whole School Chinese New Year themed lunch (FS2 parents welcome to stay and observe)
29/1/16	10am Year 4 Class Assembly
3/2/16	Year 2 visit West Wirral Works
3/2/16	Year 1 Tennis Taster – remember PE kits please!
4/2/16	Reception Tennis Taster – remember PE kits please!
5/2/16	10am Year 3 Class Assembly
w/c 8/2/16	Whole School Themed Week – Health, Safety and Fitness (Please bring PE kit in every day this week!) <b>Mon</b> <b>am</b> – Bike It Breakfast – Come to school on your bike or scooter for 8.55am and be welcomed into school by your class teacher for a morning croissant! (Helmets must be worn)

	<p><b>pm</b> – Visit from Rhiannon Henry (Paralympic Cyclist!) and sponsored event to raise money for school PE equipment</p> <p><b>Tuesday</b> – Extreme Dance African Dance Workshops for FS2-Year 6</p> <p><b>Wednesday</b> – Freddy Fit Healthy Lifestyle and Fitness Workshops for FS2-Year 6</p> <p><b>Thursday</b> – Visits from PCSO Sue to work with Years 5 and 6 on cyber-bullying and internet safety</p> <p><b>Friday</b> – NSPCC Assemblies on internet safety and anti-bullying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PCSO Sue to work with each class to remind about Stranger Danger and personal safety</li> <li>- pm Karl Sutton from Wirral LA to run a series of sports workshops for FS2-Year 2</li> </ul>
1/3/16	Secondary School Allocation Day
4/3/16	10am Year 1 Class Assembly
9/3/16	10am Year 2 Class Assembly
18/3/16	Sports Relief – Dress as your Sporting Hero and sponsored walk a mile (for Sports Relief)
22 and 23/3/16	Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm
23/3/16	Poetry In Motion – Drama Production for FS2-Year 6
24/3/16	2pm Easter Festival – all welcome to attend
25/3/16 and 28/3/16	School closed for Good Friday and Easter Monday
1/4/16	School closes for the Spring Break. Children back to school on Monday 18/3/16

Obviously, there are occasions when dates may change due to the busy nature of school life but we will try to keep these to a minimum. Also some educational visits are yet to be booked so will be added at a later date.

### **CAPE:**

Little Tinkers (CAPE) will run from the new building next door to us from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January for a short time to enable us to push on with the building works. Children will therefore be crossing the school car park on the zebra crossing at either end of the school day (obviously fully supervised). **Therefore parents who are entitled to use the main school car park need to be extremely cautious when driving in.** Please note that from Monday parents of CAPE children will be able to pull into the old Stanley School car park to drop off the children and will no longer need to use the school car park. The school car park will therefore only be used by the staff, parents who have disabled badges (please display once parked up) and by prior agreement with the School Office. Many thanks.

## **Celebration Corner...**

Lilith Van Dyk Year 6 with Phoenix Dance and Drama Club took part in the That's Showbiz UK National Finals Competition and was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Hip Category. Well done Lilith!

Emily Loughlin FS2 received a medal for dance at the Susan Mansley Dance School. Well done Emily, you must be thrilled!

Harry Shone Year 1 well done Harry for achieving your orange striped karate belt. How proud you must be!

Zoe Ellioth Year 3 After six days of ski school with Prosneige, Zoe was awarded Beginner Level-Polar Bear. Skills learnt included snowplough turns on blue and green runs, duck steps and side steps. Well done Zoe on the new skills you have learnt.

Adam Ellioth Year 6 After six days of ski school with Prosneige, Adam was awarded intermediate Level –First Ski-skills learnt included plough parallel turns, side stepping and parallel skiing on blue slopes. A marvellous achievement. Well done Adam.

Adam Allwood-Owen Year 4 Adam was a mascot for Tranmere Rovers on Saturday 2 January 2016, he met all the team and led them onto the pitch, he also handed the ball to the referee. Well done Adam.

Charlotte Glover Year 2 Charlotte received a swimming trophy for 284 lengths over the 2015 holidays! What an achievement!

Charlotte Glover Year 2 and Lilith Van Dyk Year 6 Well done both of you for appearing in That's Showbiz 2015 at Blackpool Winter Gardens in the UK finals last weekend. Well done both of you!

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**Email Return Slip:**

We would like to reduce the amount of paper we use as a school and to achieve this we need your email address to email you the school newsletters, trip information and permission slips etc. If you are happy to receive information from school via email please provide details of the email address you would like the information to be sent to. Many thanks.

Child's Name..... Class .....

Signed..... Dated.....

Email Address\_\_\_\_\_