

Thingwall Primary School Newsletter

17 July 2017

Dear Parents

Goodness I can't believe the year is nearly finished and the summer holidays are almost upon us. This is the last newsletter of this academic year. The following information may be of interest to you over the next few days and over the forthcoming break...

Braddock Cup - Soft Federation Netball Tournament:

Well done to our mixed team of Year 5 & 6 boys and girls who recently travelled to Pensby High to take part in our South Deeside Soft Federation Netball Tournament. A fabulous afternoon was had by all and we came an impressive third out of the six schools! Congratulations to Niyah, Emily, Gracie, Lily, Tom, Lesedi, Jason, Sithara and Bethany - you were all great team players and super ambassadors for Thingwall. You were all resilient and determined to the final whistle.

Ladymount Girls' Football Match:

Well done to our Year 6 Girls' Football Team who played Ladymount Primary last week and won with an impressive 5-1! All goals were scored by Lily - she had obviously eaten three Shredded Wheat for breakfast! This was the first time the team had competed together and the staff remarked on how well they played together. They listened to each other, worked tactically as a team and remained determined until the end. Congratulations to Isabelle, Leah, Emily, Niyah, Jasmine, Darcy, Gracie and Lily who were also super ambassadors for Thingwall.

Sports Day Results:

We had a super KS2 Sports Day last week and we were thankful that the weather was finally kind to us after rearranging the date twice previously! All children worked well and supported and encouraged each other as we rotated around several stations, taking part in various sporting activities. The overall winners were the Romans team who were understandably thrilled. The Year 6 Team Captains (Scott and Darcy) were very proud to accept the Sporting Shield on behalf of Roman leader, Mrs Mitchell and the rest of the Red Romans. It was an exciting morning and thank you to all of our visitors who came to support us.

We had an equally lovely KS1 Sports Day at the end of June and, again, we were impressed by our children's good sportsmanship and team playing skills as they rotated around the various challenges. We split our KS1 teams into mixed age countries and Mexico were extremely pleased to be crowned the overall winners! Well done Mexico! Again, it was a super morning, made all the more exciting by the cheering from our visitors - thank you for coming to spectate and watch your children.

Head lice Advice:

One or two parents have recently asked us for head lice advice so we thought it could be useful to share our top 5 tips for parents...

1. Check for head lice and nits

Regularly checking your child's hair will mean you can spot head lice at the very first sign, and treat them effectively.

2. When to treat head lice

Treat head lice as soon as you see a live one. Check all the family and treat anyone who has lice. Remember, if you choose to use a medicated product, use it only when you see live head lice. Do not use a medicated product as a preventative method, otherwise head lice can build up a resistance.

3. How to prevent head lice

Repeat, repeat, repeat. Always follow up any treatment method as directed by the instructions on the product you're using. Even with treatments that claim to kill head lice after one application, the Department of Health suggests checking for lice again after three to five days, and again 10 to 12 days after using the treatment. This is because not all the eggs may be killed by the first application. If you choose the conditioner-and-nit-comb method, repeat this at regular intervals until all the nits and lice have gone. Regularly combing through your child's hair and checking will help prevent a re-infestation. If your child has long hair please ensure it is neatly tied back. This will not stop the spread of head lice but it will minimise the risk.

Also ensure you wash all bedding (particularly pillows) on a hot wash so that no lice remain.

4. How head lice spread

Head lice are extremely common – they're nothing to be embarrassed about. If your child has them, do tell school as soon as possible so they can alert other parents and ask to get their children treated as soon as possible, to help stop the spread of head lice. If you don't, you run the risk of your now lice-free child being re-infected by someone they gave the lice to. If parents alert us we will send out a text to the relevant class.

Read more: <http://www.which.co.uk/reviews/head-lice-and-nits/article/treating-head-lice-and-nits/nits-top-five-tips-for-parents> - Which?

Nut Free Environment:

As you may be aware, Edsential run nut free kitchens at our school and other schools across Wirral and Cheshire. This is to protect children who may be suffering from nut allergies. Occasionally, from time to time, we may accept a child into school who has a more severe, air born nut allergy. This will be the case from September so we are proposing to extend this nut free rule to children who have packed lunches to minimise the risk of allergic reactions. This would obviously apply to nuts but also to nut based products such as Nutella and peanut butter. Thank you for your cooperation in trying to keep our school canteens as risk free as we possibly can.

Kitchen Celebrations:

From time to time, food establishments (including schools) are inspected by the Food Standards Agency. We were visited last week by a Local Authority representative and we were delighted to be awarded a classification of 5, which is the highest possible grading. Well done to Sheila and Mandy!

Thanks to POTS:

The Parents' Association (POTS) have again been a great support to us this year and their hard work has helped us raise vital funds to enhance your child's time at Thingwall. When you look closely at how hard they have worked over the last three years it makes for very impressive reading indeed! I thought I would share the contributions we have received from POTS for the last three years...

2014/2015	Year Three embroidery threads.....	£5.98
	CD/DVD for FS2.....	£12.00
	Water filter system for FS2.....	£215.94
	Carol service refreshments.....	£25.12
	Free Navy Blue Jumper for every child.....	£766.80
	Annual text charges.....	£898.80
	Trim Trail inspection.....	£300.00
	Rising Stars Maths, English and Computing Scheme...	£2500.00
	Year Six Field Trip.....	£1234.00
	Gardening Club.....	£200.00
		TOTAL £6,158.64

2015/2016	KS1 and FS2 Reading Books.....£300.00 Year Three Sewing.....£36.00 Year Six New Curriculum Tests.....£390.00 Reading Progress Tests for KS1 and KS2.....£750.00 Rising Stars History and Geography Schemes.....£650.00 Annual text charges.....£750.00 Nature Bags.....£86.02 Compact Cooker.....£484.00 KS1 and FS2 Reading Books.....£300.00 Year Six Field Trip.....£960.00 TOTAL £4,706.02
2016/2017	Carol service refreshments.....£18.35 KS1 Trim Trail.....£4380.00 KS1 Trim Trail Tarmac.....£1000.00 Annual text charges.....£750.00 FS1/KS1 Reading Books.....£7000.00 TOTAL £13,148.35
TOTAL AMOUNT FOR LAST 3 ACADEMIC YEARS	<u>GRAND TOTAL OF £24,013.01</u>

I am sure that parents will all agree that this is a **huge** amount of money raised by all our parents. We are currently experiencing funding cuts and, like many of our colleagues across the country, this is impacting massively on our school's budget. The PA and the funds that they raise enhance the provision that we are able to offer. They have lots of lovely ideas about how they could raise even more funds next year for the good of the children but it does rely on volunteers - we will be really pushing this next term, especially to the new parents in the hope that they may come on board to help us. Thank you to all who have got involved in the events we have held this year.

Report Reply Slips:

Hopefully you should all have received your child's annual academic report by now. If not, please let your child's class teacher know as soon as possible. I loved reading, commenting and signing each and every child's report. It is a thoroughly enjoyable job and one of the highlights of the year for me! Having the chance to read about how the little characters we have in our school have developed and the memories that staff share about your children is wonderful and a great part of my job. I am sure you will agree that they are a wonderful read - thank you to every teacher that has written them! Please return your report reply slips before we break up for the summer to acknowledge receipt.

Snap Chat Advice:

You may have heard recently in the news that Snapchat have upgraded their app and that users are now identifiable on a map. If your child has Snapchat please ensure that they ghost out their profile to prevent others from locating where they are. **This is an obvious safeguarding concern so please encourage you children to be internet safe.** If your child has automatically updated their app they will be visible to anyone in the locality.

Final Week:

POTS have asked for this coming Monday to be a non-uniform day in return for any school uniforms that your children have outgrown over the year. Please bring any uniforms into school and leave with your child's class teacher. A member of the POTS team will collect any old uniforms and recycle them. Please note we cannot accept items with the school logo on them. The old uniforms will be recycled to raise money for school. As a thank you for participating in the

non-uniform day you will be in with a chance of winning a voucher from the Other Uniform Company.

Tuesday is also a non-uniform day and toy day too! Please ensure that children's toys are clearly named and avoid bringing in toys that access the internet or are able to take photographs/videos. Many thanks.

New Classes for 2017-2018:

Your child will have had the opportunity to meet their next class teacher last Wednesday morning. Classes for 2017-2018 are as follows...

FS2 - Mrs Leyland

Year 1 - Miss Collins

Year 2 - Mrs Goulding

Year 3 - Mrs Mitchell

Year 4 - Mrs Holroyd

Year 5 - Miss Arden

Year 6 - Mr Bettridge

Please feel free to pop across at the end of the school day to introduce yourself to your child's class teacher and also to familiarise yourself with the drop off and pick up points for your child's new classroom.

Thingwall Winners for South Deeside Soft Federation Competition:

Many thanks to all of the children who entered our recent art competition to help us design a logo for our joint letter headed paper for the South Deeside Soft Federation of schools. The entries were all of an extremely high quality from all six schools (Thingwall, Pensby, Irby, Gayton, Heswall and Barnston) and we have selected our very best entries to go forward to be judged by the Soft Federation.

We are delighted to announce that the following children have been chosen as winners from Thingwall and these children will each receive a Lingham's book token...

Rocky FS2

Amber Year Two

Thomas Year Three

Christopher Year Five

The Soft Federation have judged the finalists from each school this week and we are absolutely thrilled to announce that **Thomas from Year Three has been unanimously chosen as the Overall Soft Federation Winner!** Thomas' winning design will be used in **all** Soft Federation headed paper from September next year for all six schools. Well done Thomas, your design fully represented all six schools perfectly and we thought that your hand of friendship design in the centre really showcased what our federated group is all about.

Summer Term Governor Update:

The Governors have requested that we give you a termly update about their work so you are fully informed about the fantastic work that they do for our school and our children. Please find a brief summary of the work of each committee this term...

Health & Safety, Buildings & Site:

- The Governors discussed the termly Health and Safety audit of the school premises and also the pre-school (although it is a privately owned organisation, we are still responsible for their building too).
- Governors discussed recent and proposed building developments around school - the outside wooden structures, the new KS1 Trim Trail, our fencing replacement/repair scheme and the green spaces around school.

- Governors analysed the KS1 and KS2 Accident Files and we talked about what we have learned from this termly process and if we need to tailor/change any of our procedures (including POTS events).
- We discussed the possibility of accessing external funding from the Local Authority Capital Funding programme of planned works.
- Governors were made aware of the educational visits that the school organises, the relevant risk assessments and the emergency procedures.
- We discussed the possibility of further refining our fire alarm/lock down procedures to take account of recent nationwide incidents.
- The data for referrals was shared.
- The Staff and Governor Safeguarding Training Schedule was updated and training was prioritised for the coming academic year.

Standards & Strategy:

- The School Development Plan for 2016-2017 was evaluated and priorities were discussed.
- Data from FS2, Year One Phonics, Year Two SATs and Year Six SATs was shared and celebrated.
- Priorities were discussed and established for the School Development Plan for the next academic year 2017-2018. We will, once again, be splitting our School Development Plan into chapters and ensuring we cover chapters on the following - Teaching and Learning, Leadership and Management, Health & Safety, Buildings & Site, Subject Leaders/Middle Managers, Pupil Matters and Well-Being, School and the Community. We hope to give a brief synopsis of these areas on the VLE by the end of the Autumn Term.
- Pupil Progress Meetings update (please be assured that all pupil data is completely anonymised for this part of the meeting - your children are not identifiable and we tend to discuss whole classes rather than individuals)
- The Year Six Local Authority Writing Moderation process was shared with Governors and discussed.
- We discussed staff appraisals and Performance Management.

Finance & Staffing:

- The Governors set and signed off the annual School Budget for 2017-2018 with the School Bursar, Joanne Hathaway.
- Staffing was discussed and set for the forthcoming academic year.
- External income was scrutinised (income we receive from University Students - £4400, POTS funding £13,148 etc).
- We prioritised school building jobs and balanced these with the budget.

Full Governors:

- Governors were reminded of the need to produce pen portraits for the school's VLE to inform parents about the skills they have to offer.
- Governors welcomed our new Community Governor, Ceeley Maxwell, who is currently Deputy Head Teacher at Stanley Special School.
- Organisation for 2017-2018 Governor Committees was established.
- The Head Teacher's Report to Governors was presented.
- The progress made with the South Deeside Soft Federation of schools was shared.
- An update was given about the Local Authority Early Help team and their previous Ofsted.
- The various committees shared their priorities for 2017 - 2018 and the 2016-2017 meetings were shared and celebrated.

I am sure you will agree the Governing Body do a lot of hard work behind the scenes and I am also sure you will join me in thanking them for all the hard work and dedication that they voluntarily give to our school to benefit all here.

****REPEAT MESSAGE** Term Dates and Staff Development Days:**

Hopefully you will have received the 2018/2019 term dates last week. If you have misplaced your copy we have additional sheets in the Entrance Hall.

Celebration Corner:

Goodbye Year Six - Goodbye and good luck to Year Six as they make the next big step in their education and move on to their respective high schools. We will miss you all very much indeed and look forward to your assembly this Friday at 10am (parents most welcome). ☺

Jack (Year Two) - Well done to Jack who received his silver medal in a recent Taekwondo tournament. ☺

Amber (Year Two) - Well done to Amber who received a bronze medal at the recent North West Inter Judo Competition. Amber also achieved her Yellow Belt in her grading on 19.07.17 ☺

Amelie (Year Two) - Well done to Amelie for completing the Wirral Coastal Walk and for winning a gold medal at Neston's 2017 Gymnastics Competition. ☺

Isle (Year Two) - Well done to Isle for achieving her Stage Six ASA Swimming badge and certificate. ☺

With best wishes for a restful summer and we will see you all again on Tuesday 5th September (FS2 new starters please see your FS2 Induction Pack for your phased start date)

Miss D L Cronin