

**Thingwall Primary School...  
Teachers, Parents and Students -  
Together Promoting Success**

# Thingwall Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome to our first electronic newsletter! All newsletters will now be accessed via the school website, following a suggestion made during our recent parental survey. We will inform you by text message when new newsletters are uploaded onto the system. If you would still prefer a paper copy of the newsletter because you are unable to access it on-line, please ask Mrs Hamel and she will print a copy off for you. The following information may be of interest to you...

## **Additional Inset Day for 2016:**

Further to earlier communications the next scheduled staff training day is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May due to the local elections and we will be closed to all children.

As I'm sure many of you will be aware, there has been an additional unexpected voting day scheduled for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June for the European Referendum. As Thingwall Primary is a designated polling station we have been informed by the Local Authority that we are closed to pupils on that day and staff will be required to attend a further staff training day.

Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause you but as we are a public building the matter is out of our control.

## **Car Park:**

We have had several near misses lately with cars coming in and out of the school car park to drop off and collect children. Please remember to be vigilant when driving near school as children can sometimes appear without warning and we would hate for an accident to occur. We have reinforced road safety with the children and we would be grateful if you could also mention this at home too. Also can we give a polite reminder that the car park should only be used by staff and parents who have a blue disabled badge on display. Any other use of the school car park at either end of the school day should be cleared by contacting the school office. We hope to have our electric gates installed soon which should (we hope!) alleviate this problem.

## **Eco Update:**

We are doing really well with our recycling and Mrs Wright is doing a great job helping us to work towards our Green Flag Eco Award! Just a reminder about the things that we are recycling...

[Non-savoury biscuit wrappers, Tassimo T Discs, clean tin foil and Easter Egg foil, Air Fresheners and plastic air freshener cartridges, trigger heads, pumps and caps from home care products and all brands of flexible wipe cleaning packages.](#)

So far we have managed to raise almost £400 with Terracycle which we plan to put towards our outside polytunnel classroom. We would like to say a **MASSIVE** thanks to Mr Lyons (one of our parents) who works for NuStar Terminal Ltd. He has managed to present us with a cheque for £1000 towards the polytunnel on behalf of the company. This is a huge amount of money and we are very grateful as it means we are one step closer to managing to purchase this excellent outdoor facility. We now need one last recycling push as we need just another £400 to enable us to afford the polytunnel which will give us lots of outdoor learning experiences, complementing the new Science National Curriculum beautifully. If any parents work in large offices and would be willing to set up recycling to benefit us we would be very grateful indeed.

## **Building Renovations:**

As you will have gathered, the building renovation has run slightly behind schedule! We are delighted that Phase One is now finished and we have re-opened the Willow Way and the

KS2 corridor/classrooms. We are really pleased with the progress so far (please feel free to come in after school and any of the teachers will be pleased to show you the developments). So far we have had the following areas refurbished...

- Year 5+6 Girls' and Boys' toilets - complete refit
- KS2 Corridor - carpet, painting and lighting
- Year 6 - carpet, storage wall and interactive computer panel
- Library - storage wall and interactive computer panel
- Old Year 5 classroom (new Year 3 room) and Mrs Buckley's old room (new Year 4 room) - carpet, painting, storage walls, interactive computer panels, lighting
- Teaching Assistant room
- ICT Suite - storage wall, lighting and interactive computer panels
- Year 5 classroom - carpet, storage wall, sink area and interactive computer panel
- Storage walls in FS2, Year 1, Year 2 - interactive panels to follow!
- Storage wall in canteen

The remaining jobs have gone to tender and we hope that they will be completed by the end of this academic year. This includes all remaining toilets, the demolition of the mobiles and the development of the outside space (including the much awaited electric gates. Each classroom teaching base will also be provided with a new staff lap-top. We are very grateful to the Local Authority for funding all of the building work through the Capital Funding programme and we have been really well looked after by Paul Cauldwell (LA Architect) and David Groves (LA Building Project Manager) - thank you gents!

### **Every Minute Counts:**

The children are usually really good at arriving at school on time but recently there have been occasions when certain children have arrived late. School starts at 8.55am and the first few minutes of each day are crucial as learning begins from the moment the children arrive in school.

The figures below are calculated over an academic year:

#### **LATENESS=LOST LEARNING**

5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost

10 minutes late each day = 6.5 days lost

15 minutes late each day = 10 days lost

20 minutes late each day = 13 days lost

30 minutes late each day = 19 days lost

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

### **POTS Newsletter:**

Please see the latest POTS newsletter which we have uploaded onto our VLE. Don't forget Mothers' Day gifts are on sale this Friday ranging from 50p to £4.00.

### **Sponsor Money:**

Please return any outstanding sponsor monies to the School Office. We hope to have the rewards very soon and will distribute them in assembly as soon as they arrive.

### **Keeping Healthy Update:**

Key Stage Two are taking the business of keeping healthy very seriously indeed and 'Fitbit Monday' is proving to be really successful with a core group of Year Three and Four children! Every Monday morning playtime we powerwalk around the perimeter of the playground. This is our fourth week in and so far we have managed to walk a whopping 16,000 steps which equates to 12km! Well done to all concerned!

You may remember that one of our parents recently had the idea to devote a day per week to travelling to school in a healthy way. We have decided to do this every Wednesday so from this week onwards we will be having Walkie/Wheelie Wednesday! Please ensure helmets are worn when cycling and remember not to cycle when on school grounds to ensure we all keep as safe as possible.

**Term Dates (including Inset Days) for 2016-2017:**

**School will be closed for five Inset Days on 05.09.16, 22.12.16, 23.12.16, 04.05.17 and 05.06.17**

**Autumn Term 2016**

Monday 5 September 2016 **INSET DAY**

Open Tuesday 6 September 2016

Last Day in School Friday 21 October 2016

HALF TERM - Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October

Open Monday 31 October 2016

Last Day in School Wednesday 21 December 2016

Thursday 22 December 2016 **INSET DAY**

Friday 23 December 2016 **INSET DAY**

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – Monday 26 December – Friday 6 January

**Spring Term 2017**

Open Monday 9 January 2017

Last Day in School Friday 17 February 2017

HALF TERM – Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February

Open Monday 27 February 2017

Last Day in School Friday 31 March 2017

EASTER BANK HOLIDAYS – Friday 14 April & Monday 17 April

SPRING BREAK – Monday 3 April – Monday 17 April

**Summer Term 2017**

Open Tuesday 18 April 2017

Thursday 4 May 2017 **INSET DAY**

Last Day in School Friday 26 May 2017

MAY DAY – Monday 1 May

HALF TERM – Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June

Monday 5 June 2017

**INSET DAY**

Open Tuesday 6 June 2017

Last Day in School Tuesday 25 July 2017

## CELEBRATION CORNER!

This area of the newsletter is for anything your children achieve outside school that they would like to celebrate with us. Please note that children will only be referred to by their first name for safeguarding purposes, as we are now publishing our newsletters on the public page of the VLE.

Lesedi: Congratulations to Lesedi who competed in the West Wirral Cubs Swimming Gala on Sunday 20.02.16 and was awarded a bronze medal in the 50m freestyle! Well done Lesedi! 😊

Bethany: Congratulations to Bethany who was awarded her Grade Two Modern Dance Medal by Irby Dance Studio, what lovely news! 😊

Ben: Congratulations to Ben who was awarded third place in a trampolining competition at the weekend! Great news Ben! 😊

Grace & Isla: Congratulations to both girls who were awarded their swimming certificates just before half term. This is cause for a double celebration as Rhiannon Henry our visiting Paralympian was able to present the certificates in our assembly.

Miss D L Cronin