

Dear Parents

The following information may be of interest to you:

Class Assembly Dates - Amendment:

Apologies, I typed an incorrect date for the Year One Class Assembly on the last newsletter. The date is 25/5/17 and not the 25/6/17 as previously stated as this is actually a Sunday! Many thanks to Mrs Metcalfe for spotting the error.

Year One Class Assembly	Thursday 25/5/17 at 10am
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Harvest Festival:

Our annual Harvest Festival will take place on Friday 14th October at 2.00pm. Pupils from Year Six will give a series of readings and the children's singing will be accompanied by Mrs Mitchell's amazing School band. You are all welcome to attend. This year we are pleased to welcome Chris Murphy from St Michael's Church in Pensby and also Amanda Boden from Wirral's Forum Housing Association. The Forum Housing Association offers support to young homeless people from the ages of 16-25 across Merseyside and Cheshire.

We would welcome harvest donations for the Forum Housing to help young people have a healthier and brighter future.

Items could include:

Dried goods for example cereals, rice, pasta, packet soup, biscuits, cake bars, hot chocolate sachets, tea, coffee, powdered milk etc.

Canned goods for example tinned fruit and vegetables, soup, rice pudding, custard, beans, spaghetti etc.

This festival is always well supported by Thingwall's parents and children - last year we collected over twenty bags full! Thank you so much in advance for your generosity.

Individual and Family Photographs:

Our school photographer will be visiting us this Thursday to take all individual and family photographs. If you have younger children and would like them to be included on a family photograph with your school aged child, please bring them to the school hall for between 9am and 9.30am and we will be pleased to photograph them. Please ensure that children are wearing the correct school uniform and the school jumper bearing the Thingwall logo. Many thanks.

Car Park Gates:

Wirral Borough Council tell us that the electric gates into the school car park will be fully operational at some stage this week. Therefore the car park will only be accessible to staff and parents with blue disability badges. We will endeavour to keep the gates open to enable parents to pick up and drop off for extra-curricular activities but otherwise we would respectfully ask you to refrain from parking in the school car park. Apologies in advance for any difficulties this may cause you but we are sure you will join us in keeping the school grounds and your children as safe as possible. If you need to park in the school car park as a one off or you need access to the disabled parking spaces please press the bell on the control panel next to the school gate. Many thanks for your co-operation and please bear with us as we get the hang of the new system as we are expecting teething troubles!

****Please note that the CAPE car park is only available for CAPE staff and parents of children who use the before and after school club****

NSPCC Sponsored Spell:

As many of you will be aware, we usually support two charities a year and this year is no exception. This year we have decided to support the NSPCC again and also the RNLI (the staff thought this charity was of vital importance given we all live very close to the River Dee and River Mersey).

We will be welcoming the NSPCC into school this week to deliver some exciting assemblies and to launch the school's Sponsored Spell in an effort to raise funds to help support the invaluable work that they do. All children will take part unless we hear otherwise from parents and we hope that this will prove to be a fun and worthwhile way to raise lots of money for the NSPCC.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2016:

We will be supporting the Rotary Club's Shoebox Appeal again this year for children and families throughout Eastern Europe who live in very poor circumstances. If you would like to take part please bring £2.00 (towards transport costs) to the School Office for a Rotary Shoebox which you can fill with items. Useful items include:

Teenage Boxes ~ up to 18 years age

Sportswear, scarf, gloves, socks, hat, football memorabilia, writing materials, games, playing cards, tennis ball, tooth brush & paste, deodorants, comb, mirror, costume jewellery, make-up, hair brush, toiletries, school stationery, clothing repair kits, sketch pad, coloured pens / pencils...

Baby ~ Age up to 12months

This is given to new mothers and can include baby wipes, cotton wool buds, baby shampoo, baby oil, talc powder, bonnet, booties and mitts, baby grow, baby blanket, small soft toy or plastic rattle...

Toys ~ For Boys & Girls

Cars, trucks, etc, balls, complete jigsaws, action figures, colouring books, pens, crayons, lego blocks, yo-yo, bubble blowers, wooden and plastic toys, building blocks, pencil case, pencil sharpener, dominoes, playdough / plasticine & cutters, fluffy toys, dolls, stickers, writing pads, skipping rope, scarf, mittens / gloves, hat, harmonica, games, cards...

Household Goods ~ For older folk & families

Scarves, gloves, hats, wrapped soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, disposable razors, shampoo, soap flakes, pan scourers, antiseptic cream, bandages, face or body creams, cosmetics, pens, writing pad & envelopes, Tea lights, candles, sewing kit, scissors...

What NOT to include in boxes

Food, sweets, chocolate & drinks, battery operated toys, conflict related items, matches, inflammable liquids, inflammable aerosols (e.g. deodorants & hair spray), seeds or any other living material, automatic washing machine powders, washing-up liquid (they often leak when flat)

For safety - Please securely sellotape tops of liquid containers.

Protect anything sharp and do not put anything sharp into the Toys box.

You will need to indicate the type of contents are indicated on the box top. In the case of toys & teenagers, additional information as to the suitability for boy or girl, along with age group is also indicated.

A card with the sender's name and a photograph is also a nice thing to include.

Above all, the contents should be of good quality, remembering that the recipient will be

opening the box in eager anticipation, and especially with the toys for the children, quite possibly the first real gifts they have received for a very long time.

Goodbye to Mrs Lapsley:

Mrs Lapsley has taught across Key Stage Two for us for the past two years and we are sad to announce that she has decided to leave due to family commitments. For the short term, Mrs Williams will take on Mrs Lapsley's teaching duties and we will advertise for a temporary contract for January 2017 to August 2017.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Lapsley the very best of luck in her future endeavours and we will miss her very much indeed.

Goodbye to Mrs Geddes:

After links of almost thirty years to Thingwall Primary School, Mrs Geddes has decided that she will retire from her position as the Year One Teaching Assistant at the end of this half-term. While we will miss her very much indeed, we wish her and Mr Geddes the very best of luck as they relocate to Wales to enjoy a very happy and fulfilling retirement close to family and friends.

As Mrs Geddes has been part of the Thingwall team for such a long time we know that some of you would like to contribute towards a leaving gift which we will present in front of the children in a final assembly. Any contributions should be forwarded to the School Office in a clearly marked envelope.

Mrs Jones will move from our FS2 class to take on Mrs Geddes' responsibilities and we intend to fill the vacant FS2 teaching position with an internal candidate up until Christmas and then advertise externally for a temporary contract from January 2017 to August 2017.

September 2017 Intake:

We realise that it hasn't been long since our FS2 2016 intake have started school but it's the time of the year when parents begin to look around schools for their pre-school children, ready to start in September 2017. If this is you, or you are aware of any families in this position, please encourage them to contact our school office to arrange a viewing. We prefer to offer personalised viewings/tours rather than hold open evenings for many families as we can then tailor the visit to fit the specific needs of individuals. We are able to offer visits during or after the school day so please telephone and we will endeavor to arrange a mutually convenient time to show you around our lovely school.

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.

Alex (Year Two) - Congratulations to Alex who made his Beavers' Investiture last week. Well done Alex, you must have been very proud. ☺

Thomas (FS2) - Congratulations to Thomas who took part in a 400m fun run in aid of Alder Hey Children's Hospital on the 2nd October. Goodness me, what a long distance! Well done Thomas. ☺

Calvin (Year Six) and Amelie (Year Two) - Congratulations to Calvin and Amelie (and their Mum and Dad) who took part in the 5K Splash Dash for Claire House on Saturday 24th September. What an energetic family, well done to you all. ☺

With Best Wishes

Miss D L Cronin