

Dear Parents

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

Easter Holidays

The last day in school is Friday 31.03.17 we are back in school on Tuesday 18 April 2017. Have a lovely holiday.

Beaver Opportunity:

We have recently heard from Mr and Mrs Snutch, two of our past parents, who are both very involved in the local Scouting organisation. They have a brilliant opportunity for Thingwall pupils and have asked me to highlight the following paragraph in our newsletter...

Dear Parents

The 2nd Thingwall Scout Group currently has vacancies in the Beaver Scout Colony. This group is open to children between the ages of 6-8 and is for both boys and girls.

The weekly meetings take place at 2nd Thingwall Scout HQ, Seven Acres Lane, Thingwall every Thursday from 6pm -7pm. This is a brilliant organisation to be part of and we provide a multitude of activities, including camps and days out.

For further information or if you would like you child to join please contact:

Paul Snutch

Group Scout Leader

2nd Thingwall Scout Group on either 07557643429 or email snutchy44@sky.com

We also have Cub and Scout sections within the group.

The Girl Guides and Scouting movements are worldwide, values based, educational movements. Their aim is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. Speaking as a previous Brownie, Girl Guide, Ranger Guide and Tawny Owl Leader I can highly recommend this opportunity to you and urge you to encourage your children to join this popular group under the care and direction of Mr and Mrs Snutch.

Annual Parent Questionnaire:

As previously promised, please find below the first analysis of our recent annual questionnaire to parents. We were very pleased with the 81 responses and had the greatest amount of returns since we first began this event five years ago. As you will read, the results are overwhelmingly positive and we presume that the parents who did not respond are happy with the school's provision. As always, if you have anything that you need to raise with myself, the school office or the staff, please let us know - we are happy to help.

<i>My child is happy at school</i>	<i>96% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>My child enjoys the lessons and activities on offer</i>	<i>96% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>My child feels safe at this school</i>	<i>98% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>I receive information about my child's learning</i>	<i>98% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>My child makes good progress at this school</i>	<i>91% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>My child is taught well at this school</i>	<i>96% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>I am kept fully informed about school related matters</i>	<i>100% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>My child receives appropriate homework for their age</i>	<i>90% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>The school helps my child to have a physically and emotionally healthy lifestyle</i>	<i>95% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>The school prepares children for their future lives</i>	<i>93% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>The school is committed to developing the whole child.</i>	<i>98% agree or strongly agree</i>

<i>The school encourages good behaviour</i>	<i>99% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>The school is well led and managed</i>	<i>100% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>The school listens and responds to my questions and concerns</i>	<i>95% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>My child is taught a good standard of basic skills</i>	<i>100% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>The governing body are effective in supporting the school</i>	<i>73% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>The Parent's Association are effective in providing opportunities to raise money to support and enrich your child's experience at school</i>	<i>86% agree or strongly agree</i>
<i>Would you be willing to offer your support at future Parent's Association events?</i>	<i>73% responded Yes</i>

Obviously this is a very positive report. However, we are always looking to improve further and, as such, we will be focussing on the following areas for the remainder of the year and beyond...

- Maximising opportunities to ensure that all children at school make good progress.
- Getting the balance of homework right.
- Effectively communicating the work of the governing body.
- Finding ways to involve everyone in raising money for the school via the Parent's Association.

Governing Body Report:

It was evident from our recent questionnaire that parents are a little confused about the role of the governing body or what they do in school. It was therefore decided at the last Full Governing Body meeting that I should mention what the various committees do. This would be on a termly basis. Please find below a short synopsis of the work governors have done so far this term:

Full Governing Body

- We welcomed two new governors onto the committees - Miss McCormack (Parent Governor, Poppy in Year 5) and Mr Rumble (Community Governor).
- We discussed ways that we can inform parents more effectively about the role that the Governing Body play in school life.
- We discussed the progress we have made with the 5 primary schools in our cluster group - Pensby, Irby, Barnston, Gayton and Heswall Primary Schools. In particular we discussed how we have shared good practice, moderation of teaching & learning standards and progress we have made to ensuring best value for resources.
- We shared the responses from the Annual Questionnaire to Parents and Mrs Kenningham (Parent Governor) took the data away to further scrutinise.
- We re-established the committees for 2016/2017 and discussed the need for one more Community Governor to join the group.
- The Head Teacher report to Governors was shared. Highlights were recent outside building works, progress and links with other schools and the community.

Standards and Strategy Committee

- We discussed progress with the targets set in our School Development Plan.
- Governors were informed about our termly Pupil Progress Meetings and the progress of the various classes so far this year.
- We discussed the additional ways we are helping children with their English, Maths and Social & Emotional Health.
- We discussed the impact of expenditure on standards and strategy.

Finance & Staffing

- The Local Authority Bursar (Joanne Hathaway) took governors through the Period 9 financial report and we discussed matters arising from her salient points.
- We discussed how finances are impacted by the additional ways we are helping children with their English, Maths and Social & Emotional Health.
- We discussed our recent Local Authority Financial Audit, the Schools Financial Standards Audit and the certification for the independent annual audit of the School Funds bank account.
- We discussed best value for Service Level Agreements (e.g. Cleaning, Catering, IT, HR, Gardening etc) and ways to move forward to ensure we get best value for our money, especially in the light of the National Funding Formula.
- Formula Capital expenditure and progress against the action points from our recent Ofsted.

Health & Safety

- The Buildings and Site report was presented with prioritised areas for improvement identified.
- The Accident Analysis Report was shared, along with ways that we have refined our processes since the last meeting.
- The progress towards the September 2016 Local Authority Health & Safety inspection was discussed.
- Service Level Agreements were discussed for Cleaning, Gardening, Catering, Safeguarding and Health & Safety.
- Referrals since the last meeting were identified (anonymously). These included referrals to Social Care as well as highlighting any allegations towards staff, for bullying, racism, equality, homophobia, transgender, disability or Team Around the Family meetings.
- Changes to the Local Authority Safeguarding Policy were highlighted.
- We shared an update for the Stanley School/CAPE Pre-School site.

Easter Egg Tombola:

Many thanks to all of you who bought Easter eggs into school, following our recent own clothes day. The lottery tickets are now available, priced at £1.00 per ticket (limited to one ticket per child). We will hold the lottery on Thursday of this week. Therefore the last opportunity to buy a ticket will be Wednesday afternoon.

Many thanks to the staff and parents who have organised this exciting event for us, we have been very busy studying the various eggs and selecting our favourites!

Futsal Session:

Year Four enjoyed a fabulous Futsal session last week led by Tranmere Rovers representatives. Many thanks to Mr Lapsley for recommending us.

Wear Blue for ASD Day:

This Thursday will see us take part in our annual raising awareness day for ASD by inviting children and staff to come into school wearing blue. Please note, this is really to raise awareness of ASD and how it can impact on daily life so we are not asking for money to take part in this valuable initiative. However, if you would like to make a donation, please send it into the School Office and we will be happy to pass it onto the Wirral Autistic Society.

Celebration Corner:

Joe (Year Five) - Congratulations to Joe who is being **very** brave for Comic Relief! After careful consideration he has decided to cut his beloved hair in order to raise money. He will be getting his hair cut during the last week of term, most likely Wednesday 29th March. If you would like to sponsor Joe, please find the link below to his Just Giving page...

[My.rednoseday.com/sponsor/joemacbrydejaggard4659](https://www.justgiving.com/sponsor/joemacbrydejaggard4659)

Amber (Year Two) - Well done to Amber who has been awarded her white belt with a red stripe in her after-school Judo sessions.

Year Five Football Team - Well done to the Year Five footballers who took part in a match against Ladymount Primary last week and in a football tournament at Woodchurch High the week before. Thank you to Mr Bettridge and Miss Hine for taking the children.

With Best Wishes

Miss D L Cronin