

Dear Parents

Welcome to our final newsletter of the year! I can't believe that the year has whizzed by so quickly and we are in our final week. Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year in so many ways (PA events, Governor meetings, Ofsted Inspection, extra-curricular events etc) we really appreciate it!

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

Goodbye Mrs Darker and Mrs Buckley:

Many thanks to all of the parents (and past parents) who contributed to Mrs Darker and Mrs Buckley's leaving gifts. We collected a substantial amount and have been able to buy new walking boots for both ladies on behalf of the children. Their last day is this Wednesday - please feel free to pop into their classrooms at 3.30pm and say goodbye if you wish. We will present the gifts at an assembly later on this week so the children can see what has been purchased on their behalf and also present both ladies with a home-made memories book from each class. We would like to take this opportunity to wish both members of staff a long, happy, healthy and fulfilled retirement - school won't be the same without them!

Goodbye Mrs Foster:

Mrs Foster (who has been a midday supervisor and also based in FS2 for the last two years) will be leaving us this Thursday for pastures new. We wish her the best of luck as she moves on and we will all miss her very much indeed. Please keep in touch and we hope our paths cross again, both personally and professionally, in the future!

Euro 2016 at Thingwall:

We are sure you will have heard all about the exciting football tournament that Mr Bettridge organised last week. The day was a great success and the weather even stayed dry enough for us to thoroughly enjoy the event. Many thanks to Mr Bettridge for having such a great idea and organising it so well and also to all the staff and children who really enjoyed cheering the players on.

As with the real Euro 2016, we had an exciting final for both key stages. Northern Ireland and Italy met in the junior final with Northern Ireland snatching a well-deserved victory in the dying seconds of the game (much to Mrs Darker's delight!). Well done team Northern Ireland and congratulations to Jonathon (Year Six) for being such a dedicated captain. The infant tournament saw Germany and France meet in a nail-biting final with Germany excelling themselves with a stunning win, having been ably led by their team captain, Joseph (Year Two).

Well done to all concerned it was a really exciting event and we were all left rather hoarse afterwards after all our cheering!

Race for Life:

We were delighted with this event and have raised almost £100 so far for Cancer Research. Sponsor money and £1.00 contributions are still flooding in so please return any money to the School Office by the end of term and we will forward it to the charity before the summer break. Well done to all children who took part and a massive thanks to James (Year Four) who counted the laps of the playground to make sure we completed the correct amount and encouraged us on with a wave of his crutches! We have calculated that, as a whole school, we managed to walk a total of 230 miles or 370 km which, I am sure you will agree, is very impressive indeed!

Goodbye Year Six:

This will be the last newsletter that our lovely Year Six children will receive before they embark on the next exciting phase in their education, joining a variety of local high schools in September. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them the very best of luck as they leave us. We will miss you all very much indeed and think that you have been a fantastic class! Goodbye to those 21 Year Six families who are also leaving us at the end of this week too - the years have really flown by and we have known some of these families for so many years that you are part of the fabric of the school by now! Thanks for all the support and friendship you have always offered us. It's an exciting move for Year Six but they are more than ready for the exciting challenges that await! Goodbye, good luck and please stay in touch to let us know how you get on!

The Big Friendly Read:

Your child may have noticed information displayed around school advertising the 2016 Summer Reading Challenge in our local libraries. All activities are free and it is a great way to support our local libraries and keep your child/children reading over the summer holidays so we urge you to take part. This year, the challenge seems to be linked to Roald Dahl in celebration of 100 years since he was born. This fits beautifully with our whole school focus in September (please see below). Children will be bringing leaflets home later on this week.

Roald Dahl Week:

The week of the 12th September will see us celebrate our first themed week of the year to tie in with the centenary celebrations for Roald Dahl, marking 100 years since he was born. The week will see us hold many gloriumpitious sessions and promises to be totally jumpsquiffing! The highlight of the week will be a cinema visit to watch the BFG for **all** of Year 1 to Y 6 (we think it might be a bit overwhelming for our FS2 children and promise to make it up to them nearer to Christmas with a lovely Year 6 Buddy event). Further exciting details (including costings and permission slips) will be available in the first week of September but details so far include...

- This will be a joint cinema visit with Year 1 to Year 6 pupils, not only from Thingwall Primary but also from Irby, Pensby and Barnston!
- Every child and adult will be invited to come in a Roald Dahl themed fancy dress outfit for the day if they wish. The cinema staff will then judge and declare a winner per class - lucky winners will receive special goodies!
- We would like each child to read (or be read) the BFG over the holidays so that they are prepared for the plot of the film please!
- We hope that the local newspapers may attend the event and take some red carpet photographs of us in all our finery! If you would prefer your child not to appear in a local newspaper, please do let us know nearer the time.

Letters with permission slips will be handed out in the first week back so please keep an eye out!

Roald Dahl Themed Day

Many thanks to those of you who were able to support our Roald Dahl themed day last month - we raised an amazing £310.58! The children had a thoroughly enjoyable day so many thanks go to Mrs Goulding (chief organiser) and all the KS1 staff and children who set up a variety of Roald Dahl themed activity stands. We had Worm Searching (following a Twits theme), James and the Giant Peach Space Hopper races, BFG Friendship Bracelet making, Matilda's Word Searches, a colouring competition and a Mr Twit Beard competition too! My personal favourite has got to be the delicious worm cakes made by our FS2 children!

Sports Day Shield:

Congratulations to the Saxons (Cadence and Oscar are the Year Six Saxons Team Captains) and the Romans (Ben and Eve are the Year Six Romans Team Captains) who both achieved first place in our recent Junior Sports Day. Well done to both teams!

New National Curriculum Test Results:

Please see the results of Thingwall Primary below. We are very proud of all children concerned. These results show the children who have achieved the new Expected Standards...

EYFS Good Level of Development 85% National Average for 2015 67% (2016 National Average not yet available)					
Year One Phonics Test 83%					
KS1 (Year Two Results)	TPS Reading	TPS Writing	TPS SPAG	TPS Maths	TPS RWM Combined
	82%	74%	test abandoned	70%	70%
	Wirral Reading	Wirral Writing	Wirral SPAG	Wirral Maths	Wirral RWM Combined
	71%	62%	test abandoned	70%	56%
	National Reading	National Writing	National SPAG	National Maths	National RWM Combined
	74%	66%	test abandoned	73%	60%
KS2 (Year Six Results)	TPS Reading	TPS Writing	TPS SPAG	TPS Maths	TPS RWM Combined
	78%	91%	88%	88%	72%
	Wirral Reading	Wirral Writing	Wirral SPAG	Wirral Maths	Wirral RWM Combined
	63%	72%	69%	64%	48%
	National Reading	National Writing	National SPAG	National Maths	National RWM Combined
	66%	74%	72%	70%	53%

Extreme Reading Challenge:

The Summer break sees the return of the 2016 Extreme Reading Challenge! We first held this challenge two years ago and it was extremely popular, not to mention incredibly imaginative!

We would like children (and staff, parents, grandparents and governors!) to take a photograph of themselves reading in the most obscure place they can think of and bring it into school on the first day back in September! We will display all entries and the winning entry from each class will receive a Lingham's book token as their prize to encourage reading and to support our local independent book sellers!

Last time we held this challenge we were amazed by the variety of photographs submitted - children and adults were photographed reading in the middle of France, in zoos, whilst enjoying an ice-cream on New Brighton front, at the top of Moel Famau, at the V Festival on the main stage and even in the dentist's chair to name just a few! Please feel free to join in the fun - we really loved judging the entries and think 2016 could be better than ever before! ☺

Stranger Danger + Pokemon Go:

Please remind children about the importance of Stranger Danger, particularly with the Summer holidays starting and especially with the new Pokemon Go craze that is happening at the moment. Children are, understandably, very excited about this but they are telling us that they are being approached by strangers as they hunt for the characters and also that they are accessing private property/unknown areas in an effort to play the game. Many thanks for your co-operation in helping our children stay safe.

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.

Grace (Year One) - Congratulations to Grace (and her Mum and Dad) who took part in the Claire House Splash Dash last weekend at Birkenhead Park. Grace completed the 3km course and the whole family enjoyed being part of such a worthwhile fundraising event! Well done Grace! ☺

Joe (Year Four) - Well done Joe for achieving a merit in your recent Brass Examination - impressive work! ☺

Soraya (Year Three) - Congratulations Soraya on achieving your 400m swimming badge (an impressive 16 lengths without stopping - Phew!) ☺

With Best Wishes for a restful summer. See you all on Tuesday September 6th.

Miss D L Cronin