

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a brand new school year! We hope you have all enjoyed a restful summer break and are ready for the year ahead. It has been lovely to see all our pupils arrive in September in the full school uniform, they all look really neat and tidy (and quite a bit taller!) – thank you! All our pupils seem to have settled quickly into their new classes; we have welcomed 30 new FS2 pupils and several pupils across the other year groups, which is pleasing – we hope you will be very happy here – welcome to the Thingwall family!

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

**Staff Changes:**

Our new Teaching Assistant, Mrs Sparke, has joined our lovely FS2 team, Mr Galpin has joined Year Five as our new Associate Teacher from Schools Direct and Mrs Cooper (seconded from Greasby Infants) has joined us as Year Six class teacher and Deputy Head Teacher. We hope all staff will be very happy with us. Last Friday saw us say goodbye to Mrs Garton (one of our midday assistants) and we wish her well as she embarks upon new adventures with her little grand-daughter! We are currently in the process of seeking her replacement.

**2019-2020 Calendar:**

The calendar of events is now live on the school's VLE and we will be sending home paper copies this week as we know you like to keep them pinned to your fridge at home to refer to daily! Apologies for the slight delay in sending this out, please bear with us as we are still a (wo)man down in the School Office. All extra-curricular club letters have been sent home for this half term – if you think you have missed any please ask at the office.

	<b>Before School</b>	<b>Lunchtime</b>	<b>After School</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Premier Sports	SFA KS2 Football	Premier Sports
<b>Tuesday</b>	School Band	SFA KS2 Football	SFA
<b>Wednesday</b>		Outdoor Reading Club	Drama
<b>Thursday</b>	Dance	SFA KS2 Football Y3 Recorders	Computing
<b>Friday</b>	Premier Sports	Yoga	Premier Sports

**Coast 2 Country Update:**

Hopefully lots of you were able to visit our wonderful Deeside Schools Art Exhibition at the Williamson Art Gallery over the summer break. We have great news! The project has been so successful that Chester Diocese contacted us to ask if we could move the exhibition to Chester Cathedral! We installed the art project last Wednesday and it will remain there until October 31<sup>st</sup>! This is really exciting news for us and a brilliant way of spreading the concept of reduce, reuse and recycle. Myself and Mrs Brown from Pensby were inundated with interested tourists as the installation was underway – it is fair to say our artwork was greeted with a great deal of enthusiasm and appreciation of our aim to make the world a better place. Our

friend Jacha Potgieter, the environmental artist who is also currently exhibiting his work at the Cathedral, contacted us to say...

*"Wow, the exhibition is fantastic news, it's so good that we can all be together to make people environmentally aware and make a difference!"*

We are already making exciting plans for Coast 2 Country 2020 – over the summer we have made contact with a local bat conservation company, the Dee Coastliner's Project are interested in working with our schools and the schools in Wales that border the River Dee, Deeside Heads have been invited to present at a Curriculum Conference later on this month and we are in touch with the musicians at Edsential as we hope to hold a musical concert on the theme of saving the planet at the Floral Pavilion later on this year. Science Under the Stars (January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020) will continue to follow Deeside's environmental theme this year and we will base this evening around Neil Leyton's book called 'A Planet Full Of Plastic'. Keep up to date with developments on twitter @WirralC2C and watch this space for more exciting developments. One thing is sure ... Deeside schools are certainly exciting schools to attend at the moment...

### **ALDI 'Kits For Schools' Sticker Collection:**

We are currently collecting Aldi's sports stickers for Tokyo 2020 so **please** send them into school with your child. We have collected 30 out of the 300 we need so far to enable us to be entered into a prize draw where we could win £20,000 of PE equipment! Please make sure you ask family, friends and neighbours to help us collect as many as possible! We do have a second poster so if we collect 600 stickers we would be in with a second chance of winning!

### **Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free School Status:**

We were thrilled to be awarded the Plastic Free Schools status on the last day of the summer term in recognition of all the hard work we have done around environmental education. It's so lovely that our children (and staff and parents) have welcomed this opportunity to make Wirral (and beyond) a better place to live for all. We have had children voluntarily litter picking on their way to school following our whole school litter pick last June and neighbours ringing us up to congratulate us on our polite children with their positive attitudes. Local businesses have got involved by joining in with our plastic pledges, the local hospital and GP surgery have displayed our litter picking posters and even a passenger on the 427 bus telephoned our school to say well done to a Year Six pupil who he spotted picking up litter an adult had thrown out of their car window! Well done to **everyone** for displaying genuine BOTHEREDNESS and a commitment to improving the environment we live in!

### **Mayoral Visit to Wallasey Town Hall:**

We were thrilled to take our **36** school councillors, eco-warriors and ethos reps to meet Councillor Tony Smith who is currently Mayor of Wirral last week at Wallasey Town Hall. The Mayor presented us officially with our Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Schools award (see our school Twitter feed @thingwallprima1) and gave us a very interesting tour of the Town Hall, including a peek into the Mayor's Parlour which was very grand indeed. We were then given juice and biscuits and then Mrs Vasey (Rupert and Amelia's Mum who works for the environmental team) took us into the Council Chambers where we took part in a question and answer session with a member of the environmental team. We were very interested to find out how Wirral Council are committed to cleaning and improving our wonderful peninsula, the River Mersey and the River Dee. We were very excited to sit in actual councillor's named seats and use their microphones! We posed for several photographs with our Plastic Pledges for the Year of the Environment Liverpool City Region initiative (keep an eye out in the Wirral Globe) which was also rather exciting. Mrs Vasey took us on a walk along Seacombe prom where we identified the main

buildings along the Liverpool skyline and we spotted some bottle-nose dolphins playing in the River Mersey which was the highlight of an already perfect day! Thank you to the Mayor and also the environmental team – we had a lovely time and learnt lots, not only about Wirral's environmental plan but also about the workings of local government.

### **Team Captains:**

We held our team captain elections last week and it was a close contest with many Year Six children delivering their election pledges and trying to gain as many votes as possible from our KS2 pupils. After a closed ballot, modelled on last May's local authority elections, the following children were selected to represent their teams...

Vikings: Will and Sophie

Saxons: Maggie and Joe

Romans: Dylan and Charlotte

Normans: Ffion and Jake

Well done to all children who put themselves up for the nomination process, we are really proud of you, it took real courage to stand up and present your policies to us all!

### **Class Elections:**

We also had a vote to elect pupils for the School Council and Ethos Reps (Mrs Hine runs these meetings) and our Eco-Warriors (Mrs Cooper runs these meetings). Well done to all those pupils who succeeded in gaining the greatest number of votes. This term we hope that these pupils will work with Mrs Cooper and Miss Hine to enable us to gain our Eco School's Green Flag status.

### **Happiness Project – the Legacy Continues...**

We have already begun to build on the successes of last year's happiness project and Year Six have enthusiastically carried on their Happiness Ambassador roles! Each class plans to set up a happiness Sausage Machine (ask your child what this means!) and Mrs Holroyd is busy installing mirrors around school to remind us to be the 'Best Version of Ourselves'.

### **Hi-Impact Filming Day:**

Tuesday of this week saw Hi-Impact coming into school to create a virtual tour and to celebrate all the fabulous things that make us Thingwall. Lord Ragnar even made an appearance! The school band were phenomenal and all children rose to the occasion.

### **European Day of Languages:**

We will spend this Thursday celebrating the annual European Day of Languages with a day of fun activities based around music, art, languages and culture. Thanks to all staff for planning such an exciting day for us to enjoy and a special thanks to Miss Marshall for overseeing the day's events in her role as Lead of Modern Foreign Languages (MFL).

Each year group has chosen the following country to study. Keep an eye on our VLE class pages and also our school's Twitter page, @Thingwallprima1, to see what we get up to!

FS2 – UK (specifically Wales)

Year One – Germany

Year Two – Denmark

Year Three – France

Year Four – Spain

Year Five – Greece

Year Six – Poland (Mrs Cooper's Polish sister-in-law will be spending the day with us)

**Extreme Reading Challenge Winners:**

Thank you to all who entered this holiday competition, we hope to create a display to showcase the imaginative places that Thingwall pupils and staff chose to read this summer! Well done also to those pupils who managed to complete the full Bingo Reading Card. Each Reading Challenge winner received a £5.00 book token and the Bingo children received a chocolate bar courtesy of our POTS team. Miss Arden managed to win the staff reading challenge and she was also very pleased to receive her book token!

**Parking, Dogs and Bicycles!**

Wirral's Community Patrol will be present before and after school again over the next few weeks to clamp down on anti-social parking. Please park safely and legally if driving to and from school – it gets extremely busy and the poor lollipop man is doing his best to keep our children safe.

Please remember that we are a dog free site and you will need to tie dogs to the railings at the front of school when dropping your children off at either end of the school day. Dogs are not allowed onto the school premises.

Please remember that, although we actively encourage children to cycle or scoot to and from school every day, your children will need to get off their bike or scooter when they enter the school premises. We have had several near misses this week (thankfully I still have all ten toes!) and we want to keep everyone as safe as possible.

**Road Safety Team:**

Year Six welcomed in Wirral's Road Safety Team today to find out about travelling safely to and from school and how important it is to be careful when crossing roads. As a Soft Federation of schools we are also currently working with the local PCSOs and Wirral's Community Patrol to combat speeding outside all 6 schools.

**Safety First:**

As you are aware we pride ourselves on keeping the environment and school grounds as safe as possible for our children. Some of you may have realised we found some pieces of broken glass on the premises this morning and, as soon as we were made aware of this, we fully brushed the area. As such please do not bring in glass bottles, matches, cigarettes, lighters or medication as these could be dropped or lost on school grounds and potentially put our children at risk. Whilst we are continually vigilant and conduct a health and safety premises walk every morning we would appreciate your help in this matter.

**Smarties Challenge:**

Next Monday your child will bring home a tube of Smarties (kindly donated by POTS) and we would like you to eat your Smarties and then fill your Smarties tube with coins. The full Smarties tubes should then be returned to your class teacher by the Friday please. This is to attempt to raise vital funds for school. We hope to use the money to go towards purchasing some outdoor reading book boxes to promote reading at breaktimes and additional benches. Thank you in advance.

# Celebration Corner!

or

## HUGGS - Huge Unbelievably Great Goals!

This part of the newsletter is to celebrate and recognise your child's achievements outside of school. If you would like your child to appear on this part of the newsletter please send the details into school on a post it note.

Jack (Year Three) – Well done Jack for winning a football trophy for the 'Most Goals Scored', you must be very proud. ☺

Lily (Year Four) – Well done to Lily for gaining her Level Three Swimming Award, what a great skill to have. ☺

Lucas (Year Two) – Congratulations to Lucas who completed a Soccer@School course over the summer and received a trophy for the 'Most Improved Player of the Week!' ☺

Amber (Year Five) – Well done to Amber who won a silver medal at the inaugural Northern Area JudoFest Competition and ANOTHER silver medal at the Wirral Judo Club Competition on 21.09.19. ☺

With Best Wishes

Mrs D L Evans