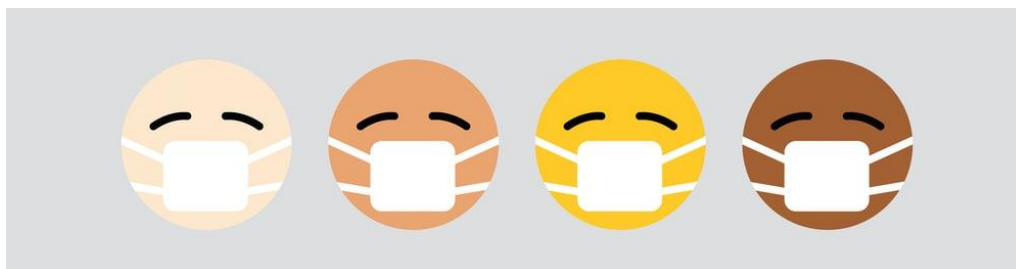




Dear Parents

Welcome to our second September newsletter. We have been delighted with how everyone has settled back into school so beautifully. It is so lovely to hear the corridors and classrooms alive once again with friendly chatter and, as one of our elderly neighbours has telephoned us to say, the sound of all our children playing in the playground is a real tonic! As you will be aware, we are in the midst of a local lockdown in Wirral, hence the request from Public Health England for all adults to wear a school mask and to socially distance whilst on the premises at either end of the school day. Thank you so much for your co-operation and also for your on-going commitment to helping us to keep all of the staff, parents and pupils of Thingwall Primary as safe as we can. For your interest the Risk Assessment is on our school's website should you wish to read it under the School's Reopening Risk Assessment tab.



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

Term Time Leave of Absence:

We have been asked to circulate the following message on behalf of the Wirral Attendance Team...

*Please be aware that the law around compulsory school attendance is now back in force since the start of the Autumn Term. This includes the regulations around leave of absence during term time. There continues to be **no entitlement** for parents to take their child out of school during term-time, unless this is completely unavoidable. Children have already lost so much teaching and learning time due to the coronavirus, and the priority now is for us to work together in the best interests of all children's education.*

All schools within Wirral work closely with the Council on school attendance matters. The Council is fully committed to making sure that all children attend school and make the best possible progress. Unauthorised holidays taken during term time can result in Penalty Notices being issued by the Council. As a school, this is something that we would wish to avoid and ask that any holidays be planned for school holiday periods.



Diary Dates:

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



TERM 1A

Date	Event
October - Black History Month	
29.09.20	Year Five Islam afternoon with Sheema from Wirral's MEAS service
5.10.20	World Habitat Day/Learn Outside The Classroom Day
9.10.20	Thingwall Primary's World Mental Health Day (actual is 10.10.20)
12.10.20	'The Promise' by Nicola Davies launch week
16.10.20	'The Promise' world film premiere/Learning Outside The Classroom Day
w/c 19.10.20	Equality and Diversity Week – a themed week based on celebrating our differences
20.10.20	Black History celebration for Years Five and Six with Wirral's MEAS team
20.10.20	Full Governing Body 6pm
22.10.20	Class based Harvest Festivals – food collection for the Charles Thompson Mission
23.10.20	Own Clothes Day and POTS Bingo afternoon 1.30-3.00 – class based Final day of Term 1A
26.10.20-1.11.20	Half Term Break

TERM 1B

Date	Event
3.11.20	Staffing and Finance Governors 5.15pm
4.11.20	National Stress Awareness Day (class based activities based on Mindfulness)
5.11.20	Learning Outside The Classroom Day
10.11.20	Standards and Strategy Governors 5.15pm
13.11.20	Flu Immunisations – Please return forms if you have not already done so
17.11.20	Parent's Evenings 3.30-6.30
18.11.20	Sadly we will not be able to hold face to face meetings this year but we will be inviting parents to sign up for 10 minute telephone consultations instead.
20.11.20	World Children's Day – Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Years Three and Four will take part in workshops about racism through the medium of first person refugee accounts – Wirral's MEAS team
24.11.20	Health & Safety, Buildings & Site Governors 5.15pm
9.12.20	POTS Christmas Event 3.30-5.00 (Class based staff run activities)
16.12.20	Class based Christmas parties – please bring a named plate of party food for your child to enjoy. Please note this party plate of food is in addition to your child's usual school dinner/packed lunch.

17.12.20	Christmas Around the World Day – each class will choose a different country and learn about their different festive customs and traditions.
18.12.20	Own Clothes Day Santa Skype – In preparation for his big delivery for Christmas Day, Santa will be self-isolating in the North Pole and will not visit us this year in person. However, he would not miss greeting Thingwall pupils for the world so we will be making a virtual connection with him for a yuletide chat. Details to follow. Final day of Term 1B
21.12.20- 4.1.21	Christmas Break
4.1.21	Staff Development Day – children do not attend
5.1.21	Children return to school for Term 2A

Parking Sticker Competition:

You may remember that we held a Federation Parking Sticker Competition last year with our partner schools (Irby, Pensby, Gayton, Barnston and Heswall Primary Schools). The judging took place just before lockdown and Irby and Gayton were chosen as the joint winners so their entries were combined into the winning sticker. Car bumper stickers will be coming home this week for each family so please display them proudly in your car window to encourage adults to park sensibly outside our schools. Councillor Mike Collins has also presented all 66 Wirral Councillors with a sticker for their cars... even Wirral's Mayor. Many thanks to our PCSOs and Mike Collins for agreeing to judge the competition.



School Council:

We have been busy nominating our School Councillors this week. This is a really responsible job within school as you are required to attend half termly meetings with Miss Yardley, you have a role in whole school improvement, you have to collect responses from your class and then feed the class voice back during meetings. We are delighted to report that the following children have been elected...

FS2	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
Gabriella	Grace F	James	Erin	Rosalie	Ava	Jasmine
Theo	Thomas	Violet R	Sam	Luca V	Ethan	Aaron



Eco Warriors:

We have also been nominating our Eco Warriors this week which is a really important job as we must make sure we maintain our Green Flag Eco Status from the Eco Council, think of ways we can reduce/reuse/recycle and also help to look after our school and the surrounding areas. Again, you will be meeting with Miss Yardley once per half term. The following children have been selected to save the planet...

FS2	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
Emily B	Archie	Jack S	Inoa	Emma-Jayne	Lily	Grace
Adam	Emily J	Millie	Charlie	Fred	Connor	Harry



Ethos Reps:

We have had a busy week as we have also been choosing our Ethos Reps too. Ethos reps are really important members of our class as their job is to welcome any new pupils into school, show visitors around and set a good example for behaviour for us all to follow – they must ensure they are always Ready, Respectful & Safe. These elected representatives are as follows...

FS2	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
Amy	Elina	Paige	Charlotte	Ellie	Rhia	Jessica
Daniel	Toby	Benji	Jack J	Rocky	Elias	Liam



Attendance:

Many thanks to you all for being so helpful regarding attendance and punctuality in these first few weeks of term. We really appreciate how you have worked with us as a school during the current pandemic. Please remember that you must email the school office email address urgently if your child or any close family

member gets a positive result. It would help us greatly if you could do this (even over the weekend) as we would need to snap straight into action to consult Public Health, inform parents and close bubbles if a positive case was to be received.

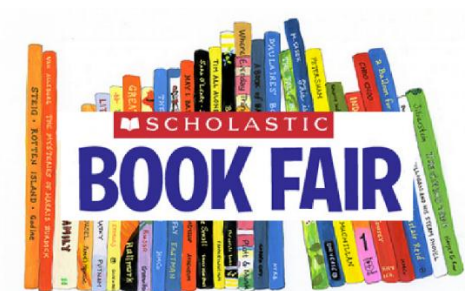
Attendance so far this term has been better than normal...

w/c 1.9.20	98.7%
w/c 7.9.20	96.7%
w/c 14.9.20	96.8%
w/c 21.9.20	97.7%



Scholastic Book Club:

It is the last week to order books from our Scholastic Book Fair, last orders will need to be placed by this Friday. We have already had £500 of orders placed which will give us £100 to spend as a school on books for the children. Please have a look if you have not yet had a chance – there are some gorgeous books for sale from toddlers right up to teens. The link is available on the POTS Facebook page, our Twitter page and has been texted out as well.



International Day:

We had a fabulous time last Friday celebrating International Day and the children found out all sorts of information and fascinating facts about their year group's chosen country.

FS2 found out all about Wales, Mrs Leyland's birth place.

Year One worked really hard practising their French spoken language and finding out about France.

Year Two found out all about Denmark, in particular Danish pastries and Hans Christian Anderson.

Year Three were super busy as they learned how to say hello and welcome in 15 different languages!

Year Four enjoyed finding out about Greece, especially the Greek mythology.

Year Five loved finding out about Portugal and managed to paint some Portuguese cockerels to represent their zest for life!

Year Six enjoyed finding out about Germany, in particular the geography and history of the country.



A really lovely day was had by all, especially as we have all had to forgo our holidays this year and enjoy staycations!

Census Day 01.10.20:

Speaking of staycations, this Thursday is Wirral's census day and we have organised a special themed lunch to encourage as many children to stay for lunch as possible (our budget is calculated on the amount of children who have a hot meal on this day). This year we have decided to stay in this country and travel to Cornwall for Cornish pasties, Cornish ice-cream flavoured milkshakes and Cornish cream scones. We will enter every child's name into a prize draw (if you have a meal) and there will be a special prize for the name that is picked out of the hat.



Harvest Festival:

We are sadly not able to have our Harvest Festival this year due to the Covid restrictions but we have decided that we would still really like to support a local charity. We will put a food collection box in each classroom for dried and tinned good and then deliver them to the Charles Thompson Mission in Birkenhead. Please give generously if you are able to. Many thanks.



50/50 Club:

The POTS run 50/50 club has proved to be very popular and the first prize draw took place at 2pm today. Our first 50/50 winner was number 25 – congratulations Vicky Rees!

If you would like to take part in future draws please send payment by 26th October.

Either set up a standing order for £2 a month (Oct-June) OR pay a one off £18 to cover the 9 draws remaining (Preferred option)

BANK DETAILS

Parents of Thingwall Primary School

Sort Code- 40-10-22

Account Number- 92406101

Reference CHILD'S name and Year Group (if it will fit)

50/50

FUNDRAISER

NHS and Masks Reminder:

One of our NHS parents has asked us to remind you that NHS staff should not be wearing their uniforms on school premises to collect children. This is not a school rule so we would not be looking to enforce this but it is apparently an NHS rule which is why we have been asked to flag it up by a concerned employee.

Many thanks to the vast majority of you who are wearing face masks for drop off and pick up times, we really appreciate it and it is an easy way of keeping our Thingwall families as safe as we can for as long as we can. We realise a minority of you may be medically exempt from wearing a face mask. Please remember that wearing face masks does not negate the need to socially distance – you will need to keep 2m away from each other as well wherever possible. Many thanks.



With very best wishes and thanks for your continued support

Mrs D L Evans

Celebration Corner (or HUGGS - Huge Unbelievably Great Goals!)

This area of the newsletter is to celebrate anything your children achieve outside of school in their own time. If you would like your child to appear in the monthly newsletter please write the details down on a post it or send a quick email into the school office and we will include it.

Jack (Year Six) – Congratulations to Jack who was awarded his red belt in taekwondo recently – what a huge achievement Jack, we are very proud of you 😊