

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year, we hope that you have all had a good break and everyone has settled back into school. A special warm welcome goes to our new FS2 children and their families. The children have settled in beautifully and we do hope that you enjoy your time with us as a member of Team Thingwall. If you have any queries (no matter how small) please do not hesitate to ask the FS2 staff – Mrs Leyland, Miss Collins, Mrs Foster and Mrs Williams-Gillooly.

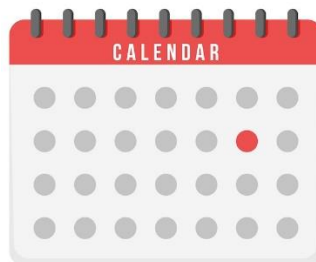
If anyone else has any queries, please ask your child's class teacher in the first instance or feel free to email them on [schooloffice@thingwall.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@thingwall.wirral.sch.uk) as we understand that it's tricky for working parents to catch the class teachers easily. I am also available most mornings on the front or back playgrounds to catch if necessary as well.



The following information will hopefully be of interest to you all...

### **23-24 Calendar:**

Please find the 2023-2024 calendar, which is attached to this newsletter. Mrs Blackbourn is very busy updating the school website with the dates too – please follow the calendar tab. Please note that future dates will be constantly added to our monthly newsletter and the website as new opportunities arise so keep an eye out for any changes. You will notice that there are several Oak Trees MAT days identified throughout the year – details will be added if necessary once the MAT have circulated these. Governors should also note that this year, the meeting dates for the Full Governing Body have been added to this calendar, rather than an additional document being created. The first Full Governing Body meeting is next Tuesday, 03.10.23 at 6pm.



### **Homework Update**

This year, we will be setting homework for children in Years 3-6 online using Google Classroom. Homework will consist of a variety of tasks that can be completed online either using the platforms that we have subscriptions for (Purple Mash, Bug Club, TTRockstars, Spelling Shed), or the teacher may set a task to complete using Google Docs. The children will be taught how to login to Google Classroom and tasks will be fully explained to them when the homework is set. We hope that this method of homework will be more efficient and less paper reliant. If you have any issues completing homework online, please contact your child's teacher, who will be happy to assist.

In FS2, homework tasks will continue to be set through Tapestry. In Year 1, homework will be set on paper. In Year 2, homework will be set on Google Classroom and paper on alternate weeks. If you have any questions about homework provision, please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher.



### **Staffing Update:**

Many of you will remember Miss Skodra, our KS1 teaching assistant who left us last Easter. We are thrilled to announce that there has been an addition to the Skodra family and Baby Natalia arrived safely last week! Mother and Baby are both doing well and big brother George is doing a superb job!



Mrs Holroyd has made the decision to leave education for the time being and we wish her well in her future career endeavours. Therefore, we will be advertising for a new Year Four teacher over the coming weeks to start at Thingwall this coming January. Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Sheridan have done a fabulous job so far this year and both will continue to do so until the successful applicant starts. We will be involving the current Year Four class in the selection process, as each interviewee will be required to teach the children. Thank you to Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Sheridan who are both doing a great job supporting the children, as I am sure you will all agree.



### **MAT Update:**

We are hoping to join the Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust, as mentioned in the last newsletter, on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Everything is on schedule, all paperwork has been completed and the DfE have approved the conversion. If everything goes to plan we will officially announce it in the next week or two. We are very excited to be joining such a successful MAT and we hope that this will provide many wonderful opportunities for our school.



### **Rainbows of Nature and Extreme Reading Challenge Summer Holiday Competitions:**

Thank you to all those who took part in our summer term twitter photography competitions. As always, we were amazed at the variety of creative photographs produced, proving that you can have just as much fun in your own back garden as you can on an expensive holiday abroad. The winning children were applauded during assembly and each child was able to choose a special prize from the prize box.



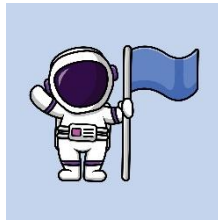
### **Odd Sock Assembly – Same but Different:**

Thank you to everyone who took part in last week's assembly by wearing odd socks for the day. It was really interesting to discuss similarities and differences between our socks, which we were then able to compare to similarities and differences in our beliefs, our appearances, our abilities and our personalities. It was a very practical way to explore the protected characteristics and understand that we are all the same... just different!



## **Hi-Impact for Year 5 and 6:**

Our older year groups had an exciting afternoon, working with a consultant from Hi-Impact earlier on this month. They worked on tablets in pairs, using Cospaces Edu Coding to make their own virtual reality town and they then used augmented reality and VR headsets to experience space travel. They managed to add planets to their solar systems and they even managed to make the astronauts communicate!



## **International Dot Day:**

We all had a super time last week, celebrating International Dot Day and the children all created some superb artwork based on Peter H Reynolds book 'The Dot'. The day is a celebration of creativity, courage, and collaboration and is marked by children across the world. Every class produced their own individual dots using a range of media...

FS2 – Our FS2 class have been focussing so far this year on similarities and differences and how we are all unique, so they made their dots using their own fingerprints to paint with. Did you know that everyone's fingerprints are unique?

Year One – Mixed media collage

Year Two – Rock salt water colours

Year Three – Colourwash

Year Four – Abstract Dots

Year Five – Mandalas

Year Six – Pointillism



## **POTS AGM:**

This Friday from 9-10, POTS are holding their annual MacMillan Cake Sale in aid of cancer research. Please see their email sent out earlier on today which details how you can get involved and support the cause. Please note that POTS will also be holding their annual AGM at the same time. It is a lovely opportunity to pop into the school canteen to have a piece of cake and get involved with raising funds for our school too.



## **Playground Managers:**

Our Year 6 Playground Managers have got off to a marvellous start so far this year and they have been doing a super job looking after our infant pupils and supporting the staff on the KS1 playground. It is lovely to see the relationships developing between our older and younger pupils... the little ones really look up to the older pupils who are excellent role models. Well done Year 6.



## **Celebration Corner (OR HUGGS – Huge Unbelievably Great Goals!)**

**Annabelle (Year 4)** – Congratulations to Annabelle who was the first child to correctly identify the place names on the map of Viking Wirral and show us where Thingwall was located! ☺

**Gabriella, Maisie, Elsie M and Elsie E (Year 3)** – Congratulations to these Year 3 girls who played their very first football match last weekend for the Phoenix Girls football team. They won by a totally impressive 6 goals to 3 against Heswall Girls football team! ☺

**Charlotte (Year 6) and Maisie Roo (Year 3)** – Congratulations to these girls who had their hair cut over the summer break and donated their ponytails to The Princess Trust to make wigs for poorly children. What a lovely thing to do girls, we are sure that the charity will have been very grateful for your glossy locks! ☺

**Oliver (Year 5)** – Congratulations to Oliver who completed a Run for Nature around Chester Zoo and raised an impressive £70.00 towards an Elephant Vaccination Programme – well done Oliver



With Best Wishes  
Mrs D L Evans