

Teachers, Parents, Students...

Together Promoting Success

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023! We hope that the following information may be of use/of interest to you...



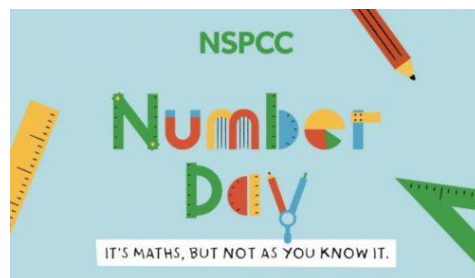
Staff and Parent Consultation:

As you will be aware, we are currently consulting staff and parents about joining the Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust on September 1st 2023. Thanks to all staff and parents who were able to attend last week's meetings. They were very informative and it was a good opportunity to meet with Mike Collins (Thingwall's Chair of Governors), Tony Lacey (CEO of the Oak Trees MAT) and also Hardip and Emily who are overseeing the consultation in their capacity as project managers. The consultation window is open until February 7th so please do email any queries to the consultation email address. Thank you to those parents who have already made comments. The presentation slides and accompanying information are available to view on our school website.



NSPCC Numbers Day:

This coming Friday, 3rd February, we celebrate the NSPCC's Number Day. We are inviting children to come into school wearing a Dress Up for Digits outfit (please don't panic, this can be as simple as wearing your own clothes/school uniform with your favourite number painted on your cheek!) and we will take part in a series of fun maths activities. The aim of the day is to bring about a positive, feel good, can-do attitude towards maths as well as raise awareness for the NSPCC charity. We understand that times are financially hard at the moment but if you would like to make a small donation of loose change towards the day, we will be happy to get our Year Six pupils to count it all up and send it off to the charity on your behalf. Many thanks to Miss Taylor, who has organised the day for us – we hope it will be a fun, maths related day for us all.



Ugandan Field of Cabbages Appeal:

We were able to send an impressive £100 to Dennis Agaba, our DRIP Uganda coordinator last week to help our twin school and their families purchase seeds and equipment needed to enable them to grow a field of cabbages. The families will use some of the crop to supplement their daily diet but they also plan to sell the cabbages on to others as food for other families and also for herds of animals. The funds made will then be ploughed back into the local economy and thus generate further profits. We would like to thank Nicky Bolton, Heswall Primary School's Deputy Head Teacher for organising this initiative with Dennis and we are excited to see the resulting crops as Dennis has promised to send us lots of photos! These funds were collected at the carol services at church last month, so please thank any of the congregation who generously donated. This appeal also fits beautifully with our school's community garden and Anna Barnish (POTS Chair) is also eager to grow some vegetables, including cabbages, as part of our Liverpool City Region grant.



POTS Update from Mrs Barnish:

As referred to in the paragraph above, in July 2022, POTS successfully secured funding from Liverpool City Region for a number of bio-diversity initiatives for our school grounds and for the school community to join in with.

So far, overgrown trees and shrubs from the vegetable patch have been removed and once the weather warms, raised beds will be installed and we hope to plant our own field of cabbages.

We hope that the children enjoyed decorating their bird box at the Christmas Fayre and that these are hanging in your garden ready for the birds for the spring. We'd love to see some pictures – please add to our Facebook page or send to us via email.

Why not have a go at making your own bird food to help the birds this winter?



POTs now have 10 bug house kits to give away. The first ten families to email Thingwallprimarypots@hotmail.com with their child's name and year will receive a kit to build at home. All we ask is that you send in a photo of your finished house to our email address with a short sentence on why you have made a bug house and where you've positioned it.

Here is a simple way to make a bug hotel in your garden:

Bug hotel (<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/09/how-to-build-a-bug-hotel/>)

If you have some bricks, wooden boxes or pallets to hand, why not build a multi-storey minibeast mansion and treat your guests to some 5-star accommodation? Divide it into sections and stuff each part with different natural materials. Dry leaves, twigs, hollow stems, dead grass, pine cones and bits of bark are ideal. They'll help to create warm, dry spaces that will attract different creepy crawlies. **Good for:** lots of different types of minibeasts such as ladybirds, bees, woodlice and spiders. You might even get frogs or hedgehogs coming to stay.

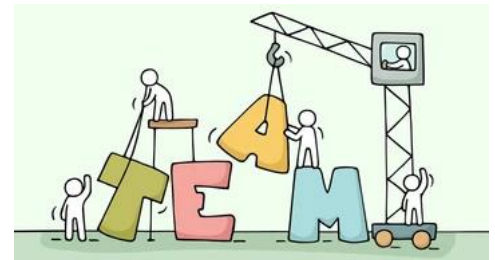
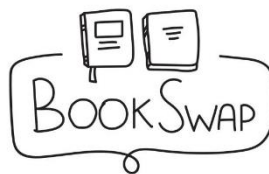
Thank you to Ken and the Shed Heads:

At the very end last year, one of our past parents, Mark Johnson, offered to make us a selection of wooden items with his group 'Ken and the Shed Heads'. We have been delighted to take delivery of three miniature wooden sheds, made from reclaimed materials, and these are now sitting proudly around school, ready for use. Many thanks to Mark, Ken and the other shed head volunteers. The sheds are going to be very useful for us!



We have three sheds in total...

1. Child Book Swap Shed – This is situated in the school canteen and anyone at all can swap books. There are already quite a selection of books in there and Oliver and William (our Year Five reps) have added books for younger pupils to the top shelf and books for our older pupils to the lower shelf. Please feel free to come and browse after school with your child/children. At the moment we have a full set of Judy Moody books, many of the Horrible Histories non-fiction books, some Horrid Henry books and some lovely picture books which would be suitable for our FS2, Year One and Year Two pupils.
2. Food Bank Shed – This is situated in the school entrance hall so please feel free to pop in and help yourself (just remember a plastic carrier bag!). At present, we have quite a few tins of soup, beans and spaghetti, several packs of pasta, lots of tea bags and some other non-perishable items. We are expecting a NEO delivery very soon, so there will be a greater choice in the near future. Again, Oliver and William (our Year Five reps) are in charge of keeping the shelves stacked and categorised to make it easier to find the products you are looking for. Thank you boys, it's lovely to see two of our older Thingwall pupils really get into the spirit of helping the Thingwall community.
3. Adult Book Swap Shed – This is situated in the school entrance hall and, as with the children's shed, it is available for any of our parents, carers or grandparents to swap books. Miss Durn is looking after this shed for us so if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to ask her.



School Assurance Professional Visit:

Tuesday, 10th January, saw us receive a Local Authority School Assurance Professional visit from HMI, Simon Hunter. This visit was similar to an Ofsted visit (except Thingwall were able to determine the agenda for the day) and every Wirral school will be visited by one of these specially appointed consultants by the end of this academic year. We were thrilled that Simon recognised the many strengths that our school has and he agreed with our self evaluation judgements which is great news as it proves senior leaders are aware of the school's strengths and the ways forward needed to ensure continued growth. Simon looked in particular at Early Reading, Phonics, Maths, Geography, RE, general behaviour and attitudes around school and subject leadership.

Simon gave us good in every area, with particular strengths in Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development, which is great news and testament to the hard work of all staff and all pupils. Simon spoke to approximately 20 of the pupils and they were able to tell him about school life very eloquently and positively. If your child spoke with Simon, they should be very proud of the mature and sensible way they behaved and answered questions. Well done everyone, we are meeting with Liz Davidson (our School Adviser) later this week to look at the report in more detail.

The gradings are as follows...

Area of scrutiny	School judgement	Does the School Assurance Professional agree with the school's judgement? Yes or No
OVERALL	Good	YES
The quality of education	Good	YES
Behaviour and Attitudes	Good	YES
Personal Development	Good	YES
Leadership and Management	Good	YES
Early Years	Good	YES



Year Three Successful Bid:

Many thanks to Mrs Barnish who has made a successful bid to a local community organisation, on behalf of Year Three. We are thrilled that she's managed to secure a bid to the value of £500 for a Roman artefact box and associated specialist speaker for the children to benefit from. This is great news and will definitely bring history to liife for our Year Three pupils. Thank you Mrs Barnish!

Thank you!



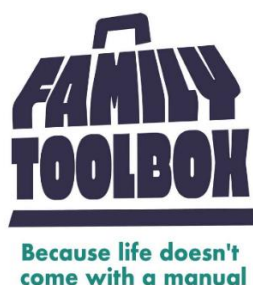
Family Toolbox:

We thought it might be useful to flag this brilliant website for parents and carers again, as we haven't mentioned this one stop shop since last term. The Family Toolbox is a website/search engine full of top tips and recommendations for Wirral families with children of any age. You can search for absolutely anything to support you and signpost you to agencies to help and support. Several Thingwall families have tried this site and have found it invaluable – it can

signpost you to anything...from anxiety, to bedwetting, to free days out over the school holidays, to debt management, to dietary needs! It's a really well thought out site so please take advantage of it – download the app to your phone and get searching, the support out there for parents and carers is amazing and this website signposts you easily and quickly.

We have included the link below for you...

<https://familytoolbox.co.uk/>



Spring Term Dates:

You will have already been made aware of many of these dates but please find the key dates below for the remainder of the term, as there are a few new ones...

Date	Event
Wed 01.02.23	Strike Day. Please refer to previous letter that was emailed last week. Please note that further strike days are planned (28.02.23 and 15/16.03.23) and we will keep you advised as soon as we are able.
Fri 03.02.23	NSPCC Number Day – Dress in Digits (optional). Thank you Miss Taylor for organising this event.
Fri 03.02.23	Everton in the Community Football Tournament. Thank you Miss Yardley for organising this event.
w/c 06.02.23	Year Six Residential Visit to Min Y Don. Please ensure final payments for the visit are made as soon as possible. Thank you to Rocky's Mum for securing a 50% discount for this visit by applying to the Anthony Boot Foundation, we are all very grateful!
07.02.23	Oak Trees MAT consultation for staff and parents closes on this date.
w/c 13.02.23	Mental Wealth Week – Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds. <u>Monday</u> – NSPCC Pants Campaign launched for our younger pupils in FS2, Year One and Year Two. <u>Tuesday</u> – Freddy Fit for all classes. Please come to school dressed in your PE kit on this day to ensure we do not waste time getting changed and miss out on time with Freddy Fit! Free of charge, funded by school. <u>Wednesday</u> – Kate Silcock from Flourish will be working with our Years One and Two classes on a self-confidence and self-belief programme called 'Seven Days to Bloom'. Free of charge, funded by school. <u>Thursday</u> – POTS have kindly agreed to donate £50 per class for a fun, positive event for each class. The staff and children will be deciding how to spend their money over the next week or two so watch this space for a mentally wealthy day of fun! Thank you POTS. <u>Friday</u> – Dare to be Different Day, suggested donation of £2 per child (or whatever you can afford). This day has been organised by POTS and will be a day to celebrate diversity, individuality and inclusion. It will be a day for your child to perhaps change their hair colour, wear a wig, roll up their jeans, wear odd socks, put their shirt on backwards or dress in their own unique style!

	Friday – Whole school theatre performance in the School Hall. Alice in Wonderland will be performed to us by a group of professional actors. Alice in Wonderland is all about meeting new people, going on new travels and making new friends so what better drama production could we choose than this on our Dare to be Different Day! Free of charge, funded by school (please note that we have secured an 80% discount for this visit, as this will be the first time this theatre company have visited our school!)
w/c 20.02.23	February Half Term
w/c 27.02.23	Fair Trade Week
02.03.23	World Book Day This year, rather than asking children to dress up, we thought it would be lovely to have a snuggle up and read day. Therefore, we are asking staff and pupils to come dressed in comfy pyjamas and dressing gown for the day. Please remember that your child will still need outdoor shoes and a sensible, warm coat! This year, we are all going to read the same book in every class, 'A World Full of Wildlife' by Neal Layton. This is a beautiful storybook about how we can take care of our world for future generations to enjoy. Many thanks to Miss Arden for organising this lovely day for us all.
16/17.03.23	Year Five residential visit to Burwardsley in Cheshire. Please ensure final payments for the visit are made as soon as possible.
17.03.23	Mother's Day Shop (POTS will arrange for Year Five to visit the shop earlier on in the week).
23.03.23	Year Four Class Assembly 9.30 start, arrivals from 9.00. Teas and coffees available for parents/carers to purchase from POTS.
27.03.23	FS2/Year One/Year Two Eid workshops with Sheema from MEAS.
29.03.23	POTS Easter Disco – details to follow
30.03.23	Easter Festival – If your child would like to design an Easter garden, Easter bonnet or a decorated Easter egg for this event, please ensure they are delivered to your child's class teacher by Wednesday 29.0.23 at the latest. Thank you.
31.03.23	End of Spring Term
w/c 03.04.23 and w/c 10.03.23	Easter Break
17.04.23	Start of Term 3A
17.04.23	FS2 Allocation Day – Please advise us if you do not get the school of your choice and we will try to assist.
25.04.23	Class and Group photos – please ensure correct uniform is worn.
01.05.23	May Day Bank Holiday
04.05.23	School Closed to Pupils – Staff Development Day and we are used as a Polling Station
08.05.23	King Charles III Coronation Bank Holiday
09.05.23 to 12.05.23	KS2 Year Six SATs Week – Please ensure all Year Six pupils are in school, holiday requests will not be granted.



CELEBRATION CORNER (or H.U.G.G.S – Huge, Unbelievably Great Goals!)

Please note that this section of the newsletter is to celebrate your child's achievements outside of school. If you would like your child to appear in this part of the newsletter, please email the school office (or drop a note off), explaining why you would like your child to be noted in this section of the newsletter!

Alyssa (Year Four) - Alyssa did 2 football tournaments over the Christmas holidays, getting her team to the final on the 28th Dec and she just missed out on a goal! In her second tournament on the 29th December, her team won the plate! All games on this day were tough as the teams were mixed. They fought really hard and everyone was so proud! Well done Alyssa! ☺

Harriet and Erin (Year Five) - Harriet and Erin were thrilled to win their first football match with Wirral Phoenix Football Club at the weekend, the final score was an impressive 2:0 and Erin was stunning in the mid field, whereas Harriet did a super job defending! Well done girls, we are very proud! ☺

CONGRATULATIONS!

With Best Wishes
Mrs D L Evans