

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our final newsletter of the academic year, I can't quite believe we are in the final weeks of the year! What a year it has been, we have agreed to convert into an Academy and will hopefully join the Oak Trees MAT in September/October, we have had a very successful Ofsted, we have received a letter from the newly crowned King Charles, POTS have achieved charity status and so much more! Please see information below for your interest...



Staffing Update:

Mrs Jones has made the difficult decision to take early retirement after having links with our school for over 16 years. Mrs Jones began working with us in 2007 as a midday assistant and became a teaching assistant with us in 2015. Whilst we will miss her very much indeed we fully understand her reasons and wish her the best of luck for the future. We hope she visits us often and she has already agreed to hear readers in Year One next year on a voluntary basis. Thank you for all your years of dedication Mrs Jones, we will all miss you very much indeed.

Mrs Skelton has worked with us this year as a TA in Year One and she is also leaving at the end of term. She is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren and she has also signed up to a local Casting Agency so we hope to see her soon on our televisions! Good luck with your future endeavours Mrs Skelton, we have loved you working with us this last year and perhaps you might come back to visit/sign autographs for us when you are famous!



New Classes for 2023-2024:

This week has seen the children visit their new class teachers for next year. Arrangements are as follows:

Year Group	Teacher(s)	Teaching Assistants
FS2	Miss Collins (Mon to Wed) Mrs Leyland (Wed to Fri)	Mrs Foster Mrs Williams-Gillooly
Year One	Mrs Harvey	Miss Durn Mrs Foster
Year Two	Mrs Goulding	Mrs Hutchinson Vacancy to be covered by supply
Year Three	Miss Ainsworth	Miss Gibson
Year Four	Mrs Holroyd (as Mrs Holroyd is currently absent from work, Mrs Mitchell will be the Year Four teacher Mon to Thurs and Mrs Sheridan will teach year Four on the Friday)	Mrs Peel-Price
Year Five	Miss Arden	Mrs Smith
Year Six	Miss Taylor	Mr Rees

2023
2024

Liverpool City Region Update:

Please find the following information from POTS Chair Anna Barnish who, together with Parent Governor Abi Holbrook, has overseen the development of the Community Garden and the spending of the £5000 Liverpool City Region Grant. Many thanks to ALL pupils, parents, staff and grandparents who have helped us develop our garden area by the Year Six classroom.

Last year, POTS applied to the Liverpool City Region for some funding to support biodiversity and outdoor learning across all age groups – We were awarded the bid and Thingwall's Big Biodiversity and Bloom Project began!

Outdoor learning about how to protect and improve our environment, had previously been identified as a priority by the pupil led Eco-Council. As a school that supports responsible citizenship, we wanted to support our pupils to deliver their priorities and also to leave a lasting and positive environmental legacy for the pupils that come to the school after them, by enabling pupils to actively contribute to increasing the biodiversity in the school grounds thus learning more about food production and sustainability. Throughout this year, we have celebrated our world – from World Book Day when the whole school celebrated by reading A World Full of Wildlife, to class assemblies, gardening club and science lessons.

Each class explored how they plan to look after the world and make it a place where plants, creatures and humans can live and thrive together. Year 6 made a book on biodiversity, Year 5 created art work based on habitats, Year 4 created poems on the wonders of the world and how we can protect it, Year 3 made insect hotels, Year 2 planted seed bombs, and Year 1 and FS2 planted sweetcorn and spring flowers. Year 5 also have been busy planting herbs and vegetables. The eco council have been watching who visits the school at night, supported by the science lead (our funding purchased 2 night vision cameras). Additional life cycle science equipment has been purchased to support learning in the infant classes as well as butterfly houses for FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 and new science resources for our junior classes.

The school grounds will become home to a greater array of plant and animal life as time goes on and the site develops – new bug, bird and bat houses have been added to the trees around the site for example. Have you spotted them? Sensory planting will support the wellbeing of the whole school community and the fantastic raised beds (huge thanks to Pensby Shed Heads) will enable all children to join in with seasonal planting. New seating allows children to enjoy our lovely outdoor space during playtime as well as for outdoor learning.

We are proud that our children talk with confidence about the need to be kind to nature which we hope stimulates conversation at home – bringing the whole school community together around the topic of ecology, biodiversity and climate change. Thank you to the families that enjoyed making bug houses at home and we hope that the bird boxes that the children made as part of the Christmas celebrations are hanging in your garden and the coronation seeds flower, bringing lots of joy. Thank you also to Betsy (FS2) and Freddie (Year 1) and their family for supporting us with plant sales this year as well as all the parents, grandparents and carers that have dug, moved soil, weeded and helped us plant, often in blistering hot conditions.

If you can help us maintain our garden area please get in touch with pots at thingwallprimarypots@hotmail.com



Bench Presentation:

We would like to thank Mr Gordon Lester (previously Chair of Governors and now a Co-opted Governor) for his generous gift of a wooden bench for the KS2 playground. We will make very good use of it Mr Lester!



MAT Update:

As mentioned at the start of the newsletter, we are hoping to become part of the Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust of schools in September or October at the latest. The DfE have approved our application, the paperwork has been submitted and we have our final Governor Meeting on Tuesday 18th July to rubber stamp the process. Many thanks to the MAT team for all their support, Hardip Hayer for her project management and the Governors for their careful consideration and attention to detail throughout the whole decision making process.



World Full of Wildlife Film Premiere:

We had a fantastic time last night at the Light Cinema in New Brighton for the world premiere of A World Full of Wildlife, an environmental film based on the book by Neal Layton. Our Head Boy and Girl and our Deputy Head Boy and Girl watched the film with their families and represented Thingwall Primary beautifully! Congratulations Luca, Aimee, Ben and Amelia on your acting debut! It was a super opportunity to showcase Thingwall's acting, singing and artistic talents alongside Heswall, Irby, Black Horse Hill, St Peter's, Hoylake Holy Trinity, West Kirby and Gayton Primary Schools.



Rainbows of Nature Summer Holiday Competition:

It's that time of year again when we launch our summer holiday competition, #rainbowsofnature.

If you would like to enter this highly popular photography competition (open to past, present and future pupils) all you'll need to do is take your colourful snaps and then upload to the school's twitter page (@thingwallprima1) and add the hashtag #rainbowsofnature

Don't forget to tag our school please as we have opened up the competition to other schools this year and it could get a touch confusing! Good luck everyone, we look forward to seeing your photographs of the natural environment,

whether you are home or abroad. Some of our most effective entries have been from people's back gardens in past years – nature is all around us if you look carefully enough! Photograph below shows Emily in Year Three's entry from last year – created by Emily and her Nan.



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

Lucy (Year 3) – Congratulations to Lucy who recently won a nationwide competition out of hundreds of children who submitted videos about their 'Big Idea' for the perfect Haven holiday. Lucy's idea was to bring animal experts into Haven to help educate people about caring for pets and the environment. Her 1st prize was an all-expenses paid 3 day family holiday to Haven! Goodness me Lucy, what a creative young lady you are. Congratulations and we hope you all enjoy your 1st prize next Easter. ☺

Zeid and Elna (Years 5 and 3) – Congratulations to Zeid and Elna who recently completed their Islamic Studies test at Wirral Deen. Both children are working at Year 6 level (WOW!) and Elna scored an impressive 85%, with Zeid scoring a whopping 100%. Well done children, we are extremely impressed with your dedication and focus! ☺

Elsie (Year 2) – Congratulations to Elsie who was awarded a medal in recognition of her impressive footballing skills from her team – Wirral Phoenix. ☺

Mason (Year 2) – Well done Mason who was awarded a bronze medal representing Wirral Judo Club in a recent sparring competition. Congratulations Mason, we are very proud of you. ☺

Paige (Year 4) – Well done Paige who was awarded a silver medal representing Wirral Judo Club in a recent sparring competition. Congratulations Paige, we are very proud of you. ☺

Jack (Year 3) – Congratulations to Jack who has been awarded 'Manager's Player of the Year' for his football team, The Saughall Colts Under 8s. Well done Jack, what a huge accolade. We are immensely proud of you! ☺

Gabriella (Year 2) – Congratulations to Gabriella who recently took part in the Neston Sets Gymnastics Competition. It was her first ever gymnastics competition and she did brilliantly, achieving a silver medal on floor and a bronze medal on vault! Wow, what a great achievement! ☺



All that remains to be said is we hope you all have a happy and healthy summer holidays. We are back in school on Monday 4th September (pupils as well as staff as we have arranged our staff development days for later in the school year) so we will see you all then.

With Best Wishes
Mrs D L Evans