

Dear Parents

Welcome to our February newsletter. It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the academic year – we hope that you all had a relaxing break. The following information may be of use to you...

Governor Vacancies:

We are thrilled to be able to announce that we have now filled all our vacancies on the school's Governing Body. We had two parent governor vacancies and these have been filled by Louise Evans (Harrison and Charlotte's Mum) and Natalie O'Brien (Lucy's Mum). We also had two co-opted governor vacancies and these have been filled by Councillor Mike Collins and Siobhan Cooper, Deputy Head at Greasby Infants. We look forward to welcoming all four governors to our next Full Governing Body meeting on 30.03.22 at 6pm.



Ukraine News:

We know that you will be aware of the distressing news occurring in the Ukraine at the moment and it is only natural that the children will also be aware of events happening, as families will be listening to the news on the radio and/or television. We are mindful that we need to get an age appropriate balance between giving them the facts and not worrying them. Therefore, we plan to utilise the resources provided on-line by Newsround for our KS2 assemblies this week (please see below hyperlinks) and also resources provided by Picture News. We are aware that lots of our KS1 children may not even be aware of the current events so we have included these hyperlinks so that KS1 parents can view them in advance and decide whether to show them with their own children at home, rather than us showing them during KS1 assemblies. All three clips are informative and factual and one clip actually gives age appropriate advice on keeping calm over news events. If your child is in KS2 and you would prefer your child not to watch these videos, please let us know via the school office as soon as possible.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=EUMpO5aS3Hk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uKnNjPfkIq>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>



Annual Parent Questionnaire:

We have launched our annual questionnaire to parents today and this will remain open for your contributions until Friday 18/03/22. This series of Survey Monkey questions closely mirror the Ofsted Parent View questions and form a key part of our school improvement so we really value your opinions. It

proved to be invaluable evidence during our most recent Ofsted and inspectors commented on how supportive and involved parents were. This survey is open to all parents and carers but it will not work unless you add your child's name and class at the start. If you experience any technical issues, please contact the school office and we will help. We will report back on your contributions in the March/April newsletters. Many thanks for your on-going support of our school.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SDMTD5V>



Learning Walks/Monitoring:

Every Wirral school has been allocated a Senior School Improvement Associate and we will be visited this Thursday by Liz Davidson, who is our newly allocated school LA link person. We are excited to show Liz around our school and will introduce her to each class. Liz is the ex-Head of Brookhurst Primary School so is very used to the daily ins and outs of school life in Wirral.

We have also recently been visited by the Head Teachers from our Reach Collaboration of schools. Mrs Pearson (Barnston Primary), Mr Dixon (Irby Primary) and Mr Lawrenson (Heswall Primary) conducted a series of learning walks and focussed in particular on our learning environments, provision for children with SEND and attitudes to learning/general behaviour of Thingwall pupils. All three Head Teachers were very impressed by what they saw. They reported that our children were all...

- ✓ On task and enthusiastic about their learning, all making progress, regardless of their abilities/ages
- ✓ Well-mannered and happy to answer all manner of questions about life at Thingwall
- ✓ Fully aware of our expectations for behaviour and the part they play in ensuring that Team Thingwall is the best it can be for everyone – all spoken to were able to tell of our 'Ready, Respectful, Safe' rules for example
- ✓ Well-behaved, polite, calm and respectful when moving around school and taking part in lessons
- ✓ Very appreciative of the reward systems and behaviour strategies at Thingwall



Mental Wealth Fortnight:

The fortnight was a huge success! Thank you to everyone for donating money to our Dress To Express Day on the final day of term. It was lovely to see the children in their outfits, expressing their own individuality. As promised, we will split the proceeds between Place 2 Be and the NPSCC's Pants Campaign. Therefore, each charity will receive £65 from us as we raised £130 in total. Sadly, Freddie Fit was poorly so missed his day with us. He has promised to reschedule his visit to us so watch this space for a new date...



Diary Dates:

In addition to the above dates, the following may be worth noting on your calendar...

28.02.22	Term 2B begins Year Five Residential Visit to Burwardsley in Cheshire
01.03.22	Year Six National School Allocation Day
02.03.22	8.15am POTS Pancake Breakfast
03.03.22	World Book Day – Please dress up as your favourite book character or bring your favourite book in for us to share! Each class will focus on different poets and enjoy a day of book related activities Liz Davidson, Wirral's new Senior School Improvement Advisor will visit school for the afternoon to introduce herself and to conduct a learning walk to see all the fabulous things Thingwall children do!
14.03.22	Anna and Sheema from Wirral's MEAS will spend the morning with us on their Challenging Racism unit. This is for KS1 and KS2 pupils and will include thought provoking assemblies.
16.03.22	After school POTS Disco – Please see POTS newsletter for details
18.03.22	Comic Relief Day – This year is a festival/party theme so please wear your favourite outfits (remember sensible shoes and a warm coat though please). Suggested donation of £1 per child but this is purely voluntary as we know that families do like to donate together whilst watching the Comic Relief show in the evening.
23.03.22	Annual Health and Safety Audit
23.03.22	Sue Calveley our SEND and Mental Health Consultant, will give a SEND workshop for parents of SEND pupils (afternoon but timings tbc)
w/c 28.03.22	Belief, Belonging and Identity Themed Week Details of this week are still under discussion but we have managed to secure some BIG RE Day funding. It is hoped that we will have sessions around RE, PSHE, Drama and Art. Watch this space...
w/c 04.04.22	International Themed Week 04.04.22 – FS2/Y1/Y2 - Bilingual Spanish Story Telling 'Lima's Red Hot Chilli' with Wirral's MEAS 05.04.22 – Years 3/4/5/6 – Greek Mythology and Greek Culture with Thingwall's Miss Skodra! 06.04.22 – Years 3/4/5/6 - Bilingual French Story Telling 'Le Grande Navet' with Wirral's MEAS 07.04.22 9.30am Year Four Class Assembly 07.04.22 – All classes – Mandarin and Tai Chi with Thingwall's Miss Collins! 08.04.22 – 2.30 Easter Festival – Easter Around the World theme.
08.04.22	End of term 2B

Please note that, while we do try our hardest to keep you informed about up and coming dates/events, sometimes there may be last minute changes (especially due to Covid) or last minute opportunities that present themselves which we do not want to miss out on!



Head Boy and Head Girl:

We had the most fantastic time with Year Six at Min Y Don last half term. We did all sorts of fun activities such as high ropes, canoeing and cycling. The beds were super comfortable and the food was really lovely too - the cooked breakfasts were 5* and the fish and chips were delicious. Thanks Mrs Sanders, Miss Yardley, Miss Lagar and Miss Ainsworth for organising such a brilliant week for us all.



World Book Day:

As this Thursday is World Book Day (see above for planned events) we thought it would be good fun to ask the Thingwall staff for their favourite book recommendations. As you will be able to read, we have recommended many great stories – why not pop to your local library or the school libraries and choose some of our recommendations?

Mrs Hamel Brer Rabbit by Enid Blyton	Mrs Blackburn Madame Pamplemousse and Her Incredible Edibles by Rupert Kingfisher	Mr Wearing The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C S Lewis
Mrs Baxter The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C S Lewis	Mrs Gillooly Dogger by Shirley Hughes	Mr Rees Johnny and the Dead by Terry Pratchett
Mrs Foster The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter	Mrs Harvey Gangster Granny by David Walliams	Mrs Stratton-Powell The Jolly Postman by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
Mrs Jones Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson	Miss Gibson Charlotte's Web by E B White	Mrs Goulding Dogger by Shirley Hughes
Mrs Peel-Price Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce	Mrs Mitchell The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd	Mrs Smith Shadow the Sheepdog by Enid Blyton
Mrs Holroyd Danny, Champion of the World by Roald Dahl	Miss Arden No Ballet Shoes in Syria by Catherine Bruton	Mrs Hutchinson Funny Bones by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
Mrs Evans Mary Poppins by P L Travers	Mrs Sanders The Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargreave	Mrs Burgess The Tiger That Came To Tea by Judith Kerr
Mrs Taylor The Elves and the Shoemaker by Vera Southgate	Miss Durn The Book With No Pictures by B J Novak	Mrs Hartley The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
Miss Collins Hairy Maclary From Donaldson's Dairy by Lynley Dodd	Mrs Collins Traction Man by Mini Grey	Mrs Evans That Rabbit Belongs To Emily Brown by Cressida Cowell and Neal Layton
Mrs MacKenzie Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl	Miss Skodra The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint Exupery	Mrs Prance (Thingwall Buddies) The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
Miss Patterson The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt	Miss Yardley The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame	Miss Davies Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J K Rowling



Celebration Corner (or HUGGs – Huge Unbelievably Great Goals!)

This section is for achievements outside of school that pupils are proud of. If you would like your child to appear in this section of the monthly newsletter, please email a short message into the school office and we will endeavour to add it to the next newsletter publication.



With Best Wishes

Mrs D L Evans