

Dear Parents

Welcome to the November edition of our school newsletter. The following information may be of interest to you ...

Goodbye Mrs Metcalfe:

Our lovely Year Five Teaching Assistant, Mrs Metcalfe, has made the difficult decision to retire from her post at the end of this term. We will obviously all miss her desperately as she has been a part of the Thingwall school family for 27 years, first as a parent, then Vice Chair of the PA, finally as a TA and as clerk to the Governors/Admin Assistant. Mrs Metcalfe has been a much-loved colleague and friend, we wish her well and hope she has a happy and healthy retirement, relaxing and spending more time with Mr Metcalfe and her family. We will advise Year Five pupils of Mrs Metcalfe's replacement as soon as we are able.

Road Safety Competition:

This week the children have been finding out how to cross the road safely as part of Road Safety Week. Pensby Road is an extremely busy main road and we have recently asked Wirral Council if we could install further metal safety fencing on the grass verges to encourage our pupils to cross at the safe points and discourage people from parking illegally on the pavements. We are also hoping to get some warning signs to promote speed awareness. We will be launching a road safety art competition over the next few weeks to encourage adults to park safely. Keep an eye out for the competition entry forms (they will come out over the next few weeks) as we will work with Wirral's Print Team to turn the winning entries into car bumper/car window stickers and we will make the overall winning entry into a banner for the railings. Many thanks to Connor's Mum (Year 1) for this great idea.

Eco Award Green Flag Status:

Well done to our eco-team and Mrs Cooper for all their hard work in helping the whole school to achieve our Green Flag Award. The Eco-Schools Green Flag Award is a prestigious, internationally recognised award for excellence in environmental action and learning. We are very proud and would like to thank everyone for helping us to become more environmentally friendly.

Children in Need:

Thank you to those who contributed last Friday. We raised £160 which will be welcomed by Children in Need.

DRIP Uganda Christmas Book Drive:

Many thanks to all of you who sent in books (and £1 coins to cover postage) for our Ugandan book drive. We are sure that Gisorora Primary School will be delighted with all your generous contributions. We collected a staggering **86** books in total! We have carefully packaged them up, along with stationery, pupils' letters and cards and we hope they will be delivered in time for Christmas. Thank you so much for helping us get behind this worthwhile cause. Please keep an eye on the school's Twitter feed @Thingwallprim1 as Denis, our Ugandan charity link ambassador, is usually very good at sending us photos of the excited recipients!

Church Rehearsal for KS2:

Your child may be bringing home a permission slip for the 29 November walk to St Michaels' Church in Pensby for our Christmas dress rehearsal as we need to give the Choir and the readers a practice before the big day. Please ensure any permission slips are returned promptly. We still need several parents to help us walk to and from the Church. We will leave at 1.15 and return at 3.15, so please telephone the school office if you are able to help. Thank you.

KS2 Christmas Performance:

This year's KS2 Performance will take place at St Michael's Church, Pensby on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd December 2019. POTS will be allocating tickets next week at either end of the school day from the school canteen (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). We are planning to allocate 4 tickets per family initially, and will then operate a waiting list system for further requests. The additional remaining tickets will be sent home on Friday 29 November 2019. This is the fairest way we can think of to allocate tickets to give everyone an equal chance of attending. Please note that children under the age of 11 do not need a ticket.

School Council:

Our School Council have been working hard with Miss Hine and taking their responsibilities very seriously indeed. They have decided that they would like to share their minutes from their half-termly meetings with parents and the wider school community to show you how hard they work and how committed they are to the smooth running of our school. Please see below...

Thingwall Primary School - School Council Minutes

1. Children reported they would like netball posts to be installed in the back playground.
Proposed - Jess
Seconded - Aimee
2. Children reported they would like skipping ropes for back playground.
Proposed - Emily
Seconded - Kai
3. Suggestions for raising money for the school included: cake sale, pyjama day and Times Table Sponsored Rockathon day. The councillors would like other themed days.
Proposed - Jess
Seconded - Violet, Stephanie
4. Fruity Friday - all pupils would be encouraged to bring in fruit for break time helping to promote healthy eating. Any pupils participating would receive two house points.
Proposed - Kai
Seconded - Ben
5. Give a higher profile to Golden Tickets and to have Golden Ticket Teachers more often in assemblies. A discussion took place about improving manners around school. It was thought that both adults and children needed to remember to be polite to each other, saying please and thank you and holding open doors etc. It was felt Golden Tickets were a good way to promote good manners.
Proposed - Jess
Seconded - Isla

6. Councillors discussed the area in front of the Year 6 classroom and that pupils used the area as a shortcut into the playground. Councillors suggested a fence and a gate was needed and the shed should be dismantled to prevent pupils using the area to play hide and seek. It was suggested that adults in the playground needed to be able to see all pupils for their safety.
Proposed-Aimee
Seconded-Emily
7. Year 6 requested that they should be allowed to play with their FS2 buddies in groups during more playtimes.
Proposed-Jess
Seconded-Ben
8. Councillors discussed Good Behaviour charts being recorded and, along with Golden Ticket results, celebrated in Good Work Assembly on Fridays. It was felt that this would help to improve behaviour around school.
Proposed-Isla
Seconded-Will
9. It was noted that Mrs Evans did not like pupils wearing their jumpers around their waists as it looks scruffy and the councillors agreed. It was suggested that pupils should refrain from doing this.
Proposed-Will
Seconded-Stephanie

All councillors agreed to raise these matters with their respective classes and to report back to the next council meeting.

As you can read, the ideas were very sensible and the children took their role very seriously indeed. Thank you Miss Hine for organising everything so well. The next time the School Council meet it will be to interview a local MP. We will report back with the minutes of this meeting once Parliament is started up once again after the December 12th elections. The staff would like to thank the children for their sensible suggestions. We have obtained quotes for points 1, 2 and 6 and points 5, 7, 8 and 9 have already been actioned. Great work School Council! 😊

Judaism Visit:

We were very pleased to welcome Jewish Fellow, Eric Cohen, into school to work with the children earlier this month. Eric led a fascinating whole school assembly and worked with Y6 sharing his Jewish Culture and Traditions and also sharing his family story about the Holocaust. We were saddened to hear of Eric's father's time in Auschwitz – a really sobering and thought-provoking afternoon. Thank you Eric, we learned lots and hope to see you again soon.

Mongolian Visitors:

Y6 welcomed in Batut, Davshil, Tsemy and Baby Enerlen to discuss their Mongolian Culture and why they travelled to the UK as refugees several years ago. It was a really interesting morning and fitted beautifully with Year 6's English unit about refugees, based on the book "The Story Like the Wind" by Gill Lewis. Thank you for visiting, we really learned so much!

Federation Links:

This month we have been pleased to welcome Mrs Pearson, Head at Barnston Primary, and Mrs Palmer, Head at Irby Primary, to monitor our provision in History and Science. Lots of positive things were noted about our delivery of these subjects and Mrs Pearson commented on how knowledgeable and enthusiastic the children were when questioned. In return, myself and Mrs Palmer visited Barnston Primary to look at DT and Art, which was another useful visit and an excellent tool for school improvement. Next term we hope to visit Irby Primary to look at different foundation subject areas.

Educate Awards:

Friday 15th November saw the Federation Heads attend an awards evening at the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. We were one of 6 schools (3 Primary and 3 Secondary) to be selected from Wirral, Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester for the Mental Health and Well-being Award. We weren't selected as the winners, but we were still incredibly proud to be selected as finalists. Maybe next year...

Thank you to **all** the staff for their commitment to Thingwall pupils' mental health and for trying to make our school a happy place for all.

Thank you Timpsons:

We would like to give the Shoreditch branch of Timpsons a **MASSIVE** thank you for engraving our charity plaques for us, free of charge, to help showcase the plethora of local, national and global charities we have supported over the years. Please look at our charity display in the canteen, it really is super to see how caring our children have been over the years and how committed they are to making the world a better place for all. Thank you Shoreditch Timpsons, you have been really kind.

C2C Update ... Williamson Art Gallery to Chester Cathedral to Blue Planet:

Our Coast 2 County (C2C) Art Exhibition is on the move! You will remember the Deeside schools exhibited their recycled artwork in the Williamson Art Gallery from June to August. After that, we moved the exhibition to Chester Cathedral and showcased our art pieces next to environmental artist, Jacha Potgeizer's work. Now the Federation of Schools are moving their pieces to the Blue Planet Aquarium where they will be proudly displayed, again next to Jacha's artwork. This is a great achievement and testament to the Federation's hard work and teamwork approach. This is also a super way of getting our important Coast 2Country environmental message out to the wider audience.

Celebration Corner (or HUGE UNBELIEVABLY GREAT GOALS HUGGS):

Amelie's Mum is taking part in the Inca Trail Trek on 18.11.19 for a week. If you would like to donate to her just giving page you can find her details on <https://www.justgiving.com-fundraising-butterflyal>

Ethan (Year Three) – Well done to Ethan for getting Man of the Match for Greasby Junior Football Club for his match against Higher Bebington Football Club. It was a close match but Ethan saved the day! Congratulations Ethan 😊

Joe (Year Three) – Well done to Joe for being awarded his Respect Award for Swimming and for managing to stay under water for ten seconds! What a huge achievement! 😊

Jack (Year Five) – Well done to Jack for winning two gold medals for his Judo, we are very proud 😊

Matthew (Year Three) – Well done Matthew for completing the Teddy Bear Trail at Rufford National Trust – I believe it's a really challenging trail that requires concentration and hard work 😊

Amber (Year Five) Well done Amber for passing your grading and gaining a yellow belt in Judo.

With Best Wishes

Mrs D L Evans
Headteacher