

Teachers, Parents, Students...

Together Promoting Success

Dear Parents/Carers

**Ofsted:**

We are pleased to finally attach our recent Ofsted report to this newsletter and we are delighted that we have retained our Good grading in all areas of school life. All staff and governors work so hard and it is lovely to see that all of their dedication has been so rightly recognised. Many thanks to all the parents, carers and grandparents who took the time to either speak with the inspection team or complete a parent view survey. The Ofsted team said that it was a really positive parent survey and that 77 of you took the time to contribute, including writing many wonderful comments about how much you appreciate Team Thingwall – THANKYOU! A huge thanks must also go to our Thingwall pupils, who conducted themselves brilliantly throughout the whole inspection. The inspectors observed lessons in every classroom, except Year Six (as you will no doubt remember, the inspection happened in the Year Six SATs week!), they observed and spoke to children in the playgrounds, lunch halls and corridors and they formally interviewed a whopping 138 of our children too, which is a massive 66% of our pupils –

24 pupils for RE

24 for Music, Science, Art and DT

24 for behaviour, PSHE, attitudes, wider school community and keeping safe

24 pupils for Maths

18 pupils for the general curriculum provision

18 pupils for Reading and Safeguarding

6 children read from Years 1, 2 and 3

Deep Dives (rigorous studies which incorporate subject lead interviews, staff interviews, pupil interviews, book scrutinies, parent survey feedback, lesson observations and learning environment walks) were conducted in Maths, phonics/early reading and RE. Shallow Dives (not as in-depth as the Deep Dives but still pretty thorough!) were conducted in Music, PSHE, Art, Science and DT.

You will notice that the report is not very detailed, Ofsted are only allowed a specific word count, they cannot identify staff or subjects and they do not have the word count to include every single positive. However, Miss Arden and myself were allowed to take part in 4 inspector meetings and we were encouraged to take notes of all of the points raised so we could share them with our families. Below are some of the highlights, I couldn't possibly list them all as we would be here all day...

**POSITIVES:**

- Maths and RE are well planned and well sequenced, taking account of all ability ranges with careful thought about progression over time. Vocabulary use in both subjects is good and teacher's subject knowledge is secure. SEND pupils are well considered and good provision is made.
- The curriculum is not narrowed – the full curriculum is covered and staff do not focus on purely core subjects in the lead up to national tests. The curriculum is varied and interesting and all aspects of the curriculum are well adapted for SEND.
- Science, Art, DT and Music are well-planned and show progression with thoughtful adaptations made for SEND pupils. Use of key vocabulary throughout is a strength.
- Extra-Curricular opportunities for Music and PE are good.
- Continuous Professional Development Opportunities made for staff are varied and thoughtful.
- Children are well supported/taught/directed in English (Reading and Writing) and in Maths to do their best.
- Teachers and TAs are well trained and Subject Leaders are knowledgeable and approachable.
- Lessons observed were presented well and good use is made of assessment to plot next steps for learning. Teachers cleverly adapt the curriculum once next steps are identified.
- Subjects are closely monitored by subject leads.
- The love of reading is promoted in all corners throughout school, including through displays.
- Children are clear of expectations in lessons and teachers make lesson objectives clear and easy to understand.
- Reading books for pupils are closely matched to their needs, especially children in the lower years and lower ability pupils.

- Little Wandle, the new phonics scheme which has been introduced this year, has been implemented well.
- Maths problem solving appears to be good and the subject lead has had a quick impact on arithmetic skills across school.
- Adaptations for SEND are excellent.
- All subjects are thoughtfully planned.
- All teacher's subject knowledge is good.
- Children are keen to learn and staff have high expectations for learning and behaviour. Children display good attitudes and behaviour.
- All pupils understand the 'Ready, Respectful, Safe' rules and pupil interviews agreed that behaviour is mostly good.
- Bullying is swiftly stamped out and staff work well with parents to address any issues that arise.
- School have successfully worked with families to reduce Persistent Absence.
- Academic and Emotional well-being are given equal weighting.
- Wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities.
- Mental Health is given careful attention.
- Parent/School relationships are excellent.
- School/Pupil relationships are excellent.
- Children are engaged and enthusiastic.
- Early Years teachers have a good understanding of Child Development and of Planning in The Moment.
- Governors are well trained and have a breadth of experience, they have a good impact on school. They are a strong team and have a good understanding of education. They are well informed by staff.
- Pupils have clear aspirations for the future and appreciate the range of clubs, visits and visitors. They thrive on their responsibilities, they feel safe and they know who to go to when things go wrong.
- Parents are overwhelmingly positive and very appreciate of all the school does.
- Pupil Premium money (funds for children who are on free school meals) is carefully allocated and this is made very clear on the school website. Impact of expenditure is carefully evaluated and pupil needs are addressed to give maximum impact for these pupils.
- Communication between home and school is excellent and issues, which are few and far between, are nipped in the bud quickly. Parents know they can approach school and value the approachable staff. Parents appreciate the team approach and feel the staff go over and above.
- The happy, community, family ethos is tangible and evident throughout the school.
- Pupils thoroughly enjoy their art and music and have a good knowledge of composers and artists. They enjoy exploring new techniques and like to express themselves creatively.
- Children are encouraged to become independent and resilient. They feel teachers and TAs are good role models.
- Lunchtime arrangements observed were calm and organised and behaviour was also calm.
- Expectations for lesson behaviour are very clear and relationships are good.
- Children love playing with their friends and enjoy opportunities to be sociable.
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural opportunities throughout are well-planned and effective.
- Children are confident, independent, resilient and show a strength of character.
- Children have a good understanding of social responsibility and value links with various charities and the local old people's home. They have a good understanding of healthy eating and healthy lifestyles and know how to try and keep mentally healthy. Mutual respect is evident.
- Early Years children are kind, respectful, help each other and share. Parents appreciate the open door/early start from 8.45-8.55 in FS2 as it gives them an opportunity to ask staff questions.
- Leaders are committed and have worked very hard since the last inspection. They know their school well and staff feel very well-supported. Leaders lead by example and subject leadership is delegated well across school.
- Staff went beyond expectations during Covid.
- There is a strong culture for safeguarding – staff are well-trained, can recognise signs/symptoms of abuse and know who to alert. Designated Safeguarding Leaders are strong and vulnerable families are well-supported. Case files are well-maintained and CPOMS is used well to upload issues on-line. Children know how to keep themselves safe and have good on-line habits/behaviours. Children feel safe in school and the overwhelming majority of parents feel their children are safe in school. Many parents are delighted with the school. Liaison with external agencies is very good.
- The school is vibrant, happy and friendly. Staff are ambitious for all.

#### **WAYS FORWARD:**

Hopefully, you will all agree that the above comments are extremely encouraging and very positive. As you would expect however, there are always areas for improvement. There are always slight improvements that can be made and we are constantly evolving as a school, we are never content to sit still! Ofsted noted two main areas for improvement (see report, page 4) and we are very confident these will be fully addressed soon. These two areas are:

- The Music and Phonics subject leads are both new this year so need guidance and time to embed into their roles.
- The Art and Science curriculums are being rewritten this year so will need time to fully be embedded by all.

Thank you for all of your continued support of our school, we hope that you enjoy reading the Ofsted report and hope that this newsletter gives you further detail.



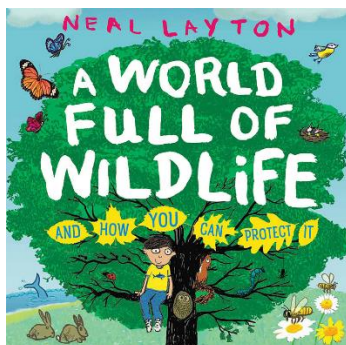
### **Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust Update:**

We have had our application to join the Oak Trees MAT approved by the DfE and Thingwall Primary are now in the process of converting to an academy. We will hopefully be joining the Oak Trees MAT on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.



### **Biodiversity Film:**

We had a great day earlier on this week, taking part in filming for our cross-school Science project. Our school are working closely with Heswall, Irby, St Peter's Heswall, Hoylake Holy Trinity, West Kirby and Black Horse Hill Primary Schools to produce a film based on Neal Layton's 'A World Full of Wildlife' book. We were filmed singing The Beatles' 'Blackbird' along with residents of Trepassey Nursing Home and our Head Girl and Boy and Deputy Head Girl and Boy were also filmed using green screen technology. Year Six also produced some fantastic artwork of endangered and extinct animals which will feature in the film. The premiere will happen in July at the Light Cinema in New Brighton. Watch this space!



### **Scarecrow Festival:**

We hope to create a scarecrow over the next couple of weeks so that we can take part in the annual Thingwall, Irby, Pensby Scarecrow Festival, which is taking place from June 24<sup>th</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup>. We hope this year's scarecrow will be an improvement on our last year's attempt, any top tips would be warmly welcomed!



### **Sports Days:**

Thank you to everyone who came to support our Key Stage Sports Days earlier on this week. It was a lovely atmosphere and it was great to all be able to collectively cheer the children on. Thank you Mrs Harvey and Miss Yardley for organising both days and well done to the children – it was really nice to hear you cheering for each other and being genuinely pleased for other's achievements. Thank you also to those parents who offered to sell teas and coffees.



### **Celebration Corner:**

William (Year 5) – Congratulations to William, who was awarded his purple belt with a single white stripe this week in Karate. We are very proud of you! 😊

Thomas (Year 6) – Congratulations to Thomas, who completed a very strenuous Park Run last month, he even saw Mrs Goulding on his way around the track! 😊

Sophia, Lottie and Lily (FS2) – Congratulations to these three children who did a fantastic job performing in their dance show recently at Thingwall Recreation Centre. They helped to raise over £1000 for local charities. 😊

Charlie and Jack (Year 5) – Congratulations to both boys who both managed to swim a whopping 1000m in their swimming lesson last week, WOW! 😊

Aimee, Luca, Amelia and Ben (Year 6) – Well done to these children who spoke very clearly for the filming of our Biodiversity Science Project. We are proud of you, thank you! 😊



With Best Wishes  
Mrs D L Evans