

Dear Parents

Welcome to our December newsletter, we hope that you'll find the following information useful as it is a busy few final weeks before we break up for the Christmas holidays:



Goodbyes:

We have said goodbye to two of our TAs since our November newsletter. Miss Fishwick has secured a post with a family in Cyprus and Mrs Spivey has secured a TA post in Weatherhead High. We wish both ladies the very best of luck as they embark on this next phase in their careers and hope to hear from them soon as they've both promised to stay in touch.



Christmas Twitter Competition:

This time of the year sees us welcome back our exciting #readingwithmyelf competition again. All you need to do is take a photograph of your child at home reading a story to their Christmas elf and then upload it to 'X', formerly known as twitter, to be in with a chance of winning a prize in January! When uploading the photograph, you'll need to include the school address which is @thingwallprima1 as well as the #readingwithmyelf hashtag too. Please remember not to use names of children when uploading the photos but you can refer to the name of your elf if you wish to. Finally, please do not worry if you have not got an elf, you can just as easily read a story to your teddy!



Church Thanks:

Many thanks to all of our junior pupils who attended last week's services at St Michael's Church in Pensby, it was a brilliant evening and was enjoyed by all! The school band (supported by Mrs Mitchell) were fabulous and treated us to a festive recital of three pieces – Twinkle Twinkle, Natural Blues and Jingle Bells. Years 3 and 4 (supported by Miss Yandle and Mr Rees) started our evening off with an atmospheric

rendition of Away in a Manger which made us all feel very Christmassy indeed. Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils confidently told us the story of Christmas through a series of poems and readings and all of our junior children finished the evening with a fantastic version of Silent Night in British Sign Language and English. Thank you to our audience in particular, our super singers for the evening – Fran and Alex’s nanny and Emily L’s mum (and little sister). Many thanks to the church for their hospitality once again, to POTS for the teas and coffees and to Henry and Matthew, who were the most brilliant technical whizzkids. A lovely evening was had by all and we collected a whopping £286.25 for our two chosen charities – the RNLI and Claire House. We will be collecting money at the end of our pre-school, FS2 and infant performances too, so will give you a grand total before the end of term.



FS2 Nativity Performances:

Congratulations to all our FS2 pupils and staff who took part in ‘I Spy Christmas’ last week, which was a wonderful blend of the Nativity stories and initial phonics! We thought that you were all very brave to perform in front of the whole school and in front of your families. You all spoke confidently and your singing was wonderful, as were your early reading skills!

We have every faith that next week’s performances from Years 1 and 2 will be every bit as good – good luck children!



Christmas in the Community:

We love to reach out into our community, especially at Christmastime and this year is no exception. As well as our wonderful services at St Michaels Church, Years 1 and 2 will be visiting The Warrens GP Surgery on the 18.12.24 to share their Christmas performance songs, Year 5 will be hopefully visiting Trepassey Care Home on the 19.12.24 to share our readings and carol singing and Year 6 are welcoming some of our Trepassey friends into school to taste their war time eggless cakes made with rationed ingredients.



Parent Survey:

As mentioned in our November newsletter, we had an impressive 145 responses to our recent MAT Parent Survey and your replies scored us at a very strong 'Good' rating, which is pleasing news. As promised, please find a breakdown of the overall responses...

Survey Questions/Statements	Responses	Comments
My child is happy at school	96% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree 4% rated as disagree/strongly disagree	This is lovely to hear as many visitors (including the MAT and prospective parents) always comment on how happy and welcoming our children and staff seem. Thank you!
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	96% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree 4% rated as disagree/strongly disagree	This is also great news and an improvement on our last survey. We are so pleased that parents have recognised Thingwall's commitment to this vital part of school life as well as recognising that our children are excellent ambassadors for our school. Visitors frequently comment on Thingwall children's good manners and friendly attitudes, in particular the ways that our older pupils help our younger pupils. Thank you!
My child has been bullied and the school has dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	91% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree 9% rated as disagree/strongly disagree	Parents were directed to choose the neutral option if their child had not experienced bullying so this question was judged slightly differently.
My child takes part in clubs and activities at this school	90% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree 10% rated as disagree/strongly disagree	This is good news and an improvement on our last survey. We try to offer a variety of clubs to a variety of ages across the school year and we also try to listen to pupil voice when it comes to selecting new clubs, for example AmaSing, Rock Steady and gymnastics. We are proud to host Wirral Judo and Speare Gymnastics at our school as it means Thingwall pupils can work their way through the sport awards, rather than attending another venue to take sports

		exams/gradings.
School makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	87% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree 13% rated as disagree/strongly disagree	This response is comparatively lower than the other questions. We wondered whether this was due to the fact that the Autumn Term Parents Evening had not yet happened at the point of the survey being sent out. We will bear in mind future timings of future surveys to see if this had an impact and please do remember that all of our subject overviews, long term plans etc are available on our website.
My child does well at school	96% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree 4% rated as disagree/strongly disagree	This is great news and we agree with you. Thingwall children work hard in the main, enjoy giving of their best and love to celebrate their own and each other's success at good work assemblies. Now we are using Arbor, it's been great to be able to send the weekly emails home from those assemblies, enabling parents to celebrate in their children's success (on whatever level, as Thingwall celebrates the <i>whole</i> child).
The school lets me know how my child is doing	89% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree 11% rated as disagree/strongly disagree	This response is comparatively lower than the other questions. We wondered whether this was due to the fact that the Autumn Term Parents Evening had not yet happened at the point of the survey being sent out. We will bear in mind future timings of future surveys to see if this had an impact and please do remember that all of our subject overviews, long term plans etc are available on our website.
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	97% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree	This is good news and we are pleased that the overwhelming number of

	3% rated as disagree	responses recognise that we teach the full complement of national curriculum subjects across school, effectively adapting the curriculum to both support and challenge all abilities. We are also very proud that our commitment to the curriculum has been recognised by various quality marks in RE, Science, History and the global curriculum. Thank you!
My child feels safe at this school	99% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree 1% rated as disagree	This is fantastic news and lovely to read that 99% feel their children are safe at our school – thank you! We agree with you and our pupil surveys also back this opinion up – they tell us that they feel safe, happy and know who to ask for help if ever things go wrong.
When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly	95% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree 5% rated as disagree	This is also good news and we are pleased that the vast majority of responses feel that issues (if any) have been resolved effectively. We enjoy good relationships with our families and we are very pleased that the vast majority agree with this and value our approachable ways.
My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	94% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree 6% rated as disagree/strongly disagree	This is a pleasing response and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Goulding (school's SENDCo) and Mrs Stacey Evans (MAT's SENDCo) for all their hard work and commitment to ensuring every child reaches their potential, regardless of needs/abilities. Please note that we have no control on the frustrating LA time delays that all schools in Wirral are currently experiencing. <i>NB Parents were directed</i>

		<i>to choose the neutral option if their child does not have SEND.</i>
The school has high expectations for my child	91% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree 9% rated as disagree/strongly disagree	This is promising news. Hopefully our previous answers have demonstrated the high expectations and inclusive approach we have for <i>all</i> Thingwall pupils, regardless of ability or additional needs.
The school supports my child's wider personal development	89% rated as neutral, agree or strongly agree 11% rated as disagree/strongly disagree	We feel we do a very good job in this area and visitors/inspections have always agreed with us in this area. We take a pride on focussing on the 'whole child' at Thingwall, rather than purely academic achievements. We will give this question further thought and report back in future newsletters to try to unpick the 11%'s reasons as perhaps we need to inform you in more detail about all the lovely things we do.
I would recommend this school to another parent	93% Yes 7% No	Thank you to those of you who recommend our school to others in the locality. It is really heartening to hear the good news stories from past, present and future families! Please continue to spread the good words about our school to the local community as prospective parents often tell us that the word of mouth recommendations make all the difference.



FS2 Applications:

Please note that the application window for September 2025 FS2 places closes on January 15th. We are unable to double check that siblings of pupils already in school have applied this year due to a Wirral LA system upgrade. Therefore, please do ensure you have applied for a place for your little ones as we would hate for anybody to be disappointed and miss out on a place in our lovely school.



Christmas Party Afternoon:

Our Christmas Party afternoons will take place next week on Thursday 19.12.24. For those of you who have not experienced a party day at Thingwall yet, please read the following information...

- Children may wear their own clothes for this day but please do remember sensible shoes and a warm coat as it's a very chilly time of the year.
- Children should bring a named party plate of food at the start of the day. Staff will collect the party plates in and then set out the tables ready for the afternoon parties. **Please note that the party plate should just be a selection of snacks as the usual school lunch will still be taking place.** Your child should still bring their usual packed lunch/you should still book your child's school dinner in the usual way.
- Please remember to avoid fizzy drinks, anything containing nuts and glass containers. A disposable plate is best please. We will provide juices.



Toy Day:

Toy Day will be taking place on Friday 20.12.24 and we would ask that children do not bring any items to play with that need to connect to the internet or that take photographs/videos. This includes mobile phones which are obviously not allowed in classrooms usually anyway. Children may wear their own clothes again but please do remember sensible shoes and a warm coat as it's a very chilly time of the year.



This area of the newsletter is so we can celebrate children's achievements outside of school. If you would like your child to appear in this area of the newsletter, please let the school office know with the relevant details.

Elsie (Year 4) – Elsie passed her grade 1 piano exam last month. This is a huge achievement Elsie, we are very proud of you! 🎉

Annabelle and Robyn (Year 5) – Both girls took part in the Bebington Gymnastics Christmas Competition last weekend and both managed to secure silver medals, Annabelle for second on the vault and Robyn for second on the floor. Well done, we are very proud of you both! 🎉

Evelyn and Sophie (Year 2) – Congratulations to both of these Year 2 girls who were awarded special medals of participation after competing in the Wirral Judo Club's Christmas Festival. We are very proud of you both. 🎉



With best wishes to you all for a relaxing Christmas break,

Mrs D L Evans