

Dear Parents

Welcome to our October newsletter, we hope that you'll find the following information useful:



POTS Dates and Thanks:

Please read the Autumn Term newsletter that our Parents' Association emailed via the Arbor app earlier on this week. As well as a welcome message from every member of the committee, there are key dates for your diaries for the remainder of the Autumn Term and information about how to get discounts for free school meal children and the third child in the family. Thank you very much to our new committee, who have already been very hard at work this term. So far, they have tidied the POTS resources in the stage cupboard, hosted a MacMillan Cake Sale/AGM, provided teas and coffees for the Year Five assembly and our Harvest Festival, as well as planning lots of exciting events for after half-term. Thank you to all who have been involved, we appreciate you!



Parking:

We have had a number of visits recently from our local Community Police, following several complaints about parking and the dangerous situation this causes. To this end, one of our parents has done a bit of research about how we can possibly improve the situation. Please find the attached link to the Wirral council website to request bollards on the corner of Richmond Way and Pensby Road as this seems to be a specific area for 'near misses' of late. Once you access this part of the website, they have suggested we select 'report a damaged or missing bollard' as it seems to be the most relevant to help. The address that the section of pavement is outside is 577 Pensby Road. Any assistance reporting this matter would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/problems-roads-and-pavements>



500 Words Competition:

Thank you to all of the children who entered the 500 Words story writing competition. Mrs Evans and Miss Arden really enjoyed reading all of the entries. The creativity, humour and descriptive vocabulary used were brilliant. We are very proud of you and think you are *all* very talented writers. It was difficult to choose just three entries for the MAT competition, so instead we submitted four!

Well done to the following children:

Gabriel in Y2 who wrote 'The Toucan Who Lost His Beak'

Emily in Y3 who wrote 'Lily and the Magic Stone'

Grace in Y5 who wrote 'The Long Walk Home'

Poppy in Y5 who wrote 'Freddy Frogstastic'.

We wish you all the very best of luck going forward in the competition. The winning entries from across the MAT will now be judged by Hilbre High School and we await the results with a great deal of excitement.

Please don't be disappointed if your story was not submitted, you can still enter it into the nationwide BBC 500 Words competition by clicking this link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/500wordscompetition/submissions-fe/index.html#/profile>

The deadline for entrants is Friday 8th November 2024.



MAT Eco Council:

Congratulations to Mollie and Millie from our Year Six class, who represented the school last week at the first Oak Trees Eco Council meeting of the year. It was a very successful meeting and both girls spoke with confidence and eloquence about how we can save our planet. The main topics of discussion were the promotion of walking/cycling to school, how we can reduce food waste in our school kitchens and also how we can cut down on using single use plastics. Already the girls have been hard at work with Miss Clucas; we have stopped using plastic straws and Cool Milk now provide us with reusable beakers for our daily milk. Thank you girls and thank you also to Barbara in our school kitchen as she is already formulating a plan to reduce food waste and she is also popping our Cool Milk beakers through the dishwasher every day.



2026 Admissions Policy Consultation:

Please see the email sent earlier on this week via Arbor about proposed changes to our Admissions Policy from 2026.



AmaSing Children's Choir is coming to Wirral:

After AmaSing's success on Britain's Got Talent they are delighted to be running a children's choir hosted at Brackenwood Junior school every Tuesday 6-7pm, open to children aged 8-14 years and led by amazing music specialists. The first session will commence on November 5th until December 10th. AmaSing is an award-winning arts organisation and charity that works with thousands of young people, families and communities to support wellbeing through exciting music and creative arts opportunities. The following link shows you examples of what they do:

<https://youtu.be/8cLnEzjSNu0>

If your child enjoys singing a wide variety of uplifting songs and performing in a friendly and fun atmosphere and would enjoy opportunities to perform in exciting venues and events, then this club could be for them. The club will be a cost of £5.25 per session and will need to be paid on a half termly basis. Please click on the link below to register, pay and fill out information needed for your child.

<https://amasing-arts.classforkids.io/term/32>



Harvest Festival:

Many thanks to all of you who attended our Harvest Festival earlier on today. As usual, we were overwhelmed with all of your generous contributions for the Charles Thompson Mission. The band played beautifully, our readers were very clear and our guest speakers from the Mission were most informative. It was lovely to hear how all of our Harvest collection will be well used to support the homeless and vulnerable members of our Wirral community. Thank you to our Year Six pupils, Bea's Mum, Henry's Nan and Freya's Mum and Dad for helping to pack up all of the items at the end of assembly.



Christmas Toy Appeal:

We will be collecting toys for our Christmas Toy Appeal again this year, in support of the Charles Thompson Mission, so will be in touch soon once Flourish Tutoring have sorted out the details regarding drop off points and collection dates.



PCSO Bike Registration:

We were pleased to welcome PCSO Netty Brew into school today to register children's bicycles onto the national Bike Register, to protect them from theft or loss. Netty registered ten bikes in total and she will be back in the new year in case anyone gets a bike over Christmas. Thank you Netty and thank you to those who took part in this valuable initiative. Thank you also to the three willing Year Six pupils who assisted Netty with taking the bikes back to our cycle storage on the junior playground.



Trepassey Community Links:

Our links with the Trepassey Care Home are still going strong and we were thrilled to welcome Rhiannon, Norah and Renate in for today's Harvest Festival, along with Miss Tucker. Our community links are so important to us and each class enjoyed creating Harvest presents for their Trepassey pen pals, which were presented by our Ethos Reps. Just in case you missed today's festival, here is a glimpse of what every year group created. Exciting photographs will follow on Twitter ('X') and FaceBook very soon...

FS2 – Beautifully coloured Harvest wreaths for every resident's bedroom door.

Year One – Eye-catching painted sun catchers for every resident's bedroom window.

Year Two – Mouth-watering butter biscuits in artistically decorated biscuit bags.

Year Three – Extremely cute Harvest animal pictures.

Year Four – Beautiful Harvest cards.

Year Five – Lovely bedroom doorplates with resident's names proudly displayed and pen pal letters.

Year Six – Pocket money presents for each resident. The children completed jobs around the family home and used the funds raised to purchase small gifts.

Rhiannon, Norah and Renate were incredibly touched and they can't wait to take the plethora of gifts back to their friends at Trepassey. They wanted us to all know that the singing and readings were wonderful, the school band were very talented and our behaviour was very good too. Thank you for visiting us ladies, we will see you soon.



Reminders:

Just another polite reminder in case some families missed the reminders on our September newsletter:

-We do not allow dogs onto the school premises, unless they are service dogs.

-Please do not cycle/scoot whilst on school premises as we have had several near misses recently.

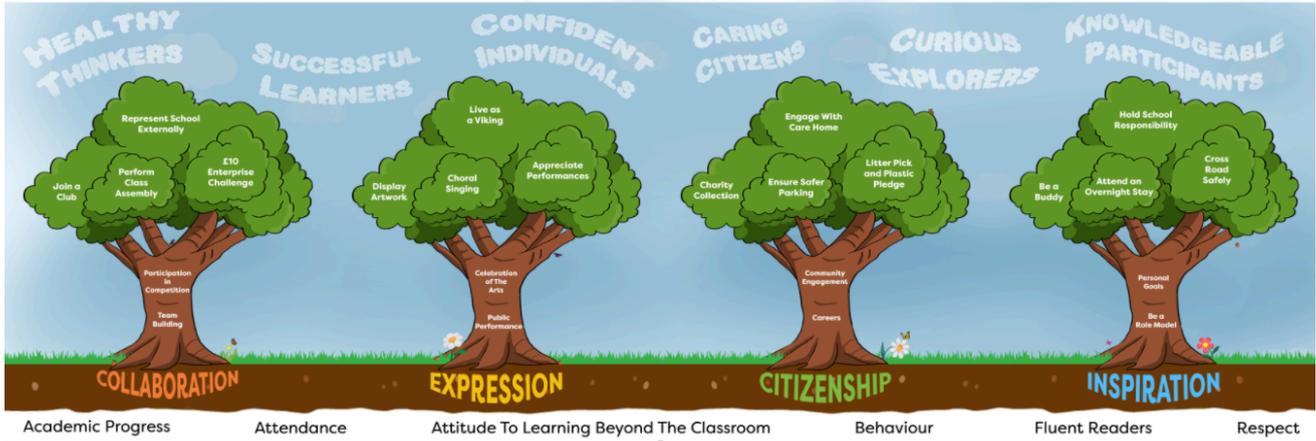
...Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation.



Oak Tree Character Values:

We have been working very hard as a group of MAT heads and deputies to devise a values led charter for each school to follow. All schools now share the common values of **collaboration**, **expression**, **citizenship** and **inspiration** and we have focussed on these values this half term through our assemblies, so that the children have an understanding of the meaning of the character attributes we are trying to promote. These character values are represented as the roots of the trees. The tree trunks identify eight opportunities that every child in the MAT will experience during their journey through our schools and the branches represent personalised events that every Thingwall pupil will experience through their time with us. You might notice us referring to these values in newsletters, on Lord Ragnar certificates and on our social media platforms as we continue to roll out this new charter this year.

Thingwall Character Development Charter



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

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.



Alex, Imogen (Y1) and Austin (Y3): These children have been out and about again, determined to improve our local community by litter-picking. Thank you for your hard work and dedication children, we are very grateful for all your continued efforts. What a brilliant example of our new Character Values of collaboration and citizenship! Well done.

Year Five Football Team: The team showed grit and determination against Thornton Hough's team. They eventually lost 4-2, despite a courageous and hard-fought game. Well done children, we are proud of you and you represented Team Thingwall brilliantly, giving us a fine example of our new Character Values of collaboration and inspiration. Thank you to Mr Vasey, who was a top coach and Miss Yardley who was a great manager too!

Year Six Football Team: Our team were proud to win their first away game this season against Castleway Primary. They won by an impressive 11 - 2!. Well done children, we are proud of you and you represented Team Thingwall brilliantly, giving us a fine example of our new Character Values of collaboration and inspiration. Thank you to Mr Parry and Mr Macpherson for managing and coaching the team so expertly alongside Miss Yardley.

Year Five Class Assembly: Congratulations to our Year Five class on an incredible class assembly last week, all about the history of computers, coding and on-line safety. You were all fantastic and remembered such a lot of lines – what incredible memories you must all have! What an impressive example of all four of our new Character Values of collaboration, inspiration, expression and citizenship. We are SO impressed! Well done to Miss Arden, Mrs Peel-Price and Mr Longthorne too.

With best wishes to you all, for a relaxing half term break

Mrs D L Evans