

Dear Parents

Welcome to the September edition of our school newsletter. We have had a wonderful start to the year, the staff and children are all enjoying the slight lifting of the pandemic restrictions and we have soon settled back into school life once again. It has been lovely to see all our classes eating lunch together and playing out together once again. We have missed each other with being restricted to bubbles all of last year so it has been wonderful to observe the children being comfortable in one another's company once again. We are mindful that the school building is a whole new world to most of our infant children so we have been maximising opportunities to show them around school so they become familiar with the whole of the school building.

The following information may be of interest to you...

Wrap Around Care and Pre-School Arrangements:

By now we are sure that most of you will be aware that CAPE decided they were going to stop operating from our premises and, as such, they vacated the premises next door at the end of August. This was very late in the day and we can only apologise for the decision that this private provider made – it was news to us as well as yourselves.

We therefore found ourselves in the position of having no pre-school or wrap around provider right at the end of the summer holidays which was extremely difficult to manage. We are grateful to the staff who were able to offer additional hours to run our wrap around facility to enable parents to still work. We will be running our wrap around facility in the school canteen until the end of this half term. After this we are hopeful that a new provider will be able to take it over for us and run it from the next door building. You will need to book onto the club in advance (by 11pm the night before at the very latest please) via the School Money website. Many thanks for your understanding at this time, this has been yet another example of how home and school can work effectively together for the good of our Thingwall families.

There has been a lot of hard work going on behind the scenes to secure arrangements for the pre-school and wrap around as quickly as we can. We delighted to announce that we are currently working very hard with an established provider to set up a new offer for parents (including pre-school parents) and we hope to have exciting news for you in the coming week or two.

Marketing Survey:

Attached to this email is a marketing survey from our new pre-school and wrap around provider. It is a short set of questions, designed to glean interest with regards to numbers etc. Comments boxes have also been added for you share your comments with the initial proposals. If you would like to take part in this survey, please complete it and return to the school office email. We will then pass replies onto the private provider. Please note that once the new provider takes over the building next door to school, the wrap around interim care we have been offering at school will cease to exist.

Goodbye Miss Hine:

We have said goodbye to Miss Hine at the start of September as she has decided to retire, following a lengthy period away from school. We will miss her very much indeed; she has been a Higher Level Teaching Assistant with us since September 2014 and previously

taught at both Egremont and Castleway Primary Schools. She has had a long and distinguished career in education – having taught for almost 30 years in total, we have worked out that she has taught over 1000 pupils which is a massive achievement! Good luck Miss Hine, we will miss your loyalty to Thingwall, your sense of fun, your helpful ways and your steadfast professionalism and dedication to the children, not only of Thingwall Primary, but to pupils across the Wirral.

Congratulations Miss Durn:

Congratulations to Miss Durn and her family who gave birth to gorgeous Theo Albert on August 13th! Mum and baby are doing well and Lily and Jack are a very proud big sister and brother. We can't wait for you to come in to meet the children Baby Theo!

Congratulations Mr Hartley:

Some of you may remember Mr Hartley who was our Premier Sports coach, from a few years ago. Well congratulations are also in order for him, as his lovely wife Katie gave birth to Olivia Joyce on August 10th! Mr Hartley assures us that mum and baby are doing well and he has become an overnight expert in nappy changing and bottle washing!

Congratulations Mrs Leyland:

Congratulations are also in order for Mr and Mrs Leyland who have announced the exciting news that they are going to have their first baby this coming January! Congratulations Mrs Leyland, we are all thrilled for you. We can't wait to meet this little pink or blue bundle of joy, in the new year!

A two term fixed term contract will be advertised on this coming Friday's wirral.gov.uk site and we hope to get a new FS2 teacher in post very soon, so they will be able to work alongside Mrs Leyland to get to know the class before she goes on maternity leave at the end of the Autumn Term.

International Dot Day:

The staff and children have had a fabulous creative day today celebrating all things dotty with International Dot Day 2021. Over 21 million people have celebrated this event today across the world. Dot Day is a celebration of imagination and creativity, it's a day of building resilience and courage, celebrating that everyone is different and recognising that we are ALL talented in our own way. Every child has made their own creative dot based on the story "The Dot" by Peter H Reynolds and we will be displaying everyone's contribution around school over the coming days. What a fantastic thought that every single dot created today across the whole world will be individual, creative and unique in its own way. We ended the day with key stage assemblies, sharing our dots and celebrating our own 'uniqueness'!

FS2 2022 Visits:

If you know of anyone who has a child due to start school in September 2022, please ask them to telephone our school office to arrange a school visit. We will be informing all our local pre-schools too. Just ask them to call us on 0151 648 4885 and the office staff will be happy to arrange a suitable time.

Calendar Amendments:

Apologies but you were emailed an earlier copy of the school calendar on Tuesday, rather than the final draft. The Year Six Parent Secondary presentation will take place on

September 30th and not the week before as listed incorrectly on the calendar. We have amended the date on the school website. If you did not receive an emailed calendar, please telephone the school office to let us know. Mrs Hamel/Mrs Blackbourn will be happy to add your details to our mailing list.

Individual and Family Photographs:

School photographs for individuals and families will take place on September 24th (the same day as the MacMillan Cake Sale). Please ensure the correct uniform and footwear is worn on that day. Apologies but due to Covid restrictions we still aren't admitting visitors so we will not be able to include siblings who do not yet attend our school on the family photographs. If there are any cousin photographs that you would like to be taken please inform your child's class teachers and we will try to accommodate.

Christmas Cards:

We will be making our usual Christmas cards this year and POTS have arranged for a company to print multiple copies for you to purchase if you wish to. Many thanks to POTS for arranging this for us.

Extra-Curricular Clubs:

We are very excited that restrictions have been sufficiently lifted to enable us to restart our before and after school sports, music and tuition clubs. Please keep an eye out for emails and letters over the coming weeks as we have been working very hard to provide a selection of clubs for all ages. It was particularly lovely to see our School Band meet for their first morning club in a long time this week. Thank you Mrs Mitchell!

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.

Connor (Year Three) – Congratulations to Connor who is very proud to have been awarded his 5 metre swimming badge for backstroke, front crawl and for going underwater, well done keep at it and you might end up in a future Olympics!

Ava (Year Six) and Evelyn (Year Two) – Congratulations to these two book loving sisters! They have managed to complete the Wirral Libraries Reading Challenge over the summer holidays which is impressive! Well done girls, we are proud of you.

Annabelle, Emily J, Emily B, Oliver, Jacob, Mia, Lucas, Owen, Thomas, Rhea and William – Congratulations to these talented pupils who were winners in our summer holiday Rainbows of Nature photography competition. This is the second year running that we've had this summer holiday competition and the talented Thingwall photographers we have never cease to amaze us! Congratulations children, we are very proud of your achievements and we hope you enjoy your book prizes.

With Best Wishes

Mrs D L Evans