

Dear Parents

I know we have written our final newsletter for the year a few weeks ago but, such is the busy nature of Thingwall life, we have other pieces of exciting/important news to share with you.



### **Chair of Governors, Mr Gordon Lester:**

Please see message below from Mr Gordon Lester, our Chair of Governors...

*I wanted to write to you all to inform you of my decision to relinquish the Chair of Governors' role at the end of term. This has not been an easy decision but I must assure you that your Governing Body is in a very strong position with a wide range of skills and attributes that will serve Thingwall well in the future. I will remain as a Governor for a further twelve months and then I will step down completely.*

*It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as a Governor, Vice Chair and Chair of the school and to be a part of "Team Thingwall". It is this team that makes our school such a strong one. This is clearly demonstrated by the contributions from POTS. I must thank all those parents who worked so hard for their efforts, the results of your work are very plain to see. I have been involved in educating primary children for 46 years as a teacher and Headteacher. My philosophy has always been that the children should be at the heart of everything and that is clearly the case at Thingwall. Nowhere is this more clear than in the dedication of Mrs Evans who leads her team of outstanding staff, and I include all those who work in the school here. It has been a pleasure to work with them all.*

Mr Lester has been a wonderful Governor and a supportive member of our school. Although he is stepping down as Chair, we are pleased that he will remain a part of our Governing Body and we would like to thank him for all his years of service to our school.



### **Viking Week:**

We thoroughly enjoyed Viking Week again this year and staff organised a range of themed activities designed to enrich our understanding of our local heritage and the vital role that Thingwall played in Viking times. Everyone (including staff!) got into the spirit of dressing up which was great fun. We staged Viking styled battles (the people waiting at the bus stop got the fright of their lives when the Year 2 children let rip with their battle cries and charged along the playground

brandishing axes!), Year 5 created the most amazing Viking portraits using their HB pencils to create linear and tonal markings, we made clay Viking runes and Year 3 drew replica Viking knarrs and longboats on the KS2 playground as part of a measuring activity in maths. We all had a fabulous time and my thanks go to all of our wonderfully creative staff for devising such exciting learning opportunities for all of our children.



### **2021-2022 Class Assembly Congratulations:**

We have had some fabulous class assemblies this year and we are so proud of all of our pupils for taking part, whether it be by dancing, acting, singing or by taking charge of scenery, props, lights, technology or sound. These assemblies are great for building confidence, showcasing our learning, creating lasting memories and for including the whole school community - we have loved being able to welcome in parents, carers, grand-parents and extended family members once again.

*FS2 and Year One* - Our two youngest classes gave us a stunning rendition of Marcus Pfister's Rainbow Fish, which is a tale about celebrating friendship and they also helped us to become eco-warriors by offering advice on looking after the oceans of the world. Well done children.

*Year Two* - Year Two gave us a very regal performance, based on Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. The performance was royally professional from start to finish and was such a tricky script as it was PACKED with historical facts and figures. Mrs Goulding also treated all of our special guests to tea and cake afterwards so it was a real celebration of all things royal. Well done Year Two.

*Year Three* - Year Three performed way back in the Autumn Term and their performance was based on 'Every Child A Song' by Nicola Davies and was all about The United Nations Rights of the Child legislation. It was such a thought-provoking performance and it really made us appreciate how fortunate we are. Well done children.

*Year Four* - Year Four treated us to TWO, yes TWO class assemblies this year. Their first was all about spreading kindness across our communities and was a wonderful celebration of their positive mental wealth collaborative project with Paul Field of Pink Squid Positivity and Brilliant Schools fame. The second was a wonderful ukulele performance which celebrated all of Year Four's hard work with Edsential's Mr Donaldson - learning the ukulele is very tricky! They played some super tunes such as, Land of the Silver Birch and IKO IKO - an uplifting song about the celebration of friendship. Well done Year Four.

*Year Five* - Year Five treated us to a very professional performance of a Midsummer Night's Dream and they delivered their lines with accuracy, expression and comedy timing. Every pupil shone like a star in their own right, which is particularly impressive when you think about the old Shakespearean language they used - well done Year Five.

*Year Six* - Year Six treated us to an epic extravaganza called 'Let Loose' which was all about a Year Six Residential Trip and the children cleverly incorporated memories of life at Thingwall throughout. We ALL thoroughly enjoyed the performance and we were so proud of how far each

and every child has come over the last 7 years. We wish you all the best of luck and love as you make this exciting step into high school - the world is your oyster and we will miss you very much.



### **RE Quality Mark Award:**

We were thrilled to be awarded the Gold standard for the RE Quality Mark earlier on this week, following a rigorous afternoon of interviews with Rebecca Swansbury, Deputy Director of Education in Kent. This is the second Gold standard we have been awarded and we have held this accolade since January 2019 in recognition of our excellent Religion and Worldviews education. Rebecca reported that...

"The RE provision at Thingwall Primary School is transformative and exemplary. Pupils speak about how much they enjoyed their RE lessons, as they are creative, allow them to wrestle deeply with big questions and are linked to real people who inspire their lives. RE is led by a passionate and experienced leader ... Teachers have been empowered, through the detailed, coherent planning documents and bespoke CPD, to teach high quality RE that enables all pupils to make excellent progress."

Well done to all concerned, especially Tom, Charlotte, Amelia, Lottie and Jack, who were all interviewed by Rebecca. She was very impressed by their knowledge and how they were able to discuss/compare various religions. Well done and thank you children.



### **Biodiversity and Bloom Bid - Liverpool City Region:**

We had superb news last week that we have been awarded with a grant of almost £5000 from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Community Environment Fund for our new 'Biodiversity and Bloom' project! Many thanks to Anna Barnish, Abi Holbrook and Miss Yardley for applying for this prestigious grant earlier on in the year, we are thrilled to have been chosen by Steve Rotheram.

The aim of the project is to create garden and habitat zones within the school grounds to increase biodiversity, improve health and wellbeing and facilitate education about sustainability, ecology and the environment. The ideas for the project were based on feedback from pupils across the

school and our eco-council reps about how to improve the school grounds, whilst also learning more about how to protect and improve our environment.

The project will create 3 garden zones within the school grounds:

- 1) A habitat zone for birds, amphibians, pollinators and other minibeasts.
- 2) A wild zone for wildflower planting, relaxation and sensory planting.
- 3) An allotment zone for growing fruit and vegetables.

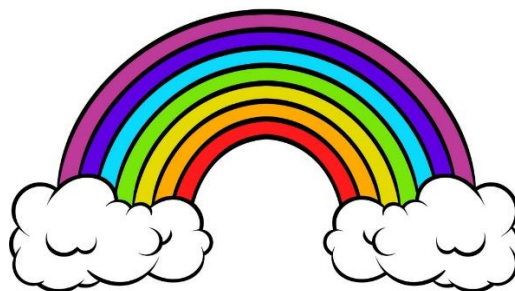
Bringing this big project to life will be a whole Team Thingwall effort involving all pupils, plus volunteers from the wider school community to make it happen. Watch this space for more information and opportunities to get involved in the new year.



### **Rainbows of Nature Photograph Competition:**

We will be holding our summer holiday annual photography competition again this year. Children will be encouraged to take colourful photographs of nature and their parent/carer will then upload their efforts to twitter with the school twitter address included @thingwallprima1 and the hashtag #rainbowsofnature

Previous years have seen a really high standard of entries and we look forward to seeing your pictures, winners will be announced in September.



### **Extreme Reading Competition:**

Another summer holiday competition that may tempt your children to get involved is our Extreme Reading Competition. All you have to do is take a photograph of your child reading in an extreme environment and print your photograph off, returning it to school in the first week of September. We will use the photographs to update our school reading display and will announce the winners in Good Work Assembly. This competition is open to all pupils (including the Year Six leavers and the new FS2 starters) as well as all staff, parents and grandparents.



### **Calendar for 2022-2023:**

01.09.22 and 02.09.22 – Staff Development Days so school is open to staff only

05.09.22 – School opens to pupils

15.09.22 - We will be celebrating International Dot Day on 15<sup>th</sup> September and we hope that every child and adult will come to school wearing something dotty! The day is based on Peter H Reynold's book 'The Dot' and is a global celebration of creativity, diversity and recognising that we all have different talents.

The annual calendar will be available very soon.



### **The Journey of the Travelling Suitcase:**

Congratulations to Emma-Jayne, Charlotte and Ava who took part in the Hearts 4 Refugees celebration event at St Peter's Church, Rock Ferry earlier on in the month. Thingwall were one of two schools selected to present the travelling suitcases to the congregation and all three girls spoke beautifully about the handkerchief that FS2 made to welcome refugees to Wirral, the Postcards and Prayer Petals for Ukraine (created by Years 3 and 5) and also the wonderful welcome posters created by Years 2, 3, 4 and 5. Thank you for representing our school so beautifully girls, we were very proud of you.



### **Summer Fair:**

This year's summer fair was an unprecedented success and we raised a record-breaking amount of money - thank you to everyone who supported the fair - all those who set up, ran stalls, cleared away, donated items and visited the fair on the day. Thank you to all our dedicated members of POTS, ably led by the wonderful Angela Sutcliffe - we could not provide such super opportunities to Thingwall pupils without your dedication and support. Thank you also to the local businesses who sponsored the event, including one anonymous sponsor who donated £200! Overall, POTS

have raised a whopping £9980 this year and every penny has been ploughed back into school to help purchase resources and to buy those added extra treats for Thingwall. Thank you all.

**THANK  
YOU!**

## CELEBRATION CORNER

### (or HUGGS- Huge, Unbelievably Great Goals!)

**Mia (Year Two) - Congratulations to Mia, who was awarded Helen O'Grady's 'Drama Student of the Year' across many schools, which was an amazing achievement! We are very proud of you Mia and look forward to seeing you in class assemblies in the future - wow! ☺**

**Year Four Ukelele Players - Well done to all the ukulele players who played amazingly well at their end of year concert and thank you to Edsential's Mr Donaldson who prepared them so beautifully. ☺**

**Year Six - Congratulations to all of our Year Six pupils who have reached the end of their school career with us at Thingwall. We know that you are more than ready for this big step and we know that you will grasp every opportunity that high school offers you. Please take care, stay safe and keep in touch - we are proud of you all and will miss you. ☺**



With Best Wishes for a happy, relaxing and healthy break. See you on September 5<sup>th</sup>

Mrs Evans