

Dear Parents

Welcome to Thingwall's final newsletter of the year. It has been such a busy year and the days/weeks/months have whizzed by... it is hard to believe that the school year is almost over and the summer holidays are almost upon us. Reflecting back on the academic year 2020-2021 it has been jam packed from start to finish and we still have several lovely events to look forward to (please see below). We have had the second year of the pandemic to adjust to, a summer term inspection, a third lockdown, a visit from James Backhouse (Wirral's new Assistant Director) and a local lockdown so it is no wonder that staff, children, parents and grandparents are ready for the break! Luckily, we have also had a fabulous year filled with exciting events, stimulating lessons and strong community links too, so it really has been one of the busiest years we can all remember.

Ofsted Feedback:

As you know we were inspected (Section 8 Inspection) on June 8th and 9th. We are currently waiting for the report to come through. Rest assured, as soon as it arrives we will send it out to all our current parents. We are hopeful that this will be before the end of term but we have been advised by Ofsted that there is an 18 working day delay due to Covid restrictions.



Thank you Thingwall Families:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this year, especially during our latest June inspection. The more eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed that the team of inspectors did not go out onto the playground at the start and end of each day to chat with parents as they usually would. This was because they were overwhelmed by the number of positive responses on the Ofsted Parent View site and felt they had no need to speak with parents face to face as they had more than enough information about Thingwall Primary School life! We had over 75 responses which, when you consider we have 160 families at Thingwall, is almost a 50% return and 54 of those parents also took the time to respond positively via the free text facility. The inspection team said that this level of support was almost unprecedented so many thanks to each and every one of you who took time out of your busy day to support us.



Military Style Education (MSE)/Sports Day Celebrations:

Friday 21/05/21 saw us all have a fantastic PE themed day with the team from MSE and Mr Roberts from Premier Sports. As we were unable to invite parents in for an official Sports Day this year, Mr Roberts organised a sporty round robin with each class competing against the clock to collect as many Premier Points as they could manage. The winning classes are as follows...

Year 5

Year 3

Year FS2

These three winning classes are therefore able to come into school wearing own sporty clothes as their reward on Friday 9th July. Please remember to wear sensible footwear. Well done Year 5, Year 3 and FS2.



We all thoroughly enjoyed the MSE visit too and even the staff had a go on the huge inflatable assault course and the archery! We are very pleased that we have been able to secure MSE for next year to work with our Year 5 and 6 classes and can't wait to welcome them back for a ten week course in September.

June Viking Day:

Friday 18/06/21 saw us celebrate our whole school Viking Day and I think it is fair to say we marked the day in great style, as only Team Thingwall can! We had some marvellous outfits from children and staff and we were completely immersed in this historical event for the entire day. Ed the Viking taught the children about Viking history with some very clever cross-curricular science links covering changing states of matter. FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 made clay pots and jewellery, Years 3 and 4 made wattle and daub frames and Years 5 and 6 made clay Viking artefacts and molten pewter arrow heads using a real blacksmith forge! All children also mixed their own ink and practised writing Viking runes using quills. Janet the Viking worked with our FS2 to Year 3 classes and they visited her Viking longhouse (KS2 sunshelter) to sample Viking life, in particular the Viking diet and grinding wheat to make flour for bread. Oliver the Viking (Prime VR Headsets) came to work with our KS2 classes who were thrilled to experience battles, settlements and voyages from the comfort of the IT Suite, each with their own individual 3D VR headset. It was a truly brilliant day which really enabled the children to appreciate what Viking life was like in the past and staff were also able to link the learning to Tingvoll's Viking heritage, helping the children to understand Thingwall's important role in history. Poor Mrs Goulding was self-isolating at the time but she was determined not to miss out on all the fun so Year 2 were also treated to a virtual visit from Goulding the Gory from her longhouse!



June Amazing Music and Dance Project:

This week we welcomed in the AmaSing.org.uk company into school to provide music and dance workshops for our FS2 – Year 4 pupils. It was an exciting day (please ask your children to sing ‘A Wonderful World’ to you as we ALL loved it) and it was so brilliant to be outside in the open air singing and dancing with great gusto. Music and performing (in particular singing) have been aspects of Thingwall life that we have all really missed during the last 18 months of the pandemic. We can’t wait to be able to meet for whole school assemblies, sing along with the school band and take part in our annual class assemblies once again so hopefully we won’t have long to wait until we can all be together in this way again.



Year 5 Visit to Burwardsley:

Year 5 visited Burwardsley earlier on this week to take part in a Stone Age/Iron Age themed experience. They took part in archery, weaving, bracelet making and an archaeological dig as well as hiking up Willow Hill Mount to discuss the placement of the Celt settlements in relation to the Romans who were based in Chester. It was a very tiring but extremely interesting day – as one parent said...“ An amazing day out for our children in these difficult times” and another remarked “I have a very tired boy here tonight – sign of a very full, brilliant trip – thank you.”

This visit is usually a residential but we were not able to stay over due to Covid restrictions this year. Let’s hope we can next year Year 4!



Year 6 Visit to Barnstondale:

Year 6's visit takes place next week and it promises to be every bit as exciting as the Year 5 visit! Children will be taking part in archery, team building activities, climbing and a celebratory BBQ to finish off their time at Thingwall on a real high! We hope you all have a super time children!



BARNSTONDALE

Year Four and Year Six Swimming:

Years 4 and 6 were really pleased to get back to some degree of normality last week as they were able to take part in their Edsential swimming classes at West Kirby Concourse. Everyone had a great time and it's one step further back into 'normal' school life for us all which has been a cause for great celebration in both classes. All children tried really hard and behaved beautifully – as we live on a Peninsula the ability to swim is so very important. We done to all who took part.

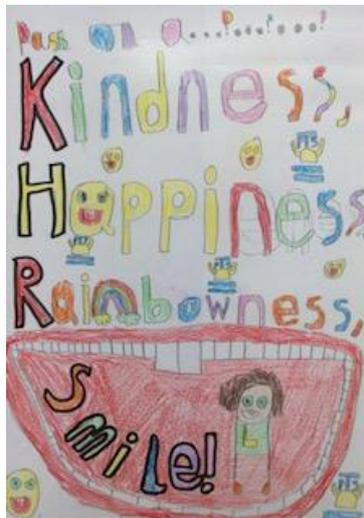


Year Three Kindness Project:

Year 3 completed their Kindness training with Paul Field this week and we are very proud to announce that they all graduated with flying colours and are now officially all...

Black Belts in Kindness!

Well done children, you are now officially one of only two classes WORLD WIDE to have received this new training and accreditation. Paul Field has been thrilled by you all and commented that you have all been a pleasure to work with. We look forward to you rolling out this training with the rest of school next year and know you will take your role as Kindness Ambassadors very seriously indeed.



Meet the Teacher:

We plan to visit our new class teachers and classrooms this Friday to spend the day together getting ready for September so we can hit the ground running straightaway on September 2nd. Please drop off your child at their usual classroom at the usual staggered time for your year group. They will then be taken to their next class and will spend the whole day there so please ensure that you collect them from the next year group classroom on Friday afternoon. If you are not sure where that is please ask. We will say goodbye and good luck to both Miss Durn and Miss Collins at the end of the term as they commence their maternity leave. This therefore leaves two vacancies on our school staff. We are delighted to welcome back Miss Skodra who will work once again with the Year Six class and we will also welcome Mrs Harvey who will work as the other half of the Year 1 job share team for the duration of Miss Collins' time off. Miss Harvey has visited school several times to get to know her new class and she will be spending the day with Mrs Stratton-Powell and the FS2 children this week. Welcome Mrs Harvey, we hope you enjoy your time with us at Thingwall...



Mrs Harvey (left) and Mrs Stratton-Powell (right)

Teachers and Teaching Assistants for 2021/2022:

FS2 – Mrs Leyland (Teacher)

Mrs Hutchinson (Teaching Assistant)

Miss Gibson (Teaching Assistant 1 day per week)

Year 1 – Job share Mrs Harvey (Mon – Wed) and Mrs Stratton-Powell (Wed-Fri)

Mrs Jones (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Foster (1:1 teaching Assistant)

Year 2 – Mrs Goulding (Teacher)

Mrs Sparke (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Peel-Price (1:1 Teaching Assistant)

Year 3 – Mrs Mitchell (Teacher)

Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant)

Year 4 – Mrs Holroyd (Teacher)

Mrs Smith (Teaching Assistant)

Year 5 – Miss Arden (Teacher and Acting Deputy Head Teacher)

Mrs Marsland (Teaching Assistant)

Miss Gibson (Teaching Assistant 1 day per week)

Year 6 – Mrs Sanders (Teacher)

Miss Skodra (Teaching Assistant 3 days per week)

Miss Gibson (Teaching Assistant 2 days per week)

Annual Reports to Parents:

Your child will be bringing home their annual report this Friday evening. Please let us know if it does not arrive safely! As in past years, you will notice that there are two back pages of the report. This is so you can keep one and return one signed copy for our records. If you require an additional parent meeting to discuss aspects of your child's report please telephone the School Office and the class teacher will arrange a telephone appointment for you. We intend to send all work books home at the end of the academic year as we appreciate you have missed out on seeing your child's books this year due to the pandemic.



Diary Dates:

Here are important dates for the rest of this term...

- ✓ 02.07.21 – Meet the Teacher Day
- ✓ 07.07.21 – POTS Cinema Day
- ✓ 07.07.21 – Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (live streamed at 1.30pm – we are very excited!)
- ✓ 09.07.21 – Year 6 Visit to Barnstondale
- ✓ 08 and 09.07.21 Fun Food Chef – Please see additional email from Mrs Hamel about this event
- ✓ 09.07.21 – Years 5, 3 and FS2 can wear sporty clothes on this day as their reward for Sports Day
- ✓ 15.07.21 – Year 6 Leavers' Party 3.30-5.00pm. Year 6 can wear their party clothes for the day if they wish as the party starts straight after school. Please see additional letter for further details.
- ✓ 16.07.21 – Own Clothes Day and Golden Time. Please do not bring in toys from home as we are not yet allowed due to our pandemic risk assessment.



Holiday Dates for 2021/2022:

Please see the website for the list of holiday dates for 2021-2022 as it has changed slightly due to the Queen's Jubilee. Wirral Local Authority have allocated school's an additional days holiday to take account of the Queen's special additional Bank Holiday which takes place during the May half-term. We will therefore have the Monday 6th June as the additional day holiday and the Tuesday 7th June will be our planned Staff Development Day. Children will therefore be due back in school on Wednesday 8th June for term 3B to begin.

HUGGS (Huge, Unbelievably Great Goals!):

Year 3 – Well done to all of our Year 3 pupils for gaining their Black Belt in Kindness awards! ☺

Year 2 – Well done to all our Year 2 pupils who have entered the Radio Two's Big Bee Challenge to promote bees in gardens. They made some fabulous miniature gardens and we all really enjoyed seeing them on display outside the Year 2 classroom last week. ☺

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and healthy summer break. Please stay safe, thank you for your continued support and we will see you on Thursday 2nd September 2021 for our first day back I school.

With Best Wishes

Mrs D L Evans