

Dear Parents

Apologies for the lateness of this January newsletter, I am afraid Covid finally caught up with me, hence the delay. Happy New Year, I hope to see you all again very soon. Many thanks to Miss Arden who has been the most amazingly capable Deputy Head Teacher in my absence, well done to the Year Five children who have adapted well to her additional workload in the office since last week and thank you also to Mrs Hamel who has been flying solo in the office as Mrs Blackbourn also has Covid! I am optimistically hopeful that we will soon be back to normal but, for the time being, we have decided to revert to our Covid Contingency Risk Assessment (see website) and temporarily go back to our bubbles. We have pockets of Covid throughout school, particularly in Year One and Year Six at the moment. Please be vigilant for symptoms in your child/children and telephone us for advice if you are at all concerned. Close contacts should LFT for seven days after contact with the infected person and symptomatic children should seek a PCR. Many thanks to all our staff across school, we have several teaching and support staff affected by the virus at the moment and supply staff are becoming increasingly difficult to find – this undoubtedly has a knock on impact on the staff (and teaching practice students) who remain well and in school – they have all done a brilliant job under these challenging circumstances and, as you would expect, Team Thingwall have really pulled together and done a great job. The following information may be of use to you for this coming term.



Congratulations to Mrs Leyland:

Huge congratulations go to Mr and Mrs Leyland who welcomed Baby Harry Arlo into the world earlier on this month. Harry was born on 12th January and weighed 6lbs 3 oz. Mum and baby are doing really well and Mrs Leyland thanks you for all her good wishes and kind thoughts. We can't wait to meet Baby Harry... Welcome to 2022, Harry!



Welcome New Staff:

Several new staff have joined us this term. Miss Patterson has taken on the FS2 maternity cover role and quickly settled into the team. Miss Davies has joined our midday team and very quickly got to grips with all the job entails and Mr Rees (Owen and Annabelle's Dad and Parent Governor) has joined us this week as our Year Five TA. We hope you will all be very happy with us, welcome to the team! We still have a TA vacancy for Year Two to fill the position left vacant by Mrs Sparke at the end of last term, so that will be advertised very soon. Please keep an eye out on the Wirral website in the next couple of weeks and apply if you are interested in the role.



Governor Vacancies:

We did not get anyone from school putting themselves forward for our two parent governor vacancies as the meeting times did not suit so we will now look further afield for interest, as the only requirement is that the governor is a parent of any school aged child in Wirral. We do have interest from one parent who fits this requirement and Mr Lester, our Chair of Governors, is currently approaching the correct authorities to hopefully welcome this parent to our governing body. We are pleased to report that we have filled our co-opted governor vacancy and Councillor Mike Collins looks forward to joining us at our next full governor meeting later on this term. If you have realised you are now able to take on the remaining Parent Governor role, please contact the School Office and Mrs Hamel will be able to advise you.



Holocaust Memorial Day:

Holocaust Memorial Day was last Thursday 27th January and we invited Eric Cohen 'The Jewish Fellow' in to school to speak with Years Five and Six. Year Five learned about the Holocaust and the first hand experiences of Eric and his family. They also reflected on the importance of remembering this period in history and learned about how the Jewish faith honours hope, family, love and peace. Year Six spoke with Eric about his Jewish heritage, World War Two and the impact of the Holocaust on Eric's family, the wider Jewish communities and the world. Both classes also learned about everyday life as a Jewish person living in Liverpool and both learned a special Hebrew song called Shalom, which is all about friendship and peace – it sounded lovely sung as a three-part round, well done children. This is the first time we have been able to welcome Eric back into school since before the pandemic and it was lovely to see him once again – we really do value visitors to our school and Eric brought our RE and History curriculums to life for our older pupils. Thank you Eric, we hope to see you again soon.



FS2/Year One Parent Visits:

I was chatting with the parents of one of our Year One pupils last week and we realised that there are some Year One and FS2 parents who have not yet had a chance to have a tour of our school due to the limitations of the pandemic. The parents suggested that it would be good to be able to look around, during the school day, to gain an understanding of what we do at Thingwall, see where they drop their child off every day and to meet the staff. This is such a lovely idea, especially for those families who have not had older siblings making their way through the other classes. If you are a Year One parent or an FS2 parent (or even a parent of a child who has joined us in another class in the last couple of years) and would like a school tour, please contact the school office and we will book you in for a mutually convenient time (Covid dependent obviously). We will limit the visits to one family at a time and we would request that visitors wear a mask, sanitise hands on arrival and LFT beforehand.



Music Mark Award:

We were thrilled last week to be nominated by Edsential to receive a Music Mark award. This award recognises all the hard work Thingwall do, under the musical leadership of our wonderful Mrs Mitchell, to ensure ALL our pupils can access and engage with high quality music provision. Every class follows the very comprehensive Charanga scheme of work and, in addition to this, we provide a plethora of musical experiences across school. We are thrilled to be welcoming back the Pop Project band next week for an entertaining day based on well-being and moving on from the pandemic for example, but our music provision does not end there. We have a class set of glockenspiel which are used by all pupils for composing and performing, we meet weekly with our School Band for Choral Assemblies and Band Practice (when Covid allows), we have guitar and recorder clubs in Year Three, we welcome Edsential to Year Four weekly for specialised vocal and ukulele tuition, we perform Class Assemblies each year, we have ensured parents don't miss out during the pandemic by filming our high quality Christmas celebrations, peripatetic musicians come into school to tutor brass, violin and keyboards for our KS2 pupils... the list is endless! Suffice to say, Thingwall are so pleased that all of Mrs Mitchell's and our staff's hard work has been recognised in this area of the curriculum and we are very proud to have been nominated and awarded this accolade.



Learning Walks:

One of the fantastic parts of my role as Head Teacher is that I get to see all of the fabulous work going on in all our classrooms on a daily basis. It has been great to see Kate Silcock from Flourish Learning working with our Year Five and Six pupils on excellent persuasive writing this term and I have been very proud showing prospective new FS2 parents around during the Autumn and Spring terms. The classrooms and corridors are vibrant, the children are beautifully behaved and the creativity from every member of staff is astounding – no-one can accuse us of narrowing our curriculum as everywhere you look there are fantastic lessons going on that cover all areas of the curriculum. From pneumatic monsters in Year Three, to Jack in the Beanstalk seed planting in FS2, to super scientists investigating the absorbency of different materials in Y2 and Y4 explaining the human digestive system, to Y1 working really hard at their phonics and loving their class novel Beegu... Everywhere you go you can see hard-working staff, enthusiastic pupils and evidence of great learning and great behaviour. Well done everyone, Thingwall is a very special place to come to school every day and we are the only primary school I know that has an aquarium and several vivariums full of creatures!



Mental Wealth Fortnight:

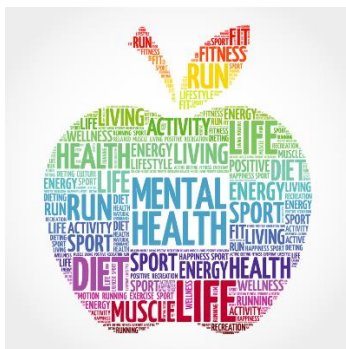


The w/c 7.2.22 is the nationwide Mental Health Awareness Place 2 Be Week and the w/c 14.2.22 is our Reach Collaboration Mental Wealth Week. We have a fortnight of exciting activities planned to equip your children with the vitally crucial mental health building blocks that will help them, not only now, but in their future lives. Class based activities will be occurring all through the fortnight, led by Mrs Holroyd and Miss Patterson who are our PSHE and Mental Health Leads but we thought you may like to see the other activities we have planned across school to benefit us all...

Place2Be Mental Health Awareness Week		
Date	Activity	Cross Curricular Links
7.2.22	Year Six Residential to Min Y Don	Outdoor Education Physical Activity PSHE Teamwork
8.2.22	Safer Internet Day (all classes) We always remind the children of the importance of keeping safe when using the internet but we will be emphasising this today with thought provoking class based activities provided by Mrs Sanders, who is our Computing Lead.	Computing PSHE
9.2.22	Pop Project (all classes) A feel good musical show based on good mental health, valuing and looking after each other, positivity, resilience and looking forward with optimism.	Music PSHE
10.2.22	Year Three Class Assembly – Open to all Year Three Parents, Carers and Grandparents. Arrival from 9am, performance to start at 9.30am. Please note that the pupils from other classes will not be joining us (Year Three will do a series of socially distanced dress rehearsals for them so they don't miss out). This assembly fits beautifully with our Mental Wealth fortnight as the performance is based on a non-fiction book by Nicola Davies and Marc Martin called 'Every Child a Song' and is a celebration of every child's right to love, joy and freedom. These are the universal rights that every child is entitled to under the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child.	Music Art PSHE Dance Drama World Views and Citizenship
	Year Four welcome Paul Field (Pink Squid Positivity and Art of Brilliance) back to Thingwall on this day too. Paul will be working with all four schools from the Reach Collaboration (Irby, Heswall, Barnston and Thingwall) and we have chosen Year Four to work with Paul as they met Paul last year whilst studying for their Black Belts in Kindness and helping Thingwall to become an Outstandingly Kind School as well as an Outstandingly Happy one (2019). Details about the day with Paul are top secret but we have asked Year Four and Paul to ensure the whole school benefits from this visit, perhaps in the form of a 'Top Tips To Protect Your Mental Health' leaflet or 'Positivity Posters' for around school. Watch this space because we always have a fantastic time with Paul, his well-being and mental health suggestions are always second to none!	PSHE English
11.2.22	Year Three will be visited by Bobby Singh who will be sharing his life as a Sikh with the children and showing how his beliefs	RE PSHE

	shape his identity as a Sikh person. He will be sharing the meaning of the 5 Ks with the children and also telling them how playing a big role in the Sikh community in Manchester has shaped him as a person. He might even tell the children about his favourite topic, Manchester United! This will be a lovely finale for Year Three as they have been studying Sikhism this half term in RE and focussing specifically on how our beliefs, hobbies and communities can shape our identity. They will be very proud to show Bobby their artwork inspired by the Singh Twins portrait of their father entitled 'This Is Me'.	World Views and Citizenship
Reach Collaboration Mental Wealth Week – Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds		
14.2.22	Kate Silcock from Flourish Learning will be in school for the full day working with our Years Five and Six girls on a special one off well-being and confidence workshop. There will even be a session on Laughter Yoga which promises to be entertaining and uplifting!	PSHE PE Art English Speaking & Listening
	John Putman will be visiting KS2 for an assembly to discuss his role at St Michael's Church in Pensby and to discuss how it feels to be part of a community.	RE PSHE World Views and Citizenship
15.2.22 OWN SPORTY CLOTHES	Phil Breidenbach from the Freddy Fit franchise will be welcomed back into school to work with all classes on how to remain physically and mentally healthy and the vital role that exercise plays in keeping us mentally and physically fit. Children are able to come into school wearing their sportswear for the whole day – the sessions have a quick turnaround to ensure everyone benefits and we don't want to waste a second getting changed! We haven't seen Phil since the pandemic began and we are really looking forward to getting those hearts pumping and our bodies moving!	PE PSHE Science
	John Putman will be visiting KS2 for an assembly to discuss his role at St Michael's Church in Pensby and to discuss how it feels to be part of a community.	RE PSHE World Views and Citizenship
	Paul Field will do a virtual check in assembly with Year Four to see how they are getting on.	PSHE English
16.2.22	FS2, Year One and Year Two will focus on the NSPCC's Pants Campaign (parent explanatory letter to follow). During this day they will focus on keeping ourselves safe, what to do if we feel unsafe and how we can seek help should we need it. This fits beautifully with our Mental Wealth focus as it is all about empowerment, safety, consent and having the confidence to speak up. The day will be framed around class novels and the children will also be given the opportunity to watch the Pantosaurus animation.	PSHE English
17.2.22	Paul Field will come back into school to work with Year Four and to spread the good work they have done throughout school.	PSHE English
18.2.22 OWN CLOTHES DAY... WITH A DIFFERENCE!	This will be an Own Clothes Day with the theme... DRESS TO EXPRESS! Children will be able to dress in their own clothes to express their individuality, their hobbies, their creativity and their personality. This promises to be an exciting day... who knows Mrs Evans might even release her inner rock star! The only rule for that day is that there should be no judgement – we are all the same, just different and, as Andrew Moffat (No Outsiders) taught us earlier on this year "We might be all different, but we are all welcome". Staff will use this opportunity to focus on some of the recommended Letterbox Library No Outsiders storybooks we	PSHE English CREATIVITY!

	<p>purchased following Andrew's visit. It will be an exciting day and a wonderful way to round off our Mental Wealth Fortnight.</p> <p>Children will be asked for a voluntary donation of £2 per child to wear their own clothes, which will be split equally between the Place 2 Be charity and the NSPCC. POTS will provide us with a school money link nearer the time – thank you POTS. Please note, we realise it has been an expensive time of the year following Christmas, so this donation is just a suggestion, please do not feel obliged. Your child can still take part in everything as the fortnight, with the exception of Min Y Don, will be fully school funded (with a little help from POTS – thank you POTS).</p>	
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Diary Dates:

In addition to the above dates, the following may be worth noting on your calendar...

<p>03.02.22 <i>Covid dependent. If cancelled it will be rescheduled.</i></p>	<p>Lunar New Year workshops for the infants facilitated by Wirral's Clare Fleming from MEAS (Minority Ethnic Advisory Service) 9.15-9.45 Year One 9.50-10.30 Year Two 10.30-11.00 FS2</p>
<p>04.02.22 <i>Covid dependent. If cancelled it will be rescheduled.</i></p>	<p>Eric Cohen 'The Jewish Fellow' Judaism workshops and assemblies 9.15-10.00 KS1 Three signs and symbols of Judaism 10.00-10.30 FS2 The Festival of Hanukkah 11.00-12.00 Year 2 The Celebration of Shabbat 1.15 – 2.00 Year 1 Faith Stories 2.00-3.00 Year 5 Jewish Artefacts 3.00-3.30 KS2 The Joys of Judaism</p>
<p>18.02.22</p>	<p>End of Term 2A</p>
<p>28.02.22</p>	<p>Term 2B begins Year Five Residential Visit to Burwardsley in Cheshire</p>
<p>01.03.22</p>	<p>Year Six National School Allocation Day</p>
<p>02.03.22</p>	<p>POTS Pancake Breakfast tbc</p>
<p>03.03.22</p>	<p>World Book Day – Please dress up as your favourite book character or bring your favourite book in for us to share! Each class will focus on different poets and enjoy a day of book related activities Liz Davidson, Wirral's new Senior School Improvement Advisor will visit school for the afternoon to introduce herself and to conduct a learning walk to see all the fabulous things Thingwall children do!</p>
<p>14.03.22</p>	<p>Anna and Sheema from Wirral's MEAS will spend the morning with us on their Challenging Racism unit. This is for KS1 and KS2 pupils and will include thought provoking assemblies.</p>
<p>16.03.22</p>	<p>POTS Disco? tbc</p>
<p>18.03.22</p>	<p>Comic Relief Day – This year is a festival/party theme so please wear your favourite outfits (remember sensible shoes and a warm coat though please). Suggested donation of £1 per child but this is purely voluntary as we know that families do like to donate together whilst watching the Comic Relief show in the evening.</p>

23.03.22	Annual Health and Safety Audit
23.03.22	Sue Calveley our SEND and Mental Health Consultant, will give a SEND workshop for parents of SEND pupils (afternoon but timings tbc)
w/c 28.03.22	Belief, Belonging and Identity Themed Week Details of this week are still under discussion but we have managed to secure some BIG RE Day funding. It is hoped that we will have sessions around RE, PSHE, Drama and Art. Watch this space...
w/c 04.04.22	International Themed Week 04.04.22 – FS2/Y1/Y2 - Bilingual Spanish Story Telling 'Lima's Red Hot Chilli' with Wirral's MEAS 05.04.22 – Years 3/4/5/6 – Greek Mythology and Greek Culture with Thingwall's Miss Skodra! 06.04.22 – Years 3/4/5/6 - Bilingual French Story Telling 'Le Grande Navet' with Wirral's MEAS 07.04.22 9.30am Year Four Class Assembly 07.04.22 – All classes – Mandarin and Tai Chi with Thingwall's Miss Collins! 08.04.22 – 2.30 Easter Festival – Easter Around the World theme.
08.04.22	End of term 2B

Please note that, while we do try our hardest to keep you informed about up and coming dates/events, sometimes there may be last minute changes (especially due to Covid) or last minute opportunities that present themselves which we do not want to miss out on!



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.

Handy Helpers: We would like to give a massive shout out to our merry band of Year One Lunchtime Handy Helpers! Zach, Michael, James, Gabriella (and other children on different days of the week) have done a superb job helping midday staff wipe down tables and brush up after our lunches. They have been meticulous, sensible, cheerful and, above all else, GREAT ambassadors for Team Thingwall. Thank you children, what a responsible and organised job you have done! 😊

Fire Marshal Freddie: We would also like to give a massive shout out to Freddie in FS2, who has done a brilliant Fire Marshal job, helping Mr Wearing with our fire alarm practices! Freddie did such a sensible job that our Health and Safety Consultants heard about him and congratulated him on their professional platforms and in their monthly health and safety newsletter. Well done Freddie, it is lovely to see such a young pupil take the health and safety and security of the school so seriously. We will have to find some more willing FS2 pupils to help you, as Mr Wearing needs to do a lock down practice and a health and safety site survey. Get your yellow jacket and clipboard ready! 😊

Lucy (Year Two): Congratulations to Lucy who has taken her first karate grading and has been awarded an orange belt! What super news Lucy, we are all very proud of you, keep up the hard work. 😊



With Best Wishes

Mrs D L Evans