

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the November version of our school newsletter. It's been another packed half term and is surely set to get even busier as we enter December. Please do ensure you have had a read of the recent POTs newsletter and also our weekly Friday flyers as there are lots of Christmas events happening from now until the end of this term. The following news may be of interest to you...



### **Congratulations to Miss Kilikita:**

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Miss Kilikita and Mr Fletcher welcomed twin boys into their family on Wednesday, November 12th. Vincent (7lb) and Lennon (5.5lb) are now home and thriving. Their big sisters, Hazel and Delilah, are utterly smitten and Miss Kilikita is doing brilliantly. We can't wait to meet the newest members of the Kilikita/Fletcher family - it's sure to be a joyful (and very busy!) Christmas in their household.



### **Thank you POTs and Team Thingwall families:**

We wanted to take the opportunity to thank POTs for all that they do for our school in this newsletter and to let parents know a little about how the much-valued funds that have been raised by various events have been spent.

So far this term, POTs have given school £3000 to spend on sensory hubs and sensory resources around school. The first wooden sensory teepee is situated on the infant corridor and we hope to take delivery of another teepee, which will be located in the junior library, very soon. Both teepees will contain sensory items and can be used if children are feeling at all overwhelmed at any point

during the school day. These sensory hubs and resources are a vital part of the successful work we do for inclusion and we would not have been able to afford these items without your generous fundraising support, thank you all.

POTs have given us a very generous amount of money (over £1000!) to enable us to purchase much needed PE resources, to enable us to continue to effectively deliver PE across the school. Miss Yardley and the PE team received hoops, balls for tennis and dodgeball, long jump mats, javelin sets, footballs, bibs, rounders bats and skipping ropes, which all classes have greatly benefitted from - thank you.

POTs have been able to fund prizes for our weekly Good Work/Good Citizen assemblies, which have proved to be very popular with the children (especially the beautiful hologram stickers!) and they have also agreed to donate a considerable sum of money towards the annual Year Six Min Y Don residential visit to try to keep the costs as low as we can for families.

As well as all of the above, POTs have (as always) been working very hard in the background to benefit all Thingwall pupils - 50/50 club, neon disco, Breakfast With Santa, teas and coffees for various performances to name just a few... Thank you all.

This year, POTs have offered to fund an exciting Christmas craft afternoon for each class, which will take place in the final week of term. We are thrilled and have excitedly taken delivery of baubles, stained glass Nativity lanterns, velvet wreaths to name just a few items. Please keep an eye out for our social media and December newsletter as we hope to share some wonderful craft items with you, every child has been given this opportunity thanks to all who voluntarily support our school - thank you so much.

Reception, Year One and Year Two Nativity photographs have been taken once again by Mrs Webster (Jack and Maisie's Mum) who is a professional photographer [www.jackaroophotography.co.uk](http://www.jackaroophotography.co.uk). These beautiful photographs will be available to purchase before/after the performances and we are very grateful for the time she has given voluntarily to benefit our school, thank you Mrs Webster.

We are also incredibly grateful to GRA Accountants who have agreed to fund our upcoming accreditations for the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) and the RE Quality Mark (REQM) - without this very generous cash donation, we would have lost both quality marks as school does not have the finances to renew at this time, thank you all at GRA Accounting.

Quite simply, we could not manage to make school so exciting and interesting without the support from POTs and our families. Thank you all.

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## **Team Thingwall On Tour - Nativities in the Community:**

As December arrives, we will be offering several performances from all our pupils. Please see the dates on the Arbor calendar, the POTs newsletter and our weekly Friday Flyers.

We have decided to try and get our festive performances out into the community as much as we can, as we recognise that some members of our local community may struggle to attend, due to mobility issues and other reasons. Therefore, this year, we will be going '*on tour*' to the following places, in addition to our usual performances:

Thursday 4th December - Years Five and Six Readers will be visiting our friends in Trepassey Care Home to sing carols and do their church readings. This is a lovely opportunity to continue to build our Trepassey/Thingwall friendship but also a valuable opportunity to further develop our inter-generational oracy project which is being run with Harris Manchester College in Oxford University as part of our Farmington Scholarship.

Friday 12th December - Both Year Three and Year Four classes will be visiting Ridgewood Manor Care Home to sing the KS2 church service carols to all the residents. This is the first year that we have been able to visit the care home and we are very grateful to Miss Chapman (Fredrik's Mum) for organising this visit and making this possible. If any parents/grandparents would like to help us walk to the care home, please do let the Year Three and Four staff know.

Wednesday 17th December - Both Year One and Year Two classes will be making our annual visit to The Warren's GP Surgery to sing to the staff and patients. This is always a lovely visit and so nice to be able to show The Warren's staff how fantastic our singing is. If any parents or grandparents would like to attend to listen, please do ask the Year One and Two staff for further details.

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## Instagram Developments:

Thank you for all of your support as we have established our new school Instagram page. We hope you like our weekly posts - we are trying to get a breadth of different posts across the subjects and the year groups to give a taster of the enrichment opportunities and lessons on offer at Thingwall. Please do follow us if you aren't already. We will keep our Twitter/X account open so we can look back on school life over the years but we won't be updating that account anymore. Parents of Thingwall Primary School (POTS) also regularly update their Facebook page with exciting information and dates to keep you organised as well, so follow them if you aren't doing so already.

[#TPSCollaboration](#) [#TPSCitizenship](#) [#TPSIInspiration](#) [#TPSExpression](#)



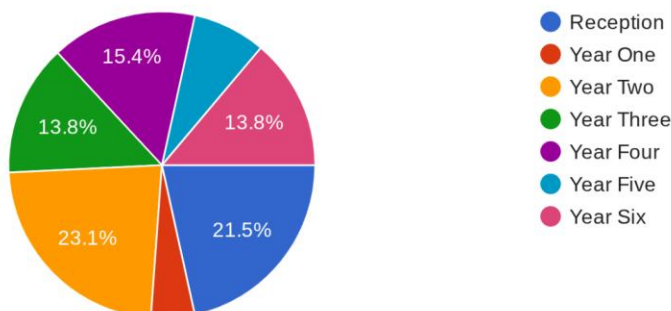
## Annual Parent Survey:

Thank you to those of you who completed the online annual survey of Ofsted questions. This year, we received 65 responses, which is similar to our 2024 survey. Thank you for all of your responses, your answers are vital to us from a school improvement perspective and we appreciate the time you have taken.

As promised, we chose one response at random from a hat; the winner this year was Year Six Lauren's Mum, who received a mini Christmas hamper of gin, shortbread and chocolate - CONGRATULATIONS! The results of our survey are below...

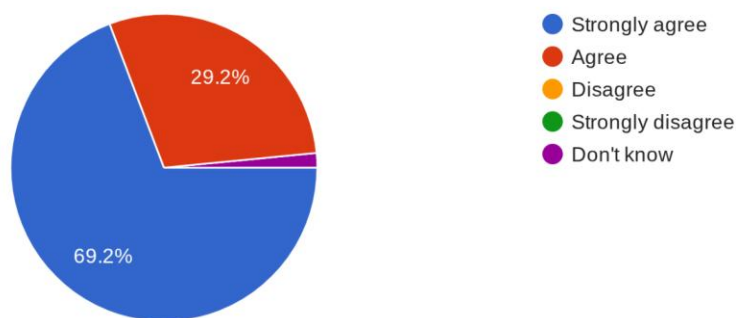
NB Please note that 1 response = 1.5%

Pupil Year Group  
65 responses



My child is happy at this school.

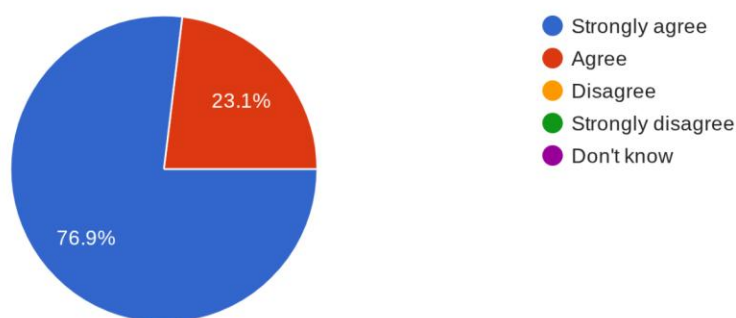
65 responses



**This is an excellent response, with 64/65 of families who answered, agreeing their children are happy at Thingwall Primary.**

My child feels safe at this school.

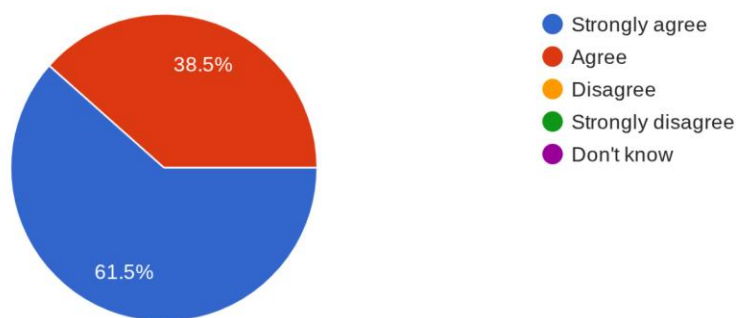
65 responses



**This is a super response, with 65/65 of families who answered, agreeing their children are safe at Thingwall Primary.**

The school makes sure its pupils are well-behaved.

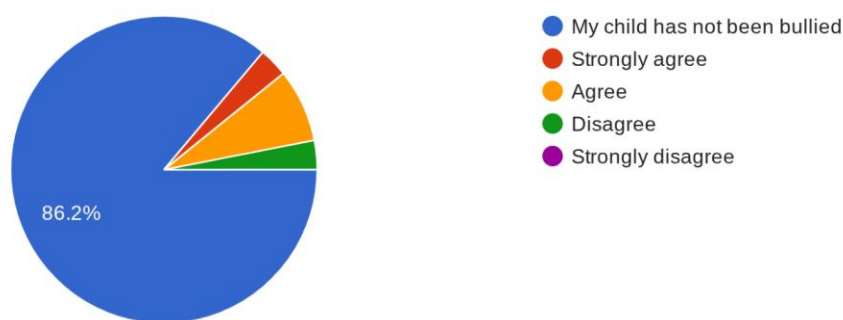
65 responses



**Again, this is another super response, with 65/65 of families who answered, agreeing children are well-behaved at Thingwall Primary.**

My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively

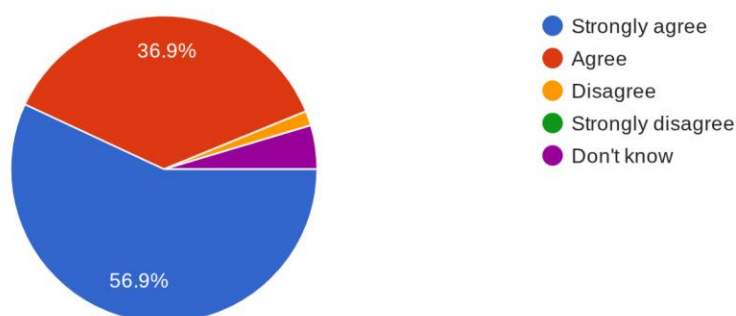
65 responses



**This is a mixed response, with 56/65 of families who answered, stating their children have not been bullied at Thingwall Primary. Out of the remaining 9 families, we were pleased that 7 agreed the issue had been dealt with swiftly and effectively, meaning that 2 families felt the issue had not been resolved. If those 2 families could contact the class teacher, we can further support your child, ascertain why the issue has not been resolved and hopefully rectify the situation.**

The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.

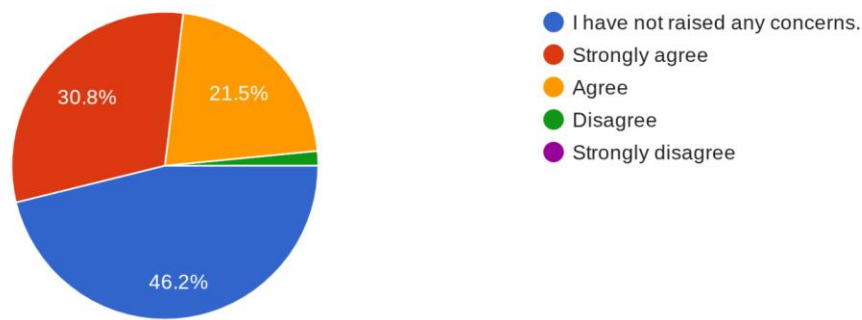
65 responses



**This is a good response, with 61/65 of families who answered, agreeing they are made aware of what their children are learning at Thingwall Primary. This is a question that we listened very carefully to last year and we have put a lot of additional measures in place to keep families fully updated. This year, we have sent welcome letters detailing what your child will learn during the year, held welcome meetings/workshops, used social media/communication (Facebook, Instagram, Arbor, X, Tapestry), held our Autumn Parents Evenings, FS2 Stay and Play, schools website – see School Information, Curriculum and Learning Zone tabs, introduced Friday Flyers and our usual newsletters, POTs communication, as well as ensuring we respond promptly to all emails, calls and face to face meetings. We are aware we needed to delay the FS2 parent workshop, so possibly these parents responded to the survey before that meeting. If anyone has any further ideas about how we can make you aware of your child's learning, please do not hesitate to let us know.**

When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly.

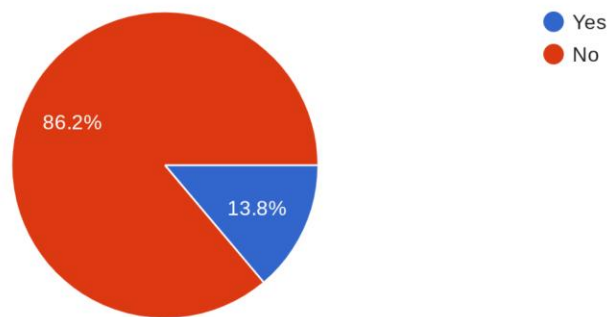
65 responses



**This was a pleasing response with 64/65 families who answered, feeling we respond to concerns. We *think* the 1 family who feel we have not responded appropriately may have made an accidental typo, as the rest of their survey was very good so we would urge them to contact school as soon as possible if they feel they have any outstanding concerns that we have not properly dealt with.**

Does you child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?

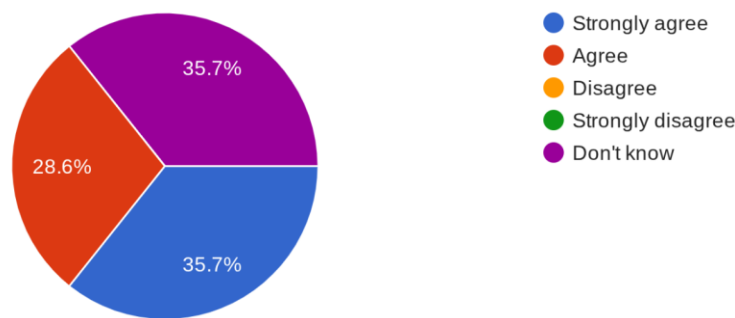
65 responses





If you answered yes to the above question, how strongly do you agree with this statement... My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.

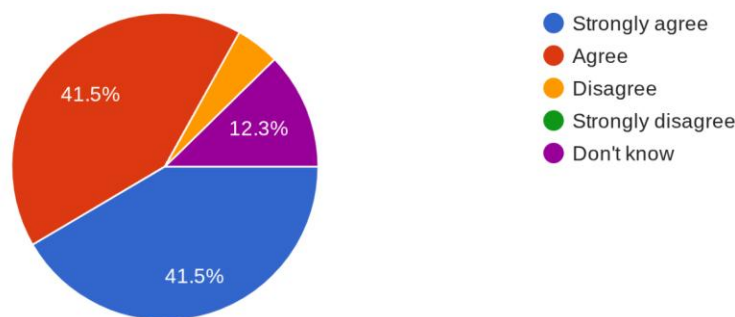
14 responses



**This was a mixed response with 9 responses agreeing or strongly agreeing we have given their children the support they need to succeed and 5 responses stating they are unsure. If you require any further information about the way your child is supported with their SEND, please do not hesitate to ask the class teacher and/or approach the school office for an appointment. We are able to see that 3 of these responses could actually be typos as the children do NOT have SEND so this could have slightly skewed the data for this question.**

The school has high expectations for my child.

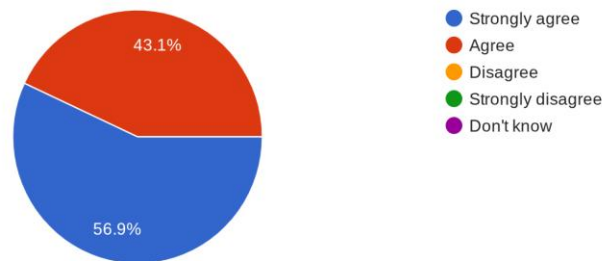
65 responses



**This was a good response, with 63/65 responses telling us we do have high expectations for their child.**

My child does well at this school.

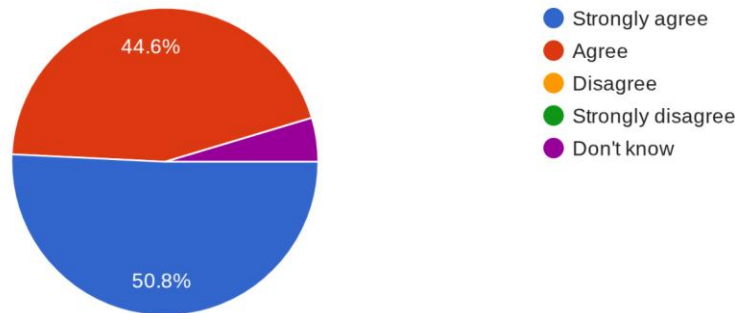
65 responses





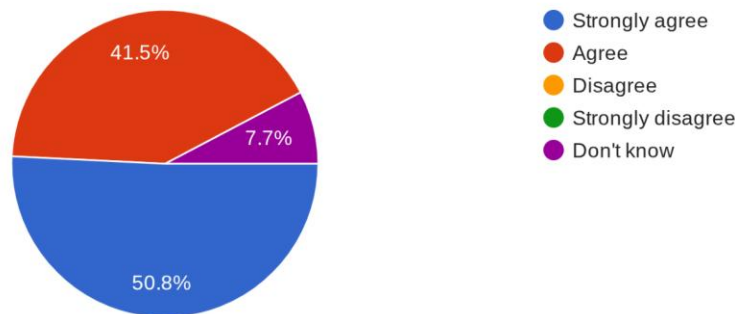
**This was another excellent response, with 65/65 families agreeing that their child does well at Thingwall Primary.**

The school lets me know how my child is doing.  
65 responses



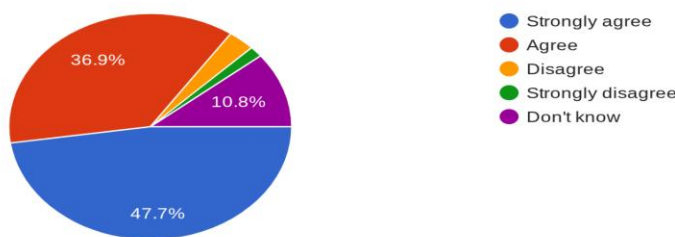
**This was another good response, with 63/65 families agreeing that their child does well at Thingwall Primary and 2 not being sure. It could be that the families who were unsure had not attended parents evening.**

There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.  
65 responses



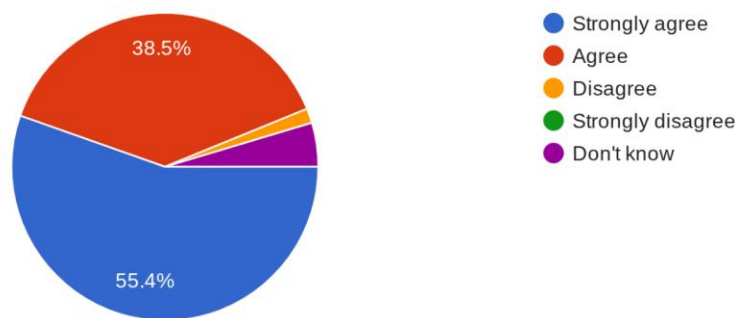
**This was a good response with 61/65 of the families who responded indicating that there is a good range of subjects available, with 4 indicating they are unsure. Please be assured we follow the National Curriculum and ensure that we also incorporate as many enrichment activities as we are able to.**

My child can take part in clubs at this school (before/during/after school clubs)  
65 responses



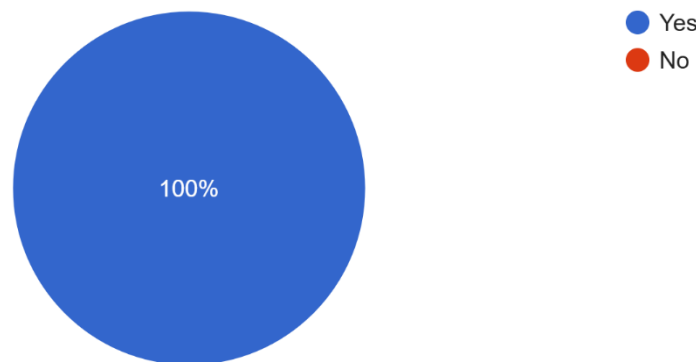
3/65 of the responses indicate that their child does not have the opportunity to take part in clubs at Thingwall. On analysis of the data, we can see that there actually are fewer clubs offered to the younger pupils, specifically those in Year One and Reception. Therefore, we will try to organise some clubs for our younger pupils going forward from January onwards, watch this space...

The school supports my child's wider personal development.  
65 responses



This was a good response with 61/65 responses agreeing we do support children’s wider personal development at Thingwall. Out of the remaining 4 responses, 3 parents did not know and we think this could possibly be that the Ofsted terminology of ‘*wider personal development*’ is not easy to understand. In a nutshell, ‘*wider personal development*’ means lessons and other wider school activities that help you grow into a confident, kind, and capable citizen both in and out of school. This could mean clubs, assemblies, values charter, school visits, residentials, community links, POTs, reward assemblies for example – not an exhaustive list.

I would recommend this school to another parent.  
65 responses



This 65/65 response was lovely to read, thank you to all of you for your continued support and the time you have taken to respond.

All things considered, this was a really successful survey and gathering the views of the Thingwall parent body has, yet again, proved to be an extremely valuable school improvement tool. Thank you for all of your lovely responses. The next newsletter will go into the positives and ways forward identified at the end of the survey in more detail.

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*Thank  
you!*

### **MAT Values Event - Barnstondale Success:**

Year Three had a fantastic outward bounds afternoon with Great Meols Primary recently, taking part in a variety of problem-solving activities. It was a very worthwhile (and terribly muddy) visit, where our pupils really benefitted from collaborating with Year Three pupils from Great Meols on a variety of army-themed teamwork activities. Thanks to all parents who helped us and well done to all Year Three pupils who took part, we were SO proud of your behaviour, your resilience, your respectful listening skills and your can-do approach. These MAT Values events are proving to be very successful - we have a Music Through the Decades event coming up later in December and next term Years Three and Four, the School Band and our Hulme Hall Year 5&6 Choir will be taking part in an exciting MAT wide visit to the Philharmonic in Liverpool...watch this space.

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### **Christmas Charities Update:**

Thank you to those of you who were able to support our Alder Hey Toy Appeal, Sue Newton from Buddies was overwhelmed by the generosity from school and Buddies and assures us that Alder Hey will make very good use of the toys.

Our two chosen charities this festive season are The Hive in Birkenhead (a MAT wide charity for 2025-2026) and also the Charles Thompson Mission. We will have collection buckets for both charities at all five services/performances so please bring any loose change you have to benefit our local community. Thank you in advance.

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## Reading With My Elf:

It's that time of the year again, when we invite families to send in photographs of their child/children reading a story to their elf of the shelf. If you would like your child to take part in this annual competition, please upload a Christmassy photograph of them reading a story to their elf to Instagram and tag @thingwallprimary along with the #TPSreadingtomyelf hashtag. Please remember to not use children's names for safeguarding purposes. Every child who takes part and uploads a photograph will win a small prize. The competition ends on Christmas Eve, when all of the elves will go to help Father Christmas pack the presents onto his sleigh.

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## 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.

Congratulations to all these pupils, who exemplify the MAT values of **collaboration, citizenship, inspiration and expression** with distinction and pride. We are immensely proud of all of our Team Thingwall pupils, they are all outstanding ambassadors for our school and try to reflect our values in all that they do.

Clara (Year One) – Clara has been acknowledged in a University of Liverpool research paper, which mentions her excellent care of a leaf insect. Well done Clara, we are super proud of you and the care you show towards all living creatures! 😊

Michael (Year One) – Michael decided to display some of his toys at the end of the drive, along with a 'Tree Toys' sign which encourage any passers-by to choose a toy for free to brighten their day. Well done Michael, what a special thing to do, we are proud of you! 😊

Everybody – Well done to all those pupils who took part in our recent Kindness Challenge, we look forward to you receiving your certificates through the post very soon! 😊

*Congratulations*