

Dear Parents

Apologies, this is not the end to the Autumn Term that we would have wished for. It would appear that, after nearly two years of keeping Covid contained, it has now arrived in Thingwall. I do hope that you all stay safe and manage to enjoy a Merry Christmas. Many thanks to all of you who have offered messages of support to us over the last few weeks. Let's hope for a smooth start to the Spring Term and a return to some degree of normality. If anything changes over the holidays I will, of course, let you know via email, class What'sApp groups, the Twitter page and text messages. Otherwise please presume that we will all start back to school on Wednesday 5th January. Please enjoy a restful and safe Christmas. We will still be monitoring the school emails and liaising with Public Health over the festive break so do continue to send us updates about Covid testing (PCRs and LFTs).



Staffing Update:

Mrs Tucker and Mrs Sparke will leave us this Friday and we wish them both the best of luck. We will miss them both very much indeed and wish both well for their future endeavours.

Mrs Leyland has been working in the IT Suite for the last week and a half and she has started to work from home as of yesterday under midwife's orders. I am sure you will all join us in wishing her the very best of luck as her and Mr Leyland embark upon this next very exciting phase of their lives. We will keep you updated when Baby Leyland makes an arrival and Mrs Leyland will continue to teach virtually from home for the rest of the week. We look forward to welcoming Miss Patterson to our FS2 class after Christmas.

Mrs Evans (not me!) will take on Mrs Tucker's role after Christmas and will be teaching Year Two every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. Mrs Evans is a very experienced teacher who recently retired from Egremont Primary and specialises in Key Stage One and Early Years pupils. We hope she will feel very welcome at Thingwall and she can't wait to meet the children and get started in the new year.

We have advertised a TA vacancy for Year 5, with a closing date of 07.01.22 and will be advertising a TA vacancy for Year 2 in the new year. Please keep an eye out on the Wirral website if you are interested in applying. For the short term, Mrs Skelton from Hays Supply will be covering the TA vacancy in Year Two. Mrs Skelton has worked with us a lot in other year groups this term so is already known to the children.

We require a casual midday vacancy for 12 weeks in the new year, every Wednesday starting from January 5th. If you are at all interested, please contact the School Office. The post will be subject to two references and a clear DBS.



Thingwall Buddies Update:

Thingwall Buddies pre-school opens for business in the New Year. If you would like your child to join please contact Nicky or Sue on 648 2930 and leave a message.



Thingwall Buddies

Flourish Tutoring Christmas Bag Appeal:

Thank you to everyone who generously donated Christmas presents to Kate Silcock at Flourish Tutoring. Together with our friends at Barnston Primary, we managed to collect several car loads which have been sorted, wrapped and collected by the Charles Thompson Mission for families in need across Wirral.



School Crossing Patrol:

The School Crossing Patrol team are currently recruiting for a permanent lollipop person to work outside our school on Pensby Road.

If anyone is interested, please telephone Margaret Bradfield at the LA on 0151 606 2152 for more details.



Head Boy and Head Girl:

Kai- I would like to pass on my Christmas Wishes to you all and hope you have a relaxing holiday. I have really enjoyed my first term as Head Boy and I am looking forward to the rest of the year.



Emily – I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has been a privilege to be Thingwall's Head Girl and I have really enjoyed my first term.



Diary Dates:

Please bear in mind that we are adding dates all the time and we have not yet added our POTS events. Keep an eye out on the school website, POTS newsletters and Facebook page and future newsletters/texts/emails.

04.01.22 - School open to staff only for our Staff Development Day. Staff will be looking at progression and coverage in Science and also learning how to use our new on-line safeguarding system, CPOMS.

05.01.22 - Term 2A starts for all pupils

15.01.22 - FS2 Primary Applications Deadline

03.02.22 - MEAS Chinese New Year celebrations for FS2/Y1 and Y2

w/c 07.02.22 Year Six Residential

08.02.22 - Safer Internet Day

09.02.22 Pop Project for FS2 to Year 5

10.02.22 at 9.30am Year 3 Class Assembly

w/c 14.02.22 Mental Wealth Week - Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds

15.02.22 - Freddy Fit Day for FS2 - Year 6

w/c 21.02.22 - Half Term Week

w/c 28.02.22 - Fair Trade Week

28.02.22 and 01.03.22 - Year Five Residential

01.03.22 - Year Six School Allocation Day

14.03.22 - MEAS Challenging Racism FS2 - Y6

23.03.22 - SEND Workshop for Parents with Sue Calveley, SEND Consultant

28.03.22 - MEAS Challenging Racism and Islamophobia Year 5 and Year 6

31.03.22 - Big RE Day - Belonging, Beliefs and Identity

01.04.22 - Virtual Visiting Artist Day - Darrell Wakelam - Belonging, Beliefs and Identity

w/c 04.04.22 - International Week

04.04.22 - Bilingual Spanish Storytelling Workshop - FS2/Y1/Y2 - MEAS Anna Turnbull

05.04.22 - Bilingual Greek Storytelling Workshop - Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 - Miss Skodra

06.04.22 - Bilingual French Storytelling Workshop - Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 - MEAS Anna Turnbull

07.04.22 - Conversational Mandarin Workshop - FS2/Y1/Y2/Y3 - Miss Collins

07.04.22 - 9.30am Year Four Class Assembly

08.04.22 - Easter Festival



Governor News:

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

It has been another challenging half term for Thingwall and as Chair of Governors I would like to thank you all for your support in making sure that the Thingwall community weathers the storm and continues to thrive. I would particularly like to recognise and thank POTS for the tremendous work that they do and the really fabulous way that their fund raising supports the school.

I would like to keep you updated about the work of your Governing Body and Mrs Evans' newsletter is the best way of achieving this. The Governors meet as a full Governing Body 4 times a year. There are Parent Governors, Co-opted Governors and Staff Governors, thus ensuring that there is a broad span of experience. These meetings are supported by three sub-committees, Staffing and Finance, Standards and Strategy and Health & Safety. They all have clear terms of reference and cover all aspects of school life. The Full Governing Body receives very comprehensive headteacher's reports at its meetings, these plus regular school visits (COVID permitting) ensure that the Governors kept informed.

The Staffing & Finance Committee monitors the budget and all expenditure that the school makes ensuring that value for money is achieved. It receives regular staffing updates and works closely with Mrs Evans to ensure that the school has the best staff available. Currently our priorities are ensuring that the finance is available to ensure that the post Ofsted plans can be achieved.

The Standards and Strategy Committee monitors the standards in the school through regular briefings from Mrs Evans, members of the Senior Leadership Team and curriculum leaders. The School Development Plan and all the associated plans are regularly reviewed. These reviews include behaviour and attitudes which is a focus for us all. We have been briefed on the exciting plans to boost reading and we all hope that your elves are being read to!

The Health & Safety Committee covers all aspects of the building and plans within the school ensuring that the staff and children can work in a safe and healthy environment. They are currently chasing up the company responsible for the gates and share your frustration at its frequent breakdowns. The Committee was heavily involved in the recent change of Preschool and After School care. There are regular monitoring tours of the building to ensure that it is safe.

There are currently vacancies for parent Governors and they will be advertised in January. If you are interested then please get in touch via the school office and someone will contact you for a chat about the Governors.

Finally I would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a successful New Year which I fervently hope will be a better one than the last two previous ones.

Gordon Lester
Chair of Governors



#readingtomyelf Competition:

We have had lots of entries for the 'Reading With My Elf' Competition and we will announce winners on the last day of term. Do not worry if you are currently off self-isolating with your elf - We will keep your prize until we return after the holiday. There is still time to enter... All you need to do is:

- 🧝 Take a photograph of your child reading to their elf
- 🧝 Upload your photograph to twitter including the school twitter address which is @thingwallprima1
- 🧝 Don't forget to include the twitter hashtag #readingtomyelf



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.

Well done to all of our FS2 pupils - You have completed your first term at our school and have ALL done brilliantly. You work hard, play nicely and have settled beautifully. We are proud of you all. 😊

Well done to each and every Thingwall pupil - You have managed beautifully during these last couple of weeks of Covid challenges and behaved so sensibly at every point. Thank you for working hard and for trying to do your best when our Infant Nativity and Junior Christmas Productions were filmed. We are proud of each and every one of you and wish you the very best of Christmases. Keep safe and sound and we will see you in 2022 for more fun Team Thingwall times! 😊



With Best Wishes for a happy, healthy, safe and relaxing festive break. Merry Christmas to you all!

