

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the November edition of our school newsletter. It has been a busy few weeks and this looks to be the case for the rest of term! I hope this newsletter finds you all well, the following information may be of interest to you...



Calendar Dates for the Spring Term:

Obviously we have a lot of events from now until the end of term so please refer to the September newsletter for those dates, the POTS newsletter and the calendar tab on the school website. Here are the Spring Term 2023 dates so far but please be aware that new and exciting opportunities may get added as the term progresses... sometimes opportunities arise last minute which would be a shame to miss out on. Mrs Blackburn will upload these 2023 events onto the school website in the coming weeks.

Date	Event
04.01.23	Staff Development Day – Team Teach, De-escalation Techniques and Trauma Informed Classrooms with Wirral Inclusion Team
05.01.23	School opens to pupils for the Spring Term 2A
15.01.23	Deadline for FS2 applications – please remember to apply if your child is of school age as you may not get your preference if you forget. Please tell friends of school aged children too.
20.01.23	Lunar New Year celebrations – As it is going to be the Lunar New Year on the Sunday 22.01.23, children are able to come to school on this day wearing red items of clothing if they wish. It is believed red will bring good luck, good fortune and scare away bad luck vibes. As it is also the Year of the Rabbit, some pupils may also want to don their bunny ears/whiskers for the day, especially as our younger children might be sharing storybooks about rabbits!
07.02.23	Safer Internet Day
w/c 06.01.23	Year Six 5-day Residential Visit to Min Y Don. Please see letters and payment plan.
w/c 13.02.23	Healthy Body & Healthy Minds Mental Wealth Week
14.02.23	Freddy Fit – children can come to school in PE kits for this day. Please ensure they are wearing warm tracksuit pants/leggings and a warm jumper.
15.02.23	Kate Silcock from Flourish Tutoring will lead a Positive Mental Health and Well-Being workshop for Years One and Two pupils called 'Seven Days to Bloom'.
15.02.23 & 16.02.23	Spring Term Parents Evening

17.02.23	School closes for February half term
27.02.23	School reopens for Spring Term 2B
w/c 27.02.23	Fair Trade Week
02.03.22	World Book Day – details to follow
16 & 17.03.23	Year Five 2-day Residential Visit to Burwardsley. Please see letters and payment plan.
23.03.23	Year Four Class Assembly 9.30 start, arrivals from 9.00am
27.03.23	FS2/Year 1/ Year 2 Eid Workshops with our friends from the Minority Ethnic Advisory Service (MEAS)
29.03.23	POTS Neon Disco
30.03.23	2.30pm Easter Assembly and announcement of the winners of the egg decoration competition and the Easter Bonnet competition – all welcome to join in with the excitement, arrivals from 2.00pm.
31.03.23	School closes for the Easter break
17.04.23	School reopens for the start of the Summer Term 3A
17.04.23	FS2 School Allocation Day



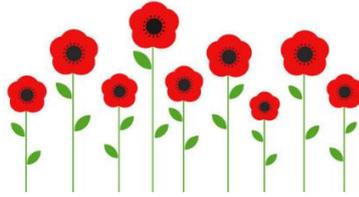
Dance-A-Thon Update:

Many thanks to everyone who took part in this Beatles themed event, we are proud to announce that we raised a whopping £1152 through sponsorships. Please pass on our thanks to everyone who sponsored your children. As you've no doubt heard via the media, times are financially very hard for schools at the moment and we are all working hard to ensure that our dwindling budgets do not impact on your children or our provision in any way at all. We are SO thankful for people's generosity, meaning we have been able to spend £600 on replenishing our home reading books and the remainder will be spent on outside equipment.



Year Two Class Assembly:

Year Two and Mrs Goulding did their Class Assembly on 11.11.22. It was an emotional assembly as it marked the work of the British Legion as well as Remembrance Day and local legends such as The Beatles, Shirley Hughes, William Hesketh-Lever, Joseph Paxton and Frederick Lister. Thank you children (and staff) you performed a wonderful assembly that really made us all think – THANK YOU.



Bangladesh Visit from Wirral's MEAS:

Years Five and Six enjoyed a really informative visit from Faktara earlier on this month. She shared all about Bangladesh with the children and they were really interested to find out about the flag, the geography and history of the country, the religions and cultures, the food, the language and the clothes Bangladeshi people typically wear. Writing in Bangla was a real challenge but Faktara was patient and really encouraging. Thank you Faktara, we hope to see you again soon.



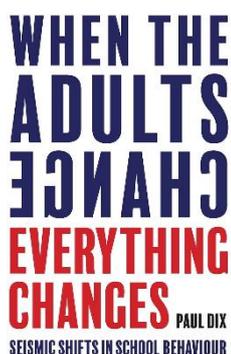
School Website:

Miss Arden has been working very hard with our website providers, to revamp our school website so please take a look if you get the chance. We think it's now visually more appealing and easier to navigate. We hope you enjoy looking at it and please don't forget that the calendar and past newsletters are available by clicking on the tabs at the top of the page. Our favourite parts are the Viking/school animations at the top of the screen, our school's mission statement on a continual rolling banner, the Twitter feed and photographs and the fact that we have added our 'Ready, Respectful, Safe' rules prominently at the top next to our school name.



Caught Being Kind Week:

As you will be aware, our whole school behaviour policy is based on the Paul Dix book 'When The Adults Change, Everything Changes', along with many other schools nationally. As a result, our overriding school rules are that we are always 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'. As part of this, we were happy to be part of Paul Dix's Caught Being Kind Week last week. The staff secretly observed pupils through the week and selected those who we caught, awarding them with a special luggage label styled award. It was a really tough decision, as our children are very thoughtful and are ready, respectful and safe for 99.9% of the time. Well done to all our pupils for being fabulous but especially for the following children who were chosen this time. Please don't worry if you weren't picked this time children, staff notice all of the amazing things you do children, ALL OF THE TIME! 😊



Jacob FS2
Emily L Y1
Evelyn Y2
Elina Y3
Poppy Y4
Jaxon Y4
Harriet Y5
George Y5
Ava Y6
Luca Y6

Commando Joe's:

Our FS2 and Year One pupils had a wonderful day with the Commando Joe organisation this week and enjoyed developing their life skills and their growth mind-set whilst undertaking active challenges and group tasks. They all learned a lot and were very enthusiastic too. Many thanks to the Wirral Virtual School for this opportunity – they organised and fully funded the entire day, for which we are immensely grateful. Staff have been so enthused by the day that we have enquired about purchasing further on-off themed days so that the rest of the school can also enjoy the fun. Thank you David and James from the Commando Joe's organisation, we hope to see you again soon!



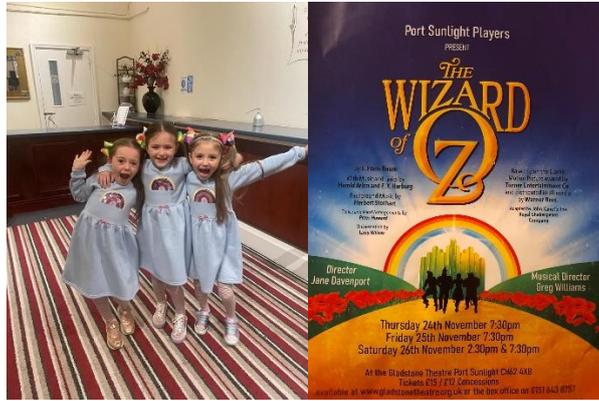
Congratulations Miss Arden:

We would like to extend our congratulations to Miss Arden, who is not only our Deputy Head Teacher but also our school's English subject lead (amongst a myriad of other responsibilities!) Last summer term, our Year Six class were moderated by the Local Authority for their standards in writing. The Local Authority were so impressed by Miss Arden and her wealth of experience, that they have invited her to be an LA Writing Moderator for KS2 this year! This is a huge achievement and a real responsibility to ensure that the writing moderation process is thorough, fair and professionally undertaken in all Wirral primary schools. Well done Miss Arden, we are thrilled for you!



Musical Theatre Extravaganza:

Three of our pupils have been selected to take part in the Gladstone Theatre's performance of The Wizard of Oz this week. I am told that there are still tickets left for the Friday night (25.11.22) and the Saturday performances (26.11.22) so please don't hesitate to contact the Gladstone Theatre directly to purchase tickets on their box office number which is 0151 643 8757 or have a word with Mrs Ruth, who will be able to signpost you to tickets. Well done ladies, it's lovely to hear how much you have enjoyed your experience on the stage – may this be the first in a long line of musical theatre performances for all three of you. Congratulations, we are very proud!



Flourish Christmas Toy Appeal:

We will be supporting Flourish Tutoring’s Christmas Toy Appeal again this year, with all toys collected going to the Charles Thomson Mission for local families in need. If you can donate, please do. Toys need to be dropped off at the school office, preferably by Monday December 5th, though we can take later donations up to the mission ourselves as long as they arrive by the end of term. This year, our Christmas Collection at the Church will also be for this worthwhile local charity (we hope that our School Council will be able to work with Miss Taylor to use monies donated to buy extra toys) and well as our further afield DRIP Uganda charity. Many thanks in advance for your generosity, please do not feel obliged though as we know it’s an expensive time of year for everyone.



St John’s Hospice Christmas Tree Collection:

Please see the poster below about Christmas Tree collection for St John’s hospice in Wirral. This organisation provides a fantastic service to the Wirral area and I am sure we all know someone close to us who has benefitted from this wonderful place at one point or another. If you are buying a real tree this year, please consider using their tree collection service to enable them to raise valuable funds to assist with the great work that they do. Thank you.



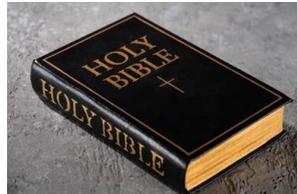
POTS Disco:

Thank you to POTS for organising another great disco for us last week, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we appreciate all the hard work that went into organising the event. Thank you everyone who was able to help on the night (parents AND grandparents) and a special thanks goes to Anna Barnish for her first BIG event as Chair of POTS this year. We await the grand total of funds raised with interest. Please read the latest POTS newsletter for all of the exciting things they have planned for the remainder of this term and also follow their page on Facebook 'Parents of Thingwall Primary School POTS'.



Sponsor A Bible Initiative:

We contacted St Michael's Church in Pensby to ask for help with sourcing money, to purchase a class set of Bibles to help the children to study the Bible Units in our RE syllabus. We did this because being able to find the Bible references independently and consult individual copies of the same edition of the text would help the children to study more effectively and allow the staff to teach more easily when referencing children to page numbers etc. We were delighted that enough of the St Michael's church family were prepared to sponsor a Bible so that we could raise the money for the school through these donations. St Michael's (and their sister church in Barnston) have purchased an impressive 75 Good News Bibles to benefit our school (30 copies as we are a one form entry school) and Barnston Primary (45 copies as they are a one and a half form entry). Thank you to all at St Michael's Church, in particular John Putman, who has masterminded the entire initiative for us, from start to finish! We appreciate the generosity of the church family – THANK YOU!



Warm Hub Initiative:

St Michael's Church in Pensby have also asked us to advertise their 'Warm Hub' initiative which is running from 01.11.22 to 31.03.23 from 9am to 12.30pm. The community are welcome to drop into the church during the colder parts of the day to chat, relax, work or just simply 'be'. This is in recognition of the challenges posed to us all with rising heating costs. All this is free of charge and Wi-Fi, disabled access and toilet facilities are, of course, available.

WARM HUB FREE OF CHARGE

at St Michael's Parish Centre
a welcoming space to keep warm this winter

Recognising the challenge of rising heating costs, St Michael's will be open as a 'warm hub' for our community during the colder part of the day. Drop in for a cuppa and a warm welcome: a place to relax or to work, a place to connect with others or to simply be.

TUESDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-12:30pm
1st November - 31st March

refreshments • activities • wifi • quiet zone • disabled access

St Michael's Church, 1 Gills Lane, Pensby CH61 1AF
0151 648 2404 www.barnston.info

CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

Christmas Productions:

Preparations are well underway for these events as they are suddenly almost upon us!

Just a reminder that the FS2 and KS1 performance is at **school on:**

Thursday 08.12.22 at 2.30pm, arrivals from our audience 2.00pm

&

Friday 09.12.22 at 9.30am, arrivals from our audience 9.00am

Due to fire limits etc, this will be a ticketed event (free of charge) to enable us to control our numbers in the Hall due to our fire limits. Details and tickets will follow from the School Office next week.

The KS2 Carol Services are the following week **at St Michael's Church Pensby on:**

Monday 12.12.22 at 6.00pm, arrivals from 5.30pm

&

Tuesday 13.12.22 at 6.00pm, arrivals from 5.30pm.

We have tentatively decided to trial not providing tickets this year for the KS2 Carol Concert but need some co-operation for it to work please! We would politely ask that Year 3+4 parents, carers and grandparents try to join us on the Monday evening if at all possible and that Year 5+6 parents, carers and grandparents try to join us on the Tuesday evening if at all possible to try to control the numbers in the audience. We realise this may not always be possible due to work patterns but it would be helpful if you could do this please. We also realise that this may cause an issue for those families who have siblings in lower KS2 and upper KS2. If this situation applies to you, we would ask you to choose one night or the other please and not both, to give everyone who wants to a chance to attend. Band and readers (yet to be confirmed) would need to be dropped off on both nights to take part please, by 5.30. Details about the Friday afternoon 09.12.22 dress rehearsal will follow from the School Office soon. Thank you.



Staffing Changes in 2023:

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Stratton-Powell (FS2 job share teacher Wed-Fri) at the end of this term and wish her the best of luck in her future career as she moves onto pastures new. Mrs Stratton-Powell's last day will therefore be Friday 16.12.22.



The New Year and start of Term 2A will see us welcome Mrs Leyland back from her maternity leave. Although she will be sad to leave Baby Harry with Mr Leyland from Wed-Fri each week, she is very excited to be back with Team Thingwall. Mrs Leyland will therefore take on the role that Mrs Stratton-Powell has been fulfilling so far this year which is...

Wednesday morning in Year One, covering Mrs Harvey's PPA non-contact time and Wednesday pm to Friday pm as the FS2 job share teacher with Miss Collins. Miss Collins' days will remain the same (Monday to Wednesday).

I am sure you will join me in waving goodbye to Mrs Stratton-Powell and welcoming Mrs Leyland back in January. Mrs Leyland will be spending the final Monday and Tuesday of this term in the FS2 class, working alongside Miss Collins and getting to know all the children so that she will be a familiar face to our youngest pupils in the Spring Term.



and finally...

Oak Trees Multi-Academy Trust News:

For quite some time now, the landscape of schools and academies has been steadily evolving. The Government's 2022 White Paper has expressed a wish for all schools to become academies by 2030 so the school's Governing Body and senior leadership team have been hard at work in the background trying to find out what this could mean for Thingwall Primary, exploring the various options open to us as a community primary school and exploring the benefits of local MATs. They have made the decision to open a staff and parent consultation with the Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust and this formal consultation process will open this coming January. The Governing Body wanted me to let you know informally at this point that this is the intention and they (and Oak Trees MAT) will be in touch with you again about this important decision in the New Year to commence the thorough consultation period. For those of you who haven't heard of them, the Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust is an established and thriving Wirral MAT with Poulton Lancelyn, Egremont, Brackenwood Juniors, Great Meols, Greasby Junior, Church Drive and Stanton Road Primary Schools already members. We have, of course, already been very used to working collaboratively with local schools in our Reach Collaboration as well as schools already within the MAT. Details on this important decision will follow soon after the Christmas break.



Celebration Corner (or H.U.G.G.S – Huge Unbelievably Great Goals!)

Congratulations to the following children who are very proud of their achievements outside school...

Sam (Year Five) – Congratulations to Sam who was awarded a rugby trophy for his amazing skills on the rugby field. ☺

Mila (Year Five) – Congratulations to Mila who was awarded 'Woman of the Match' at a recent football match for her team. ☺

William (Year Five) – Congratulations to William who was awarded a medal in his recent judo competition. ☺

Will H (Year Five) – Congratulations to Will who was awarded a swimming trophy recently for competing against older children in a swimming competition.

With Best Wishes

Mrs D L Evans

