

Thingwall Primary School...
Teachers, Parents and Students -
Together Promoting Success

Dear Parents

Happy New Year and welcome to the January edition of our school newsletter. The following information may be of interest to you ...

Federation Writing Competition:

Well done to all of our children who entered the 200 word Federation Writing Competition, sponsored by Heswall's Jones & Chapman Estate Agents. All of the entries were very entertaining and managed to keep to the 200 word limit which, I think everyone agrees, was a very tricky thing to manage. We were very impressed with the overall quality of all of the entries and it was a real challenge to choose winners as all stories were so carefully crafted. However, we have drawn up a shortlist and the following pupils have now been forwarded to our Federation judging panel. We hope that the overall Champion of Champions Winner will be announced very soon but, for now, please see our Thingwall Champion Writers below...

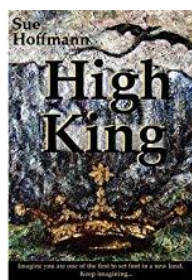
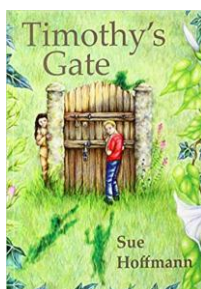
Year Two Winner – Oliver – Oliver wrote a nail-biting adventure entitled 'Mount Everest Rescue'. It was a tense story but thankfully the rescue attempt went well and his main character is now safely at home once again. Phew! 😊

Year Three Winner – Ava - Ava wrote a sinister and spooky story entitled 'The Haunted Woods'. We were rather worried when this story started but thankfully the problem was all easily resolved by the end of the 200 words! 😊

Year Four Winner – Owen – Owen used his love of history to write a historical adventure story entitled 'Ben's Egyptian Adventure'. We read this sitting on the edge of our seats and we learned so much about Ancient Egypt at the same time! 😊

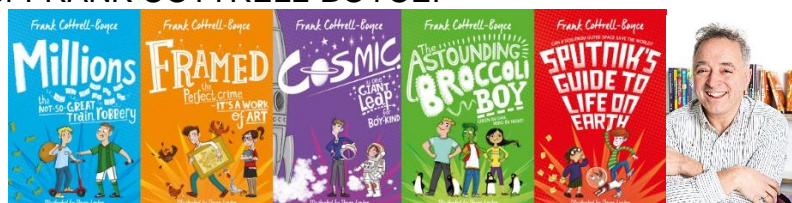
Year Five Winner – Amber – Amber managed to channel her fantastic sense of humour and gave us a highly entertaining story entitled 'Small Nugget: Big Dreams' about the adventures of Matt the chicken nugget at Blackpool Pleasure Beach! 😊

The Thingwall winners each received a book token for their story writing prize and, once the Federation Champion of Champions is announced, the overall South Deeside Federation Winner will be announced and presented with a Kindle. Good luck children and thank you to local author Susan Hoffmann for judging all the entries. We look forward to your feedback very soon!



KS2 Author Visit:

As you will no doubt be aware, we adore reading at Thingwall and seize every opportunity to devour the latest best sellers with our children. We are thrilled that every single one of our KS2 pupils have been invited to Irby Primary to meet none other than award winning Liverpool author FRANK COTTRELL-BOYCE!



As this is such a unique and exciting opportunity, school will fund the visit and transport costs, meaning it will be free of charge to every junior pupil. The visit will take place on March 6th and permission slips and book order forms will follow shortly after half term.

Year Three Class Assembly:

Well done to Year Three and Mrs Mitchell who performed their British Values themed assembly this week. We were able to learn all about the fundamental British Values of:
Democracy
Rule of Law
Individual Liberty
Mutual Respect
Tolerance

We were really treated to a wonderful performance. Every single child spoke clearly and with confidence, they danced beautifully, their singing would surely have won Britain's Got Talent and the 31 piece orchestra to showcase their own composition was wonderful. Well done to each and every child and member of staff who were involved.



Year Three and Four Enterprise Project:

Year Three and Four worked very hard (as part of their financial literacy enterprise project) making iced British Values biscuits to sell to parents and children after the Year Three Class Assembly. We are unsure of the amount raised just yet but we will inform you as soon as the children have accurately counted all the loose change. The money made will go towards supporting our friends in our twin school Kisorora Primary School in the Gisora district of Uganda.



Governor Update:

*Please see a governor update below from Mr Gordon Lester, our Chair of Governors...
Dear Parents and Carers,*

I would like to introduce myself as your new Chair of Governors. I have been a Governor at Thingwall for the last 7 years serving as Governor and more latterly as Vice Chair of Governors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tracy Harwood for her time and work as Chair. Tracy will be Vice Chair for the rest of this academic year.

I firmly believe that every child at Thingwall should receive the best possible education and opportunities for success that together we can provide. I am very proud of the school, the staff and children. The whole staff work tirelessly to give each and every child the education they deserve through an innovative, broad and balanced curriculum that places equal importance on both academically pastorally. I believe that a child should be secure and happy in school in order to learn effectively and the children that I meet around the school certainly reinforce that. I also believe that the child is at the centre of a firm partnership between you as parents/carers and us at school and that together we can ensure that your children make the maximum progress that they are capable of.

I am semi-retired, having been a Headteacher in Wirral Primary schools for twenty years. I am looking forward to continuing to support Mrs Evans and her staff as they work with your children.

You can contact me via the school office and I look forward to meeting you at school events in the future.

*Best Wishes
Gordon J Lester
Gordon Lester, Chair of Governors*



Key Dates:

POTS have asked me to circulate the following dates...

25.02.2020 at 8.30am – Shrove Tuesday/Starting Lent Breakfast

23.03.2020 pm – Mother’s Day Gift Shop

02.04.2020 – after school – Easter Event – details to be confirmed

27.06.2020 from 11am to 2pm – Summer Fair

As always, if you are able to help, please let a member of the POTS team know or your class rep. Please note the above dates are subjects to notification of an Ofsted inspection. If we get the call we will let you know and the dates may be slightly adjusted.



Annual Parent Questionnaire:

Our annual parent questionnaire launches tonight for the next three weeks. The link is available for you to click on our school’s VLE. Our VLE address is easily accessed via the following hyperlink... <https://www.thingwall.wirral.sch.uk/website>

Many thanks to Miss Arden for setting it up once again for us. The questions follow those that Ofsted will be asking when we get our next inspection (due any day now!) so this on-line questionnaire is a really good way for us to gauge opinion, celebrate all the brilliant things that we do at Thingwall and also identify any ways forward. In fact we will collate your responses as they are posted so we have a ready list of responses should the inspectors call. It is really important you respond and, as a parent said several years ago... “This is such a good opportunity to have my voice heard and, not only acknowledge the great things the school does, but also have an active voice for school improvement too. Logging on in my lunch time could not be easier!”

We intend to set this year’s questionnaire up as a competition between classes... the class with the most responses by the time the survey closes on Friday 21st February will be able to hold an own clothes day for just their class.



Mental Health Week and Happy/Healthy Hearts Week:

The next two weeks of this half term will see us enjoy our annual Healthy Hearts/Happy Hearts themed week to promote physical activity and positive mental health. We have many exciting things planned and each class will be completing sessions based on the Big Life Journal’s 5 Big Challenges (Growth Mindset, Self-Love, Gratitude, Positivity and Friendship) as well as an exciting Design Technology based project. In addition to the class based activities we have planned...

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Mon 03.02.20	Children’s Mental Health Week – class based activities designed to focus on positive mental health techniques and friendship.	
Tues 04.02.20		
Wed 05.02.20		

Thurs 06.02.20	A musical visit from our friends The Pop Project who will be performing 'Walking On Sunshine: The Happiness Show' <i>Parents are warmly invited to attend if they wish but be warned – audience participation is compulsory!</i> KS2 show is 9.10-10.40 KS1/FS2 show is 10.50-11.25	
Fri 07.02.20		
Mon 10.02.20	Premier Sports – Sponsored Run a Mile – sponsored sheets to follow. See below. Children can come to school wearing their PE kit or warm tracksuit for this day if they wish.	Pm Year Four Sikhism visit from Bobby Singh.
Tues 11.02.20	Safer Internet Day	pm Lawn Tennis Association sessions for FS2, Y1 and Y2 – bring your PE kits!
Wed 12.02.20	Freddy Fit sessions - <i>Parents are warmly invited to attend if they wish but be warned – audience participation is compulsory!</i> 9.10-10.25 for Years 5 and 6 10.25-11.40 for Years 3 and 4 1.15- 2.30 for Years 1 and 2 2.30-3.15 for FS2 <u>Please only attend for your children's age group to enable us to predict possible numbers and please do not take photographs or videos of these sessions.</u>	
Thurs 13.02.20	Kayte Walsh – My Esteem workshops for each year group to develop emotional intelligence and resilience Bidston Tennis Association sessions for FS2 to Y3– bring your PE kits! 3.00 – Whole School Assembly from PC Alison Inman on keeping ourselves safe and the road safety competition launch (see below)	
Fri 14.02.20	Thingwall will be marking World Thinking Day today. All Girl Guides, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Rainbows are welcome to attend school wearing their group's uniform today if they wish. The World Thinking Day theme this year is Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Love is Love.	



Sponsored Event:

On Monday 10.02.2020 we will be holding a sponsored event where we will be asking children and staff to run or walk a mile around the school playground. Your child should be bringing home a sponsor form at some point over the next few days. Premier Sports are organising the event for us and we are delighted that Mrs Webster and Emma Ferguson from CAPE have managed to secure match funding for us from Urenco up to a value of £250. We will be spending the money raised on high quality STEM resources and also putting some money towards gaining our Science Quality Mark. Thank you Mrs Webster and Emma Ferguson, it's always great when we get financial support from local businesses, especially in the current climate of dwindling budgets.



Childline - not just a phone call:

KS1 and FS2 held a very informative NSPCC PANTS Campaign last week to encourage children to keep themselves safe. Following on from this we thought we would highlight that the NSPCC is so much more than a helpline. It offers a plethora of resources for adults, staff and pupils alike.

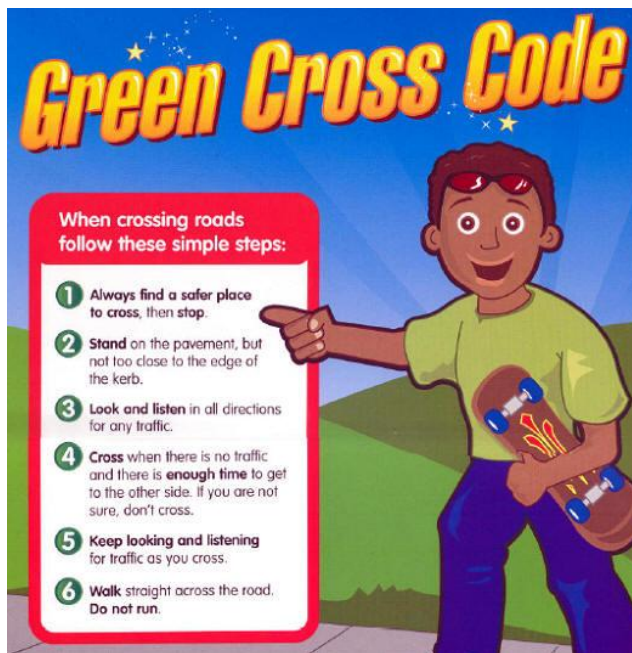
The Childline website contains lots of valuable information, but one area we really like is their Calm Zone. The activities aim to help children feel better when they're feeling anxious, scared, angry or sad. Although older children could be encouraged to visit this website themselves, these are good techniques for adults use with younger children. Ideas include breathing exercises, a 'let it go' box and creating a 'sense drawer'.

Find the Childline website here: <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>



Road Safety Competition:

We were very pleased to welcome Jude Lennon in to hold our Slow Down for Bobby assemblies about road safety, speeding and parking. PC Alison Inman will be launching an exciting half term federation road safety competition when she visits us on the 13.02.2020 so watch this space for more exciting details.



Thank you Mrs Hamel:

Ever since we began to use the text messaging service, parents have asked us if we are able to add more than one parent to the texting service. We understood your point of view but, the company were unable to help us as this facility did not exist on their systems. However, Mrs Hamel did not give up and kept urging them to find a solution to help us keep all parents informed as fully as possible. We are pleased to report that the company have now enabled this facility to happen at no extra cost to school thanks to Mrs Hamel's relentless pursuing of this issue. If you would like your phone number to be added to our text system we can now offer two numbers per family so please inform Mrs Hamel in the School Office if you would like to be set up.

Also, Mrs Hamel has asked me to remind you that we do email every newsletter out to interested parents as well as publishing it on our VLE. If you would like to be added to the list again, just contact the School Office and we will be happy to help.

HAPPY TO HELP



HUGE UNBELIEVABLY GREAT GOALS – HUGGS:

Amber (Year Five) – Congratulations to Amber who took part in the SKK Judo Competition in St Helens on the 18.01.2020 and won a gold medal against children who were in the age category above her! Wow, well done Amber, we are very proud 😊

Mrs Hamel – Congratulations to Mrs Hamel who has achieved 50 Park Runs! Impressive work Mrs Hamel 😊



With Best Wishes

Mrs D L Evans
Head Teacher