

Dear Parents

Welcome to our February newsletter, our final one for this half-term. It has been a busy half-term, starting with our wintry first week (thank you ALL for your support over a difficult few days of snow and ice) and ending with our Mental Wealth themed week and, of course, Mr Wearing’s final week, before he leaves us to enjoy a well-earned retirement. The following information may be useful to you, especially as this week is so busy...



Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds Week 10.02.25 -

This week will be devoted to our annual Healthy Body Healthy Minds themed week with our overall theme this year being inclusion – Everybody is the same, just different. We will enjoying a variety of exciting and unusual sports and mental wealth activities over the week and class teachers will be planning their own mental wealth opportunities for everyone to enjoy. Here is the overall plan for the week and, for ease, I have emboldened the uniform/clothing required for the day to make it easier to double check...

Day	Activity		
Monday Seated Balloon Tennis	Jane Tucker from Trepassey Care Home will be delivering seated balloon tennis sessions for FS2 to Year 6. No sports clothes necessary as children will remain in school uniform for each session.		
Tuesday Freddy Fit Aerobics	Freddy Fit all day for FS2 to Year 6. These will be hi-energy, fast moving aerobics sessions so children are advised to come into school wearing sporty clothes for the day, rather than school uniform.		
Wednesday Guided Football	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 will be taking part in guided football sessions with Miss Yardley during the morning. Please come to school in school uniforms as there will be ample time to get changed into PE kits between sessions. </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Y3 Dress Rehearsal for the whole school (children and staff only). Y6 Houlihan Cup Football match at school Sandbrook V Thingwall. Details to follow from Miss Yardley. </td> </tr> </table>	FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 will be taking part in guided football sessions with Miss Yardley during the morning. Please come to school in school uniforms as there will be ample time to get changed into PE kits between sessions.	Y3 Dress Rehearsal for the whole school (children and staff only). Y6 Houlihan Cup Football match at school Sandbrook V Thingwall. Details to follow from Miss Yardley.
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Thursday Sponsored Line Dance	Laura Prance Dance Sponsored Yee Haw Line Dancing! Sponsor sheets were given to the children on Friday and any sponsor monies are to be payable via the Arbor app please. This exciting event will be open to all classes (and staff!) from FS2–Year 6 and children will be challenged to learn a complete line-dancing routine by the end of their session. Thank you Mrs Prance! Children are able to dress up as cow boys/girls for this event if they wish. However, we understand that not all children like to dress up so this is voluntary.		

<p>Friday</p> <p>Year 3 Class Assembly</p>	<p>9.30 Year 3 Class Assembly for Year 3 parents, carers, grandparents etc. Arrivals from 9am and tea/coffee will be provided by POTS. Thank you POTS.</p> <p>Usual school uniforms please. Year Three costumes need to be in school by the Wednesday dress rehearsal – Miss Yandle will have already advised on this.</p>
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Gymnastics Competition:

Congratulations to our school gymnastics team, who represented Thingwall last week at the Wirral Schools Gymnastics Competition at the Drill Centre in Birkenhead. It was their first competition and they did brilliantly, keeping their cool and trying their hardest throughout. First, they completed a complicated floor routine (which was very tricky on the sprung floor) and then completed a vault routine, using a spring platform for the first time. Thank you to Gabriella and Emily for being excellent Young Leaders and cheering the competitors throughout and also to Mrs Speare, who has done a fantastic job preparing the children. We finished off the afternoon with a chance to play on the trampoline area and then we were treated to a fabulous floor show from the Wirral gymnasts. Well done children, you tried hard and behaved beautifully – great ambassadors for Team Thingwall! #TPSinspiration, #TPScollaboration, #TPSexpression.



Goodbye Mr Wearing:

This Friday is Mr Wearing's last day before he embarks upon his well-deserved retirement, having spent the last nine years as Thingwall's caretaker. We wish him a happy and relaxing retirement and hope he enjoys the lie-ins! Thingwall won't be the same without you.



Subject Leader Updates:

We like to keep you as informed as we possibly can and thought that you may like to read updates from our subject leads, to help you understand how the curriculum is constantly evolving at Thingwall. Please find subject paragraphs below...

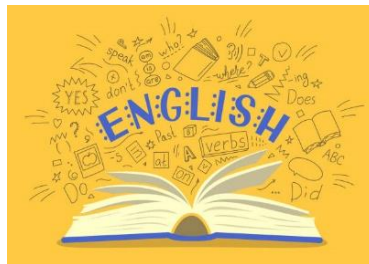


English:

Our whole school focus for English this year is writing. We have been working closely with the other MAT schools to continue to improve teacher knowledge and understanding of the teaching of writing. Our year began with a focus on sentence structure using a programme called 'The Place Value of Punctuation and Grammar'. The skills learned are continually referred to by all teaching staff in order to ensure pupil's understanding of the basics of sentence writing are secured. We introduced a new handwriting scheme in September and pupils are working really hard to make sure that all of their writing is presented properly. Pupils continue to enjoy the rich texts that we use to teach writing and we have seen excellent improvements across the school.

Reading remains a priority at Thingwall and we urge all pupils to read regularly at home. We look forward to this year's World Book Day and celebrating books, authors, characters and our shared love of reading. Uptake on the 'Reading With My Elf' twitter competition was lower this year but we were proud to present Evelyn from Year Five with her prize for taking part. We have also been excited to establish links with West Kirby Book Shop, taking two Year Five pupils recently to help us replenish our upper KS2 libraries.

R Arden



Maths:

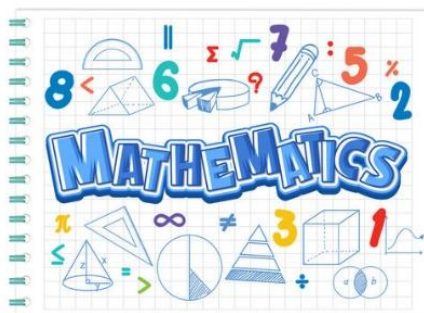
EYFS maths curriculum is taught through the Mastering Number programme which aims to secure firm foundations in the development of good number sense. Children in Years 1 and 2 continue to engage with the programme with the aim to achieve fluency in calculation and a confidence and flexibility with number by the end of KS1.

Times tables knowledge is vital in Years 3 and 4 and we are looking to add to our range of exciting resources to help your child achieve automaticity with these, enabling them to apply their knowledge to their maths learning.

Years 5 and 6 continue their focus on arithmetic skills to strengthen their conceptual understanding.

Our maths progress and attainment is strong and has been recognised by the MAT as a strength of our school's teaching and learning.

S Taylor



Computing:

We continue to use Purple Mash as our scheme for teaching computing. Pupils enjoy the range of lessons and activities available. Pupils across the school are benefiting from our excellent computing resources. We now have two class sets of iPads and a class set of Chromebooks which we use across the curriculum. We have been working closely with other MAT schools to continue to improve our curriculum and earlier this year, year 6 were lucky to be taught coding by a computing specialist from Hilbre High School. Online safety remains a high priority at Thingwall and we urge parents to use the resources linked on our website to help support staying safe while online at home.

R Arden

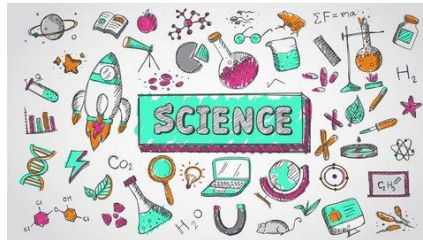


Science:

This year, all year groups are finding exciting ways to enhance their science curricula as we work towards renewing our Primary Science Quality Mark next year. The children have been taking part in focused scientific investigations to put their conceptual knowledge into practice, examples of which have been showcased on the school's X account.

Our science and Eco teams are working closely to find ways to improve outdoor learning opportunities within our school grounds.

S Taylor



Early Reading and Phonics:

We have continued to see positive results across KS1 and Reception in reading and are really proud of how hard the children are working in their phonics and guided reading sessions. We feel that in continuing to build children's confidence in reading, it will really help to nurture a lifelong love of reading. We hope that you are enjoying sharing the library book your child brings home each week to support us with this also.

J Harvey



Early Years:

We are continuing to develop our outdoor spaces and children have been enjoying the mud kitchen and climbing equipment which were new for this year. Our curriculum follows the interests of the children and as

requested we will have an Aldi shop in our indoor role-play area very soon! Following from an Ofsted report, called 'Stronger Foundations', we are looking closely at the ways we can further develop some of the suggestions into our day-to-day classroom life, including making more time for key skills, such as correct pencil grip, letter formation and early maths skills, such as subitising (recognising an amount from sight to 10) and providing greater opportunities for communication and language skills. We feel all of these currently sit within our provision and are looking at ways to enhance them further.

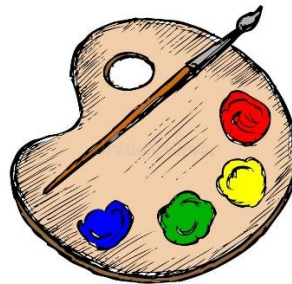
J Harvey



Art and Design:

This September, we transitioned to whole school delivery of Art and Design using the Kapow programmes of study. Working alongside our Kapow rep Lucy, we have analysed staff feedback and teachers are feeling positive about using the online lesson plans and support resources. We have spoken to staff about sketchbook layout and how best to show progression in learning that children can build on year on year.

A Waddington



DT

We have worked with Kapow and have shared feedback on how the scheme has been implemented successfully from September 2024 to date. We have also made the MAT decision to come away from whole class floor books in favour of using personal DT portfolio books to enable us to better show individual progression over the years.

We have been provided with learning materials via our MAT School Improvement Lead Claire Arnold, 'Principles, Progression and Practical activities in DT- materials to help develop our understanding of the design, make. evaluate process throughout a unit and the importance of the interactive process.

C Leyland



History:

The subject lead has attended an Oak Tree MAT meeting to meet with other History subject leads in the Autumn Term to use the Education Endowment Foundation Five Day Report document to outline ways to adapt teaching and learning, making the subject accessible for all. Information was collated by the Oak Tree MAT leaders to compile an Oak Trees bespoke document. A school staff meeting took place to outline expectations in all History books across the school. All year groups must use a time line to refer to when periods of time are studied- this is used as a reference point to make links with other periods of time covered to help understand chronology. A sample of History books were moderated across the school by Mrs Evans and Claire Arnold in November to ensure coverage, progression and fidelity to our scheme. The Year Two History visit took part in November, linked to Victorians and later in the month, a Victorian School role play day was enjoyed by Year Two in school. Finally, Year Six interviewed residents of Trepassey on their visit to school to hear first-hand memories of the past, linking to World War 2.

J Goulding



Geography

The subject lead has attended an Oak Tree MAT meeting to meet with other Geography subject leads in the Autumn Term to use the Education Endowment Foundation Five Day Report document to outline ways to adapt teaching and learning, making the subject accessible for all. Miss Kilikita attended also, in order to shadow the role as subject lead as part of her professional development. A staff meeting slot discussed expectations in all Geography books - using world maps as a reference point inside Geography books when parts of the world have been a focal point and see where these places are in relation to UK. A sample of Geography books were moderated across the school by Mrs Evans and Claire Arnold in November to ensure coverage, progression and fidelity to our scheme.

J Goulding



Modern Foreign Languages:

A European Day of Languages focus took place across school in the Autumn term. Every class chose a different country to study for the day and images/work/photographs were uploaded to our school's Twitter/'X' page. Spanish continues to be taught in KS1 and French in KS2. As a MAT, the MFL subject leads have met at Greasby Junior School to share ideas and discuss ways forward in relation to the Five A Day EEF document.

C Mitchell and J Sheridan



RE Update:

RE continues to be taught effectively across school as evident in a sample of RE books which were moderated across the school by Mrs Evans and Claire Arnold in November to ensure coverage, progression and fidelity to our scheme. We continue to use the adapted Farmington Wirral scheme to teach this subject and we have been able to enhance our provision by the use of visitors and hosting Big RE themed days for each year group (see January newsletter for further detail). We make good use of social platforms to celebrate the work we do in RE and we have also taken part in a successful staff meeting at Greasby Junior School to share ideas and discuss ways forward in relation to the Five A Day EEF document.

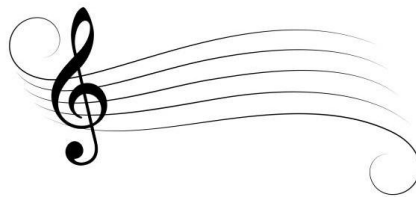
D Evans



Music Update:

Music continues to be a strength in our school and it was lovely to see the wonderful performances at Harvest and Christmas from FS2 to Year Six. Our school band, ably lead by Mrs Mitchell and our KS2 Choir (lead by Mr Rees) performed brilliantly at St Michael's Church in Pensby and Years One and Two sang their hearts out at the Warren's GP Surgery. Year Five were excited to take our KS2 performance to the residents at Trepassey Care Home as they were unable to make the evening performances. AmaSing and Rock Steady have done a great job with our extra-curricular music and parents enjoyed attending a concert to showcase both clubs. Tuesday Choral Assembly continues to be a wonderful weekly event and the school band enjoy accompanying our singing. We also sing using on-line songs and have been busy taking request for favourite songs from the children each week. Current favourites are the on-line safety song, the plastic song and our golden rules song. Our KS2 Choir also did a brilliant job, performing at Hilbre High School's Night at the Musicals MAT event. They sang a superb medley from The Sound of Music, with Mr Rees doing a great job on the boatswain whistle as Captain Von Trapp! #TPSexpression

D Evans



Sponsor Forms:

We are really looking forward to our sponsored line dancing event this Thursday with Laura Prance Dance. Your child will have come home with a sponsor form towards the end of last week and we are fund-raising to pay for Tuesday's Freddy Fit Aerobics session as well as saving up for a new sensory area in school. Any money you could raise in sponsorships will help to benefit all our Thingwall pupils – please pay this money using the Arbor app. Thank you for your support. #TPScollaboration



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.



Fenn (Year Two) - Fenn was awarded his 1st certificate for his climbing last weekend and has passed his Level 1 of NICAS Bouldering. Well done Fenn, what a stunning achievement, you must be very proud of yourself! 😊

With best wishes to you all,

Mrs D L Evans