



21st November 2017

Annwyl Rhieni,
 Dear Parents / Guardians,

We are now well into the second half of what is always a very busy term in school. You will soon be aware of school being full of music, song and verse as we prepare for our Christmas concerts. It is the time of year when our schemes of work and curriculum planning allow us to focus on drama, singing, music, speaking and listening and performance. These Expressive Arts activities give children an opportunity to excel, grow in confidence and shine in a non - academic, but equally vital, way.

In order for us to maintain our high academic standards and to ensure that all children reach their full potential, we will still be covering all aspects of the Foundation Phase and National Curriculum that we have planned to cover. Our detailed programmes of work, curriculum plans and high ratio of staff to pupils, are designed to ensure maximum coverage and progression over the year, taking annual events into consideration.

Harvest

Thank you for joining us for our Nursery, Foundation Phase and Junior Harvest Festivals; they were all really super. The children sang a variety of lovely songs, recited stories, rhymes and autumnal poetry. A BIG thank you to our visiting speakers Mr Bafico and Reverend Gordon; the children thoroughly enjoyed listening to them. Also thank you for the produce that you sent in. The food was given to SOLUS (formerly N.A.S.H. - Newport Action for Single Homeless).

Parental Consultations

We were delighted to share your child's progress with you during consultations at the beginning of the half-term. The partnership between home and school is vital if children are to flourish and reach their full potential. We almost achieved 100% attendance. If you were unable to attend please arrange a mutually convenient time to see your child's teacher.

Attendance

Last year, 2016 / 2017, we exceeded our attendance target of 96.5% with 96.89% attendance. 2.94% of the absences were authorised and 0.17% were unauthorised. Our target this year is once again to achieve 96.5% attendance. This target has been set by the LA. We can only achieve it with your support!

Attendance figures up until Friday 17th November are:

Year Group	2017 / 2018 - so far!
Reception	97.65%
Year 1	97.31%
Year 2	97.85%
Year 3	97.62%
Year 4	99%
Year 5	96.26%
Year 6	97.22%
Whole School Average	97.55%

Average attendance across school is 97.55%. Congratulations to Year 4 for the highest attendance figures to date.

Good attendance at school is vital if your child is to achieve his / her full potential. We monitor individual pupil attendance on a regular basis and are concerned that attendance for a number of pupils is already dipping below 95% this term.

The following information from Welsh Government illustrates how your child's attendance equates to a judgement. We hope you find it useful.

Attendance		What This Means
100%	Excellent	Your child has the best chance of achieving their full potential
95 - 99%	Good	Your child has missed up to 2 weeks of school in a year
90 - 94%	Unsatisfactory	Your child has missed up to 4 weeks of school in a year
85 - 89%	Poor	Your child has missed up to 5 ½ weeks of school in a year
80 - 84%	Very Poor	Your child has missed up to 7 ½ weeks of school in a year - over half a term
Below 80%	Extremely Poor	Your child has missed more than a whole half term of school

All holidays should be taken during the school holidays and not in term time. Any planned absence from school must be requested in writing via the office or the school website. Such requests will be considered on an individual basis.

It is vital that all children are in school and ready to learn by 9am. The school doors are open from 8.50am for the children to filter into classrooms. The teachers start lessons promptly, as soon as the register has been called. Children arriving late are missing out on vital learning opportunities. Once again thank you for your continued support.

Pupil Participation Groups

We have a number of Pupil Participation groups who have been selected by their peers to represent pupils across school in a variety of ways. Pupil Participation groups include: Learning Squad, School Council, Eco Committee, School Nutrition Action Group, Criw Cymraeg, Digital Leaders and Playground Pals. The groups are an integral part of our school and ensure that pupils have a say in many aspects of school life. Well done to all the pupils in these groups for all their hard work.

Super Ambassadors

Congratulations to Sophie Spooner and Oliver Bunn in Year 6 on being elected as our Super Ambassadors for this year. Sophie and Oliver will be working with staff and pupils to continue to promote the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the role of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

P.T.A.

A BIG THANK YOU to the P.T.A. for organising and running the fancy dress discos before half term. The children thoroughly enjoyed them! Also, a BIG THANK YOU to the P.T.A. for what was a fantastic evening of Family Bingo on Friday - everyone enjoyed themselves! Thank you to everyone who has supported these events and the P.T.A. for all their hard work!

On the day of the Christmas Fayre, Friday 15th December, the children can come to school wearing their Christmas jumpers in support of Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. We ask that your child brings £1 that day to support this worthwhile cause. School will close at 3pm and reopen at 3.10pm. All children must be picked up from school at 3pm and will need to be accompanied by an adult to the fayre. Thank you!

Raffle Prizes

If anyone is willing and able to donate a raffle prize for our Christmas Fayre, we would be so grateful. Just let us know in school. Thank you!

Sport

The school rugby and football teams have all taken part in Newport Schools tournaments. The rugby team played five matches. They won four and lost one, coming second overall - well done! The football children have played one match so far this term. They played well and are improving their teamwork skills. Their next game will be in January.

Well done to all the children who took part. Not only did they play well but they were impeccably behaved! Thank you to all the staff for organising participation in these events and to parents for helping with transport.

Christmas Concerts - Dates and times of the Christmas concerts are as follows:

Foundation Phase dress rehearsal	Wednesday 6 th December 10am
Foundation Phase concert	Thursday 7 th December 10am
Foundation Phase concert	Friday 8 th December 10am
KS2 dress rehearsal	Tuesday 12 th December 10am
KS2 concert	Tuesday 12 th December 6.30pm
KS2 concert	Wednesday 13 th December 10am
KS2 concert	Wednesday 13 th December 6.30pm
Nursery concert	Thursday 14 th December 10am
Nursery concert	Thursday 14 th December 1.45pm

Tickets are now available for Foundation & KS2 concerts.

Christmas Parties

The Foundation Phase Christmas party is on Tuesday 19th December and the Junior Christmas party is on Wednesday 20th December. On their party days the children can come to school dressed in their party clothes. Nursery Christmas parties will be Tuesday 19th December (pm) and Thursday 21st December (am).

Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner is on Thursday 21st December. Bookings need to be made via Parentpay by Tuesday 12th December for this.

Parent Governor

Congratulations to Mrs Kimberley Anthony on being elected as our new parent governor. Mrs Anthony is one of our nursery parents and we look forward to working with her over the next few years. A huge thank you to all the nominees for their interest in the position.

Healthy Schools

As you aware, one of our school policies is that during morning break we allow the children to have a snack of either a piece of fruit, chopped up fruit or chopped up vegetables. We are concerned that a few children are coming to school with cereal bars or other snacks and in some cases without a snack. Please support us by sending your child to school with fruit or vegetables. Thank you for your support in this.

Applications for Reception 2018

Parents can now make an application for a Reception place for September 2018. Go to www.newport.gov.uk and follow the instructions under school admissions.

Children in Need

On Friday 17th November, the children came to school wearing something 'spotty' or Pudsey Bear related in aid of Children in Need. As a school we raised a total of £212 - thank you for your support!

National Tests 2018

National Tests for 2018 for Year 2 to Year 6 will take place between 2nd May and 9th May 2018. All pupils must be in school to sit the tests. No absences will be authorised during this period.

Clubs

In order to ensure the safety of the children who attend after school clubs, we ask that you notify school directly if a situation arises whereby your child will not be attending their usual after school club. If we are not informed by a parent/guardian of a child's absence from a club, then we will expect them to be present as usual.

Also, just a reminder that due to the winter evenings, Netball, Football and Rugby will finish at 4:15pm until February.

Smart Watches

It has come to our attention that some children are wearing smart watches to school. Whilst we encourage the children to wear watches to school for telling the time, we ask that these are either analogue or digital watches rather than a smart watch. Smart watches that include photo and video functions are not allowed for e-safety reasons. Thank you for your support in this matter.

School Pick-up

We are approaching the time of year when the roads can be even busier than usual! We ask that whenever possible the children are picked up promptly at the end of the school day: Foundation Phase - 3:15pm and Key Stage 2 - 3:30pm. If you are unavoidably held up in traffic, please notify the school office as soon as possible.

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support and co-operation.

C.M.Jackson
Headteacher