

March 2018

Annwyl Rhieni,
Dear Parents,

The year is flying by and we can hardly believe we are already at the end of March and heading towards the summer term. The children have continued to work hard and have had a variety of opportunities to develop their skills within a creative learning environment across all Areas of Learning and Experiences (AOLE's). Here is an update of recent events in school.

Curriculum Reform

We are really excited about developments we are making in relation to our curriculum. We are working with our learners to develop their understanding of the four purposes which are at the heart of all we do. To develop pupils as: ambitious capable learners; enterprising, creative contributors; ethical, informed citizens; and healthy, confident individuals.

Together, we have been looking at the characteristics of each of the four purposes and for each lesson, using literacy, numeracy and digital competency skills, identifying which of the characteristics we are achieving.

Teachers are planning in line with the six AOLE's: language, literacy and communication; mathematics and numeracy; science and technology; humanities; expressive arts; and health and wellbeing.

We are involving our learners in developing new projects so that they are purposeful and meaningful. These authentic contexts for learning are having a really positive impact on the already high standards of learning and teaching within school. We continue to evaluate and revise our projects to ensure that we have a learner centred, skills focused curriculum that is relevant to the 21st century and inclusive of all learners.

On 12th June, after school, we will be holding a sharing event for staff and pupils to share the work we are doing in this area. During the event, governors will also be sharing the analysis of the parent questionnaires which will be going out after the Easter break. More information will follow when we return to school.

Eisteddfod

On Tuesday 6th March we held our St. David's Day Eisteddfod. The children came to school in a variety of Welsh costumes and we celebrated with music, drama, poetry recitals and songs. We had a super afternoon. The children sparkled in their performances and the hall looked stunning, decorated with the children's competition entries. Well done children!



World Book Day

On Friday 16th March we celebrated World Book Day in school. The children who dressed up as their favourite characters from a book looked absolutely fantastic. We had some amazing characters in school! The books the children made were absolutely brilliant. Prizes were given out in a special celebration assembly. Well done to everyone who took part!



Sport

The school football team played a match against St Julian's Primary School last week. Even though we didn't win, it was a fantastic team effort. Well done everyone!

The school netball team played in the Newport Live Tournament earlier this term at the Newport Centre. They played really well and were a credit to school. They drew 3 games and lost 1. Fantastic! A BIG thank you to one of our parent helpers, Mrs Williams for assisting with coaching the netball team.

The rugby team took part in the Welsh Schools National Tournament in Swansea last week. It was a great day out with our team winning The Chairman's Cup. A great result, well done!

The rugby team also represented school as the Guard of Honour at the Dragons V Cheetahs match at Rodney Parade last Friday. During half time they played in the final of the Newport Gwent Dragons Tag Tournament where they just lost to Durand Primary School.

A BIG thank you to all the staff for their hard work running clubs this term.



Trips, visits and visitors

PC Herbert has been working with pupils across school. He has talked about a range of really important topics such as; People Who Help Us, Right or Wrong, Cyber Safety. He has delivered really important messages in an interesting and interactive way. Thank you PC Herbert!

Reception had a lovely time at Green Meadow Community Farm earlier on this term. The children thoroughly enjoyed their tractor rides and the milking demonstration. They now know so much about different animals and the foods they produce.

Thanks to reception for letting all the children join them in coming out onto the yard to see the calves that came to school last Monday. What a treat!

Year 5 have been to Big Pit and Cardiff Castle as part of their project 'Children of the Revolution'. They had a great time experiencing going down the mine and learning about what life was like for the children who worked in the mines. Well done Year 5!

Three Year 6 pupils spent the day at TT Electronics as a result of winning the STEMworks K'nex Fairground competition. Well done everyone!

E-safety

PC Herbert also ran an E-safety meeting with parents last week. This is such an important topic and one that is causing increasing concern. We have put together a letter for parents about the different apps and programmes that are being used by pupils on a variety of devices. These letters have been hand delivered to parents at consultations this week. Please take the time to read them and visit the website www.schoolbeat.org for further information.

Travel Survey

Thank you to those of you who completed the online travel survey. Mrs Hamnett, one of our parent governors, is in the process of collating the information and updating our school travel plan.

PTA

A BIG THANK YOU to the PTA for all their hard work again this term! The children in Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 have enjoyed the PTA Film Nights - once again these events were a great success! Friday 16th March parents, friends and staff enjoyed a fantastic Quiz Night. It was a really super evening; thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event!

We are now looking forward to the PTA announcing the winners of the Easter drawing competition during assembly on Thursday 29th March. Thank you to the PTA for organising the Easter competition!

The next big PTA events are the forthcoming Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 Discos on Friday 18th May.

National Tests

The National tests for Years 2 - 6 will take place in school as follows; Wednesday 2nd May - Reading Test, Thursday 3rd May - Numeracy Procedural Test, Friday 4th May - Numeracy Reasoning Test. The tests are constructed so that our younger learners will be able to sit them in 'chunks'. They will be delivered on a whole class or group basis. The reading test will consist of a number of passages followed by short, closed response and multiple choice type questions. There are two numeracy tests; a procedural test for knowledge and understanding and a reasoning test for application of skills and problem solving. The tests will be marked in school and learners' raw scores will be converted to standardised score. The standardised score will show how your child's performance in the test compares to other children of the same age who have sat the test in Wales. Test results and comparative data will be sent out at the end of the year.

It is vital that all children are in school on the above dates to sit these tests.

Attendance

We are becoming increasingly concerned that a number of children are coming to school late and therefore missing vital learning opportunities at the beginning of the day. **It is vital that children are in school and ready to learn by 9am.** Attendance figures for last term and this term so far are as follows.

Year Group	Autumn Term 2017	Spring Term 2018 - so far!	2017 / 2018 - so far
Reception	99.00%	95.95%	95.98%
Year 1	95.96%	97.14%	96.43%
Year 2	97.08%	96.97%	97.04%
Year 3	97.55%	96.42%	97.10%
Year 4	97.15%	96.64%	96.94%
Year 5	95.84%	95.46%	95.68%
Year 6	97.06%	95.85%	96.57%
Whole School Average	96.66%	96.34%	96.53%

A HUGE well done to Years 2 and 3 for achieving over 97% attendance so far this year. Our attendance target, as set by the Local Authority, is 96.5%.

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 if your child's attendance dips below 96.5% we will contact you to discuss ways in which we can support you to improve it. Individual pupil attendance figures have been shared with all parents this week at consultations.

Parental Consultations

It has been great to see so many parents at parental consultations this week. If you have not yet had an opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher it is vital that you do so. Please see the teacher to arrange an appointment.

New Roof

Work on the new roof will begin during the Easter break. The work is scheduled to be completed within 4 - 6 weeks. The workmen will have their own facilities and therefore will not be inside the building. School will function as normal as the workmen will work around the routines of the school day. The workmen will stop work whilst the children are entering and exiting the building and when they are on the yard. Please ensure that when the children are picked up at the end of the day you leave the yard promptly so that building work can resume as soon as possible. We have talked to the children about not going anywhere near the outside storage and facility units and will be reminding them of this regularly. All deliveries will be before or after school.

School Meals

Just a reminder that meals for week/com 16th April, when we return to school, need to be booked by **Monday 9th April**, thank you.

Diary Dates

29.3.18	School closes today for Easter break
16.4.18	Summer term begins
17.4.18	PTA meeting
18.4.18	Year 4 to Cadbury World
19.4.18	Year 3 and 4 parents in school playing board games 2.30pm
20.4.18	Year 6 to Mayor's office
25.4.18	Football match against Maindee at Glasllwch 3.30pm
26.4.18	Year 3 and 4 tennis tournament
2.5.18	National Reading Test - Years 2 - 6
3.5.18	National Numeracy Test - Procedural - Years 2 - 6
4.5.18	National Numeracy Test - Reasoning - Years 2 - 6
7.5.18	School closed May Bank Holiday
8.5.18	PTA meeting
10.5.18	Year 5 and 6 tennis tournament
14.5.18	Fire Service in Year 2 and Year 5
15.5.18	Year 5 trip to Cardiff Bay
16.5.18	Colorfoto - class and group photographs. Please ensure sports kits and musical instruments are in school
17.5.18	Finance and Governors meeting in school
18.5.18	PTA FP disco 4.30 - 5.30 KS2 disco 6.00 - 7.00
21.5.18 - 24.5.18	Year 6 to Hilston Park
25.5.18	School closed INSET
28.5.18 - 1 6.18	School closed - Half Term
8.6.18	PTA family disco and BBQ
12.6.18	Curriculum Reform Sharing Event - parents and governors
19.6.18	Sports Day - weather permitting 9.30am KS2, 1.30pm FP
20.6.18	Year 5 Transition Concert - John Frost School
21.6.18	Pupil Voice sharing event
22.6.18	Football Tournament
25.6.18 - 13.7.18	Year 3 swimming
3.7.18	PTA meeting
6.7.18	PTA Summer Fete - school closes at 3pm, reopens at 3.10pm
9.7.17	Finance and Governors meeting in school
11.7.18	Year 4 Olympics day at John Frost High
18.7.18	Year 6 leavers concert 10am - parents invited
20.7.18	School closes today for summer break
Further class trip dates to be confirmed.	

Thank you for all your support again this term. We value the partnership we have between home and school. It is vital if children are to flourish and to reach their full potential. We really are very proud of our school and of all our children.

Have a very happy Easter,
Yours sincerely,

C. M. Jackson and Staff.
Headteacher