

16th February 2018

Annwyl Rhieni,

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This term is flying by and we can hardly believe we are already half way through February and at the end of the first half of the spring term! The children have continued to work hard and have had a variety of experiences and opportunities to develop their skills within a creative learning environment. As you are aware, each class has been working on a different project allowing contextualised learning to take place. We continue to develop our pupils as **ambitious, capable learners; healthy, confident individuals; ethical, informed citizens and enterprising, creative contributors**. Year group curriculum pages on our school website are in the process of being updated with further information.

PTA

A BIG THANK YOU to the PTA for organising and running the cinema night for FP this week. The children thoroughly enjoyed watching 'Despicable Me 3'. The KS2 cinema night is being held on Tuesday 27th February. Don't forget to book you child's place. A PTA quiz night is being held on Friday 16th March. This really should be great fun so please come along and support us. Details from the PTA will follow after half term.

Sport

Last week the rugby team took part in a Newport schools rugby tournament on the 3G pitch at Spytty. The children came out as overall winners. Fantastic result everyone, well done!

Eisteddfod

The first week back after half term, week beginning 26th February, will be our designated Welsh culture and heritage week in school. Our Eisteddfod to celebrate St. David's Day, will be held on Thursday March 1st.

On the day of the Eisteddfod the children can come to school wearing Welsh National costume or National costume from their country of origin. Each year group will be given a theme and the children are to produce one item following that theme. They can either: paint, collage, draw, make a model, cook or write about their theme. The themes for each year group are:

Nursery	-	Sheep
Reception	-	Dragons
Year 1	-	Welsh costume
Year 2	-	Daffodils
Year 3	-	Welsh castles
Year 4	-	Welsh food
Year 5	-	Welsh history and heritage
Year 6	-	Welsh art and artists

The entries should be brought into school on Monday 26th February. Children should invent a nom-de-plume to label their work with. Work will be judged throughout the week.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 2nd March with a special assembly, a book writing competition and a fancy dress competition. The children will be given booklets to write in (or they can use their own version). The children should use these to produce their own book, either fiction or non-fiction, with illustrations. Staff will be judging the books and there will be prizes for content and presentation. The children can also come to school on World Book Day dressed as a character from a book. Once again there will be prizes for the best costumes!

Foundation Phase Collection at the end of the school day

Please can all parents, guardians, grandparents, child minders or whoever is collecting your child from Foundation Phase at the end of the school day, come to the bottom of the ramp when your child's class comes out. It is vital that the teacher, your child and you can see each other clearly in order for us to hand over to you safely. Please do not wait at the other end of the yard as this makes the handover more difficult. Thankyou!

Dementia Friendly School's Award

We are delighted to be the first primary school in Newport to become a Dementia Friendly School. Mr Ray Morrison, of Bluebird Care Newport, has been working with our School Council to raise awareness with all pupils of the issues surrounding dementia. Mr Morrison has taken a number of assemblies and School Council have initiated fund raising events to support the work Bluebird Care do. Yesterday Mr Morrison and Jayne Bryant, who represents Newport West in the National Assembly for Wales, came to a special assembly to present us with our award. Congratulations everyone!

Attendance and Punctuality

As you are aware, we regularly monitor whole school, year group and individual pupil's attendance. We are concerned that attendance figures this term have dipped below our target of 96.5%. Although this is mainly due to illness, there are a number of instances where pupils have been absent due to holidays or other occasions. We are also concerned that a number of pupils 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 every day and that they are 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 to date	Whole year to date
Reception	96.00%	95.48%	95.86%
Year 1	95.96%	97.27%	96.29%
Year 2	97.08%	96.13%	96.84%
Year 3	97.55%	97.57%	97.56%
Year 4	97.15%	97.04%	97.12%
Year 5	95.84%	94.69%	95.13%
Year 6	97.06%	94.71%	96.47%
Whole School Average	96.66%	96.12%	96.52%

A HUGE well done to Year 3 for achieving 97.56% attendance so far this year. Year 4 is also doing really well with over 97%. **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. 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. As a reminder, 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks of school in a year
80 - 84%	Very Poor	Your child has missed up to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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

It is important that all holidays are taken during the school holidays and not in term time.

National Tests 2018 - Reminder

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.

Nursery Consultations

Nursery consultations will take place 5th, 6th and 8th of March. Don't forget to book using our online system.

Parental consultations for the rest of the school will be taking place week beginning 26th March. Information re booking your appointment online will be sent out after half term.

Travel Survey

Governors are in the process of updating our school travel plan. In order to do this, we need to collect information about how your child / children get to and from school. Please help us by completing our online survey. Please complete by 2nd March, there are two links:-

If your child is in Foundation Phase or you have a child in both FP and in KS2 access the survey through this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FB2NLXJ>

If your child / children / are in **KS2 only**, follow this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FHPLM3D>

If anybody would like a paper copy please contact school.

New Roof

We are absolutely delighted that we are going to have a new roof on the school hall. This has been a long time coming; the roof has been leaking for a number of years! Scaffolding is going up next week and work is scheduled to start early March. Next week, or the week after, a skip and a unit containing facilities for the workmen to use will be delivered and installed towards the back of the yard. Obviously this means that the yard space will be reduced for a few weeks. The skip and the unit will be fenced off to ensure the health and safety of pupils, staff and parents. The work is scheduled to be completed within 4 - 6 weeks. 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. All deliveries will be before or after school.

School Meals

Please remember school meals need to be booked one week in advance - don't forget to book by Monday 19th February for meals week commencing 26th February, when we return to school.

Thank you for all your support again this half 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.

Have a lovely half term break!

Yours sincerely,

C.M.Jackson
Head Teacher