



September 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to school after the summer holidays. The children have settled quickly back into the routines of school life and we are all looking forward to a busy and exciting autumn term. A special welcome to our new parents and to all the new children who have joined us this year. The Nursery and Reception children are really coping well with their new school and we look forward to working in partnership with you.

### New Staff

Our new member of staff, Mr Burgess, class teacher in Year 5, has also settled well into school life and is looking forward to the year ahead. This term two PGCE students will also be joining us in Year 2 and Year 3. The students will be working closely with the class teachers under the supervision of Mrs Munslow who is our student mentor. Several students on teaching assistant course placements will also be in school this year working in Foundation Phase and KS2.

### Curriculum Updates

Curriculum updates will soon be posted on the school website. These will inform you of the topics your children will be studying in each subject this term. They will involve the children in their own learning and give them an opportunity to have a say in what they will be studying, how they will be studying and how they will be recording their findings. There will also be an opportunity for you to contribute to projects. We hope you will find the updates useful in supporting your children in their studies at home.

### Health and Safety

**Please! Please!** Do not double park or park too close to the school gates when dropping children off or picking them up. This really does cause us great concern as the safety of the children is at risk. One of our school rules is that, for health and safety reasons, the children are **NOT ALLOWED on the field, the timber trail, in the outdoor classroom or up the bank at the end of the yard near the Year 2 classroom, at the beginning or the end of the school day.** We appreciate your support in enforcing this. Thank you!

Please take care when walking up and down the school path at the front of the building. Towards the bottom, the path slopes away more steeply so please ensure you do not walk too quickly and you are cautious when exiting school, always use the footpath.

### Jewellery Reminder

Can I remind you that for safety reasons the policy of the school is that children are allowed a watch and stud earrings only. Also, children are responsible for their own jewellery and for taking it on and off for P.E. and games. All jewellery must be removed for these sessions.

### Uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform and all the children look very smart in it. Please can you make sure that items are **clearly labelled** with your child's name so that we can avoid confusion and help the children not to lose anything. Please can you ensure that the children wear sensible school shoes so that they are able to run around and play safely at break - times. No trainers are to be worn to school; the children can bring them to school to change into for sporting activities. As autumn is upon us and no doubt it will soon start to get colder, please make sure your child wears a coat to school.

### PE and Games

Please can you ensure that your child has his / her PE kit in school on the designated days. If your child does not have their kit with them, for health and safety reasons, they will be unable to participate in the physical activity part of the session. On these occasions your child will be bringing a letter home as a reminder for next time. Thank you for your support in this.

### Healthy Eating

We continue to be a Healthy School and are delighted with the positive effect this is having on the children. Don't forget to send your child in with water in a clear bottle with a sports cap, clearly labelled with their name, so they can drink regularly throughout the day. We have two water coolers in school, so the children can refill their bottles throughout the day. Please ensure that no glass bottles are brought to school. Thank you once again for your continued support.

### Nut Free School

As we have a pupil in school with a severe nut allergy, from now on we will be a '**Nut Free School**'. Please ensure no products with nuts are brought onto the premises or given to children for lunch. Thank you for your support in this.

### P.T.A.

Glasllwch has an excellent Parent Teacher Association who work very hard to organise events to raise money for our children. All parents are automatically members of the P.T.A. Our first event of the year is our annual family BBQ on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September. This is usually a super evening so please come along and support us. More information will be sent out by the P.T.A. and posted on our website. The Annual General Meeting will be held in October in school (date to follow). New members are always very welcome, so come along and join us

### School Meals

All school meals need to be booked a week in advance via our parent pay system. Book by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September for meals week beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Please contact Mrs Pohl in the school office for information.

### Parent Contact Details

Please ensure Mrs Pohl is informed of any changes in mobile numbers or email addresses. This is vital to ensure effective communication between home and school.

### Medication

Please do not send children in with medication. No children should have medication on them to administer in school. If any child is taking a course of antibiotics or needs pain relief, we are happy for parents to come into school during the day to administer the medication. Thank you for your support in this matter.

### Complaints Procedure

We appreciate that there may be occasions when parents may have a concern or indeed a complaint. If such situations arise please approach your child's class and make an appointment to discuss your concerns. We hope that it is at this point that any issues will be resolved. However, if you still feel dissatisfied please make an appointment to discuss your concerns further with myself. We have an 'Open Door Policy' and would much rather you approach us with any concerns as soon as they arise. A full copy of the schools Complaints Procedure and Policy can be found on the school website under 'Online Office'.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Last year, 2017 / 2018, unfortunately we missed our attendance target of 96.5% with 96.3% attendance. 3.5% of the absences were authorised and 0.2% were unauthorised. Our target this year is to achieve 96.5% attendance (to be confirmed by the LA). We can only do this with your support. 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 will contact you if your child's attendance dips below our target of 96.5%. 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

**All holidays should be taken during the school holidays and not in term time.** Any planned absence from school must be requested in writing. 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.

## Parents in School

The partnership between home and school is vital if children are to flourish and reach their full potential. We value the support we receive from parents and encourage your active participation in the full life of the school. If any parents are willing to come into school to assist in the classrooms, please let the teachers know. For safety reasons we will need to carry out police checks on any parents helping out in school.

## After School Clubs

A letter has been sent home with the clubs that are on offer for the autumn term. Clubs will run on a term by term basis. Some clubs will carry on in the spring and summer terms and some clubs will finish with new clubs being offered. Letters will be sent home at the end of each term to select clubs for the following term. All clubs will be starting from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September - a text will be sent to confirm your child has a place in their chosen club.

## Reception Parents Reading Meeting

This meeting will be held on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm** in the school hall. It is for all parents of our Reception Class, we look forward to seeing you.

## The Lucy Ellis Foundation (Separate letter sent home)

In memory of Lucy Ellis and in support of the 'Lucy Ellis Foundation', we will be holding a 'Dress in Pink' day on **National Sepsis Day - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September**. We encourage all the children to come dressed in something pink and to bring a **£1 donation** for the 'Lucy Ellis Foundation'. Lucy was a talented gymnast, so we will be organising gymnastics sessions throughout the day for the children to take part in. Thank you for your support.

## School Photographs

Colorfoto will be in school on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September** to take individual & sibling photographs of all pupils.

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support and co-operation. We look forward to a productive term ahead in which we will continue to strive towards our vision of being a 'Centre of Excellence' and to encourage everyone to reach for the stars.

Please note diary dates for this term are on the school website under calendar  
[www.glasllwch.org.uk](http://www.glasllwch.org.uk)

**School year 2018-2019**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Half-term starts</b>	<b>Half-term ends</b>	<b>Term ends</b>
Autumn	3 Sept 2018	29 Oct 2018	2 Nov 2018	21 Dec 2018
Spring	7 Jan 2019	25 Feb 2019	1 March 2019	12 April 2019
Summer	29 April 2019	27 May 2019	31 May 2019	22 July 2019

May Day Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**INSET DAYS**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

C. M. Jackson  
Headteacher.