

18/10/2019

Dear Mums and Dads

October already! How lovely to see the season begin to change. Our younger children are having an exciting time celebrating all things about this super season! Not long now to half term. Don't forget that we have Parents Evenings next week where you can meet your child's teacher and see how they are settling in to their new classes.



Attendance As you know good pupil attendance is a high priority for us. Over the last few years our attendance has been good; however two years ago our attendance dropped to 93.9%. We are very pleased to have secured an improvement in attendance last year to 94.5%. We aim to continue to improve this upward trend and aim even higher next year! As you know, Mr Bills is our school attendance officer and last year he worked successfully with a number of parents to improve pupil attendance. Mr Bills is currently looking at all pupils' attendance and we note that we currently have a small number of pupils whose attendance falls below 90%. As you will know we are always eager to support pupils to attain good attendance. We will be sending out letters soon inviting parents to school to discuss any low attendance and how we can support you.

Last year we noticed that our attendance dipped significantly at the end of the year as pupil holidays increased. This year we are amending our holiday authorisation procedures. We will only be able to authorise holidays if pupils' attendance is meeting our target of 95%. Should pupil attendance be below 95% then any holidays taken will be unauthorised. The maximum number of days authorised for holidays will be 5 days. Many thanks for your understanding. I am sure that you understand the importance of pupils regularly attending school.

See-Saw/Twitter Once again, this year we will use the See-Saw App to share pupil work with parents. If you haven't signed up for See-Saw I would urge you to do so. Not only are we able to share your child's work with you, but also share important last minute information, for example about school trips and snow closures. Please note that the See-Saw App cannot be used for individual parent questions to the teacher as this proves time consuming and takes the teacher away from planning and preparation time. Therefore we would be grateful if all parent questions could continue to be addressed via the school office. Likewise we are also unable to answer individual questions through our Twitter feed. Many thanks for your understanding.

Don't forget that all of the lovely things that we do in school can be viewed on our School Twitter feed. We would encourage all parents to sign up!

Harvest Festival As usual we will be celebrating Harvest Festival as a part of our school year. This year our Harvest Festival will be held on Thursday 24th October and as usual we will be collecting foodstuff for the Risca Food Bank. To support this we would be grateful if you would send dried and tinned food donations into school on or before the day.



Inspiring, Challenging, Empowering
Always Doing Our Best



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Parking Please be reminded that we ask all parents drive and park safely in the streets around our school. We cannot allow parents to access our school car park throughout the day. We want to ensure that all children can enter and leave our school safely at the beginning and end of the day.

Punctuality Just a reminder that our doors close at 8.50am prompt. Teachers begin lessons immediately after the doors close so it is very important that pupils are on time. To ensure that pupils have plenty of time to take their coats off and get to class we open our doors at 8.40am to allow pupils to come into school in a safe and relaxed manner. Any pupils who are late must enter the school via the front doors and sign in using the iPad. This allows us to monitor lateness and support pupils who are late regularly to get to school on time.

Governors Report to Parents If you would like to read the 2018/19 Governors Report to Parents it is available on our school website. Paper copies are available on request, from the school office.

Healthy Schools We continue to be proud of our Healthy School status and of course continue to follow Welsh Office Guidance for Healthy Schools. We sell fruit at break times which pupils are able to purchase. Fruit is 25p per day. Additionally we have a 'water on desks policy'. We encourage all pupils to come to school with a water bottle already filled with water. Should pupils need to refill their water bottles we have a water fountain that is available. We have noticed that a small number of pupils are coming into school with squash or fizzy pop in their water bottles. Please could I ask for **water only** in water bottles. This is a Welsh Government initiative and it is essential that we keep our pupils healthy throughout the school day by avoiding sugary drinks. Many thanks.

Yours Sincerely,

J Arthur (Mrs)
Head Teacher

Dates

Tuesday 22nd Oct - Parents Evening
Wednesday 23rd Oct - Parents Evening
Thursday 24th Oct - Harvest Festival
Monday 28th Oct-Fri 1st Nov - HALF TERM

November

Monday 4th Nov - Training Day
Tuesday 5th Nov - Year 4 visit to Cardiff Museum
Wednesday 6th Nov - Rags to Riches charity collection - Details to follow
Thursday 7th Nov - Reception visit to Parc Penallta
Friday 8th Nov - Year 3 visit Cardiff Museum
Thursday 14th Nov - Book fair -TBC
Tuesday 19th & Thursday 21st Nov - Cinema nights - Details to follow

December

Friday 6th Dec - PTA Christmas Fete - Details to follow
Tuesday 10th Dec- Years 3 & 4 Christmas Concert at 1.30pm and 6pm
Wednesday 11th Dec - Infant Christmas Concert at 1.30pm and 6pm
Thursday 12th Dec - Years 5 & 6 Christmas Carol Concert at 1.30pm and 6pm
Tuesday 17th Dec- Nursery Christmas Party (a.m) -
Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party (p.m)
Wednesday 18th Dec - Years 3 & 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 19th Dec - Infant Party
Friday 20th Dec - Term Ends - **School Closes at 1.30pm**

} Party Details TBC