



### **Message from Governor Services – Parent Governor Ballot –**

It is important to set the record straight regarding the recent ballot count. All candidates were invited to attend the count, two did. Two candidates had an equal number of votes in second place. The method used to determine which candidate was successful was via a coin toss, witnessed by both candidates. This is a widely used method of determining the outcome of a tied vote. It is advised by Governors Cymru and, previously by Governors Wales. Perhaps, even **more significantly it follows Electoral Commission advice to Returning Officers for Parliamentary Elections.**

Equality of votes

6.39 When two or more candidates have the same number of votes, you must decide between the candidates by lot.

6.40 Whichever candidate wins the lot is treated as though they had received an additional vote that enables them to be declared elected.

Legislation can be found in Representation of the People Act 1983 schedule 1 rule 49 – <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/2/schedule/1>

This was not a process dreamed up on the spot, but one following national legislation.

Allegations are also being made about how the coin toss was conducted. While individuals can make and share these allegations, I am not in a position to defend myself at present so that other processes that may be underway are not compromised. However, the toss was made with three other people as well as me, who tossed the coin, in the room. No concern was raised at the time by any individual present as to how the toss was conducted.

My biggest concern is that the accusations being made may call into question the integrity of the school. As Clerk to the GB, I was in charge of the process and involved in all stages. Any questions or allegations should be focussed on me. I will mount a robust defence. Because individuals do not like a process, and request or demand changes, these cannot be made as the process followed was that required by legislation. It should not be taken as an opportunity to knock the school or GB.

May I take this opportunity to apologise to any candidates who heard of the outcome of the ballot through inappropriate sharing of information? Candidates, and office staff, were told that they could inform people whether or not they had been elected, but not the outcome as it related to anyone else. This was to be done by Governors' Support Service. Clearly, some parents were informed of the outcome, and the actual numbers of votes cast through a breach of procedure.

Steve Stretch

GSS Manager and Clerk to the GB

**S4C Dathlu Dewrder: Tlws Plant** – Today at 7pm this awards programme will be broadcast and Belle C, year 5, will be featured.



**Sladden swimming competition** – Congratulations to all the children who represented Spittal School. Mrs Long and the school are proud of their achievements and sportsmanship today. Thank you to the parents who transported the pupils.

**Telephone contact** – Please be aware that we are able to connect only one telephone call at a time on our system and take one more call once it is connected. In the meantime the phone will ring as if being unanswered. If you leave an answerphone message it will be listened to. As you are aware we have no school Admin in the office on a Friday. The telephone is manned by staff and it is not always possible to answer calls immediately. Please do leave a message and we will respond as soon as possible.

**PFA** – There was a good turn out for the PFA meeting on Wednesday evening. More fundraisers are being organised including a School Summer Fete to be held in June and a School Fun Run in May. Parents who would like to volunteer to help with these events are very welcome. Please contact Nicola Miles-Bevan or Lou Lavis for details.

**Pupil Voice** - On Wednesday all pupils contributed to a discussion on how we can improve reading across the school. Here is a selection of pupil ideas:

- Improve the selection of choice of books.
- Have a wider variety of authors to select from.
- Have reading rules which encourage pupils to read
- Reading ambassadors to come from across the school, not just older pupils.
- Class library areas to be looked at to see how they can be improved.
- Improve the book area in the main corridor.
- Set reading challenges to encourage all pupils to read more.
- Introduce 'Drop Every And Read' sessions – Mrs Vaughan could ring the school bell for this.
- Promote reading challenges.

#### **Pupils of the week**

	<b>Pupils of the Week</b>	<b>Siaradwr yr wythnos</b>
Class 1	Hewi J & Ella Rose G	Evan W
Class 2	Alex R & Lucy J	Poppy M
Class 3	Maia E & Ellie B	Freya E
Class 4	Arlo M & Connor P	Connor P
Class 5	George T & Saran E	Cerys S

#### **Attendance - School target 96.5%**

<b>Class 1</b>	<b>Class 2</b>	<b>Class 3</b>	<b>Class 4</b>	<b>Class 5</b>
85.45%	95.52%	94.48%	97.5%	95.52%

#### **Dates for the diary –**

- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> March @ 7pm – S4C Dathlu Dewrder: Tlws Plant – Awards television programme
- Weds 27<sup>th</sup> – Fri 29<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5 & 6 residential @ Llangrannog
- Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March – PFA healthy tuck shop
- Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March – PFA Ladies Night – School hall – 7pm until 9.30pm
- Week beginning Mon 1<sup>st</sup> April – Parents evenings (booking forms available in the lobby from Mon 25<sup>th</sup> March)
- Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Class 5 – trip to Easter Story performance @ St Mary's, Haverfordwest
- Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> April @ 9am and 6pm – Parental information session on Numeracy
- Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> April – Creative Schools – Arts Council invitation – Class 4 visit to Cardiff.
- Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> April – PFA book sale @ end of school day
- Fri 5<sup>th</sup> April – Year 6 transition morning 9:30 – 11:30am @ Haverfordwest High (Music focus)
- Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> April – School Disco – 6pm till 7pm
- Mon 15<sup>th</sup>– Fri 26<sup>th</sup> April – Easter holiday
- Tues 7<sup>th</sup> May – Tues 14<sup>th</sup> May – Welsh National Tests window
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 transition session 10:15 – 1:15pm @ Haverfordwest High (PE focus)
- Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> May in school time – PFA 'Fun Run'

- Mon 27<sup>th</sup> – Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May – May half term break
- Fri 19<sup>th</sup> July – Last day of summer term for pupils
- **Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> July – INSET – No school for children**

Yours sincerely



Mrs S. Vaughan, Head teacher

