



Pen Afan Primary School Ysgol Gynradd Pen Afan Newsletter July 2018



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been yet another very busy year and we are delighted that the pupils have made so much progress in that time. We are really pleased with the way in which the schools of the federation have continued to work closely together and we're sure that you as parents can see the benefits for your children. This is especially the case with the Y6 pupils who are moving onto their comprehensive schools as they have had many opportunities to get to know the children in the other schools over the past year. They will undoubtedly still be a little nervous about September, but we wish them luck whichever school they're going to.

We are sure that you were as proud as we were with the commitment the children showed towards the assessments that Y2-Y6 carried out in May; pupils' reports show how hard they have worked this year.

Many thanks for your continued support and we wish you a restful summer holiday.

Mr Cedric Burden (Acting Headteacher), Mr Rob Appleby (Primary Phase Leader) and Miss Gierat (Lead Learner)

Diary Dates

- 24th July—End of academic school year**
- 3rd September—INSET Day**
- 4th September—INSET Day**
- 5th September—Pupils return to school**
- 26th October—Half Term**
- 5th November—Pupils return to school**
- 3rd December—Fluoride varnishing**
- 10th December—Nasal Flu Vaccines**
- 21st December—End of Term**



Safeguarding

With a significant minority, we find ourselves having to deal with issues between pupils in school which have originated from a disagreement on social media, such as Instagram, Snapchat, Oovoo and so on. We ask you to consider very carefully the social issues which arise in the use of such apps and whether they are perhaps more suitable for your child to use at a later stage of their life. It can be very difficult to monitor the use of such apps and it may be that you decide as a parent that your child will be happier if they don't use them at all until they are in comprehensive school. Please note that there are minimum age restrictions on such sites for a reason.



Nursery

What a fantastic year filled with fun and memories! We have had a wonderful and busy final half term in Nursery/Reception. Our topic has been "who lives in a rock pool?" we have been very lucky to go on two trips to the seaside, once where we did lots of rock pooling and found some jellyfish and another with the whole school where we played and built lots of sand castles. Through our topic we have enjoyed exploring the seaside, we all really enjoyed our outdoor rock pool small world area and outdoor Ice Cream Parlour role play area. We have really enjoyed learning about animal habitats and we built our very own rock pools in a jar.

We have had a super busy half term taking part in sports day, Race for Life and our school summer fete. A massive thank you for the fantastic efforts to participate in all of the events in an extremely busy half term.

"I loved our beach trip and finding shells" Tal

Thank you all for your support throughout the year, have a lovely summer.

Miss Doyle, Miss Caroline, Miss Mel and Mrs Townsend



Reception

I can't believe that we've reached the end of this academic year already! It seems like only yesterday I was welcoming the children into their class back in September! I have to say that they have been an absolute delight to have taught over the last year and hope that they are as well behaved for you over the holidays! We have had a fun filled half term where we have been learning all about "Who lives in a rock pool?" We have been to Rest Bay in Porthcawl to go rock pooling and also to Aberafan beach for our end of term trip. We have learnt about the different animals that live at the seaside and how they survive. We have learnt how to keep ourselves safe in the sun and at the beach and enjoyed making posters to help our friends to stay safe too. We have really enjoyed being able to spend time in the outdoors over the last few weeks thanks to the wonderful weather that we have had. The children have worked their little socks off this year and deserve a well-earned rest! Thank you for all of your support and encouragement over the last year!



Year 1&2



This half-term our class topic focus has been 'Moon Zoom'. We have learnt about space travel and what astronauts need to take to space in order to have a successful mission. As part of our study we also completed a science experiment to find the best material to make a spacesuit for Barnaby Bear. The super soakers made the experiment that little bit more fun!



We have also been listening to lots of 'space' themed music as part of our topic and have been identifying a range of sounds. During art and craft sessions we have used pastels to create a 'solar system' picture and label each planet.



We had a fantastic time during our whole school visit to the beach. It was so lovely to see the children enjoying themselves, building sandcastles and mixing with pupils from the rest of the school.



This term we have been keeping fit and active by practising for our sports day events. We now know how to complete a relay race and pass a baton smoothly from one child to another.



The children seem to have really enjoyed using the new outdoor equipment this half term. They have also been very good at looking after the equipment and keeping it neat and tidy.

Thank you for the parental support throughout the year. We hope that you have a fantastic summer.

Miss Jones and Miss Sharlene



Year 3&4

Year 3/4 Summer Term - Predator

This half term has been full of fun and excitement. The class asked to write the whole of the newsletter themselves as they had lots of ideas about what to say! So here it goes.....

Our Trip to the Beach

We had lots of fun at the beach, it was great being on a trip with everyone from school, even Reception! We built lots of sandcastles and dug huge holes. We dug all the way down to the water. It felt like the sand was dissolving in your hands when you picked it up. The day ended with an amazing Remos ice cream. We can't wait to go again next year!

Sports Day

On sports day this year the three teams were all excited to do their best. There were lots of different races, our group loved the relay and fun races. Everybody tried their best and got stuck in. It was fantastic to hear everyone in the team cheering you along. The red team won, but next year the green and blue teams are going to make a comeback!

Predators

This term we have found out lots about predators. We looked at birds of prey, made predator databases, examined owl pellets and lots more. We did a science investigation based on water transportation in plants. We had to see how many straws we could connect and still be able to suck the water up. It was lots of fun!



Year 5/6

Our topic this half term was the world cup. We created databases and spreadsheets to store information. We were all given a country from the World Cup. We had to research facts about the country and then write a non chronological report. As well as this we made the countries flags out of newspaper and coloured card. We designed our own mascots for our country based on the most popular animal in that country.

This term we have been on lots of trips this includes the beach, which we all really enjoy. We all had ice cream (it was yummy!). Later in the term we went to crucial crew to learn how to stay safe both online and in real life; we listened to presentations on safety at beaches, online, trains, food poisoning and more. We also went to an animal show in Swansea which spoke about "What was cooler, Dinosaurs or the animals we have today?" The class then went to Swansea to an extremely fun sports day.

At the end of the Year we all worked really hard to produce an end of year show to say goodbye the Year 6 pupils.

Good luck in the comprehensive Year 6 we hope you all have an amazing time. Enjoy your holiday Year 5 and we'll see you in September.



Attendance Update

Figures are averages for this academic year, ie from September to present. We aim for **AT LEAST 95%**

| N | Rec | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 | Whole School | Croeserw | Glyn | Cymer | Fed (No N) | NPT |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|----------|-------|-------|------------|--------|
| 77.8% | 85.6% | 90.6% | 94.1% | 92.8% | 93.3% | 94.2% | 94.9% | 90.7% | 92.17% | 94.3% | 93.6% | 93.77% | 94.28% |

School News

I can't believe that we've come to the end of the year again! It's been as busy as usual in Pen Afan and I'd like to thank you all for your support over the last year.

I need to say a massive thank you to the Friends of the School who have worked so hard over the last year to raise funds for our school. Through their hard work, we have been fortunate to have had money to spend on our outdoor environment. Our new "Mud Kitchens" have gone down very well!!!!

I also need to thank Mrs Rhiannon Jones for her hard work over the last year- she is unfortunately moving to a school that's far closer to her home in September. On behalf of all at Pen Afan - diolch yn fawr Mrs Jones! We have been lucky to have appointed a new teacher Mr Rhydian Smith who will be starting with us in September.

Can I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday and I look forward to seeing you all in September. Good luck to our Year 6's who will be starting their comprehensive education in September- we will definitely miss you!

Family Information Service

The Family Information Service (FIS) is based in Ffrwdwyllt House, Taibach. It aims to provide comprehensive, up to date and accurate information for children, young people, families and professionals with families on a wide range of topics, such as:

- Childcare
- Education and family learning services
- Health and Wellbeing Services
- Play, sport and other recreational activities
- Social care and family support services
- Youth services
- Financial and Legal Services
- Child Development
- Staying Safe
- Other local information.



They have a very informative website which can be found on the address in the graphic above, or by scanning here:



Federation News

Several events have taken place across the federation this term, all of which have gone fantastically well due to the work which has gone on by the staff behind the scenes. Our Writers' days for Y5/6 at the comp were very successful and gave the comp teachers the opportunity to meet our pupils and was also a chance for our pupils to mix with other schools and children who may one day be classmates.

The residential trip to Margam gave the Y5/6s opportunities to get to know each other better outside of school and take part in adventurous activities outside most people's comfort zones.

Lastly, we are sad to say goodbye to a number of staff across the valley, some of whom, such as Mr Burden, are leaving us for pastures new and others who are retiring. However, we are also very excited to welcome some new members of staff who will be starting in September. See school news for details.

Have a lovely summer everyone.