



# Pen Afan Primary School

## Ysgol Gynradd Pen Afan

### Newsletter

### October 2018



Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Fundraisers:** We are always so impressed with the support shown by our families when we try to raise money for the school and other good causes and this term has been no different. The children have already dressed up for a variety of reasons this year and it is important that you are aware of how thankful we are. Many thanks to you all.

**Reading:** PLEASE HELP US TO RAISE STANDARDS IN READING

Reading with your child is vital. Research shows that it's the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education. It's best to read little and often, so try to put aside some time for it **every day**.

Think of ways to make reading fun - you want your child to learn how pleasurable books can be. If you're both enjoying talking about the content of a particular page, linger over it for as long as you like.

Books aren't just about reading the words on the page, they can also present new ideas and topics for you and your child to discuss. Reading with your child makes a huge difference back in school.

**Attendance:** We are disappointed that we had our worst September attendance in the last five years. We ask that you ensure your child is in school if they are well enough to be here. Please give your child the best chance of success in the classroom by arranging medical appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. Also, for your diaries, National Tests this academic year will take place between the 7th and 14th May 2019 inclusive.

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

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

**Diary Dates**

Wed 7th Nov—Finesse Photography

Thurs 8th Nov—PC Garlick—Y5/6 Drugs awareness—Y3/4 Stay SMART

Mon 12th , Tues 13th & Wed 14th Nov—Parents Evening

Wed 14th Nov—Y5/6 Phase Project (drug awareness)

Fri 16th Nov—Children In Need (pupils can wear spots)

Thurs 22nd Nov—PC Garlick—Y5/6 Internet safety—Y3/4 Safety/Abuse

Fri 7th Dec—Y5/6 Phase Project—(drug awareness)

Mon 10th Dec—Rec—Y6 Flu Vaccine

Mon 10th Dec—Xmas concert @ 2pm & 5pm

Tues 11th Dec—Xmas concert @ 10am

Fri 14th Dec—school fete @ 2pm

Thurs 20th Dec— Xmas dinner



**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

We have had a fun and busy start to our school year in Nursery/Reception. Throughout our topic "Do you want to be friends?" we have been exploring friendship and learning about what makes a good friend. We have had so much fun during Fun Forest Fridays, making leaf friends, leaf faces, making friends from objects we found in the great outdoors. We loved reading the story "The Lion and the Mouse" and we worked really hard to make story maps, we made lion and mouse stick puppets to help us re-tell the story. To finish our lovely topic we received a very special letter asking us to plan a teddy bears picnic to have with our friends. We had so much fun and loved bringing our teddy bears to school for the day. We really enjoyed our Halloween day and we made delicious bat biscuits, scary ghosts and pumpkin shapes.



"I loved our teddy bears picnic" Leonie-Leigh.

Thank you,

Miss Doyle, Mrs Townsend, Miss Caroline and Mrs Mel.



# Reception

What a busy 8 weeks we've had in Miss Gierat's class! We have all settled in really well and are working super hard every day! Our topic this term has been "Do you want to be friends?" We have been learning about our friends and thinking of different ways in which we can be kind to them. We have learnt to work together to do jobs and are also becoming more independent in our own learning. We have enjoyed learning about the different people who help us in schools and also about people who help us in the wider community. We have learnt about what we need to do in order to keep ourselves safe and healthy. We received a very special letter from Brambles Bear asking us to help him to plan a party to celebrate being friends with each other. We had to write party invitations, create shopping lists and actually have a party. We invited our teddy bears into school for the day and enjoyed sharing our fun day with them! Our next topic is "Why do squirrels hide their nuts?" where we will be learning all about Autumn, Woodland Animals and Seasonal Celebrations and Festivals.



## Federation News

**TRIPS:** We have had several trips out into the locality to enhance the pupils' learning within their topic, with most schools sharing their trip with other schools within the federation. It is lovely to see the children getting to know each other in this way - this will benefit them both now and in the future. This and last week, we also had our Y5/6 classes visit the Rock UK Summit Centre near Treharris where they took part in many outdoor activities.

**SPORT:** We had a successful first 'Wizards' tournament this month, with our rugby and netball teams playing against some large schools and playing their socks off as usual. Rugby W2 L1, Netball W1 L2. Well done to Rhys Weaver (Pen Afan) and Regan Bogdan-Kingman (Glyncorrwg) for being picked to represent the Aberavon Schools Under 11s squad for the 2018/19 season.





# Year 5/6

## Year 5/6 Autumn Term - The Victorians

This term Year 5/6 have been learning all about the Victorians. We have found out lots of interesting facts and had lots of fun so far!

### St Fagans

We really enjoyed our trip to St Fagans. We went into a Victorian classroom and pretended that we were children from that time. The teachers were very strict! We were shocked to learn that you were not allowed to speak Welsh, only English. If you did speak Welsh you would have to wear the Welsh Knot. The reading was hard because the handwriting looked different to ours and we had to say the four times table.

### Important People

In class we have been researching important people from Victorian times. We found out all about Queen Victoria and her family. We also found out about Florence Nightingale and Isambard Kingdom Brunel, we used them as characters for our hot seating activities.

### Other News!

Our fortnightly swimming sessions have been going really well this term. Our instructors and the lifeguards have all said that our swimming skills have improved.

We have heard that the rest of the class are having a fantastic time on the residential trip and we are looking forward to hearing all about it when they get back!



**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
87.4%	88%	91.6%	90.7%	96%	88.9%	93.9%	94.7%	92.5%	91.7%	95.2%	96.2%	93.7%	95.1%

## School News

Reminder.....

We are really struggling with attendance at the moment. Please can you ensure that your child is in school on time and as often as is possible?

Lateness = Lost Learning

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost!

10 minutes late each day = 6 days lost!

15 minutes late each day = 9 days lost!

20 minutes late each day = 12 days lost!

30 minutes late each day = 18 days lost!

Attendance...something to think about

(Attendance over the course of one school year)

98% Attendance = 4 days absent from school

95% Attendance = 10 days absent from school

90% Attendance = 4 weeks absent from school

85% Attendance = 5½ weeks absent from school

80% Attendance = 7½ weeks absent from school

## 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:



# Year 1&2



This term our Topic has been 'Superheroes', which we have really enjoyed. We have discussed what a superhero is in groups and came up with some very interesting real-life superheroes such as - Mums, Dads, Doctors, Police, Paramedics and Firemen. This led on to our visits from the local PCSO's and Armed Police, who we interviewed, and asked all of our questions about what it is like to be a superhero. They were so impressed with us that they allowed us to sit in the police car and even turned the sirens on. We also enjoyed our trip to Maesteg Fire Station. We got to look at all of the equipment and walk around the station to see what it is like to be a fire fighter. I think our favourite part was when the fire fighters let us have a go at squirting the hoses at the fire engine- lots of fun!



In our PE lessons we have been exploring the shapes and movements which superheroes would make. We have worked in groups to devise freeze frames and scenes from our favourite superhero stories.

We have carried out a Science Investigation where we learnt about magnetic and non-magnetic materials. The children were able to free the superheroes from the jar which Dr. Evil had trapped them in by using a magnet to get them out.

In Literacy, we have been doing a lot of work about 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson. We have categorised adjectives and planned our stories which has really helped us to do our BIG WRITE. I am super impressed with the stories which were written!

In Maths we have been practising our number bonds and learning how to measure using centimetres, decimetres and some of us even metres. We are able to use the words 'less than' and 'more than' to describe a range of objects around the school. We have been ordering coins up to £2 and have been finding correct change.



Thank you for your support so far this term ☺

Miss Jones and Miss Sharlene



# Year 3&4

## Year 3/4 Autumn Term - Potions

The children have settled in well to life in Key Stage 2. It can be a bit of a shock to the system but they are all happy and working hard. They have loved our topic this half term!

### George's Marvellous Medicine

Our class book has been one of the Roald Dahl classics. The children have loved listening to the story and completing lots of activities based on the characters. We wrote descriptions, acted as the characters to answer questions and designed smoothies to cheer Grandma up!

### Witches and Wizards

The children have worked their socks off using lots of different skills in their topic work. They used their maths skills to design potions based on the number of legs used in the ingredients, they wrote a description in Welsh, wrote recipes and a letter about surgery before the introduction of anaesthetic. The children also made their own potion bottles using clay.

### Solids, Liquids and Gases

Our science work has been based on the features and behaviours of solids, liquids and gases. We looked at their structure, sorted examples and looked at how they can be changed. We also completed a number of investigations: Where in class does an ice cube melt the fastest? Is custard a liquid? and Are all liquids runny?

