

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to a new academic year. I trust that you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It promises to be a busy and learning packed term for the children. Both Miss Evans and I have returned and I would like to thank Mrs Gibbon and the Staff for the efficient way that they ran the school in our absence.

Unfortunately, there are a few changes in staff this term. Mrs Melbourne has retired and Miss Price is now in the office with Mrs Evans. Miss Colman has begun her maternity and Miss Natasha Wood is now in post with Reception and Year 1 Class. I hope you will show them a warm Gnoll welcome. We are also saying goodbye to two members of staff this month. Mrs Biggar is heading to Northampton to be with her husband and son. Mrs Morris who has been successful in gaining a new job. Their last day here at Gnoll Primary will be Friday 21st September for Mrs Biggar and Friday 29th September for Mrs Morris. I would personally like to thank Mrs Biggar and Mrs Morris for their dedication and commitment they have shown our school and more importantly our children. I wish them all the success and happiness in their new ventures. I'm sure they will be a huge success in whatever they set their minds too. They will be missed here at Gnoll.

Below are lists of important dates for your diaries.

Dates for the diary:

3 rd September 2018	-	Whole School	Start of New Academic Year (Inset day)
4 th September 2018	-	Whole School	Children back in school
24 th September 2018	-	Whole School	Family & Individual Photographs
4 th October 2018	-	Y5 & Y6	TAG Rugby Competition @ Cefn Saeson
4 th October 2018	-	Whole School	PTA Macmillan Coffee Event
25 th October 2018	-	Whole School	PTA "Monster Ball" Disco
26 th October 2018	-	Whole School	PTA Non School Uniform Day

NB dates will be added to this list as and when they are organised.

School Uniform:

It is wonderful to see the children return to school dressed smartly in their school uniform. Please could we remind you that school uniform are available to purchase from Sportec or TESCO Online . They also have school book bags and water bottles. Please ensure that all items of uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name. For health and safety reasons, may I ask that pupils with long hair keep it tied back whilst in school and that on the days they have PE their pierced earrings are removed for that day unless they are able to remove them independently before the start of the lesson. Wearing jewellery to school is also discouraged for safety reasons and to avoid items getting lost / damaged. Bright hair dyes and extreme haircuts must also be avoided for school as they do not comply with the school's policy.

Polite Reminder - Attendance & Punctuality:

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time – the school day starts at 8.50am and teaching and learning begins immediately. I must remind you that holidays taken during term time are not authorised by the school and you may face a fixed penalty notice if they are taken. If your child is off school for more than one day could you please inform us on the first day of the absence and every day after as it helps to keep our registers up to date. If we do not hear from you by 9.15am on the first day of absence, school will contact you to find out why your child is off.

We work very closely with our Education Welfare Officer. We are currently monitoring several families very closely as lateness and unauthorised absences have a hugely negative impact on child development. Please ensure your child arrives on time and attends school regularly. You are expected to contact school on 01639 642938 to report your child's absence by 9:30am. Unauthorised absences and latecomers are reported to the EWO. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. Every school's Welsh Assembly Government target is **95%**

The attendance for 2017/2018 was: 94.6%

Whole school attendance last week: 92.5%

We remain 0.4% away from our school target!

If your child's attendance falls below 95%, their progress could be seriously affected. Colour coded attendance letters will be issued termly so that you are fully aware of your child's attendance percentage. **GOOD ATTENDERS = GOOD ACHIEVERS!**

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club pupils are admitted at 8.10am. Pupils must not arrive any later than 8.30am. Please ensure your children are fully supervised when waiting for doors to open.

Dinner Money

Dinner money continues to be **£2.30 per day**. School has sent home letters regarding ParentPay with details of how to register so that you are able to pay for school meals online. Please let us know if you experience any difficulties with this. If your child is eligible for free school meals, school will add these details to ParentPay on your behalf.

Contact Details

School regularly sends important pieces of information via our Text2Parents service and on occasions we may need to contact you in an emergency. It is therefore vital we hold up-to-date contact details for you. Please inform the school office if you have any changes to telephone numbers.

Collection of Pupils

Children must be collected by a responsible adult (i.e. a person who has officially left school) and is on the pink form. If anyone different is collecting a child for whatever reason at the end of the day, the class teacher must be informed in the morning.

After School Clubs and Activities for this term

As you are aware we as a school have always been committed to run after school clubs. However, due to the present climate and budget cuts we have had to cut back on the clubs available this term. Below is the list of clubs available at the moment. We are awaiting confirmation from some outside agencies who have expressed an interest in running a club here.

The clubs for this term are:

<i>Day</i>	<i>Dinnertime Clubs</i>	<i>After School Clubs</i>
<i>Monday</i>	School Council Meetings	
<i>Tuesday</i>	Netball Club Sports Ambassadors Recorders/Road Safety	Dance & Glee Club (Y2 upwards)
<i>Wednesday</i>	Digital Leaders	Code IT (KS2) Arts & Crafts (FPh)
<i>Thursday</i>	ECO Committee Cryw Cymraeg	Fitness Club
<i>Friday</i>		

School Uniform

In addition to uniform being available at Sportec, Neath Abbey, Fusion in Queen Street Neath. You may order our school uniform via the Tesco website (www.clothingattesco.com) Bookbags, T.Shirts, Polo Shirts, Cardigans, and Sweatshirts are all available. For convenience you may choose to have your Tesco order delivered directly to your home address. You may find that you have some items of outgrown / spare school uniform available. The school would be very grateful for any items you may have, including; coats, shoes, hats, P.E. kit. Thank you.

Meet with Mr Harris

As parents and carers you will have views and opinions on our school. I will be available to listen to these opinions **on Thursday 11th October 2018 at 2.30pm**. During this meeting I would welcome feedback on our new behaviour policy, which the pupils have contributed too. They also are in the process of writing a Parent Agreement, which all parents are expected to sign and adhere too. I would also welcome some feedback on the branding of the school i.e. uniform, badge, ethos, etc.

If you would like to discuss a specific issue relating to our school please contact the school office. I look forward to meeting you on this date.

Rhys Harris

Headteacher

School Email:

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School Website:

<http://gnoll-primary-school.j2bloggy.com/>

Twitter:

@GnollPrimary