

20th January, 2020

Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian,

Happy New Year from all of us here at Gnoll Primary School! It has been a busy start to the New Year and we are very pleased to see the way in which the children have returned with such enthusiasm and vigour, ready to learn and keen on planning their new topics.

We had a very busy December. Pupils performed brilliantly in the Christmas shows and put their heart and soul into every performance. Thank you parents for filling the hall and supporting their hard work, they make us so proud. The pupils also enjoyed the Christmas parties.

To round off our term of football coaching with Swansea City Community Trust, Lloyd awarded more pupils with special certificates for their outstanding skills and attitude during sessions. Providing this additional sports programme to our pupils is something that we really value and are very committed to.

Below are lists of important dates for your diaries.

Dates for the diary:

20 th – 25 th January	-	Year 3 Swimming Week
27 th – 31 st January	-	Year 3/4 Swimming Week
22 nd January	-	Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will have tennis sessions.
28 th January	-	Children's Laureate visiting Gnoll Primary
3 rd -7 th February	-	Year 4 Swimming Week
10 th -15 th February	-	Year 4/5 Swimming Week Internet Safety Week
17 th – 23 rd February	-	HALF TERM
28 th February	-	St David's Day Celebrations at school
2 nd March	-	Yr 3, yr 3&4, Yr 4 Class visiting St Fagans
5 th March	-	World Book Day
9 th – 12 th March	-	Parents Evenings
13 th March	-	Sports Relief
3 rd April	-	Last Day of Spring Term
20 th April	-	Start of Summer Term

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

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to all the pupils, staff and parents who helped to create a very successful PTFA Christmas Fayre. The event was a huge success and yet again our wonderful PTFA has exceeded expectations considering the weather.

Winter Weather Precautions

As we are in winter and there have been some weather warnings recently, can I outline how we would let you as parents know that the school is closed. Firstly let me assure you that every effort will be made to open the school. However, should we have weather that means that we are unable to open; you will be notified by text message that the school will be closed. The information will also be on the Neath Port Talbot and school websites. We would also keep you updated via the school Twitter feed, @GnollPrimary. If you have changed your phone number or do so in the future, please let the school know so that we can update our records.

School Uniform for September 2020.

Firstly, thank you to all parents for the support in unifying the school uniform. We are pleased with the effort parents/carers have made after our meetings last summer term. The pupils look very smart indeed and are very proud of their new badge. This has certainly raised their identity as a Gnoll pupil and more importantly their sense of belonging. Having the same one coloured uniform has made a significant change in appearance around the school. We did say that we would have a working group on this matter and would like to host a meeting for all parents who wish to be part of the working group. This meeting will be on Thursday 27th February 2020 at 9am. This is a discussion and **is not** a meeting to definitely change the uniform colour. This meeting is to allow parents and children to share their opinions on the matter. We appreciate your support.

Parents Evenings

Parent Evenings will take place week commencing **9th/10th/11th/ 12th March, 2020.**

Teachers will contact you with a time and a date to discuss your child's progress. This year we will continue with the new format. The teacher will have a progress record on each child and the discussion will be about how we (school and family) can work together to move the child on in their learning. Pupils with Individual Education Plans will continue to work with staff members of their targets. However, they will now help create One Page Profiles on themselves.

Dydd Gwyl Dewi — St. David's Day

This year we will be celebrating Dydd Gwyl Dewi with an Eisteddfod on Monday 2nd March 2020 - details of which will follow. House points will be awarded for Eisteddfod entries.

After School Clubs and Activities for this term

The clubs for this term are:

Day	Dinnertime Clubs	After School Clubs
Monday	School Council	
Tuesday	Criw Cymraeg (SC)	
Wednesday	Choir (BW & JJ) Digital Leaders (NB)	Code IT Club (LE)
Thursday	ECO Committee (DH)	Football Club (JT)
Friday		

Dinner Money

The school dinner service is provided by the local authority, not the school. It is a service that parents can buy if their child is not entitled to free school meals. School collect the payments for the local authority and send the money into them. It is this service who provides us with the information on food that has been ordered and not paid for. School has to pay for any outstanding debts, so this then has to come out of our school budget! It is parents' responsibility to provide food for their child.

Due to increasing debts from unpaid dinner money and unnecessary administration work, we are asking you to be vigilant and pay for any dinner arrears which has been occurred. If you want your child to have a school dinner you will need to pay for the dinner like you would in a restaurant. If school has not received payment and you are in arrears you will be contacted and asked to provide payment before we can order the food. Alternatively, you can bring a packed lunch to the school for your child, or take them home for lunch. Staff will never leave a child go hungry, but, I am certain that you would agree that we would be concerned if parents failed to provide food for their child on a regular basis.

To make payments easier for parents we are currently using an online system called 'Parent Pay' so that parents can pay for school meals rather than having to come into the office with money. Thank you for your support on this matter.

Family Fun Days

We have been running family workshops for quite some time here at Gnoll and we feel it's time to revamp the whole way of working. As a result we are very excited to introduce a weekly event for you to come into school and take part in various activities with your child/children.

The activities will be fun and will include you being creative or a little active with your child/children. These six weeks before the Easter holidays will include activities like craft, cooking, yoga and Lego.

The sessions will be held every Tuesday afternoon (1:30pm- 3:00pm) in the iZone. Refreshments will be available.

We will be holding a coffee and cake afternoon on Tuesday 11th February, 2:00pm – 3:00pm. Please come along and sign up for these activities.

Once again I'm looking forward to working closely with you to ensure our children continue to grow, develop and blossom during their time at this very happy and successful school.

Rhys Harris

Headteacher

School Email:

gnollprimary@npted.org

School Website:

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

Twitter:

@GnollPrimary