



CILFFRIW PRIMARY SCHOOL YSGOL GYNRADD CILFFRIW



Autumn Term 2019 Newsletter



**Mr M. Quin
Headteacher**

23rd September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable summer. Everyone has settled into their new classes well and it has already been a very busy term! Please note the following information and dates for your diary.

THANK YOU!

I would like to start this newsletter with a heartfelt thankyou to all our parents, carers and families for their generosity and support for the school in so many ways:

School Library

The PTA has been working extremely hard to create a bright and beautiful new library. The library has been completely funded by events organised by the PTA over recent years, and it is wonderful to see this money being used so effectively to create a bright, well-organised library for all our children to enjoy. We are hoping to complete the project later this half-term. Paul Doyle, from the NPT library service, will be working with children in Year 5, Year 2 and Year 6 to create our own books of stories and poems for the library. Paul will also be collaborating with teachers to choose exciting new books.

Outside Learning Area

Thanks again to our PTA who organised a curry night last term to raise funds for outside learning last term. Foundation Phase teachers (and their families!) have been working hard to use this money to develop an area for outside learning beside the main entrance. This area should also be finished later this term – weather permitting! Thank you to everyone involved.

Sports Kits Sponsorship

Thank you also to our extremely generous sponsors who have donated funds for new sports kits:

- S and S Taxi Services – www.sandstaxi.com
- Wales and West Utilities
- Cilfrew Fish Bar - 01639 680059

Your support and generosity make an enormous difference to our school in so many ways.



SCHOOL ROUTINES AND INFORMATION

Everyday routines and reminders: Please help us by ensuring that children:

- Attend school every day – always arriving in good time before 8:50am
- Always have their P.E. kit on the correct day
- Complete homework and return promptly to school
- Read with you regularly at home – please continue this essential practice to ensure that children make progress in literacy skills
- Tie long hair back to deter headlice. Hair accessories should be discrete and match the uniform colours of blue and white.
- Never wear jewellery for safety reasons except for stud earrings and a wristwatch
- Always wear uniform and have their names written clearly on all articles of clothing
- Do not wear nail varnish to school
- Bring a bottle of water with their name written on (junior classes only)
- We respectfully request that you provide a healthy meal if your children have packed lunches with no sweets or chocolate bars, sugary/fizzy drinks and no cans please. Fresh water is always available to all children in the dining hall.

Absences/Excellent Attendance

2014/15	93.6%
2015/16	94.8%
2016/17	94.9%
2017/18	93.6%
2018/19	94.0%

Thank you for your support in ensuring that our pupils do not miss school unnecessarily. It is so important to ensure that pupils attend school for as many days as possible. We fully appreciate that illnesses are unavoidable and there are times when pupils cannot attend school: the Welsh Assembly target of 95% is based on pupils being absent for up to 9 days over the academic year.

If attendance drops below 90% it is the equivalent of your child missing a day of school every fortnight, and 80% equates to a day every week! Our school attendance will continue to be monitored closely by the Local Authority and the Education Welfare Officer.

Uniform

Boys' uniform: navy trousers or shorts, white or navy polo shirt and navy jumper.

Girls' uniform: navy trousers, skirt or shorts, white or navy polo shirt, navy or white cardigan or navy jumper, blue and white checked summer dresses.

Please ensure that your child has sensible shoes with good grip on the soles. We would prefer all children to wear trainers so that they are always safe on the yards and on Cilffriw's many stairs and steps!

School Uniform Suppliers

Embroidered uniform is available from Sportec in Unit 5, Abbey Road Industrial Estate, Neath (01639 632250). Website: **sportec.co.uk**. There is a link to the school uniform page on our website.

Embroidered uniform is also available online from **myclothing.com**

For special events and photographs, an attractive alternative is a white shirt and school tie. If you would like to buy a blue and white school tie, they are available from school at a cost of £2.50.

School Meals

The Menu continues from last year until half term – please ask if you require a replacement menu. Please make a point of asking our teaching assistants about how well your child is eating - it is so important that every child is having plenty to eat.

Payment for lunches: £2.35 per meal / £11.75 per week

May I remind you please that payment for school lunches must be paid on Mondays in advance of children having meals. We should be grateful if you would put the money in an envelope or returnable purse/wallet with the child's name clearly marked on it. If your child has dinners one or two days a week, the dinner money should still be paid in advance on the Monday. If children are absent, credit is carried forward to the next week.

Birthday Cakes/Treats

We do understand that bringing a cake to share in school is sometimes a straightforward way to celebrate a child's birthday. Please do not feel obliged to do this, many do not. However, if you do bring a treat in, may we request individually wrapped cakes for reasons of hygiene and ease.

Parent/Teacher Discussions

If you have any concerns about your child, or you wish to discuss their progress in class, you are welcome to contact the school **at any time** to arrange to meet their class teacher. We will always see you at the earliest possible opportunity. Teachers are usually available on any day after school. Formal parent meetings will take place later this year.

Early Bird Breakfast Club from 8.15 to 8.40 a.m.

A healthy breakfast and activities are available to all children every morning. Qualified staff supervise Breakfast Club and the provision is free of charge to everyone from Nursery to Year 6. Please use the Nursery entrance for access to Breakfast Club.

The main entrance opens at 8.40 a.m. After 8:40 please only use the Nursery entrance if you are bringing Nursery pupils to school; Reception class pupils use the side entrance to the left of nursery and all other pupils should use the main entrance.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Macmillan Cancer Support Fundraising

On **Wednesday 25th September** Cilffriw Playgroup is organising a coffee morning and cake sale to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. The coffee morning starts at 9.30 a.m. – everyone welcome. If you would like to donate any cakes for the sale, please bring them to school on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning.

If you would like your child/children to buy a cake, please make sure they bring an extra 50p with them and take it to class on Wednesday morning.

Ospreys Rugby World Cup Festival

Kayleigh Powell has organised a Rugby World Cup Festival on **Monday 30th September** in the afternoon. All classes will take part in activities and games to celebrate the Rugby World Cup.

Families First Parents/Carers' Open Day

Michelle Norris from Families First will be available in the school hall all afternoon on **Wednesday 2nd October**. Families First offers a range of support services aimed at families, children and young people living in Neath Port Talbot. They can help with further education, employment, skills development, health support and parenting advice. If you are interested in talking to Michelle, pop in at any time during the afternoon.

NSPCC Assemblies and Pupil Workshops

We will be continuing to work closely with the NSPCC this year. On **Friday 4th October** the NSPCC will be taking assemblies and workshops with all children. The NSPCC will also be organising an Online Safety Workshop for parents and carers on **Tuesday 15th October**. More details to follow.

Flu Immunisation Programme

The school nurses will be visiting on **Friday 11th October** to administer the nasal spray to all pupils from Reception Class to Year 5 as part of the national immunisation programme. (Year 6 immunisation has been postponed until a later date due to the LLangrannog residential course). Consent forms have been sent out – please ensure that you complete and return your form to Mrs Uzzell, whether or not you wish your child to be immunised.

Halloween Disco

On **Wednesday 16th October** the PTA will be holding the Halloween Disco – more details to follow soon!

School Photographs

The photographer will be in school on **Thursday 24th October** and will take all family groups and individual photographs on the same day. As usual, we will include a slot for little ones not yet in school – please bring them in at 9:00 a.m. Remember that neighbours, friends and family are also welcome.

October Half-Term Holiday

The last day of school is Friday 25th October and pupils start back on Tuesday 5th November. **Monday 4th November is an INSET day for staff training.**

Please may I encourage you to keep in close touch with the school so that parent and teacher partnerships are strong and that we have a shared understanding of our children's needs. Above all, our commitment to each family is to promote high academic standards whilst ensuring children's wellbeing. Please remember to contact me at any time if you have any concerns or issues that you wish to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Quin
Headteacher