

MAESMARCHOG PRIMARY SCHOOL
YSGOL GYNRADD MAESMARCHOG

Headteacher/Prifathrawes
Mrs. H.K. Winston

Telephone/Fax
(01639) 700228



Dyffryn Cellwen
Neath
SA10 9LB

e-mail:- maesmarchogcommunityprimary@npted.org

June 19th 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

What a busy half term we have ahead! Please see below for some key dates.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (Don't forget we put key dates on our website too!)

- **Thursday 21st June** - Morning: potted sports for our younger pupils and afternoon: Sports day for the rest of the pupils on the rugby field. If the weather is too bad to hold these events on this day, our reserve day is Thursday 28th June the following week.
- **Friday 29th June** - Class 4 and Class 6 visit Caerleon.
- **Tuesday 3rd July** - Year 6 pupils attend Crucial Crew event.
- **Thursday 5th July** - PTA Summer Fete. More information to follow on this.
- **Thursday 12th July** - Final Year 6 transition day.
- **Friday 20th July** - Leavers' Assembly (to start at 9:15 in the Hall)
- **Friday 20th July pm** - Open afternoon (see overleaf)
- **Monday 23rd July** - Last day of the academic year for our pupils.
- **Tuesday 24th July** - Staff training day.
- **Tuesday 4th September** - First day for all pupils to attend school for the new academic year.

THANK YOU!

Thank you very much for supporting our Sponsored Walk and the 'Bags to Riches' clothes collection. We have had such a positive response to the 'Bags to Riches' that it is likely that we will be repeating this during the next academic year, - so please keep sorting those unwanted/too small clothes from your wardrobes!

STAFFING CHANGES

Miss Lindsey Allen will be starting her maternity leave at the beginning of September and Miss Phillippa Ventress will be covering the class in her absence. Miss Ventress has covered the class in the past and so is already familiar with many of the children in Class 1. We wish Miss Allen well with the safe delivery of her second child.

Mr. David Roe has been successful in obtaining a Teaching and Learning Responsibility Post in a school in Llanelli and so will be leaving us after more than four years of being at Maesmarchog. I'm sure you would like to join me in thanking him for his enthusiasm and commitment to the school and wish him all the best as he moves on to the next step of his career. Interviews will be conducted over the next few weeks for a new teacher to join our staff in his place.

BRAND SHOVLAR.

I'm sure that many of you are aware of the very sad news about Brand Shovlar - a past pupil of Maesmarchog Primary who had been at the school since Nursery and left us to move to Newport just before he entered into Year 6 in July 2015.

Brand became ill with a form of cancer of the soft tissues and tragically died in April of this year - only 12 years old. We would like as a school to do something in his memory and to help raise money for LATCH; the Welsh children cancer charity that supported Brand and his family during his illness. During our afternoon Sports Day, pupils will be running an additional race for Race for Life on that day and Tesco Ystradgynlais will also be providing some refreshments for the pupils. If you would like to make a donation to LATCH via the school, you can do so either by giving a donation (on the 20th of July) or baking a cake which can be sold to raise money on our open afternoon (See below).

OPEN AFTERNOON

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents, relatives and friends of Maesmarchog Primary to our open afternoon. It will be an opportunity to celebrate our journey from being a red to a yellow school, to showcase our achievements and to meet with members of our Governing Body. It will also be an opportunity to meet and to socialise over a cup of tea and to raise money for LATCH in memory of Brand Shovlar through the sale of donated cakes/biscuits. I'm also hoping that Dr. Hywel Francis will be able to bring along a film of a Christmas performance of Oliver that was performed by the pupils in the 80s so that those pupils who are now parents can see it.

ATTENDANCE

As I write this letter, though we have not reached the end of the academic year quite yet, I am hoping that our attendance will again exceed our target of 95.3% . I would like to thank parents for your co-operation in supporting the school in our attempt to maintain good attendance. I hope that you will continue to work with us during the remainder of the academic year so that we can build and improve upon our current attendance figure of 95.9%.

Unfortunately it is looking unlikely that our attendance figure this year will not be as high as it was last year as we have been affected more in this current academic year by term time holidays. Can I remind you that as a Local Authority, Neath Port Talbot still code holidays as unauthorised absences and the Educational Welfare Officer carefully monitors the attendance of pupils who are absent during term time. Of course, there is also the impact on the children's learning as they may well miss important lessons that are the building blocks for future learning.

Regards,

Mrs. H.K.Winston
(Headteacher)