Friday 17th February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Please take a minute or two to read this slightly briefer than usual mid-year letter, particularly the dates at the end which inform you of important events for the second half of the Spring Term.

**Attendance**

You should have received a letter updating you on your child’s level of attendance so far this year. As you know we place great importance on attendance and have improved overall levels in recent years. This year’s attendance currently stands at 96.5%, having taken a sharp drop this half term due to sickness. May I take this opportunity to remind you how important good attendance is for continuity in your child’s learning and friendships. It is lovely to see the children wearing their 100% badges this term!

**Sporting Success!**

The children have done us proud this half term through their participation in rugby, football and netball matches. Not only have they won many matches, they have shown amazing sportsmanship, even helping out weaker teams from other schools on occasions!

**Good Behaviour**

I am pleased to be able to report that Gorseinon Library came in recently to present all classes with certificates for excellent behaviour during their recent visits. They told us that our children were by far the best behaved they have had to visit! We are very proud of them and I’m sure you are too!

**Internet and Mobile Phone Safety**

As you may be aware we teach children how to keep themselves safe online and when using their mobile phones. While the indications are that the children fully understand the need to stay safe and happy, we have been made aware of some children involving themselves in inappropriate messaging which has an impact on their friendships in school. We will, of course, always give time to children who come into school upset by these incidents but we will not waste learning time investigating these incidents fully. Instead we will continue to inform you as parents if we think you need to monitor your child’s mobile phone or internet use more closely.

**Car Park (Oh dear, not again!)**

I’m afraid a very small minority of parents are still showing a total disregard for the safety of our children and for other car park users. Parking in the turning space and in front of the barrier causes chaos and I fear it is only a matter of time before frustration and confusion lead to an accident. I now have no other choice now than to get the police to monitor the area more regularly. If anyone has any ideas on how we can work together to improve the situation, please call in and see me.

**JSTF Staffing**

Miss Smith is leaving us today to take her maternity leave and we wish her well for the birth of her second baby. Let’s hope she gets a little break before this one comes along; you may remember that her little girl was born the day after she finished! I am delighted to be able to inform you that we have appointed a lovely new teacher called Miss Evans to cover in Miss Smith’s absence. I’m sure that those of you who have met her will agree that she will settle well in Tre Uchaf and will take good care of our JSTF children.

**Storyfish**

I hope you have enjoyed reading the stories which the children have brought home following their ‘Storyfish’ days. This project has been very successful so far and I would like to thank the parents who have volunteered to support the days. There are a number of these days still to come and the dates can be found at the end of this letter. Do let us know if you would like to come and help and please be assured that the teacher will take full charge of the day and will give you clear guidance on how you can help. This is an opportunity for you to spend an enjoyable day with your child’s class!

**Trips**

Many classes have enjoyed interesting trips this half term and I would like to thank you for being willing to pay for these visits. I do understand that money can be ‘tight’ following Christmas and will continue to ensure costs are kept to a minimum. If you are struggling to pay for trips do let me know as I can arrange for you to pay in instalments. May I remind year 5 and 6 parents that the deposit for the July Residential is now due and that this can be paid for in installments.

**Fire Alarm System**

Finally, you may be aware that we have had a little disruption in school recently due to the installation of a brand new ‘state of the art’ fire alarm system funded by the Local Authority. This has resulted in some cancellation of PE lessons and clubs which is unfortunate but unavoidable. This is almost complete and things will return to normal after half term.

Many thanks for your continued support during these busy first few weeks of 2017.

Yours faithfully

C M Sanderson

**Dates for your Diary**

Monday 27th February Return to school

Tuesday 28th February Visit to St David’s Church – classes to be confirmed

Wednesday 1st March St David’s Day (children can wear Welsh costumes)

Thursday 2nd March World Book Day (children can come dressed as a character from a book)

Friday 3rd March Road Safety performance for Key Stage Two

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Monday 6th March Stepping Into Play Group starts – 9.00 – 11.30

Tuesday 7th March Year 1 Class Assembly

 Year 6 Violin Exams

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Wednesday 15th March Maths Challenge – Year 6 Team

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Monday 20th March Parents’ Evening

Tuesday 21st March Parents’ Evening

Friday 24th March Comic Relief Fundraiser Day

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Thursday 30th March Year 4 Class Assembly

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Thursday 6th April Easter Hat and Easter Egg Decorating Competition

Friday 7th April Last day of term

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Monday 24th April Back to School

**Please also check our website for class news and important dates;**

**http://tre-uchaf-primary-school1.j2webby.com/**