

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear parents/carers,

Thursday 19th January 2023

News

What a busy couple of weeks we have had back in school. To mark the start of a new year, the children took part in activities to learn about the Welsh tradition of Calennig which takes place on 13th January every year. In some classes, each child made a perllan. Year 6 learned about the Mari Llwyd and others compared life in Wales in the past with the present.



The children are now immersed in their topics. As part of their study of World War 2 Year 6 have been baking using rationed ingredients and learning how morse code was used. Year 2 started their 'Muck, Mess and Mixtures' topic with a fun and messy morning earlier this week. The children made lava lamps, rice rainbows and much more. Nursery are having great fun with their topic 'Where does Snow Go?' We are really pleased with how our topics are engaging the children and how positive the outcomes are for all pupils. We are continually reflecting, reviewing and adapting our curriculum to ensure it is the best it can be.



The weather has been particularly challenging over the last few weeks, but the children have been very sensible and listened to instructions as to how to stay safe. Next week, please remember to ensure your child has a suitable coat in school. A number of older pupils are coming to school with only a fleece which is not suitable when the weather is damp.

St Dwynwen's Day PTA Disco

To celebrate St Dwynwen's Day next Wednesday 25th January, the PTA will be running discos for all children from Reception to Year 6. The children can wear their disco/party clothes to school (including Y1 and Y3 who have well-being days although please can they wear trainers for PE). The payment which includes treats will be placed on ParentPay. **Please ensure this is paid prior to the Disco.**

Arrangements will be as follows:

Reception to Year 2 – This disco will take place during the afternoon. The children can then be collected as usual at 3:10-3:20pm. The bus and Deb's afterschool club will run as usual. Any children who do not wish to attend will have activities in one classroom.

Year 3 to Year 6 – This disco will take place from 3:10 at the end of the day. The children can then be collected from the playground at 4:20 (The children will line up as usual on the playground at the front). Any children who attend afterschool club will be taken to the Stiwdio as usual. Obviously children who stay for the disco will not be able to go on the bus and will need to be collected from school.

Contribution to Sunday service at St Peter's – including Year 1 this Sunday

I am looking forward to Year 1 taking part in the service at St Peter's Church on Sunday. Please can the children arrive by 10.15 in their uniform. The church offers coffee, juice and pastries prior to the service if you would like to arrive a little earlier. We then have plans for other classes to attend throughout the rest of the year including Y4 which we had to postpone due to staff and pupil illness.

22nd January – Year 1

12th February – Year 2

12th March – Year 4

14th May – Year 5

18th June – Reception

16th July – Leavers' service

Punctuality

Whilst I am aware that this week has been a tricky one with road works, closed roads and icy conditions, I do have on-going concerns about the number of children who are late arriving for school – some regularly or even daily.

Industrial Action

I am sure you are aware of industrial action being taken by some education unions in the coming months. Whilst the staff do not have to inform me of their union or their intention to strike, I do in fact know that this is highly likely to be the case in our school. I am unable to provide any further details at present and there are discussions going on between unions and Welsh Government, however I suggest you prepare for the fact that on the 4 dates below, the school may be partially or fully closed to pupils

- Wednesday 1st February
- Tuesday 14th February
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

Upcoming Dates

January

Sunday 22nd – Year 1 in St Peter's

Wednesday 25th – P.C. Alex sessions with Y1 and Y2

Wednesday 25th – PTA DISCOs

Friday 27th – Nursery applications open

w/c 30th January – Staff led clubs start (More info to follow next week)

February

6th – 12th – Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 7th – INTERNET SAFETY DAY

Tuesday 7th – Y5 Big Pit trip

Sunday 12th – Y2 in St Peter's

Wednesday 15th – P.C. Alex sessions with Y3, Y4 and Y5

Friday 17th – INSET DAY

20th – 24th – HALF TERM

Monday 27th – INSET DAY

Tuesday 28th – Pupils return to school

March

Tuesday 7th – Fire Service visit Y2 and Y5

Sunday 12th – Year 4 in St Peter's

20th – 22nd – Year 5 Residential to Llangrannog

Friday 24th – Dwr Cymru Workshops and assembly

Friday 24th – Nursery applications close

Tuesday 28th and Weds 29th – PARENTS' EVENINGS

Friday 31st – last day of term

INSET days (Repeated message)

Welsh Government have now confirmed that schools will have an extra INSET day for on-going curriculum developments. There is already an INSET day on Friday 17th February so we will add the extra day on Monday 27th February. This may enable families to take a slightly longer break.

Therefore the remaining INSET days for the year are:

- Friday 17th February 2023
- Monday 27th February 2023
- Monday 24th July 2023

BANK HOLIDAYS (Repeated message)

As well as the usual May day bank holiday on Monday 1st May 2023, there will be a second Bank Holiday on Monday 8th May 2023. This is in honour of the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III (which takes place on Saturday 6th May).

Value

Our focus value for this half term is PERSEVERANCE. We are also reminding the children of our school motto 'RESPECT – BELIEVE – ACHIEVE. My headteacher awards this term will go to children who demonstrate either our value or an aspect of our motto.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus. (Hebrews 12 verses 1-2)