

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 1st October 2021

Another busy week has ended with our silly sock day. Many thanks to all those who contributed via Parentpay. Two very worthwhile charities will be benefitting – British Heart Foundation and Wallich, a Welsh homelessness charity. We will leave the link open until next Friday if you would still like to contribute.

School photos were taken on Wednesday. Your child should have brought home their own link and the photos will appear on the Colorfoto site in the next week or so. If your child did not bring home the card/link, please contact the office staff who can help.

A very positive PTA meeting was held on Wednesday and it was lovely to see some new faces. I thank those who took the time to join us and look forward to working with you in the future. If you were unable to join the meeting, please do get in touch with the PTA if you are able to help in any way.

As autumn seems to be settling in, the weather this week has been particularly wet. It is essential that your child brings a coat to school every day please.

Year 6

Thanks to those who attended the zoom meeting with Mr McNicol and Mrs Green about the Manor Adventure Residential trip. If you have any further questions or worries, please do contact us. I have sent a separate letter about walking home/mobile phones. Please complete the relevant online forms which will go directly to Mr McNicol.

Change to covid alert level

As you may have heard in the press, schools in the Cardiff and Vale health board region have been moved to the high Covid alert level as community infection rates are rising, hospital admissions are increasing and there is pressure on the Test, Trace and Protect service.

Despite the cases in our school, there is no change to our own individual assessment of risk as it is already in line with all recommendations at the high alert level.

We continue to experience staffing issues on a daily basis. As I mentioned a few weeks ago, supply agencies are struggling to meet demand and we have really been feeling the pinch of this, particularly this week. As such, I have contingency plans in place. At the moment, the support staff who usually carry out the pupil interventions and booster groups are currently having to step into classes from time to time. This may increase over the coming weeks, however, if possible, we will prioritise the well-being groups – e.g. Thrive. Some part time staff who are available on other days have also offered to help out and I am very grateful for this. Some schools are having to close classes due to a lack of staff and health and safety concerns over ratios. We will obviously avoid this at all costs. However, if it becomes our only option, Nursery would be closed first as this provision is non statutory. This really would be as a last resort but I do have the backing of governors on these contingency plans.

Upcoming dates

Sat 2nd October - Hannah Mills event (Year 5 – those involved have been emailed separately)

w/c 11th October - Harvest Collection for the foodbank (more information to follow)

I will be awarding regular Head teacher's awards for those pupils who demonstrate our current value of generosity. This week the awards go to two girls in Year 5. Nancy has written a beautiful acrostic poem and Laurie has demonstrated generosity when helping others. Da iawn merched!

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher



Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

(2 Corinthians 9:6-8)