

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Friday 7th February 2020

Weekly News

Well done to Reception children, Mrs Lewis and Mrs Fleet for sharing their song with the congregation in last Sunday's service at St Peter's. I thank you the parents for bringing the children to church and I do believe the class now holds the record for the best attended service! Our asthma UK day on Tuesday raised £220 for this very worthy cause and I thank everyone for taking part and contributing to the collection.

Y5 and Y6 pupils were involved in workshops delivered by Show Racism the Red Card on Wednesday. The course leader was very impressed with the children's positive and respectful attitudes as well as their knowledge and ability to reflect intelligently on the discussions which took place. I was really proud to hear this! Staff and governors also received after school training on how to deal with issues sensitively and effectively as well as ensuring we promote a culture of anti-racism within our whole school community.

St David's Day / World Book Day

For this year's home task competition, the children can create anything around the theme of Ble yng Nghymru? (Where in Wales?). This could be a poem, story, model, picture, collage – anything based on any place in Wales! All that we ask is that it is the children's own work and is no bigger than A4 (or a cereal/shoe box if it is a model). St David's Day falls on a Sunday this year so we will be celebrating it on Friday 28th February when the children can come dressed in traditional Welsh dress or Welsh sports kit.

World Book Day is on Thurs 5th March. We would love the children to dress up as a character from their favourite book. Parents of Year 4 pupils please note that the children will be going swimming that morning so you may want to consider this when deciding on a costume.

Access to grants

As I am sure you are aware, all schools receive extra funding for any pupils who are registered as being entitled to free school meals (even if they never actually have them). More importantly for families, this can also mean access to significant grants for things such as school uniform. If you are in receipt of benefits including housing then please do consider accessing this support. The children's names are never shared with anyone outside relevant school based staff. Governors, school advisors and inspectors are never given individual children's names. Mrs Green can advise and help with any forms etc. We understand how open the office area is but this would be handled discreetly and in strict confidence.

Parent Groups on WhatsApp etc. (Repeated message)

It has been brought to my attention that some class chat groups are used to discuss issues about the class and as such, individual children can sometimes be identified as part of this discussion. This can obviously be upsetting for the parents and can also spill into issues with the children in school. I ask politely that you consider carefully what is discussed on these groups and suggest raising these concerns directly with the school.

Parents' Evening and parent forum (repeated message)

We have decided to split parents' evening over 2 weeks this term to see if it improves workload pressure on teaching staff. These will take place (as indicated on the list of dates) on Tues 17th and Weds 25th March.

On Weds 26th February, I will be holding a parent forum in order to gather feedback from you on ways in which we can move the school forward in the future. I would like as many parents as possible to attend in order to get a real flavour of issues or ideas you may have. For this reason I intend to hold 2 sessions at 9.15am and 5.30pm. Please note that whilst younger pre-school siblings are welcome, I would prefer it if pupils do not attend the 5.30 session and I hope this gives enough notice to arrange any childcare if needed. This will be a collective and open forum for whole school issues rather than issues related to individual pupils. Obviously these issues can be raised directly with class teachers or me if necessary as is already the case.

Next Week

Tuesday 11th – Cricket sessions with Y2/3

Wednesday 12th – Year 3 Class Worship at 9am

Thursday 13th – UNC Children's Rights workshops

Friday 14th – Last day of the half term

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Headteacher

Our focus value this half term is 'Courage':

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)