

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 9th October 2020

The children have had another busy week with lots of interesting harvest activities and some fantastic well-being days. We managed to hold our first successful virtual worship this morning where classes could see one another and we could award the pupils of the week in front of the whole school. This really was a joy to see and something we will continue to perfect until we can all be together again in the hall. Thank you to those who are managing to work out how See-saw works and are accessing homework. Please do contact your child's class teacher if you have any issues as this will be the platform used for blended learning should the need arise. A huge thank you for all my birthday messages, cards and gifts. I felt very blessed yesterday – not many people in local lockdown get to spend their birthday with 250 wonderful people!

Lunches

Our trial of hot lunches in take away containers has gone well. It is continuing to be tricky in terms of manpower so in order to make it fair, we have decided to do alternate weeks so that all children can access the hot meals every other week. So next week, **Monday 12th Oct, Years Reception to Year 3 can opt for the hot meal.** The following week **Monday 19th Oct it will be the turn of Years 4-6** again. Please note, we will not be offering the cooked dinner on Thursdays as the vast majority want the sausage baguette (available to all). Please remember all children can still opt for the sandwich/baguette option every day. Reception and Year 1 pupils will receive their meals on the usual school plates/trays as they are sitting in the hall. The rest of the pupils will receive their food in the take away containers which are brought to their class rooms.

Parent, Teacher Consultations

I hope you saw my email earlier in the week about booking a slot with your child's teacher. Many parents have already booked but it is not too late to do so. Please contact the office if you are having any difficulties. Please do not email the teachers as they cannot access the booking system. Many thanks.

Breakfast and After School Club

You may have heard on the news how many schools are struggling to open provision before and after school. When schools have worked so hard to put into place strict regimes, protected contact groups and copious staff training, we do not want all the hard work to go to waste and more importantly don't want to put anyone at greater risk. However, we are also mindful of the issues faced by working parents – indeed some of whom work in schools. Governors and I have discussed our issues and concerns at length and I am pleased to let you know that a slimmed down provision will be offered after half term. The numbers will be restricted to 16 in any session and the children will be kept in bubbles within the hall. Those parents will be contacted directly by the club with further details. Please be aware that in the case of a positive case of coronavirus in any pupil in these sessions, it is highly likely that Public Health Wales would ask the whole group to isolate in addition to the child's class contact group or 'bubble' as would be the case with the school bus. To reassure all parents, the staff running the groups will be expected to follow all of the school's established routines and procedures including the wearing of face coverings (adults only), hand hygiene, cleaning and the use of PPE. I will monitor both sessions regularly and feedback to governors. If at any point we have concerns about anything we feel may put people at risk, rest assured we would stop the provision.

Parking on Wasteland

We are very lucky to have this area for extra parking. Some parents have asked me to point out the unofficial system that has been in place for many years and which helps avoid chaos when many are trying to park (It could be that some new parents are not aware of it). Please enter the area from the Westra side and then park as close to the front as possible, exiting onto St Andrews Rd. This avoids gaps left in the middle which no one can access but also avoids the need to reverse out onto either road which adds risk. There are times when you may need to wait a minute or two for others to leave but generally it does work with this one way system.

Flu Nasal Spray Immunisations

Please return these forms to school as soon as possible. The School Nurse has requested that all forms are returned even if you are not giving permission for your child to be immunised or have done so elsewhere e.g. GP. The NHS Wales use the information to help with their data gathering.

Harvest

A huge thank you to those who have already contributed items. We will collect up until Tuesday so that the items can then be quarantined for 72 hours before being collected. If you would like to contribute, please place items in the boxes on the playground every **morning** next week (not after school please). Please ensure the items are in date. The things the Foodbank are looking for are:

- Instant mash potato
- Microwave Rice
- Biscuits
- Tinned Potatoes
- Long Life Juice
- Tinned Meat
- Tea bags
- Squash
- Tinned rice pudding

INSET Days (Repeated message)

These are currently planned as follows:

- Monday 4th January
- Friday 26th March
- Wednesday 23rd June
- Monday 19th July
- Tuesday 20th July

If ever you lose sight of any information/newsletters amongst your busy inbox, please remember that I tend to put the most important communications on the website in the 'News' section.

Wishing you a lovely weekend – despite the weather!

Yours faithfully,



Headteacher

Our value this half term is Thankfulness:

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. (Psalms 100:4)