

## St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Year 4 had a visit from PC Alex for a session called 'Friend or Foe'. They learned all about how to stay safe and Mrs Bounds reports that the children asked very sensible and interesting questions during the discussions. What an amazing array of costumes we had in school today. The children have enjoyed activities to celebrate our slightly delayed World Book Day. Unfortunately Griffin Books, Penarth were unable to visit us due to illness but they will definitely be here as soon as they can and the children will each receive a book in exchange for their vouchers. Alex and Sienna represented the school in a joint school council meeting with the other schools in the St Cyres cluster. They discussed ideas for a joint fund raiser as well as discussing Year 6's transition activities in the summer. I was very proud of them both and also grateful to Sienna who stepped in as other Year 6 school councillors were not in school on the day.



### Parent Governor

You should have received information on the election of a parent governor. The closing date for nominations is next Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> March so please ensure forms are returned by 3.30 on this day. If there is more than 1 nomination, ballot papers will be issued on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March with the return of these by Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

### Healthy Hearts / Great Outdoors Campaign

We were really pleased to have some of our new equipment installed on Thursday. This included a new log circle at the top of the field, a bug hotel and a seating/planter area on the back playground. 'Landscapes for Learning' will also be returning soon to fit a canopy to the cabin in the emerald forest to further enable outdoor learning in wet weather. We are extremely grateful to the PTA for raising the funds for us to complete all of this work. Thanks to Mrs Waters who worked with some Y2 pupils today to make some of our bird boxes. We have also recently had a defibrillator installed in the entrance of the school and all staff were trained in its use this week.



## IT Equipment

Over the last year Welsh Government have put a large amount of money into improving schools' IT infrastructure and hardware. As well as a complete upgrade of our school's network and WiFi, we utilised the funding to greatly increase the number of devices for pupils. Year 5 and 6 now have a chrome book each which they have responsibility for looking after. It is great to see pupils using them every day for a range of activities. Year 3 and 4 have 1 chrome book between 2. Reception to Year 2 have a set of 8 new iPads in each class (Nursery have 5). We also still have our original sets of iPads which are regularly used by older pupils. With the new curriculum and a focus on digital skills, I am delighted to see pupils regularly using technology in all sorts of ways throughout the school.

## Volunteers

As a school we value the impact that volunteers have on enabling us to carry out activities such as trips and also to support pupils with extra reading practice etc. During the summer we are likely to need helpers for trips and then from September hopefully this will be extended to helpers in school. We are also thinking of starting up 'Wednesday Warriors' again (parents helping to further develop the outdoor areas). If you are interested in helping out, please contact Mrs Green to arrange an enhanced DBS application. In line with Local Authority and school policy, a DBS from another job/role is not accepted and there must be an application specifically for the role of volunteer in our school. If you have previously volunteered, there will **not** be the need to re-apply for a DBS but please let Mrs Green know if you are still interested in helping.

## Parent/Teacher meetings

These will take place via telephone again this term as follows:

w/c 21<sup>st</sup> March – Nursery to Year 2

w/c 28<sup>th</sup> March – Year 3 to Year 6

The office will send out notification of booking arrangements in the coming few weeks.

## Upcoming dates (all on the PING Calendar from now on)

21-23 March – Year 5 Residential to Llangrannog

w/c 21<sup>st</sup> March – Nursery to Year 2 Parent/Teacher phone calls

w/c 28<sup>th</sup> March – Year 3 to Year 6 Parent/Teacher phone calls

28 March – 8<sup>th</sup> April – Year 5 Swimming lessons

**11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Easter Holiday**

**25<sup>th</sup> April – INSET day**

As you may be aware, we have seen an increase in the number of cases in the school (pupils and staff) since the half term break. Thank you to the staff for coping with what has been a challenging week in terms of staffing. We are very grateful to Mrs Squire and Mrs Nunn who are currently with us a lot of the time and are covering almost all of the absences. My thanks to our support staff who are also helping to keep all classes up and running at the moment. Please continue to be vigilant and take appropriate steps if your child becomes unwell. Feel free to ask us if you are at all unsure.

A positive note to end - my headteacher awards this week go to Freya D in Year 1 and James in Year 3. Freya shows such thoughtfulness and is always so polite. James is always such a fantastic role model to others – both in terms of his work ethic and his positive behaviour. I am very proud of them both. Llongyfarchiadau James a Freya!

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend,

Yours faithfully,

*G Hallett*

Gen Hallett  
Headteacher



Our value this half term is Forgiveness:

***Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13)***