

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 15th July 2022

Recent events

All our Sports Day events were a great success last week. We were extremely proud of all the children and the effort and resilience they put in to the activities and races. Congratulations to the winning house Squirrels (blue)!

What was extra special was being able to invite parents, grandparents and carers back to school after the last few years. It really was lovely to have you all here to cheer the children on. A special thanks to those of you who

commented on our super Year 6 who supported the younger children so well in their activities. I totally agree with you and am very proud of them.



This week has seen lots of end of term trips which I know the children and staff have enjoyed. Again, it is so good to be able to see these activities return after the years of restrictions. The staff have all reported how well the children listened and behaved, especially considering the temperatures! A huge thank you to the parents and grandparents who volunteered to go on the infant trip yesterday. We are struggling with staffing again at present so it was really appreciated.

I had the privilege of attending the Diocesan Year 6 Leavers service at Llandaff Cathedral with Year 6 yesterday. It is always such a lovely service and an opportunity for the pupils to reflect on their time in Primary school and to pray for guidance and support as they move on to High School. All the children were respectful and very well behaved and I would like to make a special mention to Noah, Oliver C and Rose who read their own prayers so eloquently and in front of such a huge congregation. Da iawn blwyddyn 6!

Many of our new Reception children came for lunch with parents and grandparents for lunch in the hall yesterday. We really hope you enjoyed the experience and look forward to the children joining us for lunch in September. Remember school lunches will be free for all in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 from September.

All children in Reception to Year 5 moved up to meet their new teachers in their classrooms today. I hope they come home and tell you all about it and are excited about next year.

PTA Funday

We know how disappointed many were that we had to postpone the PTA fun day on Sunday. I fully supported the PTA in their decision, given the amber warning in place. Indeed if the event had been planned on the school grounds, I would have also made the decision to postpone. The current plan is to reschedule the event in September.

Ping Update

I apologise again for the issues we experienced with School Ping last week. The company have assured us that the updates are now all in place. If your app is still not working, I suggest you uninstall and reinstall it as this ensures you have the updated version. If you are still experiencing any difficulties, then please let us know and we will see if we can advise.

Arrangements for hot weather next week

Due to the forecast for Monday and Tuesday, I have done a risk assessment and we will be putting in place the following:

- Children can wear PE kits to school next week. Please note, this must be school PE kit, **not football kits etc.** Trainers or shoes only. For health and safety reason, sandals, crocs or similar are not allowed.
(Year 6 will need to wear uniform on Wednesday – but the weather is looking to be a little cooler by then)
- We have purchased some extra fans for classrooms.
- We have many gel ice packs in the freezer for any child who feels over-heated.
- We will ensure the children keep drinking water – **Please ensure your child has a reusable bottle (not disposable)**
- We have thermometers in every classroom which will be monitored throughout the day. As the classrooms get very warm, the shaded areas on the field are cooler and will be utilised. We will be keeping the children in the shade at break and lunch times and these areas may also be used throughout the day during lesson times. The hall can also be used as this is also often cooler than some classrooms.

Please ensure your child has a cap/sunhat and has sun cream applied before school. Whilst they can also bring sun cream in to school, it must be labelled and they must be able to apply it themselves.

Free School meals (Message from the Local Authority)

From the new autumn term (September 2022) all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be offered Free School Meals. This is an important step in reaching the shared ambition of ensuring no child goes hungry whilst in school.

In response to the current rising cost-of-living, Welsh Government and the Vale of Glamorgan Council together with Big Fresh Catering Limited are committed to implementing this scheme quickly and would ask for your patience as we build catering capacity to ensure a successful phased implementation and work towards a whole school roll-out over the next three years.

Vale of Glamorgan and Big Fresh Catering are working with the Welsh Government to develop a process for you to be able to request a free meal for your child/children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 from September, trying to avoid any unnecessary burden for you. Further information will follow by the end of term.

Please rest assured that if your child is currently in receipt of free school meals and/or any other associated benefits, these will not be affected.

Parentpay accounts

There are still a number of parentpay accounts in arrears. Please can I ask that these are cleared at the latest by the end of next week. Thank you.

Upcoming dates

18th July	Year 6 Leavers' bowling trip
20th July	Leavers' Presentation in the Parish Hall (Y6 parents can attend)
21st/22nd July	INSET days

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. Please take care in the heat.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher

