

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear parents/carers,

Thursday 16th February 2023

News

Tuesday the 7th February was the 20th worldwide Internet Safety Day. St Andrew's took part in the day with a special assembly with Mrs Bounds and all classes took part in a variety of activities about staying safe when online. Our police liaison officer PC Alex also visited Year 3 and Year 5 to discuss how to be Cyber Safe.



Last week was also Children's Mental Health Week and classes took part in activities to explore the ways in which they can support each other and discuss how they are feeling in order to access help if they need it.

Year 5 had a fantastic visit to Big Pit to learn all about the history of the South Wales coal fields as part of their topic work. We are very grateful to the parent helpers who went with the staff and especially Mr Hicks who had to drive up to Pontypool!

I was so sorry that I was unable to attend the Year 2 church service last Sunday due to family commitments but I know Miss Bush and Mrs Saunders were very proud of all of the children and I thank the staff for preparing the children so well. Mrs Green was also able to attend and she said just how well they all performed. A special mention and thank you to those children who took on extra parts last minute to cover children who were absent. Thank you to those families who were able to attend and support this valuable link between our school and our church.

Congratulations to the Year 6 House Captains who have been elected in readiness for our Eisteddfod.

PTA

The Local Authority have confirmed that school budgets are being cut this April. We already struggle to keep the staffing levels that we have but I feel strongly that staffing is by far the most important 'resource' for our pupils. Once all the other costs are taken into account including increasing fuel costs, building repairs and consumables, etc. there is very little left. This means that the extra funding which the PTA provide is going to be more important than ever. Mrs Bayliss and I met with some of the committee this week and we are really keen to improve links between the PTA and school whilst improving the 'community' feel of our school which we feel has been affected since the Covid period. We are therefore planning a PTA coffee morning on the last Thursday of each month. This will be an opportunity to find out more about what the PTA is doing and planning, whilst maybe having a catch up with friends. The coffee mornings will take place in the school demountable 'Y Stiwdio' at 9am. The planned dates are as follows:

- Thursday 30th March
- Thursday 27th April
- Thursday 25th May
- Thursday 29th June

We are also planning some events for the Summer term as follows:

- Wednesday 3rd May – Film night for Y2 to Y6
- Friday 9th June – Summer Fete straight after school
- Wednesday 14th June – Summer Discos for Reception to Year 6

Please see a separate message from the PTA at the end of the newsletter.

Punctuality

Whilst I am aware that there were issues with traffic and congestion this morning, I am increasingly concerned by the number of children who are late each day. I am particularly concerned by an increasing number of children who are regularly late. This has a massive impact on the child as they are beginning the day after their peers and are often missing out on daily phonics and spelling which takes place first thing in almost all classes. They also miss the daily, individual meet and greet from the class teacher on the door which we have recently introduced as part of our well-being and positive relationships practices. Children arriving late is also disruptive for the rest of the class.

We do record all lates on the register and we will continue to monitor individual children closely. We will be returning to our pre covid system straight after half term. From Tuesday 28th February, after 08:50, parents will need to come in to sign their child in at the office. Please note, this includes older children - it will not be acceptable to drop them off and let them come in to school alone as this presents a safeguarding risk. I am grateful to the majority who do ensure their children are on time every day and hope we can improve this as a whole school.

Lunch Money

There are a number of ParentPay accounts which are in arrears. Please ensure all debts are cleared and that accounts are always kept in credit. Thank you.

Strike on March 2nd

As you will have heard in the media, the NEU rejected the Welsh Government's latest offer and therefore will be striking on Thursday March 2nd. The previous Risk Assessment that we carried out still stands and as such, school will be closed to all pupils on this day. If there are any changes to this, I will let you know as soon as I can via Ping.

Contributions to Sunday service at St Peter's (Repeated message)

Please can the children arrive by 10.15 in their uniform.

12th March – Year 4

14th May – Year 5

18th June – Reception

16th July – Leavers' service

Uniform reminders (Repeated message)

We have always been very proud of how smart our pupils look and we are very grateful for the support of parents and carers with this. We are aware of the issues around the cost of living but it is important to remember that school uniform can help with the following:

- Providing a sense of community and belonging.
- Promoting a sense of pride in the school.
- Protecting children from social pressures to dress in a particular way.
- Making children feel equal with their peers.
- Preventing children from coming to school in fashion items that could be distracting in class.
- Supporting parents to provide an effective and value for money dress code for their children.

Our school uniform consists of:

- Red jumper or cardigan
- White or red polo shirt
- Year 6 only - Black Polo Shirts
- Grey or black skirt/trousers/shorts (tailored style)
- Grey or black pinafore dress
- Red & white striped/checked summer dress
- Black or Brown shoes (Closed heels and toes.)

P.E. Kits – only worn on Well-being days:

- T-shirt in the colour of the child's house (with the logo or plain – no football tops etc.)
- Black/dark grey shorts, leggings or joggers
- The school training top or the usual school jumper or fleece. (No other hoodies/tracksuit tops please)
- Trainers

Upcoming Dates (new dates added to the list so please check carefully)

February

Friday 17th – INSET DAY

20th – 24th – HALF TERM

Monday 27th – INSET DAY

Tuesday 28th – Pupils return to school

March

Wednesday 1st March – Eisteddfod

Thursday 2nd March – NEU Strike (School Closed)

Tuesday 7th – Fire Service visit Y2 and Y5

Thursday 9th – Fairtrade coffee morning – 9am in school hall

Friday 10th – St Andrew's World Book Day (with a visit from Griffin Books, Penarth)

Sunday 12th – Year 4 in St Peter's

20th – 22nd – Year 5 Residential to Llangrannog

Friday 24th – Dwr Cymru Workshops and assembly

Friday 24th – Nursery applications close

Tuesday 28th and Weds 29th – PARENTS' EVENINGS

Friday 31st – last day of term

Eisteddfod and World Book Day

On St David's Day, children are encouraged to wear traditional Welsh costumes or they can wear a Welsh top with jeans/leggings and trainers. The home task has been shared on Seesaw and must be in on 28th February please. On our World Book Day (Friday 10th March) the children can wear a costume but we do not want parents to have to go out and purchase anything so the children can simply come in non-uniform if they wish. If younger children wear dressing up costumes and in particular the all in one super-hero type costumes, please ensure they are able to manage the costume themselves when for example they go to the toilet. The staff will not be able to manage this in a busy classroom. Please make sure the children bring their favourite book to share on that day too!

Remember that tomorrow and Monday 27th February are both INSET days.

I hope you all have a lovely half term – enjoy those pancakes on Shrove Tuesday! I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 28th February with your St David's Day home tasks ready to be judged.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher



And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus. (Hebrews 12 verses 1-2)

A message from Mrs Crawley and the PTA

Thank you for all the support - we have had a wonderful beginning to 2023. The children enjoyed the disco and we raised £570. We raised £466 through Christmas Designs bringing our new total to £4179 for 2023!

In the next half term we have asked the children to give us their ideas. The eco-committee will design a new logo for our uniform sales and will be assisting us with sales.

We know just how quickly uniforms wear out and also how they grow too small. We will be holding a table top sale in the school yard with quality second hand uniform available for a donation to the PTA. This will be on Friday March 3rd. A collection box for donations will be out from Tuesday 28th. Only donations of good condition logo uniform, skirts, dresses, trousers and shorts. Please no shoes, stained or damaged goods and we ask for logo tops only.

From next term we will be holding a monthly PTA coffee morning the last Thursday of the month at school. All are very welcome including, pre-schoolers. This will be an opportunity meet us and find out what we do, where your money goes and how you could be involved.

PTA uniform table top sale Friday 3rd March
Funday Friday 9th June 3.10pm to 5.30pm
School Disco Wednesday 14h June

Wed like to thank you for supporting the PTA and ask you to look how you can help us build on our school community while fundraising. Don't take it from me read why Lucy Trickett has recently become involved.

"My children love their school, and I want to get involved in their school community. SAMS PTA is a friendly group who have achieved wonders, especially given covid restrictions recently. It is great to meet other parents with children from different year groups. PTA fund-raising events are fun; children loved the recent disco which raised funds to provide extra equipment for the school, and people always comment on how special the bespoke Christmas cards are. It is not just about the fund-raising though. The PTAs work enhances the school community, bringing together parents, teachers and children."