

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 20th May 2022

We were so pleased to reinstate our buddy system after 2 years of bubbles and contact groups. Year 6 and Reception have now got together and I know how happy they are – especially Year 6! It was lovely to see Reception going off for their trip to the beach on Tuesday. They had a fantastic time and I know Miss Frangoulis and the staff were extremely proud of the children's behaviour. A massive thank you to the parents and grandparent volunteers who also went to help look after the children.

We had some Welsh Rugby players in school on Tuesday along with The Principality to film a launch for the new 'Fiver Challenge' which is a Young Enterprise project. Well done to the 3 Year 2 pupils who became stars in the film.

Year 5 have completed their first week of swimming lessons at Cogan Leisure Centre. I know the staff have been impressed with the children's efforts and also their excellent behaviour.

Year 5 and 6 have had CPR training today which includes how to use a defibrillator which we now have in school. Children have been known to save lives with this knowledge and we are really grateful to Calon Hearts for providing the training free of charge.

National Tests in Year 2 to Year 6

These will be taking place after half term (Year 6 have already started them due to their Manor trip). There are 3 tests in total – Reading, Numeracy Procedural and Numeracy Reasoning. The tests are all carried out online and are personalised by the system. As the children progress through the test, the questions are adjusted to suit their ability i.e. if they are struggling, the questions may become easier and if they are doing well, they get more difficult. All the tests offer standardised scores to provide us with information on how well the children are doing and which areas need further development. We do not want the children to be concerned about these tests (or quizzes as we call them with younger children). We tell them that they are just done to help the teachers know what they need to teach them next. If you have any questions or queries, please contact your child's class teacher.

End of the Day collection

I am grateful to the vast majority of parents (including some with dogs) who queue with everyone else which seems fair. Some then wave over to their child as they walk past the gate and then simply walk past the gate to meet their child which seems to work well. However, we have noticed an increase in the number of parents who do not queue but stand and wait by the fence to the right of the gate to collect their children. The queue takes less than 5 minutes to disperse once the gate

is open and I therefore politely ask that all parents queue. Please note, we do not need to stick to any form of social distancing when queuing.

Christian Aid Week

In Worship this week, I shared the stories of families from Zimbabwe and their struggles to farm due to the impact of climate change. We discussed how wealthier countries like ours are the ones creating most of global warming and yet the poorest countries are the ones who suffer. Christian Aid supports those who wish to retrain in order to work and support their families. Your child should bring home a Christian Aid envelope today and I hope you will be able to donate something to this worthy cause. You can increase your donation by completing the gift aid slip (if you are a UK tax payer). Many thanks to everyone.

Jubilee Celebration

Next Friday, we will celebrate the Platinum Jubilee as an end of half term treat. We will walk down to St Peter's first thing in the morning so please ensure your child is not late and that they have a coat. Father Andrew will be leading a service to welcome the school back to church and to say a prayer for The Queen. (I am sorry to disappoint but there will not be space for us to invite parents to church.) We will then return to school for a picnic on the field. The children can either bring their own packed lunch or can opt for a hot dog grab bag. Please note, there will be no hot dinners on this day. There will also be a few special treats which will be a surprise for the children.

Please note, there will be no Y5 swimming on this day. Y5/6 well-being day will be on Thursday so all pupils will be expected to be in uniform for the Jubilee day please. There is no morning nursery session – all Nursery pupils are to come at 12:40 – 3:10.

Upcoming dates (all on the PING)

ADDED EVENTS IN RED

23rd to 26th May	Year 5 Swimming continues
25th May	Y3 trip to Technquest
27th May	Jubilee Celebration (All Nursery pupils will come to school for the afternoon only)
30th May to 3rd June	Half term break
7th June	Class Photos
14th June	Stanwell transition day
16th June	Year 2 and Year 4 visit to Llandaff Cathedral
17th June	INSET day
20th to 24th June	Year 6 Manor Adventure Residential
29th June	Nursery Sports Day (Parents Welcome)
29th June	St Cyres Transition Day
30th June	Sports Day (Rec-Y2 morning / Y3-Y6 afternoon) Parents are welcome
1st July	Nursery and Reception Induction (No Nursery sessions for current Nursery)
1st July	Year 5 visit to Saint Richard Gwyn School
4th July	Reserve Nursery Sports Day
5th July	Reserve Sports Day
12th July	Year 5 trip to Llandegfedd
13th July	Year 3 and 4 trip to Porthkerry

14th July Year 6 Diocesan Leavers' Service at Llandaff Cathedral (Pupils only)
14th July Reception, Y1, Y2 trip to Mountain View Ranch
18th July **Year 6 Leavers' bowling trip**
20th July Leavers' Presentation in the Parish Hall (Y6 parents can attend)
21st/22nd July INSET days

This half term, our focus is 'Friendship'. Christians believe they can call God their friend because of the relationship made possible through Jesus. *'Encourage each other and build each other up.'* (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

I told the children that I would be looking out for those children who were really proving to be super friends and I gave two Headteacher awards for this today. Well done to Rhydian and Evie in Year 2 who are really kind and caring to all their classmates! Last week's awards went to Morgan in Year 3 for showing such friendship and to Douglas in Reception for being so brave.

Llongyfarchiadau pawb!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher

