

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 26th February 2021

It has been absolutely fantastic to see our Foundation Phase children return to school this week. They were so happy to be back and see their friends and teachers and have quickly settled back into their routines and learning. We now look forward to hearing announcements that KS2 children can also return to face to face teaching and learning. In the meantime, I continue to be so proud of the perseverance and hard work of these children and families to keep up the great work on See-saw.

St David's Day/ World Book Day

We are aware of the difficulties in terms of getting hold of costumes etc. but would still like to take the opportunity to mark St David's Day. As well as the on-going activities of KS2 at home (I look forward to judging the Y6 Bardic poetry!) the Foundation Phase pupils will do activities on Monday in celebration of the day. Monday will therefore be a non-uniform day (for KS2 Key Worker children too). All we ask is that the children wear something Welsh or Red! Please do not send in any props, crafts etc. We have decided to postpone World Book Day until the Summer when we hope all the children will be back.

Parent Teacher Consultations

Following our introductory meetings in the autumn, we usually hold our second meetings during the Spring Term. However, we have made the decision to postpone these now until the first half of the Summer Term. By then children will have been reassessed and will have been back in school for some time in order for teachers to more accurately assess where they are and what their on-going targets might be.

Reminders

A huge thank you to everyone for following all the guidelines and requests around 2m distancing, wearing face coverings and limiting numbers entering the site. Staff are wearing medical masks all day and I feel it reasonable to ask those very few parents/carers who are not doing so, to comply. Please also remember that according to Welsh Government advice, children should not be socialising outside school, even if they are in the same year group. I have noticed a few families mixing on The Common after school. We are working so very hard to put in place strict measures to keep everyone in our school community safe and it can feel disheartening to see families not continuing this beyond the school gate. I feel that school staff should have been offered the vaccine and there are a number of staff in the school, especially in the infants who are in their late 50s.

INSET days

School has never been 'closed' during any lockdown period. Staff have continued to provide remote learning and have also continued to offer provision for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers. Despite the pandemic, the Welsh Government has not extended any timelines with regards to the Curriculum reforms taking place and expectations remain in place with regards to our own Curriculum Development in preparation for publishing and trialling in September 2021. There are also many aspects of mandatory training which are required to take place. We made the decision to bring back all younger pupils as soon as possible on Monday this week and will do the same when given the go-ahead for KS2. Some schools have taken many days to stagger the children in over the week but we recognise how much time has been lost. However, we will still be utilising our INSET days for essential training including first aid, safeguarding, Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Curriculum planning. These are still planned for the following dates (there may also be one further date but Welsh Government are yet to confirm this)

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

Staff in Foundation Phase have already begun assessing the children and planning what the next steps are. Whether your child has already returned this week or they are still learning remotely, rest assured that we will do everything we can to support them with any areas of their learning that may need extra attention or a boost.

Have a lovely weekend – fingers crossed Wales win the Triple Crown tomorrow!

Yours faithfully,



Headteacher

