

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 28th January 2022

This week

All classes celebrated St Dwynwen's Day on Tuesday the 25th. As well as learning the story behind the Welsh day of love, they took part various craft activities.

There is some superb work going on across the school as we further develop our new curriculum. Topics such as Darwin's Delights, Warrior Princess and Castles and Kingdoms are proving very popular with the pupils and they are fully engaged and motivated to learn. Pupils and staff are also getting used to our new spelling scheme and the well-being days are continuing to be a big hit across the school.



As we have a number of new parents to the school, there are some repeated messages this week as well as some messages on safeguarding and our complaints procedure.

School Ping

In order to make communications simpler and all in one place, we have now signed up to use an app called 'SchoolPing'. The office has emailed everyone this week - please download the app onto your smartphone and sign in (It can also be accessed via the internet). The app will include a handy calendar, any letters (including the newsletter) and other messages from the office, the school leadership team or your child's class teacher. **Please note, we will continue emailing/texting until half term but from Feb 28th we will only use School Ping so please sign up.** You can still communicate with school in the usual ways – telephone and email.

Lateness

This week 44 different children were late arriving at school and some of these were late more than once and are late quite regularly. Teachers have been telling me how disruptive this is proving for the rest of the class as by the time the latecomers join the class, the learning is already underway. It can also be unsettling for the child who is late. Whilst we understand that occasionally there can be a valid reason for lateness, all children should be through the gate by 8.50 at the latest please. I will continue to monitor the registers and may contact some parents individually if needed. Thank you to those families who get to school on time every day.

Message from St Peter's Sunday School

We're looking forward to starting Sunday school again soon and are looking for volunteers to help out. There are a group of us that share the load so it's not a huge commitment but we'd be grateful for anyone who wants to help make Sunday School fun for our little ones. Text Vicky on 07896 119966 to find out more and follow us on Facebook. Thanks

Spelling from Year 3 onwards (Repeated Message)

Following the success of the Read Write Inc. phonics programme which we have been using for a number of years, we have made a decision to extend the scheme into Y2 to Y6. The spelling programme is a natural follow on from the phonics work done up to Year 1 and the methods and approaches are very similar and therefore familiar to children as they move through the school. (Please note, some children in Year 2 will continue on the phonics scheme until they are ready to move on to the spelling scheme). The scheme is very structured and fast paced and all classes will have a 15 minute session **every day**. Please note, the timetabling of this means that some classes begin their 15 minutes at 9am. Another reason not to be late for school. The scheme is very much based around patterns, rules, root words, prefixes and suffixes etc. It also involves children in identifying their tricky words to work on. There will not be the traditional lists coming home.

Information on Safeguarding of Children

If you have serious concerns about the safety or well-being of a child in our school, you are encouraged to report your concerns. The Designated Safeguarding Officer for the school is myself whilst Mrs. Bounds is the Deputy Safeguarding Officer. If you feel unable to talk to us, the Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding is Mrs. Amy Hurst. Every member of staff has had relevant training and will deal with issues sensitively and appropriately. There is information on the board next to the office about Safeguarding contacts which also includes the contact number for Children's Services. If ever you were unsure, you can always phone the police too. This information/policy is also available on our website.

Information on Complaints Procedures

A complaint is defined in our school policy as '*serious concern, grievance or dissatisfaction*'. If you do have a complaint, the first point of contact where possible should always be the class teacher. If you feel your complaint has not been dealt with then obviously you can speak to me or a governor. If you are still not satisfied, then a written complaint can be submitted to the governing body. This information/policy is also available on our website.

Term dates (all on the PING Calendar from now on)

21st to 25th February – HALF TERM

11th to 22nd April – Easter Holidays (Note INSET day on Monday 25th April)

INSET days (all on the PING Calendar from now on)

- Weds 5th January 2022
- Monday 25th April 2022
- Friday 17th June 2022
- Thursday 21st July
- Fri 22nd July 2022

This term, our focus value is 'Courage'. We have been talking about this in Worship - this week we focused on the Bible story of Daniel and the Lions Den. Llongyfarchiadau to 2 pupils who have received my Headteacher awards this week - Xavier in Year 1 and Amelia in Year 2 have both shown great courage.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend,

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher



*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.
(Deuteronomy 31:6)*