

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Friday 6th October 2023

News

A huge thank you to everyone for your very generous donations for The Vale Foodbank - I believe it has been our most successful collection to date. We celebrated our harvest this morning with a special worship, where we marked this important time in the church calendar and thanked God for all the food that we are so lucky to have.

Last week we welcomed 4 PGCE students from Cardiff Met University. The students will be with us until Christmas and will be teaching alongside the teachers and have been allocated classes as indicated below.

Reception – Miss Hedges

Year 1 – Mr Allen

Year 2 – Miss Goad

Year 3 – Miss Copner



All committees have now been elected and will meet around once a fortnight, initially to plan their activities for the year ahead. Diwrnod Shwmae is a day marked each year in Wales to celebrate and promote the Welsh language. *Shwmae* is an informal greeting used to start a conversation. The day is celebrated on 15 October each year in order to promote community use of the language and encourage non-Welsh speakers to consider learning the language. The Criw Cymraeg met yesterday and would like to ask the children to come into school wearing red, white and/or green for Dydd Shwmae next Fri the 13th Oct.

We are very grateful to the paramedics (including one of our very own parents of Isla in Year 6) for their excellent CPR training and also for teaching Year 6 all about how to use a defibrillator. 2 classes also had visits from our community police officer, PC Alex. Reception learned about 'People who help us' and Year 2 discussed 'Right or Wrong'.



Curriculum Activities – updates from each class teacher

Dosbarth Meithrin's focus is 'Autumn' which will enable us to talk to the children about the natural changes that happen during this very special season, including how the weather changes, why trees lose their leaves, and how wild animals prepare for winter. We are already using the idyllic grounds of our school to engage the children in memorable experiences, especially in our Emerald Forest, where lots of our learning is taking place. As well as all this, we are supporting the children with settling into the routines of school life, encouraging them to make new friends and to feel confident. We will be reminding them about the unique and special importance of people in their family, school and local community, who can help and support them.

Dosbarth Derbyn's topic is 'Me & My Community'. They have discussed how we are all different and unique, painted self-portraits and drawn their families. Reception have created their own class rules, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness. This week, we had an exciting visit from our community police officer and have been learning all about the people who help us in and around our community.

Blwyddyn 1's topic is 'Ysgol' (School). We went for a walk around the school and saw Mrs Hallett's office and the staffroom! We have been looking at what Victorian schools were like. We decided our class rules meant our school is much more caring and kinder than in those days. We asked our parents and grandparents what school was like for them. We are now looking forward to going to see a real Victorian school in St Fagans after half term.

Blwyddyn 2's topic is called 'Movers and Shakers' - a historical topic looking at significant people in the past. The children have done self-portraits in the style of Vincent van Gogh and have used Dawson's model to explore the significance of historical people. They've also grouped significant people into different categories (activists, monarchs, explorers, etc.) and have used diamond ranking to share their own views on these significant people. Next week we will be looking at timelines.



Blwyddyn 3's topic is 'Rocks, Relics and Rumbles'. They have been extremely busy making erupting volcanoes using natural resources during outdoor learning, learning about the four layers of the earth, and investigating different rocks and their properties and uses. They have also produced some fantastic volcano artwork using oil pastels and written creative sentences about earthquakes, volcanoes, mountains and tsunamis.



Blwyddyn 4's topic is 'Misty Mountain, Winding River'. The children have been looking at Welsh rivers and where they are situated, including the upper, middle and lower courses. They also looked at the characteristics and physical processes of rivers, including how they shape the landscape over time. Taking their learning outside, Year 4 made their own rivers for outdoor learning and investigated what happened when water flowed down them. They finished the river part of the topic by looking at rivers around the world, locating them on a world map, collecting data on river lengths and then using the data to create a bar graph. Year 4 are now looking forward to learning all about mountains!

Blwyddyn 5 have fully immersed themselves into our new topic 'Sow, Grow and Farm' and I have been really impressed with their knowledge of farming so far. During the topic so far, we have looked at allotments and we've had an enjoyable debate regarding the best locations for allotments and what they need in order to be successful. The children provided excellent counter arguments to one another backed up with facts and statistics - we may have a few young budding politicians in our midst! We have also looked at the role of the farmer and the tasks and challenges that they face throughout the year. The children have also had the opportunity to learn about farming in the United Kingdom and the techniques used in modern farming.

Blwyddyn 6's topic 'Maafa' teaches children about Africa past and present. It traces the development of the slave trade and explores Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade, the causes and consequences of the European colonisation of Africa and the worldwide communities that make up the African diaspora. The children were immersed in Maafa and Africa last week. They played a game to locate African countries on a map, created and played African music on drums, researched an African country, and made and tasted a delicious African drink called Sobia.

Message from Father Andrew (Repeated)

Confirmation classes for year 5 and up are on Sundays at 4pm in St Peters church. Bishop Mary will be coming to St Peters on the 5th November at 3pm to take the confirmation service.

Relationships, Behaviour and Rules

We thought it might be useful to share some of the information from our relationships and positive behaviour approaches in case the children come home talking about them.

Visible Adult Consistencies

1. The teacher is at the classroom door each morning to meet & greet every child in their class with positive greetings.
2. We all meet & greet each other with "Bore Da", "Prynhawn Da" or "Shwmae" and a big smile.
3. We remember to say, "Please/Os gwelwch yn dda" and "Thank you/Diolch" and use good manners.



Our Motto:

**RESPECT - BELIEVE
ACHIEVE**

We show we are part of
'Team SAMs' by following

3 RULES:

1. **Be Ready**
2. **Be Respectful**
3. **Be Responsible**

We acknowledge and reward

'Over and Above Behaviours'
through:

1. 'Always Barod' recognition board (Early Years) or 'Above and Beyond' recognition boards in every class. This includes awarding golden bands 'Band Barod'.
2. House points - focused on work and positive attitudes to learning.
3. Weekly certificates given in Collective Worship.

Additional INSET day

As I mentioned previously, there was one more INSET day which has now been confirmed. This will be on **Friday 9th February 2024**.

I am delighted to share our new digital prospectus with you all. It will be on the website, but I thought you might all like a sneak preview using this link:

<https://www.colorfoto.net/CreativeDesign/St-Andrews-Major/mobile/index.html>

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Gen Hallett
Headteacher

AUTUMN TERM	
September	
Weds 27 th	Colorfoto individual photos
Thurs 28 th	Kerbcraft Road Safety sessions for Y2 begin Manor Adventure Y6 parent meeting at 4pm (online)
October	
w/c 2 nd	Foodbank Collection begins
Mon 2 nd	Llangrannog Y5 parent meeting at 4pm (online)
Fri 13 th	Shwmae Day (wear red, green and white)
Mon 16 th	Year 5 swimming lessons (every day for 2 weeks)
Weds 18 th	Parents/Carers Evening in school hall
Fri 20 th	Wear Red (Anti-Racism Day)
Sun 22 nd	Year 3 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30
w/c 23 rd	Year 5 swimming lessons (week 2)
Weds 25 th	Parents/Carers Evening in school hall
30 th Oct – 3 rd Nov	HALF TERM

November	
Tues 7 th	Year 1 Trip to St Fagans
Weds 8 th	Year 6 Remembrance Worship in hall (Y6 parents/carers invited)
Fri 10 th	Year 6 to attend Remembrance service at Dinas Powys Cenotaph
Thurs 16 th	Pupil Flu Immunisations
Sun 19 th	Year 2 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30am
Friday 24 th	Year 5 Class Worship (Y5 parents/carers invited)

December	
Tues 5 th	Y1 – Y6 Advent service at St Peter's (Pupils only)
Tues 12 th	Nativity in hall (Nur to Year 2) at 1:30pm
Weds 13 th	Nativity in hall (Nur to Year 2) at 9:30am Junior Carol Service at St Peter's at 1:30pm
Thurs 21 st	Term ends
Fri 22 nd	INSET DAY
25 th Dec – 5 th Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

SPRING TERM	
January	
Mon 8 th	Start of term (No INSET day)
Sun 21 st	Year 1 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30am
Thurs 25 th	Year 4 Class Worship (Y4 parents/carers invited)

February	
Fri 9 th February	INSET DAY
12 th – 16 th	HALF TERM
Mon 19 th	INSET DAY

March	
Fri 1 st	St David's Day
Sunday 3 rd	Year 4 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30am
Fri 8 th	Year 3 Class Worship (Y3 parents/carers invited)
Weds 20 th	Reception Class Worship (Reception parents/carers invited)
Fri 22 nd	Term ends
Mar 25 th – Apr 5 th	EASTER HOLIDAY

SUMMER TERM	
April	
Mon 8 th	Start of term (No INSET day)
8 th – 10 th	Year 5 Llangrannog Residential
Sun 21 st	Year 5 Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30
29 th April to May 3 rd	Year 6 Manor Adventure Residential

May	
Thurs 2 nd	Year 2 Class Worship (Y2 parents/carers invited)
Tuesday 14 th	SPORTS DAY (Rec to Y2 am / Y3 to Y6 pm)
Weds 15 th	Nursery Sports Day (Usual session times)
Fri 24 th	Year 1 Class Worship (Y1 parents/carers invited)
27 th – 31 st May	HALF TERM

June	
Tues 4 th	Class Photos
Sun 16 th	Reception Class Contribution at St Peter's at 10:30

July	
Sun 14 th	Year 6 Leavers' Service at St Peter's at 10:30
Weds 17 th	Year 6 Leavers' Show at Parish Hall at approx. 10am
Fri 19 th	Term Ends
Mon 22 nd	INSET DAY

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2023/2024

Term	Begin	Half term		End	No. of School Days
		Begin	End		
Autumn 2023	*Monday 4 Sept 2023	Monday 30 Oct 2023	Friday 3 Nov 2023	Friday 22 Dec 2023	75
Spring 2024	Monday 8 Jan 2024	Monday 12 Feb 2024	Friday 16 Feb 2024	Friday 22 Mar 2024	50
Summer 2024	Monday 8 April 2024	Monday 27 May 2024	Friday 31 May 2024	*Monday 22 July 2024	70
				TOTAL	195

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2024/2025

Term	Begin	Half term		End	No. of School Days
		Begin	End		
Autumn 2024	*Monday 2 Sept 2024	Monday 28 Oct 2024	Friday 1 Nov 2024	Friday 20 Dec 2024	75
Spring 2025	Monday 6 Jan 2025	Monday 24 Feb 2025	Friday 28 Feb 2025	Friday 11 Apr 2025	65
Summer 2025	Monday 28 April 2025	Monday 26 May 2025	Friday 30 May 2025	*Monday 21 July 2025	55
				TOTAL	195

*Designated INSET day