



AUTUMN TERM

Dear Parents/Annwyl Rhieni

Christmas is rapidly approaching and you may want to note some of these dates in your diary.

Christmas Book Fair 1/12/08 – 5/12/08

Books make lovely Christmas presents, even in this technological age! We are holding our Annual Christmas Book Fair from the week beginning 1st December.

Your child will have an opportunity to browse through the books and can purchase a book if you wish. Alternatively, you may wish to browse with them any afternoon that week from 3.30 – 4.15 p.m.

Any commission generated from the Fair will be used to purchase new fiction books for our school library.

Concerts Christmas

<u>Reception</u>

 Monday 15th December at 2 pm in the Baptist Church (opposite the School).

Maximum of 2 per family attending

<u>Nursery</u>

Tuesday 16th December in the School Hall.
10.45 for am children
2.45 for pm children

Maximum of 2 per family attending

<u>Years 1 and 2</u>

 Wednesday 17th December in Rhiwbina Baptist Church.
9.30 a.m Year 1 parents
10.30 a.m. Year 2 parents

Maximum 2 per family attending

Christmas Parties

Nursery and Reception	Wednesday 17 th December	1-3.30pm
Years 1 – 4	Thursday 18 th December	1-3.30pm
Christmas Disco Y5 – 6	Thursday 18 th December	6.15 – 8.15 p.m.

Your usual donation of food items for the parties will be much appreciated.

Sickness

There are currently many children and an increasing number of my staff absent with the winter vomiting bug. To help stem the infection I would be grateful if you could keep your child home from school for a full 24 hours after the symptoms of sickness or diarrhoea have subsided. It is stressful for the younger children to observe a range of children being sick in school.

Charity Appeals

Children in Need

I am delighted with the creativity and entrepreneurial skills shown by the pupils to raise the magnificent sum of £860 for children less fortunate than themselves.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the cakes, sweets, face painting and competitions. I did manage to avoid the wet sponges!

The children in class 5H 'A Pennies for Water Collection' and raised £100 as part of their topic to raise awareness of the work of the Water Aid charity in parts of the world when water is a very scarce resource. Well done 5H.

ECO Committee

The ECO committee organised a Bob's Bonanza – covering the School ECO mascot with loose change to fund the next stage of the development of our school grounds. They raised a splendid £377 and everyone enjoyed laying the coins on Bob's outline in the hall.

Inspection of Schools by Registered Inspectors

Our school has been included in the list of schools to be inspected in the Spring Term 2009. There are three types of inspection for Primary Schools - Full, Standard and Short. As a result of our very good previous inspection we have been allocated a short inspection. The Inspection is scheduled for the last week of the Spring Term; week beginning 30th March. Details of the relevant Parents Meeting will be available early in the Spring Term.

One of the aspects of the report will be the punctuality of the pupils. A growing number of pupils are arriving after the bell. I would be grateful if you could ensure that all pupils are in the yard when the bell is rung at 8.55am.

**Learning is Cool.
Be early for school!**

Inset Days

The remaining 4 Inset Days for this academic year will be:-

Thursday and Friday 15th and 16th January 09.

Friday 13th February 09.

Friday 6th March 09.

Adventure Weekend

Following the successful visit to the Kingswood Activity Centre last year, Year 6 will once again be given the opportunity to participate in an Adventure Weekend. Further details will be communicated to the Year 6 parents.

Meetings for Parents

The Open Evenings were very well attended at all age ranges, and provided an opportunity for you to see the pupils books, discuss progress and agree your child's targets for the coming term.

On Monday 1st December the Reception parents will be invited to meet the staff to discuss the strategies we use in school to develop early literacy skills – details will be forwarded in a separate letter.

Curriculum Change 2008

The new framework for Children's learning known as the Foundation Phase is being introduced into schools as indicated.

September 2008	Nursery
September 2009	Reception
September 2010	Year 1
September 2011	Year 2

The Foundation Phase places greater emphasis on experimental learning, active involvement and developing each child's skills and understanding in seven areas of learning.

Personal and Social
Language and Communication
Mathematical development
Welsh Language development
Knowledge and understanding of the World
Physical development
Creative development

We will hold a series of parents meetings for the relevant age groups starting in January 09 to inform you of how your child's learning will develop.

The following website is a useful source of information,

www.wales.gov.uk/foundationphase

National Curriculum for Wales KS (years 3-6)

The Curriculum 2008 is still listed in individual subject orders at KS 2, but the content and knowledge had been reduced to allow greater emphasis on developing thinking skills, communication, ICT and Number. At the end of KS 2 standards of pupil's performance are set out in level descriptors of increasing difficulty to cover all levels of ability. Copies of the subject orders are available to view at the school.

The staff at all phases are actively engaged in reviewing our schemes of work to reflect the new regulations.

We are continually striving to ensure that your child is receiving the very best possible start on their 'Life long learning', journey. If you feel there is anything we can improve please let us know by e mail, fax or letter. We value your opinions and will give careful consideration to any suggestions.

Regards/Cofion

Mrs C A Harry
Headteacher