



GEORGE STREET PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter/Newyddion Issue No. 23 April/May 2017

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VALUE OF THE MONTH - TRUST

Thank you to all those parents and carers who completed our Parental Survey this time around. (Everyone was sent a web link via text so hopefully you had a chance to respond). The responses were very positive and showed that in all aspects nearly all parents were very happy with the school. In one or two areas, there was some queries which I have addressed below:

One question was knowing about the school complaints procedure. We have a policy which is shared on our website or is available from the office should you ever need to access it. In the first instance, any issues should be brought to the attention of the class teacher and if unable to be resolved, brought to the attention of the school office who can if necessary inform the Headteacher. The local authority do not play any part in the formal process of complaints and will always refer any parent who contacts them back to the school. I hope that this helps you. If you require any further information, please refer to the policy.

The parental comments made underneath the survey were really helpful too and we thank you for the lovely compliments paid to us. Issues around traffic congestion remain ongoing and we urge everyone to consider not bringing a vehicle anywhere near the school unless absolutely necessary. Our drop off bay is just that, for 'dropping off' not for parking and this is causing much of the problem. There are other things we could do, for example changing the times of the school day so that Foundation Phase and KS2 children were collected at different times. This would take a year's consultation and may be something to be considered. Parents with children from various age groups would tell us that this may cause them some significant headaches however. Please do let us know if you have any suggestions as to ways forward. We would encourage children to use bikes and scooters to come to school, only if they have a helmet and a safety lock for them. We would also like to see families walking, particularly using the cycle pathway opposite, instead of the narrow pavement opposite the school. We have noted vehicles parking here on the double yellow lines. Please report these vehicles to the police if you see them as it is truly dangerous. Please do not report them to the school or Tweet us as we have no powers to police the highway and the police are the law enforcement agency to be involved here and not the school. We can merely appeal to parents, carers and others to be sensible and help the school and families to have a safe start and end to the day.

STAFF NEWS

We sadly have to say goodbye to Mr Heseltine-Smith who will be leaving us on the 9 June to start a new job in Bristol. We will miss him and wish he well in his new career. Mr H-S would like to add: *"I feel truly blessed to have worked in such a fantastic school, with a brilliant team of staff and will miss working with such talented pupils who never fail to put a smile on my face. The experiences I have gained in George Street have enabled me to take the next step in my career. I am looking forward to the challenges of my new role working with vulnerable and disabled children for Access Sport in Bristol, but will take with me and cherish the memories made in George Street"*.

YOUNG PROMOTORS: THE THREE MUSKETEERS

On Thursday, 18th May, pupils in Castell Caerdydd were delighted to host The Three Half Pints Theatre Company who performed their slapstick version of The Three Musketeers. The evening was a resounding success as the children saw weeks of hard work come together; they were overwhelmed by the number of people who attended! The children put their efforts into organising all aspects of the event, from ticket sales and marketing to catering and technical support, and really did themselves proud!

Thank you to Arts Council Wales for facilitating the project and particularly Nazeem Syed (affectionately known as 'Naz'), who has been a brilliant project leader!

On behalf of all the pupils in Castell Caerdydd, I would like to thank all those who were able to attend for their incredible support. The night was full of fun, frolics and hilarity but most importantly, it gave real purpose to the learning opportunities that the project provided. We look forward to welcoming you to future events! Miss Davies

NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE: AN UPDATE!

Miss Davies, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Lloyd have been very busy working on developing our brand new school website, which is due to be launched later in the summer term. The children (and staff!) have been very excited to have their photographs taken ready to appear on their class pages. The school website is an essential tool for communicating with parents and carers, as well as visitors to our school community, therefore we would like to invite you to a consultation evening where you will be given a sneak preview of the new design. In addition, it will provide you with a great opportunity to feedback to Miss Davies with your views of the new structure, design and content. Anybody is welcome to attend the consultation, which will be held in Miss Davies' classroom on Monday, 12 June at 3.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE

Keep a look out for notes coming home with your child regarding their enterprise initiative this year. Each year group is working hard on a project linked to their summer term topic. The experiences you may have, depend on which class your child is in. You may be invited in to eat in a Dino diner, or you could be asked to purchase a product from a real life stall in the indoor market. Whatever the experience, I am sure that you will understand the importance of giving 'our' children these authentic learning experiences, and thank you in advance for your continued support.

Y6 GILWERN TRIP

Another brilliant and successful trip to Gilwern this year - full of fun and laughter! Excellent examples of Growth Mindset were demonstrated throughout the trip, with plenty of perseverance, resilience and collaboration on show, as the children clambered through caves; gained great heights on the climbing wall; broke records during the crate challenge - with names added to the infamous 'Wall of Fame'; tackled many obstacles and challenges scrambling up the gorge and kayaked excitedly down the canal!

As well as amazing teamwork, independence was certainly developed through making their own lunches; cleaning their rooms and even doing their laundry!

An absolutely amazing time...making memories to last a lifetime! #Gilwernadventure

COSTAL VISITS

Year 6 collaborated in another action packed coastal school day! Outdoor learning at its best! Hands on learning about our environment and the impact we have on it. The sun shone on us as we enjoyed, rock pooling, pebble bingo, and created our own coastal defences in the sand. The icing on the cake was watching the impact the incoming tide had on our sea defences, whilst eating our lunch...priceless!!! Let's hope the sun shines for our other classes as we embark on our Coastal School adventures!

NEW LEARNING CHARACTERS: BE RESOURCEFUL WITH ROBBIE AND RUBY

This half term all children have been introduced to our new metacognition characters: Be Resourceful with Robbie and Ruby. The characters have been created by a group of children and come with their own story all about being resourceful. Ask your child about Robbie and Ruby!

RED NOSE DAY - COMIC RELIEF

We raised a total of **£545.15**. Thank you for your continued support and generous contribution.

CYMRAEG

Every Tuesday Criw Cymraeg members from KS2 meet to discuss Welsh development across the school, play games or be creative! There are spaces for more children in KS2 to join the club. If anyone is interested please see Miss Eaves in Year 4 for a letter.



SPORTS NEWS

Gymnastics

Huge congratulations to Holly Jones who represented the school at the British Gymnastics competition in Stoke. The tumble and vault disciplines were fiercely contested with just one point separating her from its overall winner. We are very proud of such a dedicated and talented gymnastic who finished 16th overall.

Netball

Well done to our netball team who reached the South East Wales Regional Finals. The tournament was very exciting and the standard was extremely high. We finished 5th overall and were very proud of the performances.

Football

Our footballers have been in action in a match with Padre Pio. Once again the quality of our team shone through and we won our match 10 goals to 3. It is always lovely to have our Padre Pio friends visit and we thank them for being such good sports.

Please keep up-to-date with all of our sport @GeorgeStSport. We love receiving your tweets and the wonderful pictures of our children in action for their clubs in the community.

PUPIL ABSENCE

Please be reminded that if your child is absent from school parents should ring before 10.00 am giving a reason for their child's absence. Thank you

USEFUL INFORMATION

Dental Helpline

If you or your child require an emergency dental appointment or you need to register with a dentist please ring: **Aneurin Bevan Health Board - Telephone Number: 01633 744387**

Monday to Friday	- 9.00 - 4.00 pm
Evenings	- 6.30 - 10.00 pm
Weekends	- 8.00 am - 10.00 pm

DIARY DATES

MAY

29 MAY - 2 JUN HALF TERM

JUNE

Mon, 4 Jun Y3 - Forest School at Pontypool Park
6 & 7 & June Class Photographs
Wed, 7 Jun Girls Cricket at Panteg
Thurs, 8 Jun Coastal visit to Rest Bay, Porthcawl - Y5
Mon, 12 Jun Girls and Boys cricket at Panteg
Thurs, 22 Jun New Intake Meeting for Nursery and Reception parents 2.00 - 3.00 pm
Fri, 23 Jun Sports Day

JULY

4 & 5 Jul Y6 Move Up Day at West Mon
Fri, 7 Jul Reserve Sports Day
Tues, 11 Jul Y6 Concert - My School Musical - 6.00 pm
Wed, 12 Jul Y6 Concert - My School Musical - 1.30
Thurs, 13 Jul Y6 Concert - My School Musical - 6.00 pm
Fri, 14 Jul FOGSS Disco times to be confirmed.
Wed, 19 Jul Costal visit to Porthcawl - Y4
Fri, 21 JUL **LAST DAY OF TERM**

2017 - 2018 DIARY DATES

SEPTEMBER

Mon, 4 Sept School open
Tues, 19 Sept Tempest - Family and individual photographs
Wed, 20 Sept Tempest - Sibling photographs
Fri, 29 Sept **TRAINING DAY - school closed**

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

30 Oct - 3 Nov Half Term

DECEMBER

Fri, 22 Dec **TRAINING DAY**

JANUARY 2018

Mon, 8 Jan School open

TERM DATES FOR 2017 -2018

TERM	<u>TERM BEGINS</u>	<u>HALF TERM STARTS</u>	<u>HALF TERM ENDS</u>	<u>TERM ENDS</u>
AUTUMN	<u>Monday</u> 4 September 2017	<u>Monday</u> 30 October 2017	<u>Friday</u> 3 November 2017	<u>Friday</u> 22 December 2017
SPRING	<u>Monday</u> 8 January 2018	<u>Monday</u> 19 February 2018	<u>Friday</u> 23 February 2018	<u>Thursday</u> 29 March 2018
SUMMER	<u>Monday</u> 16 April 2018	<u>Monday</u> 28 May 2018	<u>Friday</u> 1 June 2018	<u>Tuesday</u> 24 July 2018

MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY - MONDAY, 7 MAY 2018

MRS J WOOD - HEADTEACHER