



GEORGE STREET PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Newsletter/Newyddion 2018 - 2019 Issue No. 4

VALUE OF THE MONTH – INDEPENDENCE

FUNDRAISING FOR CRISIS

We are pleased to announce our Christmas fundraising initiative launched by the children last term to raise money for the homeless raised £233.36. The funds were donated to Crisis and enabled eight homeless people to have a brief respite from the streets and to enjoy three cooked meals, a shower and proper bed for the night. It seems very little to expect but obviously means a good deal to people with nowhere else to go. We are planning to fundraise again next year so that we can continue to support this cause and hopefully increase the support we can provide. Thank you for your help and thank you to our pupils for taking the initiative.



SCHOOL RADIO STATION



Year 5 have been working with Russell Prue to develop our use of radio through our current Lead Creative Schools project. Pupils are holding a live broadcast at 2.00 on Tuesdays and would love you to get involved by texting the show to request a song, to give a shout out to family or community groups or simply to provide messages of support. You can contact the broadcast team during the show (or before) by: **tweeting** to @georgestreetpri or @russellprue or by **calling** 02921 251610, by **text** on 07624 802272 or via **email** at GeorgeStreetRadio@gmail.com.

Pupils have already made four broadcasts and you can hear these by clicking the listen again link on the Year 5 class page of our school website.

SCHOOL MEAL PAYMENTS

A polite reminder to all families that the cost of a school meal is £2.30 (foundation phase) or £2.40 (key stage 2) per day. School meals are provided by Torfaen Catering whose policy is to refuse to provide a school lunch following non-payment of five meals (i.e. an outstanding balance of approximately £12.00). Children of parent/carers with an outstanding balance like this will not be given a lunch until the money owing has been paid. Under these circumstances it will be necessary to provide your child with a packed lunch to ensure that they have sufficient food to eat during the day. Our office staff are always on hand to assist any parents/carers who may wish, in confidence, to seek information or help in applying for financial support for school meals.



ATTENDANCE



We are keen to improve pupils' overall attendance. Following suggestions from the School Council we have introduced a number of initiatives to encourage pupils to attend well. These have included non-uniform Fridays for classes with over 95% attendance in any given week, together with squash and

biscuits for those classes who achieve a 'hatrick' of 95+. We discuss the importance of good attendance regularly and it is always a focus in our Monday Values Assembly when the top two classes are awarded our attendance mascots, the school penguins 'Sam' and 'Otis'. We strongly believe that good attendance is in every pupils' interest.

All parents will receive a letter this week which will detail your child's attendance for the first half of this year. These letters are provided so that you can see the overall picture of your child's attendance. Any pupil whose attendance is below the school target of 95% will be banded amber or red (below 90%). Pupils in amber and red bands are losing valuable time in school. If there are specific issues affecting your child's attendance please speak with staff in school to see what support we can provide to stop your child missing out on important opportunities for learning.

Next half term we will be holding a Golden Week for attendance between Monday 18th and Friday 22nd March when the aim will be for us to achieve whole school attendance of 96%. This will take a big effort from all families but is definitely achievable. We are organising a whole school reward for meeting the target which will be enjoyed by all of our pupils providing we meet the goal. Let's do it!

MEET THE HEADTEACHER



I would like to invite all parents to come to school on Tuesday 12th March when I will be holding three 'Meet the Headteacher' events. The timing of these has been planned to enable as many parents as possible to attend; either after morning drop off (between 9.00-9.45), before afternoon pick-up (2.30-3.10) or after work (5.00-5.45)

for those who cannot make events during the school day. These meetings will provide an opportunity to share with you my vision for George Street Primary and to gather your views about what you think we do well and aspects of the school you feel could be improved. Refreshments will be available and I hope that you will be able to make the time to join in. I look forward to seeing you then.

GWOBR ARAIN CYMRAEG – WELSH SILVER AWARD PROGRESS

Criw Cymraeg have been very busy working alongside staff and pupils in the school this term. Since Christmas, new sashes have been introduced to reward staff and children who have been speaking the Welsh language both inside and outside of the classroom. The sash allows children to go for lunch 10 minutes early, every day for the week, as their reward for 'Seren yr Wythnos'. This term we have also been very focussed on developing the Welsh language outside of the classroom. Criw Cymraeg have set up numerous yard games for children to play in Welsh on the yard, these games include: 'Pysgod', 'Faint o'r gloch Mr Blaidd' and 'Hop Scotch'. Criw Cymraeg have also developed a fruit menu and taken over the 'tuck shop' on the yard. We run the shop using Welsh to promote the Welsh language – no Welsh, no fruit!



Next term, our focus turns to setting up reading sessions with our younger children. Criw Cymraeg will regularly visit Foundation Phase classes and read Welsh stories to them. Also, we hope to turn our attention to teaming up with the Digital Leaders and holding an assembly to share how to use the Welsh apps and websites such as 'Campau Cosmig'. Look out for a year group open session which will also help you - the parents/carers - on how to use these apps at home.

Diolch yn fawr!
Sam, Acacia and Miss Main



EASTER

After the lovely Christingle Service we enjoyed at Crane Street Baptist and United Reformed Church on the last day of autumn term, we thought it would be good to celebrate Easter at church this year. We shall be holding a celebration service for key stage 2 pupils in Crane Street Church (the church of Reverend Alvan Richards-Clarke, one of our school governors) at 1:30pm on Friday 12th April. Pupils will be holding a

collection during the service and donating the proceeds to the church. We are also hoping to return to Crane Street in the autumn term for a Harvest service. I hope that you will be able to join us for both.

Parents will be able to take pupils home directly after the service if you wish.

PUPIL ABSENCE

Please can we ask that when reporting your child's absence by calling the school on 01495 756436 and selecting option one, you provide a specific reason for the absence in your message, e.g headache, vomiting, rash etc.

We are requested by the Education Welfare Service to record a specific reason for pupil absences. Explanations such as "poorly" or "not well" are questioned by the Education Welfare Officer and will not be accepted. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

In cases where parents/carers wish to collect pupils before the end of the school day we request written confirmation of medical appointments such as an appointment card from the doctor's surgery/dentist.

PARENTS EVENING - TUESDAY 19 MARCH & WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH

After half-term we will be sending out a text with the online link that will enable you to book your child/childrens' spring term parent consultation appointments. Please make every effort to attend these meetings as they provide a very valuable opportunity to update you about the progress your child is making.

CATERING VACANCY

Our school canteen currently has a vacancy for a general kitchen assistant. If you would be interested in finding out more about this position please contact Torfaen Catering (01633 647713) and ask to speak with Tracy James or Donna Harper who will be able to provide further details.

SPORTS NEWS

Pontypool District Rugby Tournament

We are all very proud of our rugby squad who played at the tournament and represented our school brilliantly throughout. Each week they attend after school club and work hard developing their skills. The team were drawn in a tough group and just missed out on a semi-final spot. All players displayed great sportsmanship and continued to improve after each group game. Great work!



Rugby

It was lovely to welcome new friends from Penygarn Primary to our sports field to play in a friendly match where our team looked lively from the off. For many, it was their first ever game of rugby and guided by our more experienced squad members, they performed excellently. Great running rugby saw us score a multitude of tries throughout the game to come through as comfortable winners. All credit to Penygarn who never gave up and showed great resilience throughout the match. The game was played in a lovely atmosphere and we look forward to a return fixture in the spring term.

Newport County Football After School Club

A huge well done to our Year 5&6 participants during the autumn term. We now switch to Year 4&5 for the spring term and look forward to seeing our new intake of boys and girls. Letters were sent out last week for children hoping to attend.

Up-Coming Sporting Events

We have lots to look forward to this term including Cardiff City EFL Kids Cup, Under 11s Gymnastics Championships, Sports Ambassadors Conference, Year 2 Football Festival, Year 6 Girls Football Festival plus rugby and netball fixtures. Busy times ahead!

CASHLESS PAYMENT SYSTEM

All schools in Torfaen will be using the Cashless Payments System by March 2019. George Street Primary has already introduced this system which is an easy and convenient method to make school payments for many aspects of school life (please note that this does not include school meals).

Please refer to your letter or card showing your child's details which will enable you to pay for:

- School trips
- Swimming
- **Foundation Phase Tuck Money** (Nursery to Year 2)

Payments can be made via:

- Torfaen Council website www.torfaen.gov.uk
- Automated Telephone Payment System Tel. No.: **0300 456 0516**
- Cash payments at the Cash Office in the Civic Centre

Please note the **new** telephone number for the automated payments is **0300 456 0516**.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) COMPETITION



The school's STEM ambassadors have devised a competition for key stage two children over half term. The task is: to design a solution to a real life problem. Pupils can represent their design idea as a diagram/drawing or produce a model. Teachers have provided additional guidance to pupils in class this week. All entries need to be returned to school on Monday or Tuesday of the first week after half term when they will be judged by the STEM ambassadors and a prize awarded. Good luck!



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2018 - 2019

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 20

Thursday 21

Friday 22

Year 6 *Wings To Fly* follow-up visit with PC Murphy

Year 2 Football Festival at Cwmbran Stadium

TRAINING DAY

MARCH

Monday 4 – Friday 8

Thursday 7

Friday 8

Monday 11

Tuesday 12

Tuesday 12

Monday 18

Monday 18 – Friday 22

Tuesday 19

Wednesday 20

Tuesday 26

Wythnos Cymraeg / Welsh Week

World Book Day

Welsh Brass Trio concerts for foundation phase & key stage 2

George Street Primary Eisteddfod

Year 6 to *Crucial Crew*, Cwmbran TA Centre p.m.

Meet the Headteacher 9.00-9.45, 2.30-3.10 and 5.00-5.45 school hall.

Parental Engagement Cookery Sessions in Nursery 9.00 - 11.30 am

Attendance Golden Week – aiming for 96%+

Parent Consultations 3.30 - 6.00 pm

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Whole School performance of *Oliver Twist* 1.30

APRIL

Sunday 7

Tuesday 9

Wednesday 10

Wednesday 10

Friday 12

Monday 15 – Friday 26

School Choir participate in Torfaen Kidz Rock Festival, Pontypool ALC

Parental Engagement Cookery Sessions in Nursery 9.00 - 11.30

Football Tournament at Cwmbran Stadium 9.30 - 2.30

Early Years Easter Bonnet Parade

Key stage 2 Easter Service at Crane Street Church 2.00

EASTER HOLIDAY

MAY

Friday 3

JULY

Monday 22

TRAINING DAY

TRAINING DAY

TERM	TERM BEGINS	HALF TERM STARTS	HALF TERM ENDS	TERM ENDS
Spring	Mon 7 th Jan 2019	Mon 25 th Feb 2019	Fri 1 st Mar 2019	Fri 12 th Apr 2019
Summer	Mon 29 th Apr 2019	Mon 27 th May 2019	Fri 31 st May 2019	Mon 22 nd July 2019

MAY DAY - MONDAY 6 MAY 2019