



GEORGE STREET PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Newsletter/Newyddion 2018 - 2019 Issue No. 5

VALUE OF THE MONTH – FREEDOM

OPERATION ENCOMPASS



The school is taking part in a project run jointly between schools and Gwent Police.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to 9.00 am on the next school day, when a child or young person has been exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident. Operation Encompass will

ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, will use the information that has been shared, in confidence, in order to support any children who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

TRANSFORMATIONAL CURRICULUM – GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Following the report of Sir Graham Donaldson in 2015, schools have been working with education experts and government officials to develop a curriculum to meet the needs of 21st century learners in Wales. A draft version of the new curriculum will become available shortly and a useful document describing some of the changes is available at:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-01/transformational-curriculum-consultation-for-young-people-and-communities.pdf>

A copy is available on the school website.

COMIC RELIEF

I am very pleased to say that our day of dancing for Comic Relief raised £384.00. Everyone enjoyed the day and we had some great moves on display, including stellar performances from some of our Year 6 girls fresh from individual and paired victory in the Torfaen School Dance Competition at Cwmbran Stadium earlier in the week. Well done all and keep dancing!



PHONES

Just a reminder that pupils should not bring phones to school. There is no need for pupils to have phones during the school day or before school starts in the morning. If in exceptional circumstances you require your child to have a phone for a specific purpose (for example, following the end of the school day) then the phone must be handed in to your child's class teacher at the start of the day and it will be returned at home time.





EISTEDDFOD 2019

This year's George Street Eisteddfod was a huge success! Welsh cakes with the bard, choir performances, dawnsio gwerin and even a visit from Shenkin the goat (a.k.a the goat from the rugby!) What more could we want when celebrating our national day!

We kick started events with a special assembly in which this year's Bard, Abbey Davies, was crowned and beautifully recited her poem.

Foundation Phase then led the morning with a parade by nursery, swiftly followed by an array of performances and winning competition entries. Lunch time was tense as the house points showed: Gwyrdd – 72, Glas – 89 a Coch – 110. It would be up to Key Stage 2 to decide the cup!

Treated by a parade from nursery, Key Stage 2 children waited nervously to receive their results. Points remained close due to a mammoth contribution of entries and fantastic performances from all year groups. After all competition winners had received their certificates and had blown us away with their tremendous performances, it was time to reveal... the winner of the Cwpan Eisteddfod 2019 was... TY COCH! With 540 points. Closely followed by Glas – 507 and Gwyrdd – 377. The ceremony ended with the roof blown off quicker than in the Principality Stadium as the children sang their hearts out to our one and only anthem 'Mae hen wlad fy nhadau'. What an incredible day to be part of.

All 1st place winners from Year 2 onwards, went on to represent our school in the Pontypool Eisteddfod, where a superb collective contribution from foundation phase and key stage 2 children gained the school a wonderful 3rd place overall. A special shout to all staff and children who took part, as we would not have achieved such success and had so much fun without you!

INSPECTION

George Street Primary is being inspected by Estyn between Monday 8th and Thursday 11th April. A team of inspectors will visit the school during this time to evaluate the standards achieved by pupils and the quality of the school's provision and leadership. All parents/carers of pupils in the school are invited to attend a meeting with members of the inspection team in the school hall at 3.45 on Monday 8th April.

UNIFORM

A reminder that pupils should wear black shoes in school. Trainer shoes are permitted as long as they are black and have no bright logos. Brightly coloured trainers are not permitted. The wearing of jewellery, other than stud earrings, is not permitted. Thank you for your support in helping to maintain a high standard of dress.

PROOF OF MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Please can all parents/carers provide proof of medical appointments attended by pupils' during the school day. We are required by the education welfare service to maintain evidence of appointments when authorising pupils' absence.



AMBULANCE STATION

I need to bring to your attention a serious safety concern notified to us by the staff of Pontypool Ambulance Station.

At the end of each school day, parents park their vehicles in the shared car park at the rear of the Ambulance Station and make their way to the school to collect children. On return to the car park, parents and children are cutting through the top car park of the station. As you can appreciate, this is a high traffic area and can be quite hazardous due to large vehicles manoeuvring within the car park as well as emergency vehicles exiting the garages quickly due to the nature of the ambulance service role.

A near miss incident has been recently reported by a staff member who was reversing a vehicle when a parent and several children walked through the car park causing the driver to abandon the manoeuvre until they had safely passed through. Staff who park their cars at the top car park and have also reported damage to vehicles from children and parents that squeeze past. This damage is mainly scratching to bodywork from the school bags and buggies pushed by parents between the closely parked cars.

In the interest of safety and to avoid further incidents, please can all parents who park in the shared car park at the rear of the ambulance station walk to and from the school using the pavements outside the station boundary and not crossing the station forecourt.



Sports Ambassadors Conference

Our brilliant Young Bronze Sports Ambassadors took an active part in this year's conference at Pontypool Active Living Centre hosted by Torfaen Sports Development Team. They took part in a number of events, learned how to become an excellent young leader, learned all about what their role entails and had great fun with the other Young Ambassadors based in other local schools. Well done Delilah, Jake, Beyoncé and Morgan.

Cardiff City EFL Kids Cup

After the amazing success that we enjoyed last year at this tournament, all the children selected to represent our school were super excited! Again, there were 6 days of tournaments with high quality football on show. We were drawn in a tough group but ended up cementing our place in the quarter finals on qualifying day by topping our group! How exciting! Against the run of play, we sadly lost our quarter final game and missed out on a place at Cup Final Day. As always we were very proud of all the players who took part. It's such a great experience for our youngsters who displayed great attitude and sportsmanship throughout. Well done everyone!



Follow **@GeorgeStSport** to keep up to date with the latest Sport and PE news.

South East Wales Under 11s Tumble and Vault Competition

Our team of gymnasts have trained really hard and have improved their tumbling and vaulting so much over the last few weeks. We travelled to Kestrel Gym as the current holders of the gold individual medallist. Almost all of our team do not attend clubs outside school which makes us so very proud to think that they have the courage to perform individually in front of a panel of judges and lots of spectators. The team competed brilliantly and really enjoyed the experience. Huge well done boys and girls!

Girls Rookie Rugby

What an amazing day of rugby activities at Cwmbran Stadium! Our young ladies had such fun experiencing many different activities and even had time to visit The Glitter Station to have their nails and hair done along with having their faces painted. We hope they have been inspired to join one of our local girls' rugby teams after performing so well and improving their skills throughout the day.

Year 2 Football Festival

Our brilliant teams from year 2 showed they were the envy of everyone at this event. From leading their own warm ups, showing exceptional skills beyond their years, displaying such mature attitudes, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship as well as looking super cute in their football kits. It was great to have so many parent supporters at the event who cheered throughout and commented on top class behaviours!

If your child is interested in joining a club in the community, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Preston-Watkins and I can help guide you into the appropriate direction.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2018 - 2019

APRIL

Sunday 7 School Choir participate in Torfaen Kidz Rock Festival, Pontypool ALC
 Monday 8 – Thursday 11 Estyn inspection (Parents meeting 3.45 Monday 8th, school hall)
 Tuesday 9 Parental Engagement Cookery Sessions (Nursery) 9.00 - 11.30
 Tuesday 9 Year 4 Coastal Schools visit to Ogmores by Sea
 Wednesday 10 Football Tournament at Cwmbran Stadium 9.30 - 2.30
 Wednesday 10 Easter Bonnet Parade 10.45 (*parents of children in Sunflower & morning Nursery*) and 2.30 (*parents of children in Bluebell & afternoon Nursery*)
 Friday 12 Key stage 2 Easter Service at Crane Street Church 2.00
 Monday 15 – Friday 26 **EASTER HOLIDAY**

MAY

Friday 3 TRAINING DAY
 Wednesday 7 - Tuesday 14 National testing window Years 2-6
 Thursday 16 School Council Parliament Visit, London
 Thursday 16 Year 4 Mini Olympics
 Monday 21 – Tuesday 22 Class and group photographs

JUNE

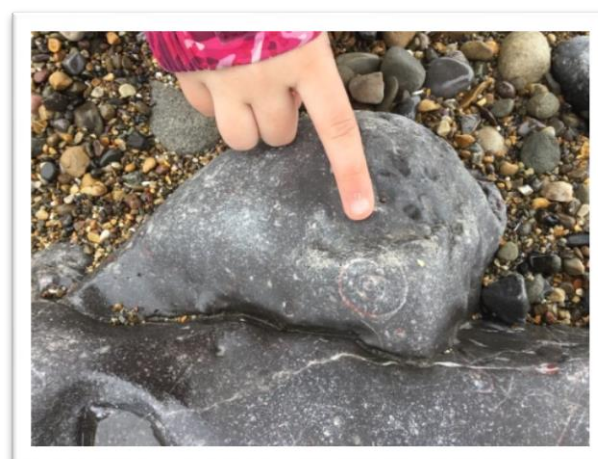
Monday 10 – Wednesday 12 Year 6 residential visit to Manor Adventure, Abernant
 Monday 17 – Friday 21 Move-up Week
 Wednesday 19 Pirates of the Caribbean Pantomime and workshop (Years 1-6)

JULY

Tuesday 2- Wednesday 3 Year 6 Move up day, West Mon
 Wednesday 3 – Friday 5 Year 5 residential visit to Eden Project, Cornwall
 Monday 22 TRAINING DAY

TERM	TERM BEGINS	HALF TERM STARTS	HALF TERM ENDS	TERM ENDS
Spring				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



Year 3 pupils took part in another fantastic Coastal School session at Ogmores by Sea this month, with a fossil twist. We were very lucky to be joined by Emma from *Beach Academy Wales* who was able to share her vast knowledge about fossils, including where best to find them.

The children were amazed at the sheer number of fossils to be found on the beach and, as an extra treat, we were able to see one of the largest mophead fossils in the world. Crikey!