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YSGOL GYNRADD A MEITHRIN STRYD SIORS GEORGE STREET PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 05 March 2021

Dear parent/carers

ESITEDDFOD UPDATE

What a busy and exciting week it has been. We have had lots of fun celebrating our various Eisteddfods this week and generally sharing in activities to learn about and promote our wonderful and unique Welsh culture. We have been bowled over by the enthusiasm, creativity and hard work of children who have submitted many Eisteddfod competition entries of excellent quality. It has made judging children's entries even harder than usual so we have been deliberately generous with points and certificates to recognise the superb effort of everyone. Llongyfarchiadau!



Points across all competitions will be totalled for Monday when we will announce our overall Eisteddfod winners for 2021 via Teams at 2.30. At the same time we will also announce the identity of this year's Bard, judged from entries to our creative writing competition.

WALES COASTAL CHALLENGE

There has been a similarly overwhelming response to our school challenge to run/walk the distance of the Welsh Coastal Path (870 miles). What started out as relatively small-scale encouragement among friends grew rapidly into a house competition to accumulate the most miles run or walked before this Sunday's deadline. As a result, we have far exceeded our original target and many children, parents and staff are still going strong. Fabulous!

We will announce the final totals for each house and our overall school total on Monday following results from this year's Eisteddfod. All miles will need to be logged by 6.00pm this Sunday to be included. So, just over 48 hours to go..... keep walking/running.

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

WORLD BOOK DAY (WBD) / READING SESSIONS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Next week we will be running a series of activities in school and through home learning to celebrate World Book Day (WBD) and to promote reading for pleasure. While the official WBD took place yesterday, we have moved events to next week so that we could focus on our Eisteddfod at the very beginning of

March and still celebrate World Book Day close to the 'actual' date. Activities linked to WBD will be shared with key stage 2 pupils via Seesaw and in a celebration assembly at the end of the week.

As teachers and parents we share a commitment to the importance of developing every child's reading skills. No other aspect of each child's development has such singular value for all other areas of learning. This year we have invested additional time and money in extra resources to help support pupils' reading. In particular two linked online platforms, Accelerated Reader and MyON, are now being used to provide increased opportunity for pupils to enjoy a wide range of reading material that engages their interest and is

Together we live learn and value

well matched to their reading ability. Both Accelerated Reader and MyON can be accessed in school and at home. In order to share information about how these platforms work and how they can help support pupil's interest in reading we are holding online information sessions for parents/carers of children in Years 3, 4 and 5 next week. All the sessions start at 1.30 and will last for about half an hour. Sessions can be joined through your child's MS Teams space. We look forward to seeing you there.

LIVE SESSIONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Please see details of next week's live sessions for key stage 2 pupils below. The table also includes:

- sessions for parents/carers in Years 3, 4 and 5 to share with you valuable information about the school's approach to teaching reading
- Assemblies to announce Eisteddfod and Coastal Challenge Results and for World Book Day

w/b 08.03.2021	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Monday 8 th	10.50 Check in/weekly planner	10.10 Check in/weekly planner	11.00 – 11.30 Penfro 11.30 – 12.00 Caerdydd Check in/weekly planner 1.30 Reading for Parents/Carers	09.30 Check in/weekly planner
2.30 Eisteddfod & Wales Coast Challenge Results Announced				
Tuesday 9 th	1.30 Reading for Parents/Carers	10.10 Literacy		09.30 Literacy
Wednesday 10 th	10.50 Maths session	1.30 Reading for Parents/Carers	11.00 - 11.40 Literacy/Forest School session	
Thursday 11 th	10.50 Literacy session	09.30 Maths session	11.00 – 11.30 Penfro 11.30 – 12.00 Caerdydd Maths Bingo session	10.10 Maths
Friday 12 th	10.50 Check out/assembly	09.30 Check out/assembly	11.00 Penfro 11.30 Caerdydd Spellings/Check out	10.10 Check out
	2.00 Year 3&4 World Book Day Assembly		1.30 Year 5&6 World Book Day Assembly	

RETURN OF KEY STAGE 2 PUPILS

You may have heard the Minister for Education this week confirming her intention that pupils in Years 3-6 will return to school in the week beginning Monday 15th March. Assuming that it remains safe for them to do so, next week will be the last full week of home learning.

At this stage, a number of arrangements for pupils' return remain under discussion at a government/local authority level and I anticipate that these will be resolved early next week. Following confirmation of agreements, I will write again next week to advise all parents of our exact plans.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Can I please remind all parents that when dropping off and collecting children there is a clear expectation that parents/carers wear face coverings and maintain social distancing from others. We have received several calls from concerned residents this week worried by parents/carers standing together in groups next to the school gates. It is not the responsibility of school staff to 'enforce' social distancing. However, it should be a concern for all parents/carers that failing to keep a safe distance risks the possible spread of the virus and increases the chance that both individuals may be affected and classes may have to close. Please help everyone by respecting the need to keep 2m distance. Thank you.

Kind regards,

A. Brasington

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