



# St Ethelwold's V.A. Primary School Newsletter

*'Be The Best You Can'*

11th October 2019

Good afternoon one on all and welcome to our information packed weekly newsletter on what is proving to be a wet and grey week. You can definitely see the nights drawing in now and the temperature dropping and this is a good reminder for us to dress for the weather and to make sure that all pupils have coats with them when they come to school. Whilst we're on the subject of attire, pupils can bring navy blue tracksuit bottoms for PE which they can keep in their PE bag which should be in school every day of the week. Many thanks for your help in making sure that your child is always prepared for PE and has the correct kit in school.

Harvest Festival last Friday was a tremendous success with all the speakers performing exceptionally well despite the odd bit of background noise. We will be taking the Harvest produce over to the community of pensioners next week and I am sure that they will be incredibly appreciative of the gifts and be thankful to the generosity of you, the parents, for all of the donations. From all of the staff in the school, we would like to thank you once again for your unceasing kindness and willingness to help. Very often, when you're alone, either physically or emotionally, one act of kindness, one act of true care and generosity of spirit or one act of love can bring a connection between humans that is sometimes sadly missing in today's busy world. Experience has taught me that kindness can and will change a person's life for the better.

A handful of parents approached me after the Service to let me know that they had struggled to hear some of the pupils. To that end, we are currently pricing up a microphone system so that future performances and Services will be amplified, crystal clear and you will be able to hear all children. I will approach the Fundraising Committee once we have an idea of what we need and the cost.

Unfortunately it is necessary to write about the growing issue of children arriving late at school. Whilst the vast majority of our pupils arrive at school in good time for breakfast club or the start of the school day, we do still have some who arrive late almost on a daily basis.

The effects of your child arriving late to school are greater than you might think. Here is what happens when your child arrives late. It affects the whole school community.

· Phonic sessions take place first thing in the morning at school which means that if your child arrives late, they are not accessing reading sessions and they will not learn to read. Without learning to read, your child will not then access the entire school curriculum

· The secretary/head teacher has to stop what they are doing to answer the door and let you in

· The secretary/head teacher has to discuss the dinner order with you or the child

· The secretary/head teacher has to escort children to their classes, help them with coats and see them safely into class

· The teacher has to stop teaching the whole class and welcome your child

The teacher has to reopen the register and mark your child present

· The teacher has to stop teaching the class to explain the beginning of the lesson to the late coming child

· The teacher has to find out what your child is having for dinner and mark it on the register

· The secretary has to check the registers to ensure that the meal has been recorded

· The secretary has to inform the kitchen that the register has changed and that a further meal has to be prepared

· The secretary has to recalculate the amount of dinner money paid to school and change this on our records

· The cook has to change her list of dinners prepared

· The cook has to recalculate ingredients needed

· The cook has to find and prepare the extra portions needed

· The child very often feels unsettled walking late into the class

· The child is further unsettled when they are unaware of the work they have to do

· The child is playing 'Catch Up' from the beginning of the day

I am sure that you can see from this extensive list that it matters greatly that pupils are punctual. More often than not it is not the pupil's fault that they are late but it is the pupils who feel unsettled when they walk into the class. Those parents who this applies to, you know who you are and we have spoken about this on many occasions but I hope now that the entire school community can see why punctuality matters and that we can work together for the common good of all of our pupils.

There are a couple of staff mentions this week. Mrs Parry is super proud of her son Jack who took part in the Cardiff half marathon last Sunday and, despite running with his hand in a plastercast, managed a very respectable time of 2 hours 19 minutes - well done to Jack.

I must also show some public appreciation to Mr Griffith whose literacy and Welsh books have been scrutinised by GwE recently. GwE are the government organisation which monitor the work of the school and are often in looking at books and planning. The literacy and Welsh department both said that the work going on in Class 4 is outstanding. Thank you Mr Griffith and well done.

That rounds off another busy week in school. There is no let up next week where highlights include:

- Healthy Schools Initiative Assessment
- Street Dance Sessions
- Pirates of the Chilli Bean Theatre Performance
- Water Polo Festival
- Health and Safety Risk Assessment Check

Obviously the highlight of my week will be the health and safety risk assessment check which will leave me sleepless on Sunday night as the excitement builds and the time to check through all school risk assessments draws ever nearer!

We hope that you have a fabulous weekend and that whatever you find yourself doing; you do so with kindness in your heart. Even if it is checking risk assessments.

Mr Oliver

## Diary Dates/ Dyddiadur

14-18th October- Assessment week

17th October— Pirates of the Chilli bean performance

23rd October- Parent Forum meeting

25th October- 3.15pm School closes for half term

4th November- School Closed- INSET day

5th November- School reopens

6 & 7th November- Parents Evenings

10th November- Remembrance Service at Church 10.45am

11-15th November- Anti-Bullying Week

6th December- Christmas Fair in the school hall

11th December- Christmas Bingo

12th December- 2pm Christmas Nativity at St Ethelwold's Church

17th December- Delivery of Cards and Gifts to the local community

18th December- Junior Christmas party

19th December- Foundation Phase Christmas Party

20th December- 3.15pm School closes for Christmas holidays

6th January- School closed- INSET day

7th January- School reopens

## Penblwydd Hapus

James Cox and Nicholas Cox



### Pupil Voice/ Llais Disgyblion

I really enjoyed our Street Dance lesson this week. My favourite part was the jet plane up to the stars to the Justin Bieber song. I learnt that if you can do it every morning it increases your heart rate and makes you feel better. I've tried it all week and it works! Ready for the day.

By Autumn Wragg

## Siaradwr Cymraeg- Welsh Speaker

Class 1- Leila Jones

Class 2- Lexi Duncan-Timms

Class 3- Joseph Haycock

Class 4- Charlotte Salt

## Special Mentions/ Cyfeiriadau Arbennig

Class 1- Aaliyah Latham

Class 2- Ellie Davies & Dawid Hajdecki

Class 3- Tommy Haycock & Alissa-Mai Hutchinson

Class 4- Charlotte Salt & Chloe Dunn

## Attendance/ Presenoldeb

This week's class with the best attendance is Class 2 with 96.8%. Whole school attendance is 93.2%.

## Prayer/ Gweddi

This harvest we thank you for all the good gifts around us:  
the abundance of food and fellowship that many of us enjoy.

In our thanksgiving we also offer our prayers and supplications for those who this year have not experienced abundance.

We pray for those affected by natural disaster, and those children and families in our communities that have been going without.

Help us to share our harvest that all may know that all our hungers are satisfied.