

Headteacher update

Welcome back to the last half term of this academic year and we have a busy six weeks ahead. Year 11 left formally today after a lovely farewell gathering and receiving their leaving gift hoodie. Their hard work and determination will no doubt pay off in the summer and we are looking forward to seeing them at their lovely prom in a few weeks time. We wish them every success for the fabulous futures that lie ahead, they have a credit to themselves, their families and Nantgwyn.



We had a marvellous Jubilee celebration on the last day of the last half term and hope you enjoyed seeing the pictures on our school Facebook page. I hope you enjoyed the Jubilee memento that arrived home with each pupil too (see left). It was only a small token, but hopefully something that can be kept and reflected upon in years to come. If one did not quite make it home, get in touch and we will pop it to the post for you. The competition winners all did an excellent job and our upper school winner Tegan also won the overall RCT prize; this was announced in the Aberdare festival over the bank holiday weekend. We are all incredibly proud, her portrait is outstanding!

Attendance and engagement

I must first congratulate children who have 95%+ attendance and who have only been absent due to genuine absence/infectious illness.

Each and every day for the next six weeks is incredibly important and your child's attendance at school is **ESSENTIAL**. Unless your child has an infectious illness or is so ill they are unable to get out of bed they **MUST** be in school. Your child will fail to reach their potential and **NOT ACHIEVE** good qualification results if they are not in school **AT LEAST** 95% of the time, this matters **NOW** however old they are.

Attendance has been very disappointing in some years groups this term (since Easter) and this is made up of erratic attendance for many children for reasons that are not acceptable and are unauthorised. All parents/families are reminded that we can now issue Fixed Penalty Notices and ultimately the LA may take you to court if you do not send your child to school **regularly and on time**. Children should be in school nearly all the time i.e. 95%+ of the time. Realistically if your child has any time off to date, that means they cannot miss any time for the rest of this term. Being in school is vital for all aspects of their personal development and together we will ensure they thrive and flourish into the young people they deserve to be. **WE MUST NOT LET THEM DOWN**, it starts with them being here every day, on time being ready to learn.

As you know we have undertaken a range of surveys across the school with pupils, parents and staff and will shortly begin to share these. We will also provide information to all stakeholders on how we will make key improvements in specific areas and where appropriate how we can work together to improve and provide advice and guidance in areas around health and wellbeing for example. We want to ensure we have the happiest children we can and working together to make key improvements is vital to this goal.

Yours, as always
Kirsty Retallick

Head of School update

Welcome back. I hope everyone enjoyed the half-term break, the extended weekend, the festivities that came with the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations and of course the Welsh victory on Sunday that sees our national football team progress to the World Cup finals later in the year.

Lots of things will be going on during the final term. Staff are hard at work completing end of year reports; these will be with you in advance of parent evenings on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th July. More information on how to book a parents' evening slot will be released via ParentMail in the next week or so.

We had a fantastic day on the final day of last term celebrating the Queen's Jubilee, pictures of the day can be found on our social media platforms. A huge thank you to pupils, parents and staff for supporting the celebrations and going red, white and blue for the day.



A big congratulations for the hot chocolate with the head winners, as Mrs Retallick once again invited a small group of pupils to the boardroom. Winners were: Levi & Megan (Nur), Lilly-Rose (Rec1), Cruse (Rec2), Amelia (1A), Cara (1B), Thomas (2A), Arianwen (2B), Fern (3A) and Olivia (3B). Such worthy winners, well done all.

Nursery and year 3 made some tasty cookies/biscuits just before half-term in preparation for the Queen's Jubilee - photos once again can be found on the schools FaceBook page.

This week (Wednesday) saw all year 2 and year 3 taking part in a science workshop as part of our partnership with Cardiff University. It was great to see our pupils working once again with external providers, something we and they have missed out on due to Covid.

Nursery enjoyed a visit from three of our emergency services on Tuesday of this week. They met paramedics, police officers and even had the fire brigade show them how their engines worked. Pictures of the day can be found on our social media platforms. Nursery will be visited in the middle of next week (further details to be forwarded by Mrs Holmes) by Welsh cycling, so pupils can enjoy a balance bike experience.

Over the past few weeks all classes in lower school have been looking at the evolution of the animal world (aka bugs) - nursery had butterflies, this week saw their release day. Please see pictures below, more can be found on our social media platforms.



Do you follow us on social media? If not, I can tell you that you are missing out on a small snapshot of what our pupils and your children are up to everyday, so follow when you have a minute and keep up to speed.

Advanced notice, pupils in year 2 and year 3 will be undertaking national tests week beginning Monday 27th June. This testing window will run over a two week period. Please do not worry about these tests; they are used to give us information about the most appropriate next steps for your child to support our planning. Also pupils will be tested w/c: Monday 4th and 11th July 2022 on their reading skills using Salford testing. I continue to ask that all pupils read for a minimum of 20/30 minutes each night at home with an adult to support the excellent work pupils are doing in school. If you have any concerns, please contact a member of the lower school team and we will pick it up with the class teacher.

End of year trips

Staff are working super hard to ensure your child has an experience day and a school trip before the end of the academic year. When we have information to share I promise you we will share this as soon as we possibly can. We want to give you notice and I hope to get some information out to you early next week, likely to be via ParentMail.

Sports Day

Similar to the above - we are finalising the date and the details surrounding the day. We will share information as soon as possible. One piece of information I can share is that sadly we are still not in a position to welcome large crowds onto site, so parents will not be able to attend on the day. We hope 2023 will see us welcome you back to watch.

The weather is a real mixed bag at present, but please keep an eye on the forecast and if the temperature rises you may want to think about the application of sun cream first thing in the morning. Staff at Ysgol Nantgwyn will look to take advantage of the weather and take the classroom outside to support learning and the experiences our pupils have. Also, we encourage pupils to bring water bottles to school to ensure they stay hydrated, as a drop in hydration will impact concentration levels.

Start and end of the day: REVERSING INTO SPACES

Polite reminder and as per our traffic management policy (TMP), which can be found on the schools website, we insist on all vehicles reversing into all car parking bays. This is a health and safety point and a non-negotiable for us as a school so to ensure the safety of all pupils and adults that use the site. If you do not park as required, please do not take offence if a member of staff addresses you with the hope that next time you are able to follow the policy. If you regularly are unable to follow the TMP, this may result in you not being allowed to bring your vehicle onto site. Please can I also take this opportunity to remind all site users that the disabled bays are for the use of blue badge holders only. If using a disabled bay, you must display your blue badge, they are not to be used for convenience. If you have any questions, please read the TMP, if still unsure, please contact a member of staff either at drop-off or collection.

Attendance

Polite reminder, I strongly advise against removing pupils from school during term time, please let us know if you are thinking of doing this. Families that do not inform us waste the time of staff who are trying to locate or follow up absences daily. We want to work with families, but we need you to communicate absence for whatever reason with us either in advance or on the morning in question. I do not need to tell you the importance of having good attendance, but, in order for a child to reach their full potential they should maintain an attendance above 95% throughout their educational journey (not just year 11), so your son/daughter's journey has already begun and they need to be in school.

I hope you have a fantastic weekend, see you on Monday for another busy week.

J Davies

Assistant Headteacher - Head of Lower School

Parental Cost of Living Crisis Letters

The Welsh Government has announced a package of measures to help people with the cost-of-living crisis, which includes £25M to provide discretionary support as Wales recovers from the pandemic and support households to deal with the impact of increasing energy and other costs. The Council has approved a Discretionary Cost of Living Support Scheme which will provide additional financial support to households in Rhondda Cynon Taf and have at least one child of compulsory school age (that is, born on or between 1st September 2005 and 31st March 2017).

The Local Authority will be writing to all families who live in Rhondda Cynon Taf who have at least one child of statutory school age, providing them with information that will allow them to apply for the financial assistance. This is a large-scale exercise that needs to be communicated and controlled consistently.

The application process is being managed entirely through the Local Authority main website, and the area will contain all the information needed by the parent. We are conscious that parents may contact schools when they receive their letter, requesting advice. **In this case, please can we refer all parents to the contact details provided in the letter you have received in order that your queries are dealt with consistently and you can make your applications as soon as possible.**

Polite reminder

We are a nut free school

Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties).

First aid staff in the school are trained to use the Epi-pens (an injection of adrenalin) which is required immediately if this happens. We cannot have nuts in school in any form so please can we ask that you have no nut products in the lunch boxes or brought into the school.

School Update

Weekly wonders

The following pupils have received our weekly wonder award. This is awarded by the class teachers and reasons for awarding a pupil is given below. Congratulations all, keep it up.

Class	Weekly Wonder - w/c: 23/05/2022	Weekly Wonder - w/c: 06/06/2022
Nursery	Jessica, for amazing independent writing.	Marni, for her beautiful drawing of the Queen.
Reception 1	Oscar, for excellent reading and writing all week. Well done Oscar.	Scarlett, for always being kind and thoughtful. Well done Scarlett.
Reception 2	Georgie, for always trying her best with all	Millie-Harper, for good maths work this week.

	her work.	
Year 1A	Joshua for being enthusiastic about the Queen's jubilee and making lots of things in class. Also for trying very hard with his reading at home and in school.	Sofia, for making very good progress in her reading and becoming more confident in her writing. Also for knowing all her tricky words this week.
Year 1B	Jaxson, for working really hard on his numbers and trying hard to count money.	Brody, for fantastic colouring of a busy beach.
Year 2A	Annabelle, for lovely ideas during think-pair-share when predicting story events.	Paighton, for working independently while completing complex puzzles and being a lovely friend at playtime.
Year 2B	Henry, for working hard all week and listening well in class.	Olivia, for being brave and taking part in the science experiment, performing in front of her peers.
Year 3A	Grace, for always showing kindness, compassion and respect to her peers and teachers, such an important quality to demonstrate.	Harvey, for being such a smiler this week, he has tried very hard learning about Martin Luther King.
Year 3B	Finley, for being a delightful member of our class.	Joshua, for excellent fact writing about Alexander Graham Bell.

Lower School Contact details:

Staff contact details:

Assistant Headteacher, Mr John Davies
Deputy Head of School, Mrs Judith Griffiths
Raising Standards Leader, Mrs Liz Elford

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Attendance

Congratulations to each of the pupils in the table below that have achieved 100% attendance for the last week (Thursday - Thursday). We have also launched one of our attendance initiatives where pupils receive a certificate via ParentMail for 100% attendance each week - try and collect them all!

At the end of the half term, all pupils that have 100% attendance for the half term are invited to our attendance celebration! Please keep up the fantastic efforts and attend, as attendance at school is crucial for academic success!

N1	N2	Reception	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Vare	Amelia	Lilly-Rose	Abbie	Alexis	Jack	Evelyn-Rose	Grace	Amelia
Lila-Grace	Marni	Amelia	Deacon-Jackson	Hallie	Thea-Rae	Lacey	Cory	Lucas
Oscar	Harri	Scarlett-Rae	Connie	Jaxson	Ava-May		Coby	Taisie
Maxwell	Oakley	Cruz	Ethan	Oliver	Arianwen		Dawson	Seren
Riley	Oliver	Georgie	Fraya	Israel	Heidi-Marie		Finley	Charley
Esmee	Lenny-George	Lincoln	Imogen	Esmee	Izzabella		Harper	
Aurorah	Hallie	Oscar	Joey	Lily	Jaxon		William	
Thomas	Ava-Mae	Cruze	Aliyah	Alicia	Henry		Marley	
Tilly	Auggie	Destan	Cora	Oliver	Isabelle		Summer	
Jessica	Poppy	Harris	Ivy	Harper	Isabel		Alyce	
Charlotte	Anariya	Joey	Mia	Callie	Oakley		Lucie	
Harlan	Max	Marnie	Alice	Luca	Teigha		Hunter	
Evan	Jacob	Oliver	Alys	Riley	Rhodri		Chael	
Levi	Olivia	Aria	Joshua	Evelyn	Jasmine		Faith	
Alexa	Iyla	Esmie	Ryan	Ebony	Thomas		Angel	
Oliver	Navaeh-Rae	Jagger	Thomas	Emi	Jesse		Cassie	
Noah	Luna	Valentine	Thomas	Amelia	Jamie		Olivia	
Bailey	Vinnie-Lynn	Jaxon	Cooper		Seren		Blake	
Sonnie	Meadow	Millie-Harper	William		Matilda		Fern	
Leia	Lottie	Leo-James	Paige		Lacey-May		Belle	
Brodie	Esmee	Luna	Kayden		Ollie		Faith	
Bradley		Thea	Lilly		Elliot		Daisy	
Finley		Kayla	Griff		Reevah		Ruby-May	
Rowan		Eve	Brody		Sarina		Gethin	
Emelia-Willow		Hudson	Penny		Mitchell		Ebony	
Ella		Hollie-Ann	Lucy		Paighton		Jazmine	
		Lowri	Nevaeh		Carys		Charlie	
		Libby	Eden		Samuel		Kiana	
		Evelyn	Sophia		Megan		Mali	
		Kiara	Grace		Olivia		Harvey	
		Dylan	Iwan		Paisley		Kaden	
			Kian		Hadli-Rose		Faith	
			Jacob		Ruby-Tania		Halle-Rae	
			Sofia		Corey		Joshua	
			Brooklyn		Emilie-Rose		Osian	