



Dear Parents/Carers,

Blyddyn Newydd dda! Happy New Year!

Welcome back, we hope you had a fun break I'm sure everyone is well rested and ready for an exciting start to 2018.

Cwmffrwdroer Primary School Nursery – September 2018

Our new Cwmffrwdroer Primary School Nursery is due to open this September 2018. We are very excited to be able to provide our own pre-school provision. The children will be able to begin their learning journey from age three at our school. There are places still available. Please contact the local authority for further information.

Attendance

Our attendance target is 95%. Currently attendance is 95.3%. Thank you for supporting us in ensuring children attend school when they are fit and well.

Torfaen Council's education service have launched a 'Strive for 95!' initiative to improve pupil attendance and reduce unauthorised absence in all Torfaen schools. From this year every pupil who achieves 95% attendance or higher during each school term will be entered into a prize draw at the end of the school year to win £50 of high street vouchers. Two winners will be randomly drawn from key stage 1, 2, 3 and 4 and presented with their vouchers at the end of the summer term.

All pupils in school will be rewarded if their attendance reaches 95% each half term. We continue to have an issue with a small number of pupils arriving late. This affects children's learning and also affects attendance levels.

Punctuality

For all pupils, school starts at 8.55am. Breakfast Club is between 8.30am and 8.55am. Whilst I understand the many pressures on families each morning, it is very important that pupils arrive in school punctually. As soon as pupils leave the playground they are asked to remove their coats and bags in the cloakroom and to settle quickly into the daily routines in the classroom. These routines include marking the electronic register, collecting any monies and ordering school meals. Welsh is used as much as possible in these sessions. All staff know that the first lesson must start no later than 9am. If a pupil is late, they must enter through our main entrance. Pupils

arriving late to lessons disrupt the routines and learning for the whole class. The playground gates are closed at 8.55am. Since school starts at this time, pupils need to be on the playground before this. The closing of the gate should ensure that any pupils arriving after this time enter the school by the main entrance. A register is kept of those who arrive late. The register enables school and the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to determine between those pupils who are rarely late and are late due to exceptional circumstances and those pupils who are late daily/weekly. I hope that by taking the time to explain the situation that parents/carers will see that there are genuine reasons for school tackling poor punctuality and that all parents/carers will ensure that their child is in school on time so that routines can be followed and learning begins promptly.

School Uniform

At Cwmffrwdroer Primary School, we feel that school uniform is **important** to create a sense of belonging and school pride. School uniforms help maintain balance and order among our pupils. **School uniform** can also help to eliminate bullying due to the fact that everyone is dressed the same and children cannot be teased for wearing something unusual or different.

Some children have returned to school wearing brightly coloured trainers. We ask parents/carers for support in following our uniform policy and ensuring children wear black/dark footwear. Trainer type footwear is acceptable. We appreciate your support in this.

Our Uniform and Health and Safety Policies state that Jewellery, apart from stud earrings and watches, is not permitted to be worn by pupils.

PE kits

PE kit should consist of black/dark shorts and a plain white t-shirt.

Some PE lessons take place outdoors. Children can wear joggers and hoodies for outdoor lessons. These should be left in school during the week.

If girls wear tights to school, please ensure they have a pair of socks to put on for PE lessons.

Please label all items of uniform/clothing.

Parental Engagement – Reception Reading Café

Dosbarth Pinc have invited parents/carers to a Reading café on Friday 19th January. This is an informal session where children will share reading activities with you, have an opportunity to talk to staff and enjoy some refreshments.

Parent Teacher Consultations (PTCs)

PTCs will take place on Monday 12th February and Tuesday 13th February. Teachers will send individual appointment times home. It is important that you attend PTCs as teachers will share the levels that your child is working at and how well they are doing in relation to individual targets.

After School Clubs

All clubs will restart next week, commencing January 15th.

Please contact school if there is a reason why your child cannot attend an after school club as otherwise the child will have to stay in school until the end of club.

If two sessions of an after school club are missed without reason, the place will be offered to another child.

National Tests

Please mark the dates of the National Tests in your calendars to avoid absences. Tests will begin on **Thursday 3rd May until Wednesday 9th May.**

Welcome Mr Watkins

Mr Watkins has joined us a teaching assistant in Year 5. He will be working alongside Mr Wharton and Mrs Hirons.

Best wishes for the New Year. I look forward to continuing working together.

S. Truelove
Headteacher

twitter 

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Friends of GREENMEADOW COMMUNITY FARM CWMBRAN

Family Fun Day
Saturday 27th January
11am - 3pm
at Greenmeadow Community Farm, Cwmbran

make & take KIDS CRAFTS
Refreshments
Family Fun
Children's Races
Face-painting
ENTRY BY DONATION