



CHURCH IN WALES
PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have allocated our 6 INSET days for the academic year;

Monday 2nd September 2019
Friday 4th October 2019
Monday 11th May 2020
Friday 26th June 2020
Monday 29th June 2020
Monday 20th July 2020

Please note that we have allocated in such a way to allow our families to take long weekend breaks in May and June. If you are hoping to undertake a break like this next summer then we would please ask that you consider using these weekends so that your children do not have to miss school.



Receive regular updates
and photographs via Class
Dojo



Follow us on Twitter
@PenyfaPrimary

Contact Us

Visit our school website
www.penyfaiciwprimary.co.uk
Telephone
(01656) 815930

Email

admin.penyfai@bridgend.gov.uk



Pen-y-Fai School Newsletter

Be the Best that you can be!

September 2019

Welcome Back

As we enter into, what I am sure will be, a very busy autumn term; I would like to welcome each and every one of our families back to Pen-y-Fai for the 2019/20 academic year. I hope that you all managed to have a fantastic summer break. We are certainly looking forward to the next term and continuing to work hard at ensuring that our school is the 'Best place that it can be'.

Meet the Teacher

As most of you are aware, we normally hold a 'Meet the Teacher' session during the first few weeks of the academic year so that teachers can explain class routines to parents. However, whilst reviewing our systems last year, we decided that the need for these meetings was maybe a little outdated. Instead, each class teacher will ensure that parents have all of the necessary information about PE days, homework and other routines via Class Dojo (A paper copy can be requested at the school office for those who are not able use this service). There will also be an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, early on in the academic year, during the parent consultations. If you feel that it is necessary to speak to someone prior to Parent Consultations then feel free to contact the school office who will be happy to make the necessary arrangements for you.

Year 6 Transition Evening

As you may have heard, there were some complications around the transition of our Year 6 pupils to high school a few years back. We will be undertaking a briefing for parents of our current Year 6 pupils (Year 5 parents are welcome to come along) so that we can provide them with all of the information that we have in order to help with the application process for our current pupils. This meeting will be held in the school hall on Monday 16th September @ 5.30pm for around 15 minutes.



**This half term's right is taken from
Article 28**

Roxy says that;

*"All children have the right to learn
and to go to school"*

**Our Newsletters are written
because Roxy says that;**

"You have the right to information"
(Article 13)

Parent Consultations

These are scheduled for Tuesday 22nd of October and Wednesday 23rd of October between 2.30 and 5.30pm and will provide you with an opportunity to speak to your child's class teacher. Please contact the school office to make an appointment.

Foundation Phase Coffee Morning

This will be held after morning drop off on Friday 22nd November and will be an opportunity to support our School Council's chosen charity for the year. More details to follow.

Education Minister Visit;

We have been fortunate to be selected for a visit from the Welsh Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams. She will be with us a week Wednesday, 18th September, for an hour in the morning.

Pantomime

Advanced notice that we have booked the Porthcawl Panto for all pupils from Reception to Year 6 on December 13th. More details to follow after half term.

Important Dates to Note

16th September – Transition Information for Y6 and 5 parents @5.30pm

18th September – Kirsty Williams Visit

24th September – Individual School Photos

4th October – INSET day 2

8th October – Nasal Flu Vaccinations

11th October – National Choir Workshop

18th October @9.30am – Harvest church service for Year 1 families

22nd and 23rd October – Parent Consultations

25th October – Non-Uniform Day – School Fundraiser

28th October – 1st November – Half Term Holiday

Friday 8th November @9.30am – Remembrance church service for Year 4 families

15th November – Children in Need – Sporty and Sparkly

22nd November – Foundation Phase Coffee Morning at 9.15am

Friday 13th December – Porthcawl Panto

Friday 20th December – Last day of the Autumn Term

Monday 6th January – Spring Term begins

Friday May 8th – Early May bank holiday

Friday May 22nd – Provisional Sports Day

We have created a school diary of events for parents on our website at www.penyfaiciwprimary.co.uk

Use of the lane leading to the school to drop off pupils in the morning;

We would like to remind our parents that vehicle access to the school grounds is for authorised personnel only. We also ask parents to avoid using the lane to the school to drop children off in the mornings. There have been a number of times, since the start of term, where access to the school has been extremely difficult and staff have had to mount the curb or wait whilst cars reverse in a very tight space in order to get into school. This area is heavily trafficked by pupils who are walking to school during this time and we are becoming increasingly concerned that there may be an accident if this continues. We know that the mornings can be a little rushed but request that all parents park respectfully in the area around the school or use the car park in the Pheasant pub.

Class Fundraiser;

Following on from the success of the 'iPad Challenge' last year, we have decided that each class will undertake a sponsored event this half term. Any funds raised will then be allocated to that class as their very own 'Class Budget'. The children, along with the class teacher, will decide how this should be spent in order to improve their own classrooms. Please support this in any way that you are able to.

Clubs Night

We are hoping that our first Clubs Night of the year will be held on Wednesday 25th September. More details will follow separately.

Use of the climbing frame after school

In the interests of health and safety and also the longevity of the climbing frame, we respectfully ask that you attempt to keep children off this at home time.

Improving Attendance;

We are introducing some measures in order to help improve attendance which we would like to make you all aware of as soon as possible;

Every child that achieves 100% attendance for the entire academic year will be entered into a raffle where the winner receives a brand new Google Chrome Book (retails for over £200);

Each child that achieves 100% attendance will receive a £5 gift card;

Each child who achieves over 98% attendance will be entered into a raffle with the chance to win one of five £20 cinema gift cards;

Each month, the class with the best attendance will have their dinner on the 'Top Table' on a Friday;

Each term, each child with 100% attendance will receive a certificate in assembly;

We have allocated our INSET days strategically in order to give families the opportunity for 2 long weekends in the summer term (Friday and the following Monday).

Although we are aware that there are many circumstances where absence from school cannot be helped, we are hopeful that some of these measures may help to make some improvement to the overall attendance figures at the end of the year. The impact of these measures will be closely monitored.

Class Dojo

A polite message to remind all parents and to inform any parents that are new to the school that staff are not able to respond to messages sent via the Class Dojo app. Please also note that, although positive comments on posts are welcome, the comment section should not be used as a two way communication tool to help answer queries. Instead, any questions or comments requiring action should be directed to the school office using the contact details on the first page of this newsletter.

Bags to School

As in previous years, we will be sending out bags in the week commencing 16th September. You may fill bags with unwanted items of clothing and return them to school by Friday, October 4th. The school will receive funds for each bag collected so please use this as an opportunity for a good sort out!

Children in Need

This is on Friday, November 15th this year. Our theme is 'Sporty and Sparkly'. This will provide our pupils and staff with the opportunity to dress up in either theme or a mixture of both! Be as creative as you like! Please bring in donations on the day.

Savings Club

We are trialling a new savings scheme this year which will hopefully begin to teach our pupils some essential skills and help them to appreciate the value of money and benefit of saving money. This has been successfully used in other schools so we thought that we would see if it may be something that our pupils and their families would appreciate. It is a purely voluntary scheme so please look out for more information coming out tonight or tomorrow about how to get started this Friday. Many pupils were very interested when this was explained to them in assembly this week.

Music Lessons

Music Lessons are available for all pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 in a variety of instruments. We are hoping that we can develop our school band over the coming years and would be delighted to hear of many pupils taking up instrumental lessons. Any of our year 3 pupils who wish to continue with group lessons on the 'toots and doods' this term will have 50% of the fee subsidised by the school. Please contact the school office if you are interested.