



# Pen-y-Fai School Newsletter

**Together Everyone Achieves More**

SEPTEMBER 2017

## Welcome Back!

I would like to officially welcome you all back to Pen-y-Fai for the 2017/18 academic year. September has all but disappeared, new relationships and routines are well on their way to being established and it is time to ensure that all members of our school community are kept up to date with all that is going on at that school. I should add, in case there are some parents who are still not connected, that 'Class Dojo' remains our most effective form of communication. Photos and messages are sent directly to your chosen device on a regular basis to ensure that all are kept fully informed. Ask your class teacher for details if you are not connected yet.



**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)**

last year in communicating with parents. We intend, this academic year, to develop a 'Parent Council' so that parents can begin to take a more active role in the decision making process. I hope that our behaviour, anti-bullying and school uniform policies can be reviewed in close collaboration with you as the year goes on

More details about how we aim to establish a Parents Council will follow after half term, but please begin to think about your suitability for participating in such a role. If you are able to think pragmatically and consider the 'big picture' and not purely your own perspective, if you are passionate but also possess the ability to think clearly and detach emotional involvement from the decision making process and if you have an ability problem solve and to focus on how to improve systems in a way that is manageable for all then you are 'right for the job!'. We have lots of parents out there that I have come into contact with during my time here who fit the 'job description' above, so please be prepared to put yourself forward when the time is right. It will not involve a huge time commitment and will be a good experience for those who would like to become future parent governors.

## Our current school value is RESPONSIBILITY

Ask your children about opportunities that they have had to display responsibility. We are encouraging our pupils to be responsible for their own actions and words. Mr White took an assembly to remind children that unkind words can have far reaching consequences and that we need to be responsible for the effect that our words can have on others. We hope that you find the opportunity to reinforce this with your children at some point soon.



Receive regular updates and photographs via Class Dojo

twitter

Follow us on Twitter  
[@PenyfaiPrimary](https://twitter.com/PenyfaiPrimary)

### Contact Us

Visit our school website  
[www.penyfai.walesprimary.co.uk](http://www.penyfai.walesprimary.co.uk)  
Telephone  
(01656) 815930

Email  
[admin.penyfai@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:admin.penyfai@bridgend.gov.uk)



## Whole School Priorities

It was good to welcome many parents to the school earlier this term to explain our whole school priorities for the remainder of this academic year. For those who were not able to attend, our priorities are;

1. To improve pupil independence;
2. To ensure that literacy and numeracy skills are being applied across the curriculum;
3. To ensure challenge for all pupils, particularly the more able;
4. To ensure that marking comments focus on the 'next steps' for pupils;
5. To develop the role of the Governing Body;
6. To implement more effective self-evaluation systems;
7. To continue to embed the Rights Respecting Schools Philosophy across Pen-y-Fai and
8. To ensure that our pupils are equipped to become 'Digitally Competent'.

As well as the above, it is our intention to build on the positive steps that we took

## Important Dates to Note

28<sup>th</sup> September - School Photos

29<sup>th</sup> September – INSET Day

12<sup>th</sup> October – Bishop of Llandaff to visit Pen-y-Fai

19<sup>th</sup> October – FOPS discos (more info to follow)

20<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest service at the church

25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> October - Parents Evenings (please ring or call into the office to make appointment)

27<sup>th</sup> October @ 9am – Foundation Phase coffee morning

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November - Half term dates

16<sup>th</sup> Nov - Movie Night (more info to follow)

17<sup>th</sup> November - Children in need (see information below)

1<sup>st</sup> December – Foundation Phase Nasal Spray Immunisation

8<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Fayre

13<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 2 p.m. - Christmas Concert

14<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 6 p.m. - Christmas concert

15<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Jumper day

18<sup>th</sup> December – FOPS Christmas shopping events

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec - End of Autumn term

8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018 - Start of Spring term

We have created a new school diary of events for parents on our website at [www.penyfaiciwprimary.co.uk](http://www.penyfaiciwprimary.co.uk)

## *Vision and Values*

We are beginning to rewrite our whole school vision, to ensure that it is 'fit for purpose' in this current day and age. We held a whole school 'Vision and Values' day during our first INSET to begin the process with staff and governors. As part of the initial exercise, we all came up with the 7 values that were most important to us from a list of around 100. As you can imagine, there was a great deal of discussion in the room before we settled on the list below. These are the values that we feel, at Pen-y-Fai, are the most important for us to develop in our pupils;

- Respect;
- Independence;
- Perseverance;
- Honesty;
- Compassion;
- Creativity and
- Joy



## *Librarians and Gardeners*

A huge thanks to all those parents and grandparents who have volunteered to help keep the library organised on a regular basis. We are always grateful to those who give up their time to help out.

If you would like to help with the allotment gardens, please telephone the office. Mrs Matthewson will be helping to coordinate our volunteers this term. We have over 200 daffodil bulbs to plant in Pen-y-Fai later this term so appreciate all of the help that we can get.

However, this is just the start of the process. In order to confirm that these values are shared by the entire community, we need your feedback. You will be given the opportunity, during this half term's Parent Consultations, to rank the values above in order of importance to you. You will also be able to suggest any values that are important to you that you don't think are covered by the list above. Following this, we will begin to formulate a whole school vision statement, based on our agreed set of values. I hope that this way, our entire community will feel involved in the setting of our Pen-y-Fai vision. Please begin to give this some thought in readiness for your attendance at Parents' Evening.

## *Charity Coffee Morning*

We will be holding a Charity Coffee Morning in our school hall at 9.15a.m Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October. Our School Council have decided that any monies collected will be given to UNICEF. The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be performing a number of songs. All parents will be most welcome and donations of cakes would be gratefully received.

## *Harvest Service*

Our Harvest Festival will be held in All Saints Church on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Unfortunately we are unable to invite parents because of space within the church. We have decided to support the Bridgend Foodbank again this year and donations on the day for your child to take to church would be gratefully received. For example; tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, tinned fish/meat, coffee (small jars), tinned rice pudding, tinned custard and steamed puddings.

If you do not give permission for your child to attend this service, please inform us in writing. Our nursery children will not attend the church service but will have a service of their own in school.

## Children in Need 2017

On Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> we will be fundraising to support Children in Need. The theme this year is 'Do your thing!' and we will be encouraging children to come dressed up as 'Their thing!', whatever that may be and to bring in a donation. Start thinking and be as creative as you like!

### Shelters

You will have noticed that work is continuing on the shelters at the rear of the school. We are hoping that these will be completed by the end of next week. This way, pupils will be able to have a break time outside, even during inclement weather and, importantly, will have the opportunity to work outside the classroom during lesson times. We are really excited about this important development to our school, much of which has been funded by our excellent Friends of Pen-y-Fai.

### JRSOs

Our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) will out to monitor the parking at key times over the next few weeks after a number of complaints from local residents. Please remember to park responsibly. They will also be monitoring access through the school gates, particularly during breakfast club. I would remind you that access through the gates is for staff and other authorised vehicles only, for the safety of our pupils. Could you also encourage all pupils to keep to the path provided and not to walk across the car park.

### Uniform

A huge thanks for all of your compliance with the reminders about school uniform sent out earlier this year. We are seeing (nearly) all of our pupils in plain black footwear and plain red jumpers or red jumpers with the school logo. Please, where parents have not managed to comply with this expectation yet, could this be rectified the next time that you have to purchase clothing or footwear for school. This way it is much fairer for our entire community.

## Operation Christmas Child

Millions of children around the world are victims of war, poverty, famine and disease. Through a simple gift-filled shoe box, children in our school can help to spread laughter and hope to children living in poverty.

Last year was very successful! The children filled about 48 boxes in school. Also the Women's Institute and a local playgroup brought their boxes to our school. We are hoping to fill as many shoe boxes again. Please note that you **do not** have to fill a complete shoe box. Shoeboxes were in short supply last year, so if you are able to obtain a couple of shoeboxes, wrap them or bring them unwrapped into the school office we would be grateful. If you would like to help cover the boxes in Christmas paper please collect a couple of boxes from the school office (after half term) to take home and cover for us in readiness for the children to fill. We thought it would be easier to request that certain items are brought into school by a particular class.

Please note;

- All items must be new
- All items must be able to fit in a shoe box
- You do not have to spend a lot of money ('Value' items - Wilkinsons, Home Bargains and Poundland are good sources)

If you would like to participate in this project, please bring in your items **no later** than Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. The items we would like to request are (and you can bring as many of them as you wish):

#### NURSERY

Tennis balls (Sports Direct at the Pines!), skipping ropes, wind up torches (no batteries)

#### RECEPTION

Sweets (sell by date to be at least **March 2018**) e.g large tubes or packs of sweets with 4 tubes in a pack - **(no chocolate)**

#### YEAR 1

**Small** cuddly/soft toy or **small** doll (These need to be new)

#### YEAR 2

Dominoes, musical instruments e.g. recorders, harmonicas and small jigsaws.

#### YEAR 3

For the boys: individually wrapped cars/trucks

For the girls: clip on earrings, necklaces, hair accessories etc.

#### YEAR 4

Toothpaste and toothbrushes, wrapped bars of soap and flannels

#### YEAR 5

Packs of felt pens, crayons or coloured pencils

#### YEAR 6

**Small** colouring books, notepads

## Parent Consultations

These will be held in the School Hall on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Please telephone the school office to make an appointment.

## Inset Day

We will be joined by teaching staff from right the way across South Wales for our Big Maths, Outer Numeracy training day this Friday (29<sup>th</sup> September). The school will be closed to all pupils. We are still waiting to confirm our remaining 3 Inset days for this academic year but will keep you informed as soon as we are able to.