

Positive Parent Power

Last term, several governors came to a Coffee Morning organised by the "Friends of the School". We expected to see a dozen or more parents and friends there, so imagine our surprise to see the Hall full of people, being entertained by the youngest pupils on stage. They were singing festive songs ably led by Mrs Lewis, and everyone was delighted by their performance.

Coffee and cakes followed, and a chance to catch up with acquaintances.

We know that the FOPs raise very considerable sums of money for the school, but seeing the hard work done by such a valuable group at first hand was tremendous.

We thank them for their wonderful work, and will endeavour to support their future fund-raising events.

Walking the Walk

The Headteacher invited us to take a "Learning Walk" around the school to sample the experiences of the pupils in different classes.

We travelled from Reception, where the children were "making" dinosaur pizzas (and doing the washing-up) to Year 5 where pupils were independently researching Antarctic conditions such as Scott would have encountered.

We loved the video of the Antarctic landscape, together with the sound of the blizzards playing in the background while the pupils worked independently .

We never had lessons like that in school.

Unfortunately, we also had homework from Mr Street - observation sheets to fill in, and a feed-back session with him at the end.

Please Sir, can we have more "Learning Walks"!

Learning on the Job

Being a Governor is an unusual responsibility, as you only start to train for your job AFTER you have been selected.

So, governors need to get up to speed as quickly as possible by completing a detailed "Induction Course", then "Data Handling" - not for the fainthearted!

Our 3 newest members, Stuart Morris, Robert Green and Peter Lee completed these courses as soon as they became available, and have become valuable and hard-working Parent Governors.

Attending meetings is only part of the job - governors are now required to have much more contact with the children and staff. Visiting school, talking to pupils in the lunch queue, playground or at work in their classes gives a greater insight into "The Pen-y-Fai Way"

School - Church Links

Last term we had the privilege of being the first school to be visited by our new Bishop, Bishop June. Because we are a C-I-W school, some of the governors are Foundation (Church) Governors.

These are:- Rev. Anthony Beer

Mrs Ann Kendall

Mrs Tricia Owen

Mrs Valerie Trimlett

Ann is an accomplished pianist, and visits primary schools in the area, teaching them songs and an appreciation of music.

Tricia runs the Sunday School in church. After the service the children tell us what they have learned - definitely the best part of the service!

Tricia and Val Trimlett are part of "Open the Book". This involves taking assemblies in primary schools to tell Bible Stories in a modern, entertaining, and sometimes unintentionally, funny way.

As Governors, we are committed to extending our involvement with the staff and pupils, and to support and encourage them in any way we can.