



CHURCH IN WALES
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pen-y-Fai School Newsletter

Together Everyone Achieves More

MAY 2017

Our pupils raised an incredible £515 for wateraid by bringing in jars of change. An incredible £1000 has been raised across the benefice.



Our current school value is PERSEVERANCE

Ask your children about opportunities that they have had to keep going when they were tempted to give up because things were getting tough. If you have any good stories to share with us then please let your class teacher know via class dojo. We love to hear about our school values having an impact on our pupil's home lives!



Receive regular updates and photographs via Class Dojo



Follow us on Twitter
@Penyfaiprimary

Contact Us

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

Email
admin.penyfai@bridgend.gov.uk



Staffing

After many years of loyal service to the school, Mr Levers has made the decision to retire in August this year. Mr Levers has been at the heart of much of the work of the school over the last 20 years, including a long stint as SENCO and is going to be an extremely tough act to follow! There will be many opportunities to wish him well over the coming months I'm sure but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him publically on behalf of all the pupils, parents and staff that have been fortunate enough to work with Mr Levers over the years. His honest, hard-working and straight forward approach has been greatly appreciated and I'm sure that all of those evenings spent marking books and planning lessons can now be replaced with something a little more relaxing. Congratulations Mr Levers and we all wish you a very long and extremely happy retirement, you thoroughly deserve it!

We also have to say goodbye to Mrs Hunt after half term this year. Mrs Hunt has spent the last few years delivering art sessions to our pupils whilst teachers have time to plan, prepare and assess (PPA). Many of the fantastic displays that you see around the school are thanks

This half term's right is taken from Article 24

Roxy says that;

"All children have the right to good food and water and to see a doctor if they feel ill"

Our Newsletters are written because Roxy says that;

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

to work undertaken during Mrs Hunt's lessons. We would like to wish Mrs Hunt well as she moves on to some new exciting ventures of her own and thank her for her many hours of commitment to the pupils at our school.

Mrs Turner will also be altering her working pattern with us from September. She will be undertaking a crucial, part time, role within the school to help support some of our pupils with their basic literacy skills. Although Mrs Turner will still be a member of staff here at Pen-y-Fai, she will no longer take direct responsibility for one class of pupils and therefore I feel that is also right to thank her for the many hours of commitment that she has shown to a variety of classes of children over recent years.

We are in the process of recruiting two new members of staff to join the team here and hope to give you notice of these appointments as soon as we are able to.

Important Dates to Note

*Sports Day Wednesday 17th
May @ 1.15pm*

*Whitsun half-term Monday
29th May – Friday 2nd June*

*Last day of this school year –
Friday 21st July*

*1st Inset day - Monday 4th
September*

*First day of the new school
year for children will be –
Tuesday 5th September*

*2nd Inset day Friday 29th
September*

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

Gardeners Required

Do you have time to spare to help maintain the allotment gardens in the school? We are looking for some volunteers to help with groups of children from the school with weeding, digging and general upkeep as well as helping to plant new flowers, fruit and vegetables in the areas provided. No particular expertise is required, just a willingness to help out and give of your time. Any volunteers will be required to complete relevant safeguarding check prior to working with groups of children. If you are interested then please contact the school office to register your interest.

National Testing

As you will be aware, our children have just undergone a series of tests which have been set by the Welsh Assembly Government. We are aware that these assessments can be a stressful experience for some pupils and attempted to ensure that the wellbeing of our pupils was our utmost priority during test periods. Results from these tests will be shared with you when reports are sent out later this

Attendance

Unfortunately, our Attendance levels for this academic year have dropped to 95.2 % which is falling below our target and 3 year averages. Although we appreciate that attendance levels can sometimes be beyond our control we would ask that you help us in the following ways;

- avoid term time holidays,
- schedule appointments (Dentist, doctors, optician etc) outside of school hours,
- arrive to school on time,
- encourage your children to attend school if they are only feeling a little under the weather and;
- keep your children off school for the full recommended period of time when they are ill with contagious infections such as sickness bugs.

We understand that these decisions are not always black and white but ask that you support us as much as

Sports Day

As stated in previous Newsletters, our annual Sports Day is on Wednesday May 17th at 1.15pm. There will be a separate Sports Day for our Nursery pupils during the morning of the same day at 9.15am. Our Friends of Pen-y-Fai will be selling refreshments for parents during the afternoon (we will

year. Please be aware that these assessments form a very small part of what we know about your child and are only an indication of their ability in some areas. What a child is capable of cannot simply be measured during an hour of answering questions under very alien conditions to them. Although these tests were statutory this year, indications from the Welsh Assembly are that they have recognised that these tests are not really fit for purpose and that assessments will take on a very different format next year.



Some Firemen attended our recent reading café to read to our reception pupils

you are able to in this. There is research to show that there is strong correlation between good attendance and academic achievement. Also, attendance levels are one of the measures that those who we are accountable to use as a measure. You will continue to receive regular updates of your child's attendance and the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) attends regularly to review attendance and issue letters to the parents of pupils where non-attendance has become an issue.

be providing our pupils with water) so please come prepared. They will also be selling ice lollies for pupils after sports day. Should we need to cancel due to bad weather, we will endeavour to communicate this as soon as possible via parent mail, twitter and class dojo.

Our School Governors

As you may know, one of the recommendations of our recent Estyn inspection was associated with the school's governing body. We held a workshop for governors at the school a few weeks back and discussed ways of making governors more visible to the school community. We hope that you will see this in action over the coming terms. I thought it may be a good idea to provide a list of our governors just in case you were unaware of who they are;

Kevin Pascoe – Chair of Governors

Kate Gapper – Vice Chair

Patrica Owen – Foundation Governor

Val Trimlett – Foundation Governor

Anne Kendall – Foundation Governor

Reverend Beer – Foundation Governor

Steve Harrett – LA Governor

Julie Carter – Community Governor

Cllr Bryant – Community Governor

Matthew Bater – LA Governor

Stuart Morris – Parent Governor

Lisa Deere – Parent Governor

Peter Lee – Parent Governor

Robert Green – Parent Governor

Jo Fitz-Gerald – Staff Governor

Linzi Price – Staff Governor

Mike Street - Head Teacher

Some of our lunchtime VIPs having their dinner on the top table having been rewarded for keeping our dinner hall tidy and always displaying excellent manners!



BAVO Funding

A huge thanks to our amazing Friends of Pen-y-Fai who have managed to secure £10,000 worth of funding which is to be spent on improving the outdoor provision for all of our pupils. Another huge thanks to the FOPs and our brilliant pupils for helping to raise nearly £900 at our recent Easter craft fair! All of your work is greatly appreciated.

Donating Blood

The Heronston Hotel, Bridgend have their blood donor sessions on Monday 15th May and Monday 5th June between 10.00am and 12.30pm and 14.00pm and 16.20pm. To avoid disappointment it is advisable to pre book an appointment. Walk-in slots will be available on a first come, first served basis.

You can also find a wide variety of holiday clip art and photographs on Microsoft Office Online.

Leavers Service

This is being held on Tuesday 18th July at 10 a.m. in All Saints church. The service will be for our year 6 pupils and their parents and will also be attended by the rest of our Junior school pupils.

1000 Voices concert

Many of our Year 5 and 6 pupils will be joining children from right across South Wales to sing in a choir of 1000 voices. The concert will take place at the Motorpoint arena on Friday 30th June at 7pm. There will be a host of famous faces appearing at the concert alongside our children. If you would like to purchase tickets to watch the performance then they are available on the Motor Point arena website.



Our Year 5 pupils on their recent visit to the Welsh Assembly Government building in Cardiff Bay.