



# Pen-y-Fai School Newsletter

**Together Everyone Achieves More**

JULY 2017

## Thanks

I would like to begin the final newsletter of the year with a note of thanks to the whole community of Pen-y-Fai for the support, kindness and generosity that I have felt over the past year since taking up my new post here. The year has flown by and it feels as though much has been achieved; this is, in no small part, down to the groups of people that work together to make up this wonderful school. Firstly, the children continue to be a delight to work with and a real credit to you all. I am greeted with happy smiling faces on a daily basis and often asked, 'How's your day going Mr Street?' They remain the focus and centre of everything that we try to do here and are such a pleasure to work with.

Secondly, a huge thanks to the amazingly talented teaching, caretaking and office staff here. No task is too much for them and their commitment to raising standards of academic achievement and wellbeing of our pupils is something which I see in action on a daily basis. The value set of the staff here really is something that is unique to this fantastic school and something that I am very proud of.

I would also like to thank our board of governors and particularly our chair of governors, Mr Kevin Pascoe. All have been on hand to support the school through an extremely busy year of Estyn inspection and follow up action planning. Each governor is a volunteer, giving up their time to ensure that the school is doing all that it can to support and challenge each and every one of our fantastic pupils.

And finally, a huge thanks to you all, the parents. I set about my time here by emphasising the fact that ensuring the progress of each child was only to be brought about by a strong partnership between school and home. I also stated my intention to show great empathy with each and every parent at the school and



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

**Article 6**

**Roxy says that;**

*"All children have the right to life and to grow up to be healthy"*

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

*"You have the right to information"*

**(Article 13)**

hope that you feel that this has been the case over the past year, I know I have certainly tried my best! In return, I have encountered a set of parents who have supported the school in every way. Whether it be our amazing Friends of Pen-y-Fai with their continual fundraising or volunteers to help with the school gardens. On a daily basis, PE kit is brought in and homework completed and it is because of this support from our parents that we are able to focus on our main job of educating our children. I have also been very impressed with the empathy that parents have demonstrated towards school staff by respecting our right to a private life when using class dojo and also through the respect displayed towards school staff when we have to respond to more complicated issues involving your fantastic children. I know that our most intense emotions are reserved for any incident involving our children and have really appreciated the way that reasonable discussion is possible even when emotions run high. A huge thanks to every member of this fantastic community for a thoroughly enjoyable and fulfilling first year. I hope for many more to come.

## Our current school value is SERVICE

Ask your children about opportunities that they have had to serve others. We are encouraging our pupils to think about others and to put the needs of others above their own needs. This is such a difficult thing to manage for our pupils, 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



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[@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)



## Important Dates to Note

School Fete Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July  
@2.30pm

Nursery trip to Wiggles  
Farm – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July

Year 6 leavers' concert  
matinee performance –  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July  
@1.30pm

Year 6 leavers' concert  
evening performance –  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July @6.30pm

Year 6 leavers' service at All  
Saints Church – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>  
July @2pm

Last day of this school year –  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

1<sup>st</sup> Inset day - Monday 4<sup>th</sup>  
September

First day of the new school  
year for children will be –  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

2<sup>nd</sup> Inset day Friday 29<sup>th</sup>  
September



Year 5's 1960s party!

## *Next Year's Classes*

We are really excited to announce the arrival of two new excellent teachers to join the team here at Pen-y-Fai. Mrs Hannah Matthewson and Mrs Helen de Celis will take up their posts in September. We were fortunate enough to be able to select from 50 applicants for the posts here which ensured that the whole process was extremely competitive and meant that we were able to select the highest possible calibre of candidate to teach our pupils.

Both have over 10 years' experience, teaching in a variety of different schools and we feel sure that this will enable them to make a valuable contribution to school life here at Pen-y-Fai. I am sure that you will all help us to make them feel welcome and that they are part of our community as soon as possible. Both are leaving schools that they have been a big part of for a number of years to join us here so I'm sure that they will feel a sense of nervous excitement as they embark on the next stage of their careers with us.



Some of our Year 1 and 2 pupils in the allotment gardens during their recent Pirate afternoon.

## *Lost Property*

This will be spread out on tables as you approach the school each morning and afternoon this week. Please help yourself to any items that you require after Thursday, as we will have no use for these items following this date.

We plan to keep the majority of teaching staff in their existing classes next year, meaning that we expect the class structure will look like this;

**Nursery** – Mrs Jones/ Mrs Widdup

**Reception** – Mrs Lewis

**Year 1** – Mrs Thomas

**Year 2** - Mrs Fitz-Gerald

**Year 2/3** – Mrs Matthewson

**Year 4** – Mr Hanif

**Year 5** – Mrs de Celis

**Year 6** – Mr White

**KS2 Literacy Support** – Mrs Turner

Children will move up to spend some time with their new class teachers at some point during the last week of term. This will hopefully assist in the transition process.

There will also be the opportunity for you to meet your child's new teacher in September as we will be holding a 'Meet the Teacher' session where each teacher will provide you with details about how the class will be run over the coming year and provide you with the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have regarding classroom routines.

## *Gardeners*

A big thanks to all those who have been volunteering their time to help in the garden this half term. It is beginning to take shape. We really need as much help as possible to keep it looking so good and therefore appreciate any offers of help that come our way. Please consider helping out if you have any time to spare.

## *Bags to school*

Please can all bags to school donations be brought into school by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July ready for collection on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

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



**More healthy lunch boxes from our KS2 children! Bendigeidig!**

Please remember to include healthy options in your child's lunch boxes. We found loads of really good examples during our recent spot checks!



Roxy showing Sarah Hooke our Year 6 class charter which was then followed by the Year 6 pupils' quite incredible Rights Respecting Rap! She was very impressed!

## School Uniform

A recent review of our school uniform policy revealed that the expectation is that pupils wear black shoes or predominantly black trainers. Upon recent inspection, it became clear that adherence to this policy is extremely inconsistent. Could you all please help to support by ensuring that all pupils apply this aspect of the policy when kitting your children out for September. It seems to make it difficult for parents of children who try to encourage their children to keep to this part of the policy if the whole community do not embrace it consistently. We all know that there are occasions when sending your child into school in black shoes is difficult and we fully understand this. We would however ask that you provide a note or message on class dojo to clarify the situation to your child's class teacher. Should it be unclear to a member of staff why this aspect of the policy has not been adhered to from September then your child may be asked why this is the case or you may be sent a message using class dojo to remind you of the policy. Can I assure that these actions will be undertaken in a non-threatening and non-judgemental manner but just in an attempt to help with consistency. Your support with this would be gratefully appreciated. It is my intention to undertake a full review of the uniform policy, under close consultation with parents in readiness for the academic year 2018/19

## 1000 Voices concert

A huge well done to many of our Year 5 and 6 pupils who participated in this year's concert. They performed superbly well to a sell-out Motorpoint arena in Cardiff and did us all proud. They got to perform alongside some famous faces such as Lee Mead and Paul Zerdin.

## School Reports

Pupil reports will be sent out via pupil post on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July. If you wish to discuss the content of your child's report with your child's class teacher then please telephone the school office where we will make an appointment.

## Rights Respecting Schools

A recent learning walk undertaken by Sarah Hooke (Rights Respecting Schools Lead for Wales) and members of our Governing Body revealed that we are well on our way to achieving our level 1 certificate as a Rights Respecting School, this is expected to be completed later on this month. If this is the case, Pen-y-Fai would be amongst some of the few schools to achieve this award within the timeframe of a single academic year. It appears that many other schools from around Bridgend will be following our 'roadmap' for undertaking this initiative which we hope you feel has impacted positively upon your children. This has all been achieved by the hard work and dedication of Mrs Lewis who has been the lead teacher, along with governors, Patricia Owen and Father Anthony and of course, our incredible school council! A huge 'Well Done!' to all.

## School Fete

Don't forget the school fete is at 2.30pm on Friday.

Please send your donations of Jolly Jars, Tombola Prizes and Raffle prizes by Friday.

The theme this year is Superheroes and Villains, and the children can come into school on Friday in Fancy dress. There will be prizes for the best costumes.

We are also going to be holding the "Great Pen-y-Fai Bake Off" on Friday. If you would like to take part, just send your best Cake or Biscuits into school on Friday morning, the judging will take place during the day, and the winner announced during the fete, where the entries will be available to sample.