



CHURCH IN WALES  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## End of Year Reports

These came out on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July. We have been quite adventurous with our school reports this year and completely changed the format, in line with educational changes across Wales. As parents ourselves, we feel that the information included this year is much more in line with what we would like to know about our own children – we really hope that you agree. The reports are much more focussed on your child as an individual. Please provide feedback via the box at the end of your child's report so we know how we can improve next year.



Receive regular updates and photographs via Class Dojo



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### Contact Us

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

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



# Pen-y-Fai School Newsletter

*Be the Best that you can be!*

July 2018

## Good News All Round!

Having undertaken an extensive programme of school improvement over the past year, it has been fantastic for all staff and governors to receive extremely positive feedback from so many of our interested stakeholders.

### Pupils:

All of our pupils from Year 2-6 participated in a questionnaire about their wellbeing and attitudes to school. The results of these online questionnaires were analysed and compared with the results of thousands of schools in the UK. We were really pleased to find out that our pupils were amongst the happiest pupils to undertake the survey. In fact, Pen-y-Fai didn't appear outside the excellent category (the highest rating possible) for any of the aspects of school that they were surveyed on. Pupils were most pleased with how safe they feel in school and also the fact that they felt very well supported by staff at school.

### Parents:

We were equally pleased to receive excellent feedback from the recent parent questionnaires. 70 were completed (a 30% response) which compared favourably with other schools. Of those, an exceptional 85% gave the top overall rating for the school (within the top 5% of schools surveyed nationally)

An exceptional 71% thought that the school had significantly improved over the last year (within the top 5% of results nationally)

Parents rated the school as highest (excellent) in;

Developing moral values (91%)

School Facilities (90%)

Caring staff (89%)

Computer facilities (86%)

Happiness of child (86%) (Number 1 in our parent's priorities)

Behaviour management and discipline (85%)

Even some of our lowest ratings such as;

- Suitable class sizes and;
- Use of exams and testing;



*This half term's right is taken from  
Article 13*

*Roxy says that;*

*"All children have the right to information"*

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

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

were rated as **green (good)** at 74%

One very pleasing aspect was that the survey brought up no new priorities to work on from a parental perspective.

It was also brilliant to read some of the fantastic comments from parents about the priorities from our previous survey 18 months ago. A large number of parents commented on the excellent communication systems in place and also the outstanding extracurricular provision at the school. We also received overwhelming feedback for how swiftly any issues are dealt with and the caring manner of our staff. A huge thanks to all who participated and for the many positive comments.

### STAFF:

Our staff were also surveyed and nearly all felt that the school had significantly improved over the last year (again, amongst the highest national ratings). No staff felt that the school had gone backwards. Staff strongly felt that there was a common sense of purpose and that they thoroughly enjoyed working at the school. This feedback was followed up by data from the Local Authority, stating that Pen-y-Fai had the

## Important Dates to Note

- 16<sup>th</sup> July – Reports given out
- 17<sup>th</sup> July – Reception trip to Bryngarw Country Park
- 18<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 trip to the X-Factor Auditions in Wembley
- 19<sup>th</sup> July- Low energy day
- 20<sup>th</sup> July – Transition to new classes
- 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Nursery Leavers concert in the school hall @9.15am
- 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers concert in the church @2.30pm (Parents of the current Year 6 class may attend)
- 24<sup>th</sup> July – Last day of the school year.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> September – INSET Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> September – First day of the school year for pupils
- 5<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest service for Year 1 parents @2pm at the church
- 26<sup>th</sup> October – Last day of Autumn 1 half term
- 12<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance service at the church for Year 4 parents @ 2pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> November – INSET day
- 5<sup>th</sup> December – Advent service at the church for Year 5 parents @ 6.30pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> December – Flu Vaccinations for all pupils from Reception to Y6
- 19<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas service at the church for Year 3 parents @6.30pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> December – Last day of term
- 7<sup>th</sup> January – INSET Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> January – First day of the spring term for pupils.

## *Good News All Round cont...*

second lowest rate of staff absence of any school in Bridgend. Staff love coming to work with your wonderful children each and every day.

### Estyn and the Consortium

Since our inspection, 18 months ago, our progress has been monitored by Estyn and the consortium. I am pleased to say that we have recently had written confirmation of outstanding progress from both. Estyn held our practice up as excellent at their recent inspector training and our link advisor from the consortium has sent educationalists from across Wales to view our work which she would like us to share as sector leading. Our systems for communicating with parents and resolving issues have also been shared across Wales in Estyn's latest thematic report, a number of schools have been in touch to find out more about what we do.

### Our commitment to you

Despite so much positive feedback, we want you all to know that we will not be resting on our laurels. We will continue on this journey of self-evaluation and improvement. Very simply, we want to be the very best that we can be in order to enable our pupils to become the best version of themselves. After a period of 7% growth over recent years, the school is now completely full with an increasingly lengthening waiting list of applications. We want each and every one of the families here to be proud of the fact that their child attends this fantastic school and to be able to join together to say that Pen-y-Fai Church in Wales Primary school is, without a doubt, the best school in Wales.

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

## *Important Message from the Governing Body*

Following a number of concerns raised by school staff, governors and parents, we have decided to reiterate the following important message;

School and catering staff cannot be responsible for pupils arriving to breakfast club prior to 8.15am. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that their child is safely signed into breakfast club. We all strongly advise that all pupils are accompanied to the breakfast club door and not left to arrive independently.

Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

### *Teaching Staff Next Year*

There will be some changes to the teaching staff next year. Unfortunately, Mrs deCelis will be moving on to take up a position at another school. I would like to express my gratitude to her for all that she has done to help improve our school over the past year. She has been a fantastic member of staff and will be greatly missed by us all.

Mr Hanif will be coming out of class for a year to help run some maths interventions and to drive PE forward during PPA sessions. He will also be ensuring that we enter many more sporting tournaments to provide as many of our children with the opportunity to shine as possible. We are really excited about this venture. Mrs Turner will be continuing in her role as language support teacher.

Our two new members of staff are, Mr Kalinka and Mrs Gharahlar. Both come highly recommended and we are really excited to welcome them to the team here. The class structure for 2018/19 is as follows;

Nursery – Mrs Jones (reverting back to a job share with Mrs Widdup in October)

Reception – Mrs Lewis

Year 1 – Mrs Thomas

Year 2 – Mrs Gharahlar

Year 3 – Mrs Matthewson

Year 4 – Mr White

Year 5 – Mr Kalinka

Year 6 – Mrs Fitz-Gerald

## *Teaching Staff Next Year continued...*

The pupils will be meeting their new teachers on Friday morning as part of transitioning to the next class. There will also be an opportunity for you to meet your child's new teachers in September at a meet the teacher session.

## *Low energy day...*

We will be attempting to use as little energy as possible during a 'low energy' day this Thursday. As an eco-school, we are hoping to encourage our pupils to choose as many sustainable options as possible. Teachers will be forgoing the photocopier and their interactive whiteboards. We would encourage as many of our children as possible to bring along a packed lunch in order to save energy, although, a 'low energy' option will be provided by the canteen if required – Tuna cheese melts, assorted wraps, savoury pasta, cracker, yoghurts, fruit and ice cream.

## *Church Services...*

We have worked hard with Father Anthony to ensure that all of our classes get the opportunity to lead a church service at some point over the next academic year. You will have noticed that Year 1 (Harvest), Year 4 (Remembrance), Year 5 (Advent) and Year 3 (Christmas) already have the dates published above for you to save, if your child is in these year groups. Reception will lead a Mother's day service and Year 2 an Easter service in spring term (dates will be added to the parent calendar on the website as soon as possible). Finally, our Year 6 pupils will present their leavers service in the summer term. We hope to repeat this programme on an annual basis so that parents get the opportunity to celebrate various services in the church calendar with their children as they move up through the school.

## *School Uniform...*

As you have hopefully heard, there have been some changes to the school uniform policy. If you are unsure of these alterations, please check the policy on our school website or contact the school office to ensure that your child is able to comply fully with the requirements from September.

## *Congratulations...*



We are celebrating the individual successes of some of our pupils during this half term's newsletter. Firstly, the fantastic, Evelyn for completing the winning design in the Bridgend Camera Car competition. Her banner containing her slogan, "The Camera Car is very cool, it keeps us safe outside our school" hangs in pride of place outside our school gate! She was very popular amongst her classmates as they all got the opportunity to meet the Camera Car (aptly named, Roly Patroly). Well done Evelyn.



We would also like to say a huge, 'Well Done!' to our amazing English Speaking Union, public speaking team. The fantastic Grace, Lauren and Josh all did Pen-y-Fai proud as they spoke so eloquently in front of a hall full of people on the subject of renewable energy. The team were marginally beaten into the runner up position by the equally fantastic Ffaldau primary school. A special mention to Grace for scooping the individual prize as best speaker on the night. She had the entire audience eating out of the palm of her hand. Well done also to Lauren for being highly commended in her role as chairperson. We were extremely proud of all who took part.