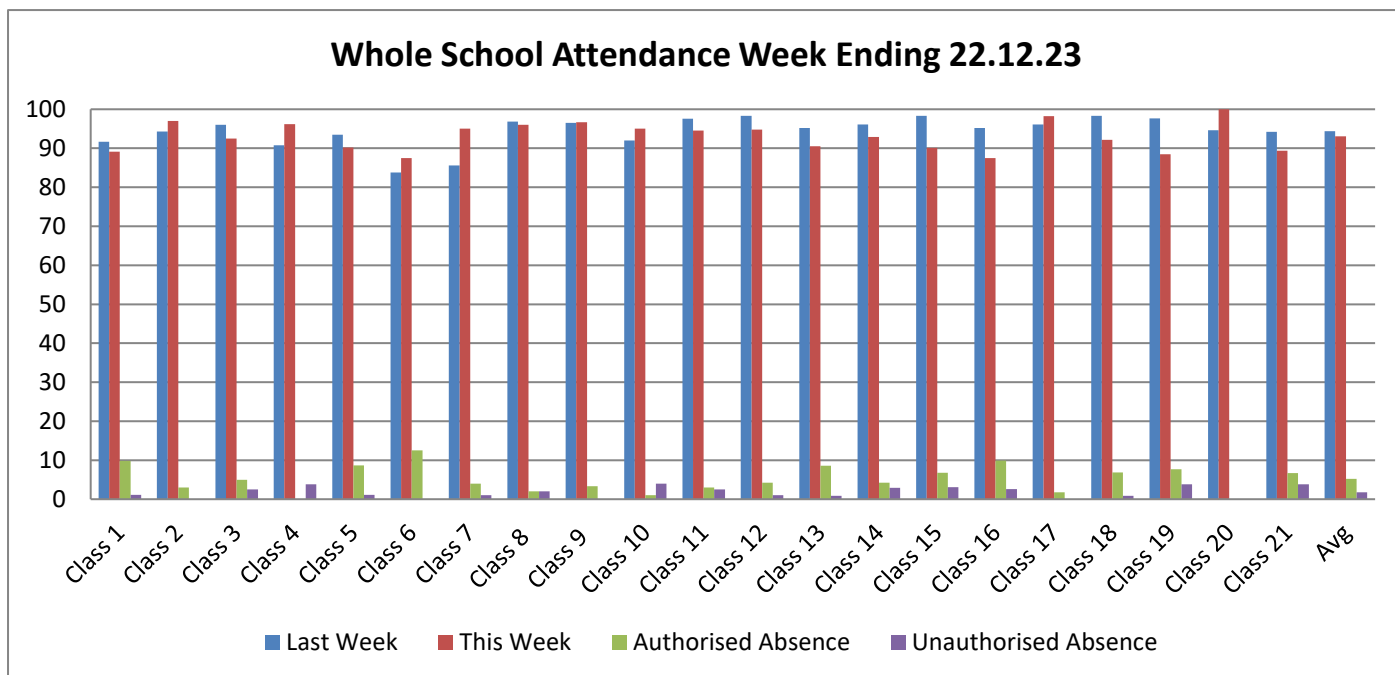




Parent Information Sheet – Thursday 11th January 2024

Attendance



Our target for the academic year is **95.7%**. Look at the graph above to see how your child’s class is performing. The average attendance across the school during the last week of term was 93.04%, this is slightly below our whole school target and a slight decrease on the previous week. Congratulations to Dosbarth 20 who had 100% attendance!

Authorised absences were: **5.20%**

Unauthorised absences were: **1.76%** - Let’s aim to get unauthorised absences to 0% next week. If your child is absent from school, please contact the school office and inform them of the reason.

It is imperative that all absences from school are reported to the school office. This will help to reduce the percentage of unauthorised absences at the school. Failure to report your child’s absence from school could result in a prosecution from the educational welfare officer.

Welcome Back

It has been a pleasure to welcome pupils back to school for the beginning of the spring term. Today we welcomed our youngest pupils into school, our rising 3s.

The children and staff have settled well after the Christmas break and are already hard at work driving up standards. The quality of work being produced in the classes is excellent. I very much hope that 2024 will be a very successful year for everyone associated with our school.

Please remember that the school gates will close at 8:45am each morning. Pupils arriving after this time must be taken to the main school reception and signed in. Please do not ask staff to keep the gates open as this could become a safeguarding issue.

Inclement Weather

Whilst I am hopeful that we will not be affected by snow, it seems as good a time as any to remind parents about our procedures with regards to snow.

The following is provided for clarification for parents:

- The best way to find out if the school is open or closed is to look at the Caerphilly County Council Website – www.caerphilly.gov.uk I can access this from home and will update it when there is some news. Once I have done that, I will put a message on Seesaw and our website www.rhiwsyrdafyddschoo.wales.
- In deciding whether or not to open the school, I will need to take a number of things into account. These include:
 - The number of staff able to get safely to school.
 - The condition of paths and car parking on the school site. Car parking is an issue here as staff cars are likely to add to congestion if parked outside school.
 - The ability to provide food at lunchtime.
 - The condition of Maes Y Garn Road and if it is safe for parents and staff to drive along it.
- As I live in the Oakdale area, in periods of adverse weather, it is my decision, in consultation with Mr Jones, as to whether or not to close the school. I always aim to put the decision on Seesaw, Twitter and Caerphilly Council Website by 6:30am.
- As weather forecasts are not always accurate, the decision to open or close will be made early each morning. However, as I fully recognise the pressure on parents, during longer periods of severe weather I will always try to give an indication the evening before.
- I will only open the school when paths have been cleared on the school site to allow pupils to safely enter and exit the school. Mr Gibbs-Bowen will always clear paths from Maes Y Garn Road to
 - The main entrance, the large hall, to Nursery and to Reception.
 - The entrance to the back of the school will remain closed until the Council has gritted/cleared the public footpath. It is my policy to have fewer paths well gritted and very safe, as opposed to trying to clear all paths and reduce the quality of the clearance.
- Pupils for Breakfast Club are to use the main entrance, pupils for Nursery and Reception are to use their designated entrances and pupils from Y1 to Y6 should follow the cleared path from Maes Y Garn Road to the main hall. If the snow does not clear during the day, then pupils will be dismissed from these same points at the end of the school day.
- Staff can only answer telephones if they can get into school. I am grateful to those staff who struggle into school to answer calls. Please be aware that we have two lines and if only one person is answering the phone, then the second caller will get the answer machine. The use of

Respect Share Determined Passionate Successful

Seesaw and the website should significantly reduce the number of parents who need to telephone the school.

- If heavy snow falls whilst we are open, then a message will be posted on Seesaw to ask parents to collect children and the closure will be listed on the Caerphilly website. In such a case, we would ask parents help in informing as many other parents as possible. Please note that we cannot let anyone collect your child unless you have given us permission to do so. Initially, infant pupils should be collected from their classrooms and junior pupils from the main entrance. As numbers of pupils decrease, the remaining pupils will be taken to the main hall and staff who live furthest away released.
- I will open the school when I have managed all in my power to make the school safe. It is for parents to decide if they can get their child to school safely. If you are unable to get your child here safely, then naturally I would strongly advise that your child remains at home.

School Dinners

Please check with your child that they like the school menu option before they come to school. Next week, we will be on Week 2 of the menu.

Week 2

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Choice 1	Lasagne/Pasta Bake	Minced Beef Pie & Gravy	Sliced Pork & Seasoning Served with Gravy	Chicken Curry	Fish Portion
Choice 2	Margherita Pizza (V)	Ravioli & Cheese (V)	Cottage Pie (V)	Pizza Bagel (V)	Cheese & Potato Pie (V)
Accompaniments	Savoury Herb Diced Potatoes Potato Croquettes Garlic Mushrooms Baked Beans	Parsley Potatoes Mashed Potatoes Carrots Peas	Sage & Thyme Dry Roast Potatoes Boiled Potatoes Broccoli, Carrots, Cauliflower	Rice Potato Croquettes Sweetcorn & Peas Baked Beans	Chipped Potatoes Served with Ketchup Boiled Potatoes Baked Beans Tomatoes
Desserts of the day (fruit available daily)	Yoghurt	Delight & Fruit Juice	Raspberry Mousse Slice	Fruity Flapjack	Chocolate Cookie & Fruit Juice

After School Clubs

Teacher led after school clubs will re-commence next week with the exception of drama club. Letters will be sent home in the near future with the pupils regarding drama club.

Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Year Group</u>
Love-ly Disco	8th February 2024	Year 1 – Year 6
Half-Term	12th – 16th February 2024	Whole School
Eisteddfod	1st March 2024	Whole School
Parent Teacher Consultations	19th & 21st March 2024	Whole School
Easter Holidays	25th March – 5th April 2024	Whole School
Cardiff Bay Trip	18th & 19th April 2024	Year 4
Summer Disco	2nd May 2024	Year 1 – Year 6
May Day Bank Holiday	6th May 2024	Whole School
Half Term	27th – 31st May 2024	Whole School
Nursery Sports Day	11th June 2024	Nursery
Reception Sports Day	12th June 2024	Reception
Year 1 Sports Day	12th June 2024	Year 1
Year 2 Sports Day	12th June 2024	Year 2
Year 3 / 4 Sports Day	13th June 2024	Year 3 / 4
Year 5 / 6 Sports Day	13th June 2024	Year 5 / 6
Rising 3s Sports Day	14th June 2024	Rising 3s
Reserve Sports Day	14th June 2024	
Reserve Sports Day	18th June 2024	
PGL Residential	19th – 21st June 2024	Year 6
Transition Day	26th June 2024	Whole School
School Reports	5th July 2024	Whole School
PTA Summer Fayre	12th July 2024	Whole School
Year 6 Leavers' Evening	16th July 2024	Year 6

Mr C George
Headteacher

Mr G Jones
Chair of School Governors