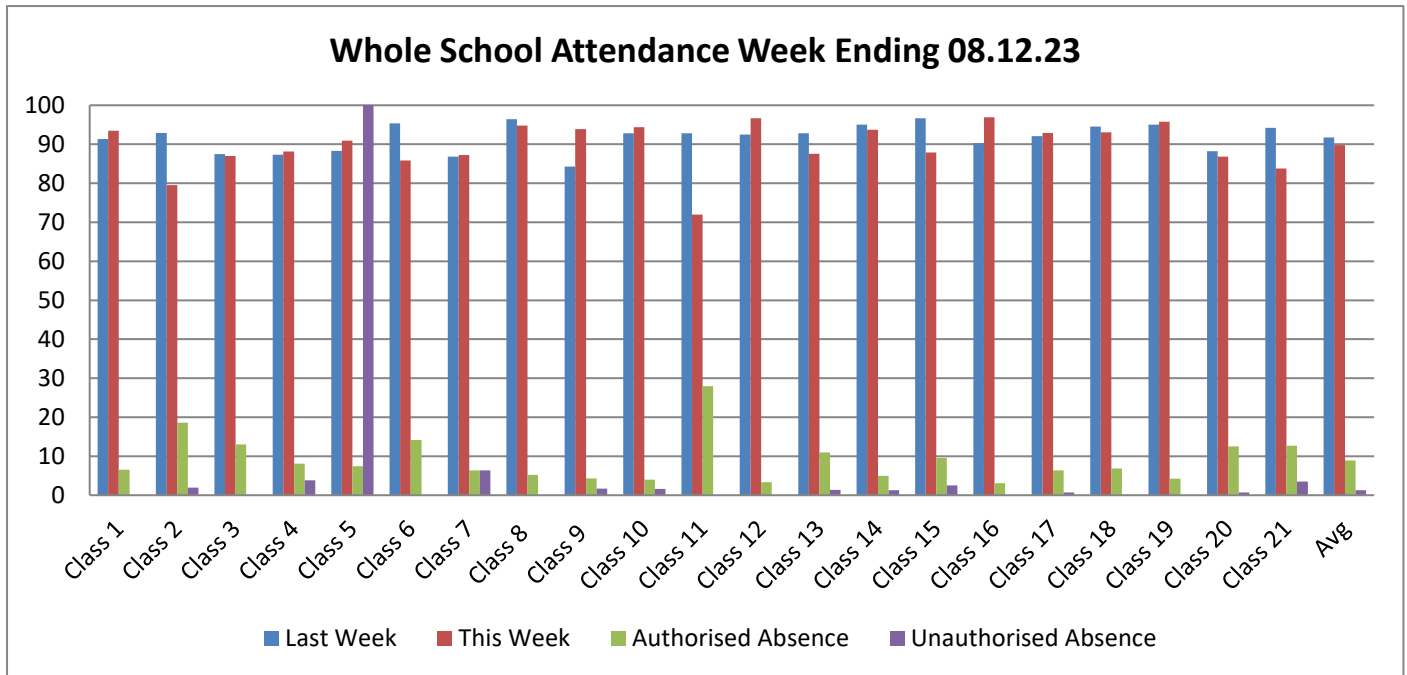




Parent Information Sheet – Thursday 14th December 2023

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 last week was **89.80%**, this is below our whole school target and a slight decrease on the previous week.

Authorised absences last week were: **8.90%**

Unauthorised absences last week were: **1.30%** - 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.

Friends of Rhiw Syr Dafydd

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to an amazing group of volunteers who work tirelessly to raise money for the children in our school. Last week, the Christmas Fayre raised over £2500, all of which goes back to the pupils. The amount of work that goes into organising such an event is incredible.

Christmas Dinner

We will be having our Christmas Dinner in school tomorrow. Once again, this year, pupils may bring a small Christmas cracker which they can pull with a friend in the hall. We will have a small supply of crackers for anyone who is unable to bring one.



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Christmas Parties

The Christmas parties will all take place next week. On their party day, children may wear party clothes to school if they wish.

Monday 18th December: Year 1 Party

Tuesday 19th December: Nursery, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 Parties

Wednesday 20th December: Reception Party

Thursday 21st December: Year 3 and Year 4 Parties

NESTA

I know that many of you will have sampled food that the children have in school during the Christmas Fayre last week. Please see information at the end of the newsletter regarding the NESTA project and how to opt in or out.

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 1 of the menu.

Week 1

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Choice 1	Southern Fried Chicken Goujons	Beef Bolognaise with Garlic Bread	Chicken Breast Served with Gravy	Sausage	Jumbo Fish Finger or Salmon Fishcake
Choice 2	Ravioli with Cheese (V)	Margherita Pizza (V)	Quorn Sausage (V)	Meat Free Meatballs in Tomato & Basil Sauce (V)	Fruity Vegetable Curry (V)
Accompaniments	Chipped/Mashed Potatoes Sweetcorn Peas	Spaghetti Non Fried Herby Potato Bites Peas Baked Beans	Sage & Thyme Roast Potatoes Boiled/Mashed Potatoes, Swede, Cabbage, Carrots	Mashed Potatoes Pasta Peas Baked Beans	Smiley Faces with Ketchup Rice Sweetcorn Peas
Desserts of the day (fruit available daily)	Yoghurt	Flapjack & Fruit Juice	Jelly	Yoghurt	Citrus Oat Cookie & Fruit Juice

Reception Applications

Applications for admission to Reception classes in September 2024 are now open. Even if your child already attends our Nursery setting, you must still apply for a place in Reception by 15th December 2023. Failure to apply by this date may result in your child not being allocated a place.

Dates

IMPORTANT CHRISTMAS CONCERTS:

15th December: Year 2: 9:15am (Class 9 & Class 8 Girls)

18th December: Year 5/6: 18:00pm

19th December: Year 3/4: 18:00pm

20th December: Year 3/4: 13:30pm
Year 5/6: 18:00pm

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Year Group</u>
Year 2 Christmas Concerts	15th December	Year 2
Christmas Dinner	15th December	Reception – Year 6
Year 3 / 4 Christmas Concerts	19th & 20th December	Year 3 / 4
Year 5 / 6 Christmas Concerts	18th & 20th December	Year 5 / 6
INSET Day	22nd December	Whole School
Christmas Holidays	25th December – 5th January	Whole School
INSET Day	8th January 2024	Whole School
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

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School Reports	5th July 2024	Whole School
PTA Summer Fayre	12th July 2024	Whole School
Year 6 Leavers' Evening	16th July 2024	Year 6

NESTA Project

January 2024 is School Meals - Count Me in Month

Monday 8 January - Friday 02 February

We are thrilled to share some exciting news. January 2023 is School Meals - Count Me in Month at Rhiw Syr Dafydd

What are School Meals - Count Me in Month and why is it being run?

Wales leads the UK in rolling out free school lunches to all primary school children, and this now includes every student at Rhiw Syr Dafydd. From Monday 8 January to Friday 02 February, we are partnering with Caerphilly County Borough Council and Nesta, a charity which supports new ideas that improve people's lives, to encourage all our pupils to enjoy their free school meals every day. We believe this initiative could make a positive impact on our children's wellbeing and education, as well as saving families time and money.

We are part of a group of schools in Caerphilly taking part in School Meals - Count Me in Month. There are plans to expand this month to other parts of Wales, so your participation in this research can benefit all children in Wales.

What do I need to do?

We will assume that your child is participating in this initiative and eating a school meal every day from Monday 08 January to Friday 02 February, unless you tell us otherwise.

We really encourage your child to participate if at all possible. However, if you would prefer to opt out, please complete the online opt out form which can be accessed using the following link, bit.ly/3QIyDKg

As school meals are free for all children at Rhiw Syr Dafydd there will be no cost and your child will be automatically registered.

While we understand that some children may have concerns about trying new foods or prefer packed lunches, research suggests that when we collectively embrace new experiences, it can make a positive difference. Each day there are three menu choices and your child will be able to choose their preferred meal.

If your child has unique dietary needs we are not aware of yet, please inform Caerphilly CBC - Special Diet Request by Friday December 15th by emailing catering@caerphilly.gov.uk or by calling the

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catering office at 01443 864055.

We will explain the initiative to the children during a special assembly. Your support in discussing this with your children and reassuring them that it's only for one month and that everyone is taking part would be greatly appreciated.

Again, if you would like your child to opt out, please complete the opt out form which is accessible via this link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vGg9WstLkaRgSm0tCsxTegQsbuaDW5Jo3xJlpKY74ZUREVWMUQxMzBTSjhXWEE5NDRGMTIPMDU5SC4u>

Since this is a research project, Nesta will collect feedback from families at the end through a parent survey and small group interviews. Keep an eye out for further information on this, as your feedback will be invaluable.

Thank you for your support and participation in this exciting initiative.

Mr C George
Headteacher

Mr G Jones
Chair of School Governors