



Parent Information Sheet – Thursday 5th September 2019

Welcome Back – Croeso Noll

It's been a privilege to welcome everyone for the start of the new academic year. The children and staff have settled quickly and have already begun to work hard to further improve their standards. There are a number of exciting topics planned to inspire the pupils this academic year.

Our Caretaker, Mr Gibbs-Bowen and our team of cleaners worked hard to ensure that our school was ready for the pupils' return. My thanks to them. I am also grateful to the staff who gave up part of their holiday to ensure that the school was ready for the pupils.

With children moving to new departments, I thought it timely to remind parents of the details of our senior leadership team, SLT.

SLT

Mr George	Headteacher
Mr Mills	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Arnold	Foundation Phase Leader
Mrs Robins	ALNCo
Miss Boyland	Key Stage 2 Leader

Subject Team Leaders

Mrs Griffin	Early Professional Development
Mrs Woolley	Welsh
Mrs Long	Literacy
Mr Gilmour	DCF (Digital Competency & ICT)
Mrs Cook	MAT (More Able & Talented)

If you have any queries relating to a particular subject then in the first instance you should make an appointment to see one of the subject team leaders above. They will be able to advise you on areas of their subject.

As we begin a new school we say farewell to Mrs Prew. Mrs Prew has worked at Rhiw Syr Dafydd for a number of years and has supported many children over this time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work over the years and to wish her well in her new venture. Good Luck Mrs Prew!

Pupil Information

Your child should have brought home a Data Collection sheet which outlines the information we hold on our system. It is imperative that this information is kept up to date and we would be grateful if you could please check the sheet carefully, making any amendments necessary, sign, and return it to school as soon as possible. Please return the sheet whether there are amendments or not.

We have also sent home a 'taste testing' letter and a 'walk to the village' letter. We would be grateful if you could please sign both slips, ensuring you fill out the slips in full, and return them to school at your earliest convenience. Having these permissions on file reduces the amount of paperwork we need to send home, and also avoids the difficulty of forgotten permission slips which can result in pupils not being able to take part.

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Road Safety

I have done all that I can to significantly improve safety for pupils at the start of each school day.

- Pupils for Breakfast Club should arrive between 7:50am and 8:20am.
- The first part of our car park has been opened to allow parents to safely 'drop off' their children.
- Myself or another member of the senior leadership team are on the playground from **8:20am** each morning so that pupils can be dropped off and not kept waiting in the street until 8:35am. On a wet day, a member of staff is in the large hall and supervises the pupils there.
- From **8.35am** staff are on the playground to supervise pupils. On a wet day the staff are in their classrooms.

It is important that once parents drop their child at school, they clear both the parking spaces and the entrance to the school. If parents stand in front of the gate, pupils need to push between adults unknown to them to get into school. Worse, on occasions they need to walk onto the road to gain access to the entrance. By working together we can ensure the safety of our pupils. I look forward to your support with this.

Twitter

Don't forget, we are on Twitter! By following **@rhivsydda.fydd** you will receive additional information. I have asked each class teacher to send their Twitter address home so that you are able to follow them and keep up to date with the work being undertaken in class.

SeeSaw

A reminder that we have been using the SeeSaw app as an excellent way to show work that is being done by pupils in school. If you haven't already signed up for this free app I would encourage you to do so. I have asked teachers to ensure that one piece of work a week is put onto SeeSaw for each pupil. I appreciate that parents may wish to see more but it must be manageable for the staff in the classrooms.

Dates

Please see the attached dates for the autumn term. These will be updated as the term progresses so please check the school website regularly. www.rhivsydda.fyddschoool.wales

Reminder

As this is the first newsletter of the academic year I wanted to send home a hard copy. However, a reminder that all school newsletters can be found on our school website. Hard copies can be obtained from the school office.

Food Bank

The current economic climate makes it extremely difficult for many families. As a school we want to do all that we can to help. We are collecting items for the local food bank in Blackwood. If you would like to donate any items please send them into school with your child or bring them to the main reception. Your support with this is greatly appreciated. In the past four years we have already donated over 8 tonnes of food!

Coffee Morning

We will be holding a coffee morning for parents on Wednesday 18th September at 9:15am in the infant hall. The coffee morning is an opportunity for parents to come into school to talk about matters which are important to them in an informal and relaxed way. It is hoped that the coffee morning will run every Wednesday with the ultimate aim of parents running the morning themselves in the future. In the first instance, a small team of school staff will be on hand to run the event. I very much hope that you will be able to join us for a coffee, cake and a chat!

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Attendance Matters

As many parents will be aware, the school employs Mr Hampshire as a 'Family Liaison Officer'. This role is very much designed to support pupils and parents, especially around matters such as attendance. If you are experiencing any issues with your child attending school then you should make an appointment to meet with Mr Hampshire. I have asked Mr Hampshire to monitor the number of pupils who are arriving late for school. He will be on the path outside the main reception three days a week talking to parents and pupils who are late for school.

Our attendance for the last academic year was above 95% for the fifth year running. Whilst this is good, we can always do better. With your support I would like to aim for a target of 96% for the year. Pupils only have 190 school days each academic year. Each is precious and contributes to the education of the child. We can't raise literacy and numeracy standards if the children are not here.

Thank you for your continued support.

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Date	Event
Wednesday 16 th & Thursday 17 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flu Immunisations (Reception – Year 6)
Tuesday 22 nd & Thursday 24 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PTCs (Parent Teacher Consultations)
Friday 25 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Harvest Festival (Food Bank Donations)
Monday 28 th – Friday 1 st November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Half Term
Friday 15 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children in Need
Friday 6 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christmas Fayre
Monday 9 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nursery Sing-a-long & Workshop (am) 9:15am ▪ Reception Songs & Workshop 10:30am ▪ Nursery Sing-a-long & Workshop (pm) 13:15pm
Tuesday 10 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reception Songs & Workshop 9:15am ▪ Year 1 Concert 10:30am
Wednesday 11 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 2 Concert 9:15am ▪ Year 1 Concert 10:30am ▪ Year 3 & 4 Pantomime Newport
Thursday 12 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 2 Concert 9:15am
Friday 13 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 16 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 3 & 4 Concert 13:30pm ▪ Year 5 & 6 Concert 18:00pm ▪ Reception Party
Tuesday 17 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 5 & 6 Concert 13:30pm ▪ Year 3 & 4 Concert 18:00pm ▪ Year 1 Party ▪ Nursery Party
Wednesday 18 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 3 & 4 Concert 13:30pm ▪ Year 5 & 6 Concert 18:00pm ▪ Foundation Phase Pantomime Blackwood ▪ Year 2 Party
Thursday 19 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 5 & 6 Pantomime Newport ▪ Year 3 & 4 Party
Friday 20 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 5 & 6 Party ▪ Last Day of Term
Monday 6 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ INSET Day - School Closed to Pupils
Tuesday 11 th & Thursday 13 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PTCs
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Half Term
Friday 6 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Eisteddfod
Friday 3 rd April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Easter Service ▪ Last Day of Term
Monday 6 th – Friday 17 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Easter Holidays
Monday 27 th & Tuesday 28 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 4 URDD Residential
Thursday 7 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ VE Day Celebrations (Pupil to Dress Up)
Friday 8 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bank Holiday – School Closed
Wednesday 24 th – Friday 26 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 6 PGL Residential
Thursday 9 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Friday 17 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Last Day of Term