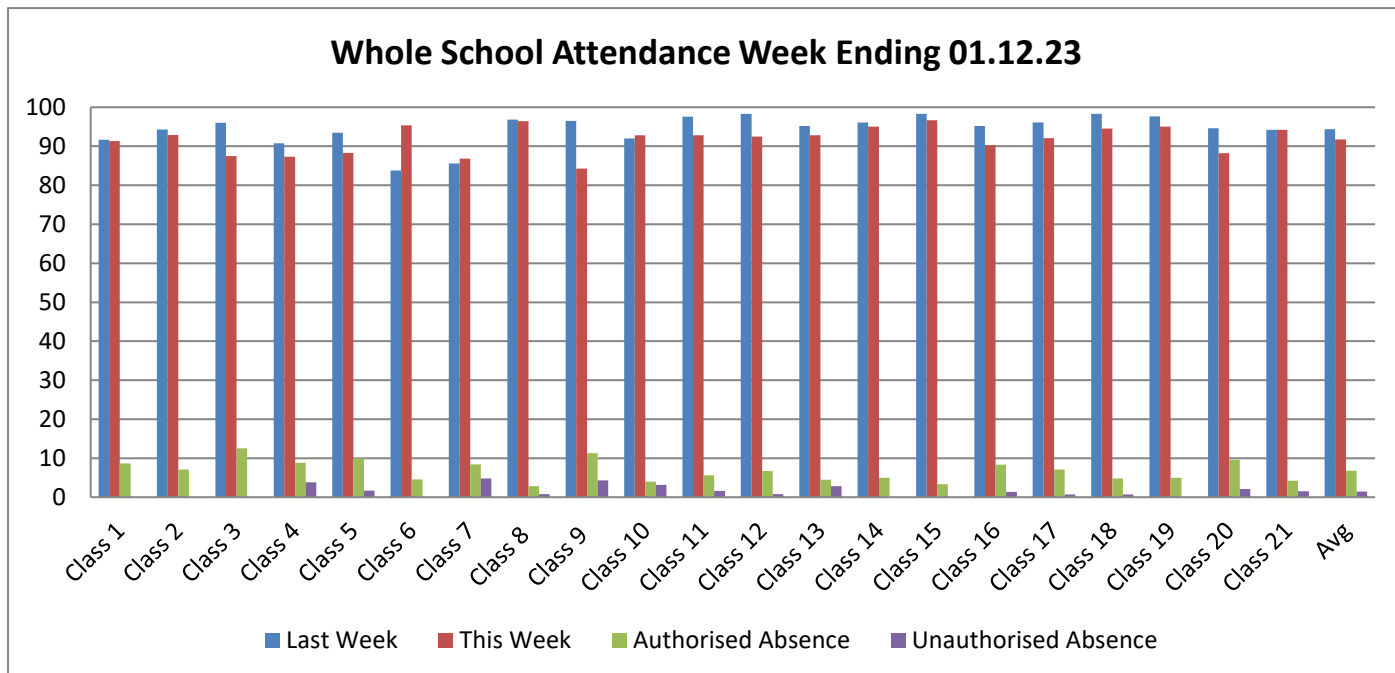




Parent Information Sheet – Friday 8th December 2023

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 **91.77%**, this is slightly below our whole school target and a slight decrease on the previous week.

Authorised absences last week were: **4.50%**

Unauthorised absences last week were: **1.44%** - 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.

NESTA

Please see an important letter at the end of this parent information sheet from NESTA.

Flu Walk-in Clinics

If your child still requires their nasal flu vaccine this winter, the School Nursing Service will be running walk-in clinics on the following dates:

TUESDAY 12TH DECEMBER, 14:45-18:00

Beaumont House Clinic, Bloomfield Rd, Blackwood, NP12 1QB

WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER, 14:45 - 18:00

Ebbw Vale General Offices (vaccination centre), Steel Works Road, Ebbw Vales NP23 8UW

Whats App

I am receiving an increasing number of complaints from pupils and parents about the communication app WhatsApp. Please see an information poster below to support you:

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

UK AND EUROPE 16+ REST OF THE WORLD

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS
Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CLICK HERE

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.03.2022

Playworks Free Event

Playworks Oakdale after school club in conjunction with The Meadows Farm Village would like to offer your child a free entry ticket to our Lights After Dark Event on Friday 8th, Sunday 10th, Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th, Friday 15th, Monday 18th or Tuesday 19th December.

- 1) Please click on this link to complete the form below for your child's ticket <https://forms.gle/82JGo9kXujnDqwLK8>
- 2) Please go to the link below to book tickets for the rest of your group attending. Each person needs to have their own ticket and the free child offer only applies to a child currently attending Rhiw Syr Dafydd <https://themeadowsfarmvillage.co.uk/book-your-visit/>

This winter season visit is to enjoy a themed lights event throughout the grounds. Their event includes lots of animals to see, 3 twinkly pro light tunnels and 1 twinkly pro lit tree. At an extra cost, there is an option to see Santa and receive a soft toy. Our Coffee Shop will be open serving hot food, snacks and drinks. Entry to the event is from 4:40pm each day and we close at 8:30pm. Your entry time will be the time you select when you book your extra tickets using the link below.

Christmas Dinner

We will be having our Christmas Dinner in school on Friday 15th December. 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.



Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will take place today, Friday 8th December at 3:15pm. Please note, access to school will not be granted before this time for safeguarding reasons.

There will be lots of stalls selling Christmas items and many Christmas themed games to play. Traditional turkey rolls will be available and a special guest appearance from the Real Santa Claus. Make sure you get your tickets early to see Santa!



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 3 of the menu.

**** Please be aware there will be a change to the advertised menu. On Wednesday, the Friday menu will be served i.e. Sea Stars or Cheese Panini and on Friday Christmas dinner will be served.***

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Week 3

Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Choice 1	Sausage	Meatballs	Sliced Beef & Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy	Cottage Pie	Sea Stars or Salmon Fishcake Served with Fruity Curry Sauce
Choice 2	Macaroni Cheese (V)	Tomato & Lentil Pasta Bake (V)	Sausage (V)	Margherita Pizza (V)	Cheese Panini (V)
Accompaniments	Chipped Potatoes Garlic Bread Baked Beans Broccoli Spinach	Potato Swirls Whole-wheat Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce Potato Croquette Peas, Sweetcorn	Oven Baked Crispy Roast Potatoes/Mashed Potatoes Cabbage, Carrots, Peas	Mashed Potatoes Non Fried Herby Potato Bites Carrots Coleslaw	Chipped Potatoes Served with Ketchup Savoury Wedges Baked Beans, Peas, Side Salad
Desserts of the day (fruit available daily)	Yoghurt	Artic Roll & Fruit Juice	Yoghurt	Caramel Apple Crumble & Ice Cream	Honey & Lemon 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:

12th December: Reception: 9:15am (Class 1 & Class 2 Boys)
Nursery AM: 10:30am
Nursery PM: 13:30pm

13th December: Reception: 9:15am (Class 3 & Class 2 Girls)
Year 1: 10:30am (Class 4 & Class 5 Girls)

14th December: Year 1: 9:15am (Class 6 & Class 5 Boys)
Year 2: 10:30am (Class 7 & Class 8 Boys)

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

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<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Year Group</u>
Christmas Fayre	8th December	Whole School (PTA)
Nursery Christmas Concerts	12th December	Nursery
Reception Christmas Concerts	12th & 13th December	Reception
Year 1 Christmas Concerts	13th & 14th December	Year 1
Year 2 Christmas Concerts	14th & 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
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 is 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 well-being 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 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:**

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<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vGg9Ws->

[tLkaRgSm0tCsxTegQsbuaDW5Jo3xJlpKY74ZUREVWMUQxMzBTSjhXWEE5NDRGMTIPMDU5SC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vGg9Ws-tLkaRgSm0tCsxTegQsbuaDW5Jo3xJlpKY74ZUREVWMUQxMzBTSjhXWEE5NDRGMTIPMDU5SC4u)

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