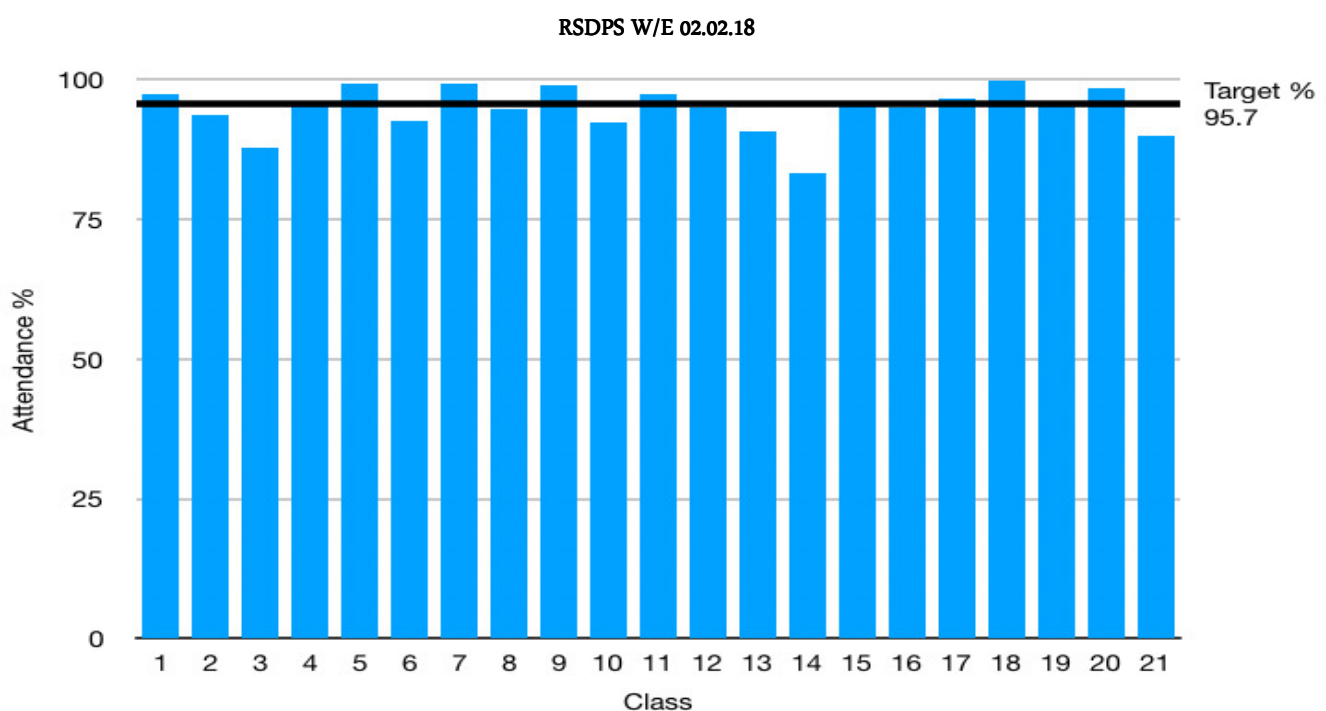




Parent Information Sheet – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**Attendance**

Our whole school target for the year is 95.7% attendance. This was a much better week with a number of classes much closer to our whole school target. Congratulations to class 18 who had 100% attendance for the second week running!



**PTCs**

Parent Teacher Consultations will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February. You should have received a separate letter from your child’s class teacher to book an appointment. If you have not received this letter please contact the school office.

Please make every effort to attend the PTCs. It is imperative that we work together to ensure the best possible standards for our pupils.

**Questionnaire**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaire. The results have been analysed and plans put in place to address some of the issues identified.

**New Wales Curriculum**

Many of you will be aware that the Welsh Government are currently in the process of developing a new school curriculum. I am delighted that we are involved in this process through our work as a professional learning pioneer school. A final version of the new curriculum will be ready in January 2020 and will be used throughout Wales in 2022. On the reverse of this newsletter is an information sheet about the new curriculum. You will notice that subjects have been replaced by six areas of learning and experience and that Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competence are skills which are to be developed across the curriculum. The curriculum is underpinned by the four purposes:

- **Ambitious, Capable Learners**
- **Ethical, Informed Citizens**
- **Healthy, Confident Individuals**
- **Enterprising, Creative Contributors**

Throughout the summer term we will be looking at ways of introducing elements of the new curriculum. I'm sure this will be an exciting time for the pupils as they will be involved in deciding what they are taught within classes. Further information regarding this will be sent out prior to the Easter break.

### **Half Term**

Please be aware that school closes to pupils on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and reopens on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February. There will be a homework task set for the half-term break which will be related to the school and Urdd Eisteddfod. Further information regarding this can be found on the bottom of this newsletter.

### **PTA Disco**

A reminder that the PTA will hold their Valentine Disco's on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Both will take place in the main hall.

Years One and Two should be brought to the main entrance of the school for a 4pm start. To speed up entry we will have two tables set up – one for Year 1 pupils and one for Year 2 pupils. Please make your way to the relevant table. At the end of the disco pupils should be collected from their classrooms, as you would usually do at the end of the school day. Entrance costs £1.50 and this includes a drink, crisps and sweets.

Junior pupils should be brought to the Y5/Y6 entrance for a 5pm start. Entrance costs £1. Hotdogs (£1), sweets, drinks, crisps and tattoos will be on sale! To collect the children, please come to the main hall at 6:15pm via the Y5/Y6 entrance.

Please note that all pupils must be collected. No pupil will be allowed to walk home from school alone following the disco. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Parent Information Sheet – St David's Day**

To help our children celebrate Welsh heritage, this year again we will be holding a number of whole school competitions. Each competition will be judged on a class by class basis and points awarded as follows:

Points: 1 for entering  
3 for highly commended  
5 for third place  
7 for second place  
10 for first place



**Respect**

**Share**

**Determined**

**Passionate**

**Successful**

There will be a competition in each of the following areas:

- Art
- Poetry
- Handwriting
- Singing
- Home/School Project – Optional

Most competition entries will be completed in school but, since I would hate for parents to miss out on all the fun, there is an optional competition that the children are invited to complete at home. This year, for the first time ever, we will be using the Home/School entries to enter the Urdd Eisteddfod. This is a highly successful and popular competition for Primary and Secondary schools in Wales and we will be competing against all other schools firstly from our region, then across the whole of Wales if we are successful. Winning entries will be displayed in Blackwood at an exhibition and then in Brecon in their Art Gallery during the Urdd Eisteddfod held in Brecon during Whitsun half term. The competition tasks are the same for all pupils from Nursery to Year 6, but will be judged in the Urdd Eisteddfod fairly in year groups (therefore a Year 6 pupil will not be competing against a Year 2 pupil etc).

The children are asked to use their creative talents to enter **ANY** of the following tasks; they may also enter **more than 1 task if they wish**. All competition entries must be based on the theme **Welsh Myths and Fables**.

1. 2D Drawing – Work based on the theme using one or more of the following materials – paint, pencil, crayon, pastel or ink. It must not exceed 760x560mm.
2. 2D Creative Work – Work based on the theme using a combination of mediums eg collage, tiles, mosaic etc. It must not exceed 760x560mm.
3. Computer Graphics – Original work based on the theme, created on computer and printed on photo paper. It is NOT permitted to use clip art or any similar images. It must not exceed 760x560mm.
4. Photography and Computer Graphics – A combination of photography and computer graphics based on the theme by using a scanner and digital camera to create one finished article in A4 size. (The original photo must be included with the work) and printed on standard photo paper.
5. Photography – One print based on the theme in either black and white, or colour.
6. Photography – A series of 4 prints based on the theme. Either all 4 in black and white, or all 4 in colour.
7. 2D Creative Work Textiles – Creative work based on the theme in any medium or a combination of mediums using a variety of techniques (e.g. knitting, sewing, crocheted etc). It must not exceed 760x560mm.
8. Puppet – One puppet of any variety based on the theme (e.g. finger, hand, string, wood). All string puppets must be presented in a suitable frame. The dimensions of the puppet should not exceed 500mm x 500mm x 500mm.
9. 3D Creative Work – Freestanding work based on the theme in any medium or combination of mediums. The size of each item must not exceed 1000 x 1000 x 1000mm and weigh 7kg or less.

It is intended to be fun, as opposed to a serious competition. I very much hope that parents will support their child and our school in this project. I look forward to seeing the results and hope to put as many on display as possible, so as to make St David's Day special at our school. **Please send the entries to school by 9am on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February so that they can be judged in time for certificates to be made and points collected.**

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March, we will hold our Eisteddfod. This Eisteddfod will be made up of the awarding of certificates to the first, second and third in each competition and the winners of each singing and poetry competition will perform. In addition, other groups such as our choir, drama and Welsh dancers will perform. After each presentation the ongoing totals for each House will be given. The winning House will then be presented with our St David's Day trophy at the end of the afternoon and we will all sing our National Anthem. We will also crown our Bard i.e. the Y6 pupil who has written the best poem.

It should be quite a day. My only regret is that we are unable to fit parents into our halls to share in the event. All children are invited to wear clothing with a Welsh theme on the day. Again, I will leave how you interpret this to your imagination!

**Respect**

**Share**

**Determined**

**Passionate**

**Successful**