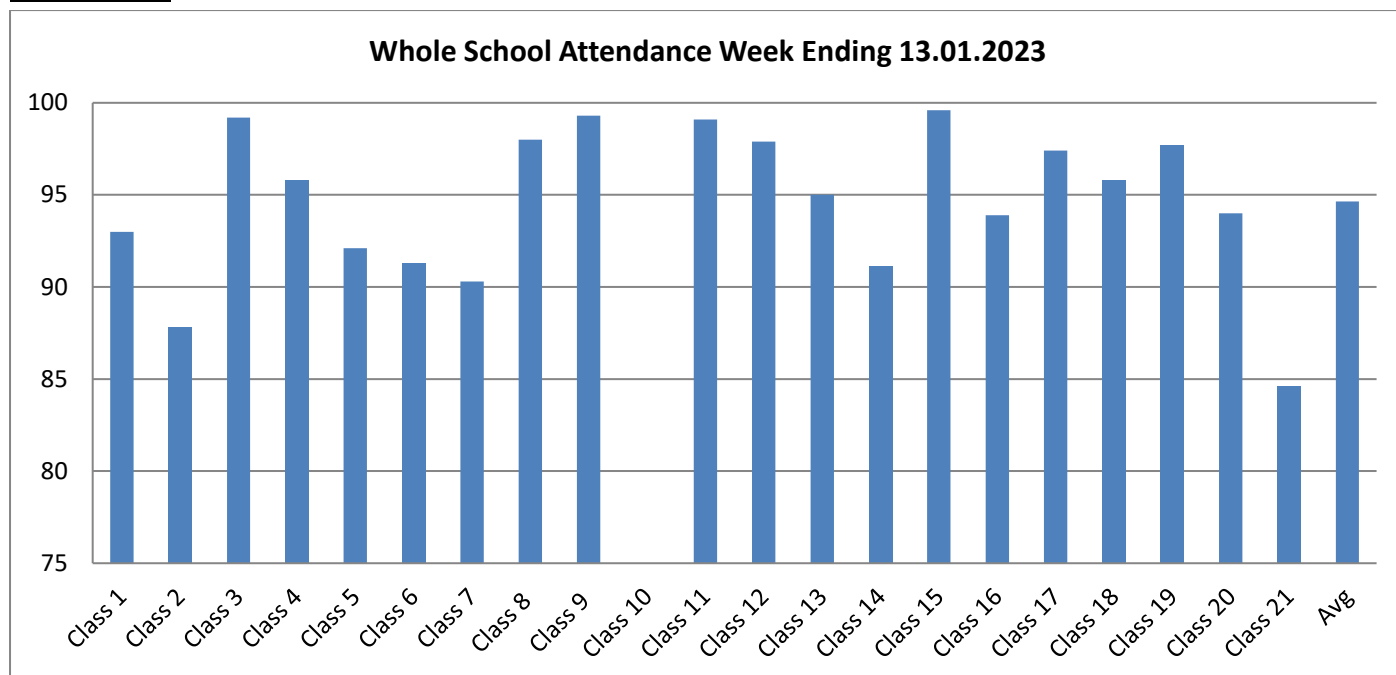




Parent Information Sheet – Thursday 19th January 2023

Attendance



Our target for the academic year is **95.7%**. Look at the graph above to see how your child's class is performing. Our average attendance the week was **94.6%** which is a significant increase on the previous week but slightly below our whole school target of **95.7%**. Well done everyone!

Prime Energy Drinks

I have been made aware that an increasing number of children are bringing energy drinks to school. Under no circumstances should energy drinks be brought to school as these are not suitable for children to drink. Retailers should not sell energy drinks to children who are under the age of 16.

Football Cards

A number of children are bringing football cards to school to trade. Over recent weeks, this has caused a number of issues with some children becoming upset once they have traded a card. There have also been a number of disagreements. Please remind your children that if they bring cards to school they do so at their own risk. I don't want to stop children bringing cards to school but I will have no option if the issues persist.

School Meals

Please click on the link below to see the Caerphilly school dinner menu.

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/services/schools-and-learning/school-dinners-and-breakfast-clubs/schedule-and-prices/weekly-menu>

Next week, we will be on week 3 of the menu. Please check the menu with your child to ensure they like what is on offer.

Inclement Weather

Whilst I am hopeful that we will not be affected by further 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, we 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

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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.

My thanks to Mr Gibbs-Bowen for his hard work this week in ensuring the school site was clear and safe for staff and pupils.

Blended Learning

We are relaunching our blended learning strategy in school. Staff have been working hard to develop this across the school. Please look out for a separate letter which will provide further information.

Mr C George
Headteacher

Mr G Jones
Chair of School Governors