



Parent Information Sheet – Thursday 7th February

Snow Closure

Last Thursday I took the decision to close the school at 13:30 due to the Amber weather warning for snow that had been issued by the Met Office. The decision to close the school is made by the Headteacher with many factors taken into consideration. The safety of pupils, parents and staff travelling home from school has to be main concern and I would rather regret making an incorrect decision at the time than staying open and having a serious accident to deal with. I apologise to all those people who have informed me that this was the incorrect decision to make, however I will always do what I feel is best for the pupils of Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their support during the inclement weather last week. It was wonderful to see so many pictures of the children having fun in the snow.

Dog Fouling

I have received a number of complaints from parents with regard to dog fouling on pavements around the school and also on the footpath along the school playing field. During rugby training last night, we were forced to stop for a short time due to dog mess on the playing field. As I'm sure you can appreciate this poses many dangers to the children who are using the field.

I ask parents to be vigilant and to report any irresponsible dog owners they may see. I have contacted the local authority to make them aware of our concerns. Thank you for your anticipated support with this matter.

Easter Holiday

Mr Potter and Miss Kealty are looking for expressions of interest for a week of dance and drama during the first week of the Easter holiday. Students will be working hard to produce a performance of 'Around the World in 5 Days' based on the adventures of Victorian adventurer Phileas Fogg. The closing date for expressions of interest is Friday the 8th of March. At this stage, provided we have enough interest, we will provide application forms to be completed. Places are limited to 40, so get in touch early to avoid disappointment. Please email: stevenpotter@rhiwsyrdafyddschool.net

Guess the Score

A reminder that we have sent home a 'Guess the Score' sheet for the Wales v England home international. Whilst it wasn't the best start from Wales against France, I am sure they will build momentum heading into the England game on 23rd February. Please send any sheets, along with the money back to school as soon as possible.

National Champions

My congratulations to the school swimming team who recently attended the URDD National Finals at the International pool in Cardiff. All of the pupils put in magnificent performances and I am delighted to inform you that we have two teams who are now the National Champions! The Girls Relay and Mixed Relay teams beat off all competition to take the National Crown. Thank you to the staff and parents who supported the event.

National Categorisation

The National School Categorisation system gives the Welsh Government a clear and fair picture of how well a school is performing compared with other schools across Wales and helps them to identify the schools that need the most help, support and guidance to improve.

The system is based on three simple steps. It is not purely data-driven and takes into account the quality of leadership, teaching and learning in our schools.

Step one - Outcome Indicators: In previous years, the Welsh Government used a set of information (such as GCSE results and information on attendance) to analyse schools' performance and place them in one of four standards groups. From this year onwards, the Welsh Government will no longer publish a standards group for schools. Instead schools will now use a broader set of performance information to evaluate how they are doing, which will take into account their local context. This will form the starting point of discussions with their regional consortium challenge advisor about their performance and area for improvement. This change has been made as a result of our work to change accountability within our education system and make sure that schools, and their learners, are given the right support at the right time so they can fully achieve their potential.

Step two - Improvement capacity: Challenge advisers from regional consortia evaluate the school's capacity to improve, taking account of evidence about the standards achieved and the quality of leadership and learning and teaching. They will also use information from the Welsh Government to inform this evaluation and discussions with schools.

Step three - Support category: The outcomes from step two are used to decide on each school's final support category. The final categorisation is a colour code that shows the level of support a school needs – green, yellow, amber or red (with the schools in the green category needing the least support and those in the red category needing the most intensive support).

At Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School we are part of a Peer Review group and are linked with three schools in Newport. These schools are St. Julian's Primary School, St. Wollos Primary School and Pillgwenlly Primary School. In November, the Headteachers from the schools,

Respect

Share

Determined

Passionate

Successful

along with two challenge advisers visited the school for a day to undertake the Categorisation process. This involved a number of elements such as listening to learners, lesson observations, book scrutiny, scrutiny of key documents - the School Improvement Plan and Self-evaluation Report, meeting with parents, meeting with governors and also interviews with a number of staff. It was a rigorous process.

I am delighted to inform you that following the process we have been categorised as a 'Green' school. This is testament to the hard work and determination of the dedicated staff at our school, our amazing pupils, school Governors and also the support from our wonderful parents. It really is a whole team effort and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved.

Further information regarding the process can be found by clicking on the following link:

<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk/School/6762392?lang=en>