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Caersws Primary School
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'Nurturing Hearts, Growing Minds, Opening Eyes, Imagining Futures'

Friday 19th January/Dydd Gwener 19eg Ionawr

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to our new school term. We hope you all had a very merry Christmas and a happy new year, although they both seem like a distant memory now! All pupils have settled well back into school following the Christmas break and attendance has remained at a good level since our return. We aim to keep school attendance above 95% and monitor individual pupil's attendance levels at the end of each half term. Powys policy says we must issue letters when attendance figure drops below 80%. We appreciate it can be a concern receiving such a letter, but we simply want to support and work with families and pupils to raise these levels as it is proven that poor attendance can have a detrimental effect on the progress a child makes.

Topic-

This half term the whole school is focussing on the topic, 'Cynefin'. Cynefin translated means our habitat/community. All children are involved in learning about their immediate school environment and the village around them. We are so lucky to be surrounded by so much countryside, we have the River Severn nearby, we have businesses e.g., the arts centre and Seasons café, and have historical features and information like the workhouse and Roman Caersws. Over the coming weeks we will be taking small groups of pupils into the community to film short clips to create a whole school Cynefin video. We look forward to sharing this with you later in the term and will use it as evidence towards achieving the Welsh Silver Charter Award.

Swimming-

We have recently had notification that our swimming transport provider can no longer continue to provide their service. Whilst we can arrange alternative transport this will be at a much-inflated price, which we don't want to pass on and ask parents for. We are currently working with the leisure centre to see what adaptations we can put in place to reduce this costing; this includes the possibility of both class 2 and 3 swimming at the same time. Whilst we are organising these arrangements, we have decided to cancel swimming sessions in the spring term, with the aim of re-starting after the Easter holidays in the longer summer term.

Student teacher-

Caersws school has always welcomed student teachers and successfully supported Mr Reid in the Autumn term in class 3. We will be joined by a new student teacher later this term in class 1.

Criw Cymraeg-

Criw Cymraeg are very busy getting ready for our silver charter award day on Thursday 8th February. They are making sure that all targets are completed and are helping Mrs Davies to get evidence for all 94 targets. Class 3 have been busy setting up weekly Welsh guided reading groups and have made a fantastic start. Criw Cymraeg are excited to start filming for our 'Cynefin' video which celebrates Caersws village, keep your eyes peeled for this video in the coming weeks. After half term Criw Cymraeg will be busy preparing for our School Eisteddfod.

Safeguarding-

Safeguarding is the action we take to promote the welfare of children in our care and to protect them from harm. Keeping children safe is the responsibility of the whole school community and we all have a duty of care towards the welfare and safety of the children who attend our school and live in our communities. If you would like to raise an issue or concern around the welfare of a child or young person, please contact the Designated Safeguarding officer in school, Sarah Corbett or contact Powys Front Door directly on 01597 827 666.

'Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility'

Parking-

We appreciate parking can be an issue when collecting children at 3.30pm. We are constantly reviewing this issue and looking for solutions. Wherever possible, we ask that pupils are walked to and from school but appreciate this is not always possible, especially when travelling into the village. The main playground is always accessible at the end of the school day, and it is recommended that all parents park here and walk to collect children from their designated classes. We still await the addition of a walkway painted on the playground to help keep children and parents safe when in this area. We also still await disabled markings to be added to the two bays at the front of school. We appreciate that some parents need to use these spaces, however other vehicles must not park on the curve to the front of the school. This can block the one-way system and cause congestion. We kindly ask that you communicate this message to other family members who may collect from the school site.

Breakfast Club-

A polite reminder to ensure you book children into breakfast club in advance. It is essential that staff know which children to expect on any given day. Your support in this is appreciated.

Universal Free School Meals-

As you will be aware all children in Reception to Year 4 are now entitled to a hot meal at lunchtimes. This week we have been notified that from April, this will be extended to include pupils in Year 5 and 6. Whilst it is fantastic to hear that all children will be entitled to a free school meal, it is incredibly important for those parents who believe themselves to be eligible, to still apply for FSM. There are different grants e.g., a uniform grant which you could be entitled to and grants the school receives to support pupils can vary dependent on this. For more information, please see Mrs Canning in the office.

Parent's Evening-

Parent's evening appointments will be communicated to parents in due course. We ask that children attend alongside their parents wherever possible, so that they are fully involved in the conversation regarding their progress.

Dates for the diary:

Tuesday 23 rd January	Athletics- Class 2 and 3. On school site.
Wednesday 24 th January	PC Viv Ainsworth visiting in school.
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day.
Thursday 8 th February	Silver Charter Award Day.
Monday 12 th February- Friday 16 th February	Half term holidays.
Monday 19 th February	ICT workshop- Years 4, 5 and 6.
Wednesday 21 st February	Parent's Evening.
Thursday 22 nd February	Parent's Evening.
Tuesday 27 th February	Urdd Rugby- Year 5 and 6. Details to follow.
Friday 1 st March	School Eisteddfod 2pm - Parents welcome to attend.
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day. Details to follow.
Friday 8 th March	Mother's Day Event. Details to follow.
Friday 8 th March	Mother's Day shop. Details to follow.
Monday 11 th March	Big Walk & Wheel.
Monday 11 th March	Honey Pot House Trip- Year 5. Details to follow.
Friday 15 th March	Comic Relief. Details to follow.

Friends of the School-

The 'Friends of the School' have lots of lovely events planned out across the year and welcome any parent joining them for their meetings to share and discuss ideas. We are always thankful for their support.

With kindest regards,



Sarah Corbett- Headteacher