



Blaenavon Heritage Voluntary Controlled Primary School

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January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer
Annwyl Rhieni

Happy New Year to you all. 2019 is well on its way: let's hope we don't get to experience the same winter weather we had last year. We trust you all enjoyed the Christmas festivities. As you know, once again school was a flurry of activity during the run-up to Christmas with plays, parties, discos, the school fayre and other activities. We could not have managed without the unstinting help, once again, of our Class Reps who gave *so much* of their time to help and ensure these events ran smoothly. THANK YOU. This continues to be an excellent partnership and our current Class Reps will continue their fund raising mission, starting with a non-uniform (Brighten Up January Day) on Friday, 25th January and a Spring Disco on 21st February (see updated calendar (attached) for further information). Do you have time to help with school activities throughout the year? If so, please contact Karen (07708 530653) or Val (07975 651116).



STAFFING: We will be saying 'goodbye' to Mr Windmill who is leaving in February to join the police and is due to become a father in May. Mrs James had a baby boy in December and Mrs Burgess will be taking maternity leave in February. We wish them all the best of luck for the future.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: Over the past few months we have been notified about an increase in incidents of anti-social behaviour around the school and health centre. One of the issues that the Health Centre is having is pupils using the building as a short-cut at the beginning and end of school day. If your child has been doing this to get to or from the school, could you please remind them that they should not be using the health centre in this way.

VALUE: Our Value for this term is **TRUTHFULNESS**. Attached to this newsletter is information we hope you will be able to share with your family as you explore this value together.

MUSIC FEES are now due for the term, payable direct to Gwent Music, online.

FOREST SCHOOLS' SESSIONS are held with each class, giving pupils an opportunity to undertake a range of activities outdoors (but within the confines of the school). We would be grateful if you could please ensure your child has wellies in school to wear during these sessions.



Opening the door to your future!

Agor y drws i'ch dyfodol!



YR EGLWYS YNG NGHYMRU



THE CHURCH IN WALES



Please remember **OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM** is blue jumper, black trousers or skirt and yellow t-shirt. PE kit should only be worn if asked to do so and should remain in school. Some of our pupils are wearing trainers to school: we would prefer pupils to wear black school shoes but, if trainers are worn, we ask they are black in colour. School uniform can be purchased from Cottonfields (next to the old Post Office).

Over the past few weeks we have noticed that some parents are continually bringing in their children just after the gates have closed and that many pupils have also continued to **ARRIVE LATE**. May we again remind parents that bringing in your children late should only be done if it is absolutely necessary to do so as it causes disruption in the class. Continual lateness is monitored ... by the school and the Educational Welfare Officer ... and may result in a home visit in extreme cases. Pupils arriving late (with or without a parent) must sign in the late book and include their name, their class, the time of arrival and the reason for lateness. We have had a few instances where several pupils have arrived late together, without signing in. This has resulted in a text being sent asking for a reason for absence before the pupil has reached the class.



If your child has a medical appointment, please ensure (where possible) they come into school for their mark before attending the appointment. Please also provide a copy of appointment letters. If you need to let school know that the **END OF DAY COLLECTION FOR YOUR CHILD** is changing on any particular day, please make sure you notify the office before 2 pm. **Calls received after this time cannot always be acted upon.** Please leave a message if the telephone is unanswered when you ring.

Messages are checked regularly throughout the day.



When collecting your child/ren at 3.10 pm please leave the premises promptly so the gates can be locked to secure the site.

MOBILE PHONES should not be brought into school. If pupils do bring them into school, the mobiles will be removed and kept, by the teacher, in a safe place before being returned to the pupil at the end of the school day.

LUNCH MONEY: Please ensure there is credit on your child's dinner account. During lunchtime, every child who wishes to receive a school lunch registers at the till on entering the dining hall before receiving lunch. This process confirms there is credit on their account to cover the cost of their lunch. If their account is not in credit, a reminder note is written at the time of entry, which is causing significant delays in the long lines of pupils waiting for lunch.



In instances where there is insufficient credit on a pupil's account, texts are sent seeking payment of the outstanding balance. In some cases, parents are only paying off part (not all) of the debt, which is continually leaving an outstanding balance which needs to be cleared.

We also request parents to send in packed lunches for their children in **LUNCH BOXES ONLY**. We have had problems with lunch bags being strewn across the floor, causing trip hazards. Please also ensure your child has their own labelled **DRINKS' BOTTLE** so they can access water.

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TUCK: Please remember we are a healthy eating school - please provide healthy snacks for your children's tuck, with water or *weak* squash (no energy drinks). Please also ensure **snack money** and **lunch money** are credited to your children's accounts. Please note it is not possible to use snack money for lunch, or lunch money for snack.

TORFAEN FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE NEEDS 'YOUR VIEWS ON CHILDCARE'

Do you think there is enough childcare in Torfaen, and would you like to have your say about affordability, locations, flexibility, Welsh medium and more?

If you are a parent to a child or children aged birth to 14 years (or 18 if disabled) we would like to hear from you. There is also a chance to win £100 high street shopping vouchers before the closing date of 31st January 2019. Our short survey can be completed online at <http://www.forms.torfaen.gov.uk/childcareviews2018/survey.html> - alternatively you can request a paper copy by contacting 0800 0196 330.

'Your Views on Childcare' forms part of a review about the demand for childcare within Torfaen. Should you wish for information about childcare options, including advice and guidance about the financial help available with the cost of childcare, please contact Torfaen Family Information Service on Freephone 0800 0196 330, email fis@torfaen.gov.uk or visit our website www.torfaenfis.org.uk.

PARKING: We continue to receive complaints that parents are parking on the roundabout, at the entrance to Busy Bees, in the disabled bays outside of school and on the double yellow lines adjacent to Nursery. Please do not park in a disabled bay unless you are disabled and need to use the space. Also, parking on the roundabout causes problems with congestion and prevents buses turning. Please do not use the car park at the Rugby Club which is private property. Congestion caused by busy parking periods is dangerous and the car park should be used when collecting your child.



We are currently updating our E-Safety policy in line with the new GDPR. Please note that during this time we have taken the decision to cut back on the number of Tweets we make until we are sure that we are complying with the new regulations.

SNOW: This being the winter, there is always the possibility of snow and ice.

Should snow start to fall when pupils are in school, we will notify parents by text if the school is to close. **Please do not telephone the school to check whether or not we are staying open. We will notify parents once a decision has been made. If we do not make contact, the school will remain open.**



Yours sincerely

Mrs J Howells
ACTING HEADTEACHER

Att (1) School Calendar
(2) Value - Truthfulness

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