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Headteacher: Brett Stevenson

## Newsletter 1 Autumn 2019

Dear Parents,

Well, we are nearly three weeks into school, and the summer seems a long way away. There's a few things I would like to bring your attention to, and a few diary dates for you also.

### **Our Schoolsapp**

We try to communicate school events to you as best we can. We use a text service and always try to ensure that letters and newsletters are put on our website as soon as we can. In addition, we also have a facility called 'Our Schoolsapp' which we would like to relaunch over the next few months. More and more people have smart phones, and Our Schools App works as a platform to give parents and carers information that they need. You can download the app from Google Play, and the App Store.

I have asked Lisa, who works in the office all day on a Thursday, and on Friday mornings, to start sending information using Our Schools App. I hope you find it useful. Over the next few weeks we will also be asking you to supply an email address in order that we can email you details of any events, or documents. This information, as with all the information we hold, will be stored securely and only used by ourselves for communicating with you.

### **Behaviour Policy**

Currently we are revisiting the school Behaviour Policy. This is a matter of good practice, and should be regularly revisited and reviewed. In particular, we are looking at ways school and staff can work in partnership together; to reinforce the expected behaviour of pupils whilst at school.

Our Behaviour Policy will also take into account how adults interact with each other. I would like to remind parents that you must be respectful at all times towards teachers and other parents. We must all demonstrate civil behaviour even if we disagree. All adults, including teachers, must feel that the language and behaviour used towards them is not threatening or designed to intimidate. The school is quite

within it's rights to prohibit adults from being on site if they demonstrate behaviour which is antagonistic and does not reflect the behaviour we expect of our school community.

### **Site Safety**

You may have noticed that we are trying to tighten the site security by keeping the small gates locked during the school day. If you find yourself locked out, please telephone the school, and we will arrange for your access. As I am writing this, I am aware that the small green gate by Old Station Drive has a problem with the lock. We are having that mended as soon as possible.

### **School Clubs**

We like to run after school clubs for the enjoyment of the children. However, sometimes the clubs are poorly subscribed and it means that they are not viable to run. Please bear this in mind when your child opts to take part in an afterschool club, as they are volunteer led. Therefore if your child does not wish to take part in an After School Club, it sometimes has a 'knock on effect' on whether the club is run or not. It can be frustrating for all if we have to cancel a club. I'm sure you understand.

### **Reading at Home**

Although I do not get into the classrooms as much as I would like, when I do I enjoy chatting with the children about their work and looking through their books with them. I also have a look in their reading records, which accompany their school reading book.

It is especially important that children are heard reading for perhaps 10 minutes per evening. I know myself, as a dad to a boisterous six year old, that sometimes children can be reluctant to sit down and read after being at school each day. However, I also know that the value of reading, and the value of praise and reward to reinforce their reading is incredible. I have to motivate my lad at home, but he is now starting to reap the rewards. I would like to urge you to read as much as possible with your children, and record it positively in their Reading Record. You will be pleased with the results.

### **Colder Weather....**

Although it is still fairly warm, it won't last for long. We always accumulate lots of lost property throughout the year.. Coats are expensive, and not so easy to 'lose', but items such as scarves, gloves and hats are. The chief reason is that it is not labelled with their name. One quick and easy way of doing this is to order some labels online. They are inexpensive (far cheaper than a replacing items) and it means that the label won't fade or come off in the wash. There are lots of companies online that do this.

## Christmas Dates

Here are the dates for the Christmas Performances and activities. I have yet to confirm with Caterlink which date is set for the Christmas Lunch, so it may be subject to change. As with all dates we give you, we rarely change them. However, sometimes things occur beyond our control which makes this unavoidable.

December 9th	KS1 Christmas Performance	5.15 pm	Hall
December 10th	KS1 Christmas Performance	2.15 pm	Hall
December 11th	KS2 Christmas Performance	6.00 pm	Hall
December 12th	KS2 Christmas Performance	2.15 pm	Hall
December 16th	Christmas Lunch	12.00	TBC
December 17th	Whole School Trip to Pantomime		Cardiff Late return approximately 5.15
December 18th	Carol Service	1.00	Blakeney Church
December 18th	End of Term	2.00 pm	School finishes early
January 6th	Spring Term begins		

## And finally....

I came across a quote whilst researching for something

*“Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.”*– James Baldwin

Have a good weekend.



Brett Stevenson  
Headteacher