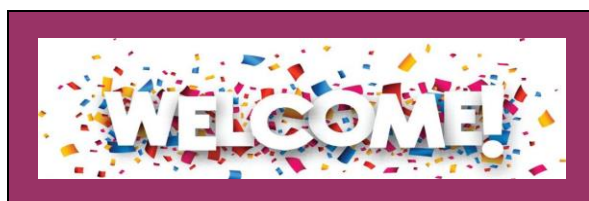


MOUNTAIN NEWS

'Together in faith, we grow and learn'

Sept 2019



I can hardly believe we are already at the end of our second week after the long summer holidays. The children have settled back to school life quickly and it is a pleasure to see their joy as they immerse themselves in their learning and in spending time with their friends.

A big welcome to our new families who joined us in September. I hope you will very quickly feel part of the Mountain School family; I know the whole community is very supportive and welcoming, but please do not hesitate to contact the office or your child's teacher if you have any queries. Most mornings you will find myself and other staff on the school yard to greet you and answer any queries; please stop and say hello.

The weather has been mostly kind to us since our return and it has enabled pupils to use our large playing field during play and lunchtimes. We try to ensure pupils regularly enjoy the fresh mountain air, and where possible, learning takes place outside, so please ensure your child brings a coat daily so they can be out in all weathers.



I am very pleased to welcome Mr Morris to Llansannor where he is teaching our Year 5 pupils. Mr Morris is a talented musician who studied the classical guitar. He is a fluent Welsh speaker with keen interest in sports. I am sure our children will enjoy getting to know him over the next few months - I know he is excited to start with us this year.

We very much look forward to the term ahead and to the many exciting learning opportunities available to your child.

Best wishes
Mrs Prosser

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**"A person who won't
read has no
advantage over one
who can't read"**

Mark Twain

INSET Days 2019/20

We have 5 inset days to take each year and an additional curriculum day to take in the summer term.

So far, we can confirm the following:

2nd & 3rd September 2019

14th February 2020

3rd April 2020

20th July 2020

Super School Savers Scheme

We will continue to run our school savings scheme, in partnership with the Cardiff and Vale Credit Union, and have now opened membership up to all pupils from Nursery (am) to Year 6. This initiative, which is supported by parent volunteers, was set up to encourage children to become more financially aware from a young age. It also teaches them the importance of saving for the future.



Children may bring in their savings on the **last Friday of every month** to bank and our first banking session will take place on **Friday 27th September**. We have been so impressed with how many children carry out chores in order to earn money. They seem to really enjoy watching their funds grow or perhaps saving up for something special. If you are interested in registering your child or helping out, please email the office requesting an application form.

Vale of Glamorgan Film Festival: 26th September – 6th October 2019

This year's festival is titled "The Hidden Here" and will celebrate the uniqueness of the Vale through the medium of film, allowing visitors the chance to experience screenings and immersive film events in various settings. We are delighted to be supporting the festival this year by producing a film about the Mountain School's place in the Vale, past, present and future, with a theme of ecology running throughout. Mrs Shelley, whose family have been rooted in the local farming community for generations, has been leading this project for us and working closely with other members of the community including our science teacher Mrs Rees, to produce a 5 minute film.

Our film will be screened at Cowbridge Community College between 30th September – 5th October from 9.30 am – 4.00 pm. Entry is Free so please pop in and join us if you can.

For more information visit: www.filmfest.co.uk

Meet the Teacher and Parents Evenings

We will be holding an informal drop-in meeting for Reception to Year 6 parents on **Thursday 19th September 3.45 - 4.30pm**. This is an ideal opportunity for you to come along to meet your child's teacher, see their classroom and hear about classroom routines and curriculum plans. We hope you can join us.

A class newsletter will also be sent home on **Friday 13th September**, providing an overview of the year ahead together with your teachers' expectations.

Parents Evenings will be held on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th October 3.30-6.00pm. We politely ask that if you do bring your child that you take responsibility for their supervision as there will be no staff on the yard during this time. There will also be no clubs that week.

'Funky Friday' for KS2 pupils

Our popular enrichment curriculum programme, previously referred to as 'Wacky Wednesday', will now take place on Friday afternoons for KS2 pupils (Y3-6). Foundation Phase pupils will continue to work collaboratively and use the outdoors for rich learning experiences, as this is already embedded in good Foundation Phase practice. Following an evaluation of last year's provision, we will be running the programme over a 4 week period each half term, starting 27th September. Pupils will then rotate round the following 6 groups each half term: Yoga and mindfulness, STEM, Music Mayhem, Master Chefs, Wilderness Warriors and International Languages through Sport/

'Charitable Work' – Autumn Term

In support of our values, generosity and compassion, this Autumn term we have agreed to support the following causes:

- Macmillan Coffee Afternoon - 2pm on Friday 27th September
- Harvest Local Food Bank Collection – October
- Cowbridge Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme – non-uniform day 4th October
- Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal - November
- Children in Need - 15th November (theme to be decided by School Council)

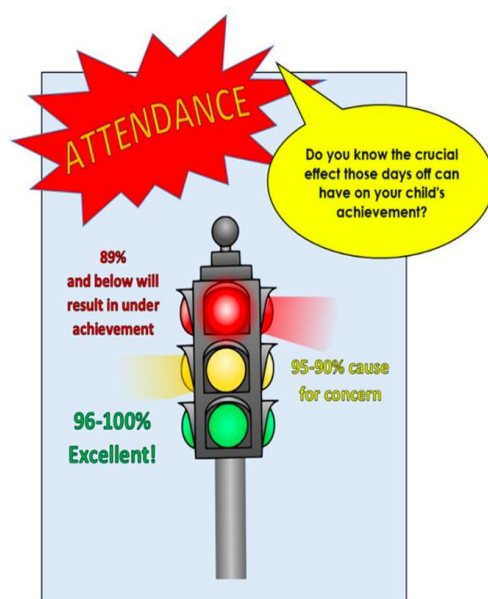
Our school council will meet towards the end of the term to decide on charitable causes for the spring term and we welcome your suggestions in the meantime.

Attendance Matters – Every School Day Counts

As you may be aware, all schools are continually monitored on their pupil attendance - our attendance figure for last year was **95.4%**. We appreciate how hard it is for children to achieve 100% attendance due to widespread seasonal bugs and illnesses and this is why we celebrate pupils who achieve an attendance over 97% at the end of the summer term.

Lateness is also closely monitored by both the school and Education Welfare Officer. If you are experiencing difficulties, for whatever reason, in ensuring your child comes to school on time, please contact the school office to discuss how we may help.

Our target next year is 95.9%; please support us in achieving very good levels of attendance.



Engagement and Pupil Voice – The Llansannor School Senedd

Pupils' opinions and ideas in key parts of school life are very important to us and we are committed to developing their role in the school improvement process. We are continuing to operate a School Senedd which enables every pupil from Year 2-6 to be involved in an area of the school's work and to have a voice, make decisions and evaluate impact. We currently operate the following councils: Learning Ambassadors, Language Ambassadors including 'Criw Cymraeg', Playground Pals, Eco Council, Digital Leaders, Health and Wellbeing Group and Worship Leaders.

Each group has devised its own Mission Statement and is creating its own Action Plan. Staff are teaching pupils to take responsibility, through chairing and minute taking and reviewing actions. They have also elected their own Chair and Vice Chair persons to lead their group's work. The Chair and Vice Chair from each group make up the school's Senedd who will regularly meet with the Headteacher to discuss their work and plans.

Class Teachers / Learning Support Assistant (LSA) Deployment 2019/20

We are very lucky to have a dedicated team of staff who work tirelessly with your children to ensure they thrive in school and are happy learners. Below is a summary of the staff working with your child this year:

CLASS	TEACHER	OTHER SUPPORTING LSAs
Early Years	Miss Pelech	
Nursery base Reception base	Mrs Thorne (LSA L4) Miss Pelech	Mrs Jones Miss Hurley Mrs Chandler
Year 1	Mrs Petty (M/T/W) Miss Poole (T/F)	Mrs James Mrs Saxton (<i>1-to-1 support</i>) Mrs Maklakiewicz
Year 2	Mrs Davies (M/W/T) Mrs Hart (T/F)	Mrs Smith Mrs Jones
Year 3	Mrs Goldsworthy	Mrs Vowles
Year 4	Miss Fisher (M/T/W) Mrs Miller (W/T/F)	
Year 5	Mr Morris	Mrs Otley Mrs Robinson
Year 6	Mrs Watkins (previously Mrs Stuart)	
PPA / Science Specialist Teacher	Mrs Rees (T/F)	

We will continue to employ Mr Smith to teach Physical Education across all classes on a Wednesday and Thursday each week.

New Parent Council

We are keen to work in closer partnership with parents over the coming year. We recognise that authentic and successful school improvement comes from a triangulated approach, where parents, pupils and school staff (including governors) work in close partnership and pull in the same direction. As a result, we have established a Parent Council which will meet for the first time on Friday 13th September to map out ways we can achieve this. We will keep you fully informed on progress and invite you to contribute in different ways to this journey. We have also registered on the Investors in Families programme and will start working towards achieving this important quality mark.



School Uniform

It has been very pleasing to see how smart pupils look since their return in their school uniform; they clearly take pride in their appearance. If you would like to donate any outgrown uniform to school, we would be happy to receive it and recycle items.

We also ask that the children are dressed appropriately for PE and sport, wearing white T-shirts and navy or black shorts. Tracksuits and hoodies are advisable in colder weather.

We are a Healthy School

We continue to promote healthy eating and healthy lifestyles during the school day and we have achieved phase 1-5 of the Healthy Schools Programme for schools.

Please can you support us by providing children with a healthy snack and a healthy lunch box if your child chooses to have packed lunch (referred to as *brechdannau*).

Fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolate, crisps and sugary treats are not permitted during the school day. Our healthy school tuck shop offers fruit snacks and is available during morning play.



WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL

Importantly, due to a number of our pupils having nut allergies, please can you refrain from providing your child with nuts as snacks or lunch box treats. Thank you.

PTA – Parents and Teachers Association

Our committed PTA work extremely hard to organise a wide variety of events across the year that bring vital funds into the school. We always aim to spend the money directly on the children, so they benefit immediately. Their next meeting is **Monday 16th September, 8pm** in the Duke of Wellington pub, Cowbridge. New faces are always welcome. The role of PTA Treasurer is currently vacant and we welcome volunteers to apply. We hope you can join us.

Important Dates – Autumn Term 2019

Our Value 1st Half Term is GENEROSITY

SEPTEMBER

Friday 13th: 1st Parent Council Meeting at school

Thursday 19th: 'Meet the Teacher' 3.45-4.30pm (*Parent drop-in session in child's classroom, children return home as usual at 3.30pm*)

Thursday 19th: Year 4 swimming starts 1.15pm (*every Thursday for 6 weeks*)

Friday 20th: Individual photographs in school

Wednesday 25th: Year 6 class trip to Cardiff Castle

Thursday 26th: European Day of Languages Celebrations

Friday 27th: Macmillan Coffee Afternoon 2pm

w/b 30th: Judaism Week

OCTOBER

Wednesday 2nd: Year 6 Transition Day Y Pant (1st of 5)

Wednesday 2nd: Y4 church school cricket tournament

Thursday 3rd: Year 2 Parent Class Worship 9.15am

Friday 4th: Non-uniform day to fundraise for the Cowbridge Syria Refugee resettlement programme

Monday 7th: Harvest and Food Bank Donations

Tuesday 8th: Whole School Eucharist (*Pupils and clergy only*)

Thursday 10th: NSPCC visit to school

Thursday 10th: Y5 church school cricket tournament

Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th: Individual Parent/Pupil Meetings 3.30pm-6pm

Wednesday 23rd: Autumn Disco (*provisional*)

Thursday 24th: Police School Liaison Officer speaks to all pupils in assembly about dangers during Bonfire Night

Thursday 24th: Year 4's last swimming session

Friday 25th: Last day of term

***** HALF TERM WEEK - 28TH OCTOBER TO 1ST NOVEMBER *****

Our Value 2nd Half Term is COMPASSION

NOVEMBER

Monday 4th: Pupils return to school

Thursday 7th: Year 5 swimming starts (*Every Thursday for 6 weeks*)

11th-15th: Anti-bullying week activities

Monday 11th: Remembrance Day Activities

Wednesday 13th: Food for Life 'Roast Dinner Day' – 1st 'Community Get Together' event

Thursday 14th: Year 4 Parent Class Worship 9.15am

Friday 15th: Children in Need Fundraising

Y4 church school cricket tournament

18th-24th: Road Safety Week

Thursday 21st: Y6 church school cricket tournament

Monday 25th: Cricket Final Day

Thursday 28th: Police liaison officer visit Y6 - 'It's Your Choice'

Friday 29th: Christmas Fete / Money Week (provisional)

DECEMBER

Thursday 5th: Y6 Transition Day Y Pant (2nd of 5)

Monday 9th &

Tuesday 10th: KS2 Carol Concert Holy Cross Church 6pm

Wednesday 11th: Nursery/Reception Christmas Concert 9.30am and 4pm (*Reception pupils only*)

Thursday 12th: Year 1/2 Christmas Concert 9.30am and 4pm (*children stay in school for evening performances*)

Thursday 12th: Year 5's last swimming session

Wednesday 18th: KS2 (Y3-6) trip to Sherman Theatre Cardiff – 'The Snow Queen'

TBC: Foundation Phase trip to see Santa

Friday 20th: Last day term - 1.15pm finish

***** CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – 23rd DECEMBER TO 3rd JANUARY *****

Monday 6th January: School starts - children straight back after the Christmas break

Our next INSET training days are:

Friday 14th February (day before half term)

Friday 3rd April (day before Easter Break)

Monday 20th July (last day of summer term)

Due to the additional INSET day awarded for the new curriculum, we still have 1 INSET day to confirm.



Llansannor Calendar 2019- 2020

September 2019							
WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35							1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
38	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
39	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
40	30						
December 2019							
WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48							1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	30	31					
March 2020							
WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9							1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30	31					
June 2020							
WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30					

October 2019							
WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40		1	2	3	4	5	6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30	31			
January 2020							
WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1			1	2	3	4	5
2	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
4	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5	27	28	29	30	31		
April 2020							
WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	27	28	29	30			
July 2020							
WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27			1	2	3	4	5
28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2019							
WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44					1	2	3
45	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
46	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	
February 2020							
WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5						1	2
6	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9	24	25	26	27	28	29	
May 2020							
WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
August 2020							
WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31						1	2
32	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
34	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
35	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Bank holidays 2019/20 (UK)

25th December '19	Christmas Day	10th April '20	Good Friday	25th May '20	Spring Bank Holiday
26th December '19	Boxing Day	13th April '20	Easter Monday	31st Aug. '20	August Bank Holiday
1st January '20	New Year's Day	8th May '20	Early May Bank Holiday		(Previously 4 th May)