

West Park Primary – Autumn Events & Visits

We have reached the end of a fantastic half term! Settling in to new learning environments and getting to grips with new teachers and classmates has been a rewarding and challenging time for everyone. The pupils must be commended for their efforts and commitment so far this academic year as must the staff for delivering rich and inspiring lessons and activities.

The Topic in the Infants has been “Getting to Know You!”! It was wonderful to welcome parents and carers to an open afternoon where we shared useful information about daily routines and offered advice on the different ways parents and carers can support children to reach their fullest potential by reinforcing learning at home.

Castles have been the focus in KS2. We visited Pembroke Castle early in the term and had a fantastic time exploring the medieval castle and its underground cavern. The children were delighted with the fascinating guided tours about the birthplace of Henry VII. Some extremely impressive learning logs have been produced, they have demonstrated a real enthusiasm for learning and thorough research of the theme.

School elections have taken place and the school and eco councillors have already attended meetings. They are enjoying discussing plans for school improvement, in particular they have focussed their attention on the outdoor environment.

We have recently taken delivery of two fantastic wooden outdoor learning structures; a potting shed and a science station.

Marc Griffiths of Get Out Your Box delivered a wonderful assembly full of good messages about making positive and healthy lifestyle choices.....

.....a brilliant introduction to the term!



Harvest Celebrations

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and families for their harvest donations. We chose to donate to the Bridgend Food Bank, an organisation that provides local people in times of need with three days of nutritionally balanced food through a voucher system. Thanks also to Father Craig for holding our Harvest services and of course to the children for their wonderful behaviour and enthusiastic singing which was noted by parents! We hope you enjoyed the pictures on Twitter!



CALLIO – Attendance

As you will be aware, attendance is a big priority at West Park and we continue to strive for improvement year on year. Our target this year is 97%.

We hope to reach parents and carers who remove their children from school unnecessarily by giving them information on the impact this may have. So, we will continue to send half termly Callio letters to ensure parents are well informed and have an open door to address concerns and offer assistance.

Holidays have a big impact on attendance and should be avoided in term time. We are unable to authorise holidays taken in term time. It is extremely difficult for pupils to catch up on the lost learning

Remember.....

There are only 195 statutory school days in one academic year. This leaves 170 days available to use for holidays outside of term time.

If you'd like more information on Holidays in term time please see Callio flyers on Moodle.

Although Nursery parents do not receive Callio letters it is worth mentioning that the overall attendance for Nursery pupils so far this academic year is a very encouraging 96.5%. Keep up the good work Nursery!

It is also worth reiterating that, in accordance with Government Guidelines, Fixed Penalty Notices may be issued to families who remove pupils from school without authorisation.

Highs and Lows

WELL DONE TO THE 227 PUPILS WHO HAVE BEEN IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY SO FAR – 100% !!!

So far 286 sessions have been missed by pupils who went on holiday in term time.



Transition

Transition plays a big part at West Park where we work hard to build our pupil's confidence year on year, preparing them for changes and future challenges.

It has been wonderful to hear positive comments from parents following their transition experiences last year, "Rosa recognised Mrs Stradling from her language and play sessions and had already made some friends by the time she started nursery. She enjoyed the stories and the crafts in the Woodland!" Another Mum said, "The Comp transition was a fantastic introduction to learning in a much larger environment. Jake felt really calm and the sessions really helped to dispel the urban myths!" My daughter said to me this week "I've realised moving to the Comp was no big deal". What encouraging words from Cerys who was particularly apprehensive about the transition process.

Current Year 6 pupils have already made their first visit to Porthcawl Comp for an interactive science lesson which they thoroughly enjoyed. We have also hosted teachers from Porthcawl Comp who have delivered maths and literacy lessons. Thank you PCS!





The children are enjoying their fruit at breaktimes! Many pupils are now pre ordering fruit and accessing the fruit trolley which is very encouraging to see!

As a healthy Eco School we continue to monitor the pupils' fruit intake and the fruit tuck initiative is an integral part of our Platinum Healthy Schools status.

Thank you so much for your support as parents and to our wonderful volunteers who make the fruit tuck shop an ongoing triumph.

Here is a reminder of the dates to pay for pre orders

22 nd October	£10.50
17 th December	£9.00
11 th February	£7.20
24 th March	£10.50
26 th May	£9.00

CONCERT DATES

Year 1 to 6 matinee concert – 3rd December

Year 1 to 6 evening concert – 4th December

These concerts will be held in the Grand Pavilion and tickets will be sold from the Box Office

Early Years Nativity matinee– 7th December

Early Years Nativity evening – 9th December

The nativity will take place in All Saints Church and tickets will be sold from School

Our Caretaker

We are sure you will join us in wishing Mr Missen the very best of luck as he leaves West Park to embark on a new career. Mr Missen has played a vital role in keeping our premises safe and presentable and his kind and helpful nature will be missed.....Pob Lwc Joe!

Visit us on Twitter @westparkprimary

or Moodle <http://moodle.bridgend.gov.uk/wpp>

To obtain your password please email admin.westparkprimary@bridgend.gov.uk

Back to School

Monday 2nd November

Autumn Term ends

Friday 18th December

1.30pm finish Friday 4th December

Further term dates can be accessed on the BCBC website

www.bridgend.gov.uk

Cycling proficiency

Year 6 participated in a cycle training program with Cycle Training Wales. Their level 1 and level 2 qualifications have equipped them with the skills they require to undertake journeys on today's roads.

PTA Message

This term we held our AGM meeting the minutes of which can be obtained from school or by emailing us.

Last years fundraising efforts enabled us to purchase a variety of equipment for the pupils and we are looking forward to the installation of a large outdoor shelter which will cover the maze area. The shelter will be used by the whole school as a sun and rain canopy and will enable the maze area to be better used as a learning space.

We will be holding raffles during the concerts and your help is welcomed!

We will be busy creating the concert costumes over the coming weeks. If anyone has a talent for sewing and owns a sewing machine, we would love to hear from you!

Please get in touch with us by emailing ptawestpark@gmail.com.

Staff Only Car Park

Please remember that it is forbidden for parents/carers to drive in to the school car park at any time. This includes before during and after school. Unfortunately, as well as this being a risk to pupils, a number of staff cars have been damaged whilst parked in their designated spaces. Please remind anyone who collects your child from school.

Bonfire Night

Safety message to pupils

"Whilst enjoying yourselves, please keep safe and follow the advice given by the teachers in your assemblies.

Welephant tells a simple story aimed at children highlighting the dangers of fireworks. [Click to view & look around his watchtower](#)".



We recently posted a very useful leaflet on [Moodle](#) in association with Burns Awareness. Be sure to take a look.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB CONTACTS

IF YOUR CHILD IS A MEMBER OF ANY OF OUR AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE CLUB LEADER HAS AT LEAST ONE VALID CONTACT NUMBER THAT WILL **ALWAYS** BE OBTAINABLE FOR THE DURATION OF THE CLUB. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AS THE CLUB LEADER MUST BE ABLE TO CONTACT SOMEBODY IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.



School Uniform

At West Park we are very keen to maintain our reputation for a high standard of presentation. This applies to all aspects of school life including work, manners and presentation. Over the years we have enjoyed receiving compliments from visitors and the wider community. Of late we have noticed that the uniform policy is not always being adhered to and we ask for your help to address this. The full uniform policy has been reposted on Moodle. We would like to draw your attention to the following points:

- **No jewellery**
- Navy skirts must be below the knee. Pupils spend time sitting cross-legged on the carpet and therefore short skirts are not appropriate.
- **For PE, Plain white t-shirts** which can be purchased cheaply from supermarkets or Secret Spot (01656 771971). Plain house colour t-shirts with the school logo are also acceptable.
- **Sensible school shoes** – no trainers, boots or open toed shoes. If boots/wellies are worn to walk to school they should be changed on arrival.
- **All skirts and trousers are to be navy and not black**

We have also asked pupils not to bring pencil cases to school as items can be misplaced. We will provide your child with the stationary they require for lessons. Year 6 is the exception to rule as they require pencil cases as part of the transition process in preparation for Comprehensive School.

Influenza Vaccination

Pupils from Reception to Year 2 will receive their immunisations in December if parental consent has been received. Further details will follow after half term. More information can be found here: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/child-flu-vaccine.aspx>

Head lice

Half term is a good chance to check for unwelcome visitors! There is a useful advice sheet on Moodle. If you are finding your child has recurrent head lice, please do come in and let us know and we will try to help. Thanks for helping us keep the number of head lice on roll down!

Estyn are looking for your views on how schools are inspected. Take part in a survey by clicking here: [Estyn](#)