

West Park Primary – Spring 1 Events & Visits

It's been an incredible half term packed with interesting and exciting events.

The Early Years Unit made Christingles and learned the meaning behind their origin. They took their Christingles across to St David's Church for a service with Father Craig. Nursery enjoyed decorating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

Year 1 and 2 visited Cardiff for a wonderful day out to support their theme. They had a guided tour of the Castle and then walked through the subway to spend a few hours at the Museum. I was proud to hear that the children behaved very well.

Mrs Lewis began the Walk Through the Bible program with **year 6 pupils**. Year 6 attended a DT morning at Porthcawl Comprehensive and are enjoying regular English and Maths lessons with Year 7 teachers as part of the transition process. They enjoyed writing diaries about a Day in The Life of Tudors at Sea!

Year 3 and 4 hosted a wonderful Tudor Festival for each other. They dressed for the occasion and produced goblets and decorations for a fabulous Tudor feast complete with Mead, Tudor biscuits and roast pork.

Year 5 enjoyed discussing healthy eating and comparing their own diets with those of the Tudors. They also learned how to perform a flowing gymnastic sequence in PE.

SPORTING EVENTS

Netball - the netball team reached the semi final of the Urdd competition and continue to train hard.

Cross Country - we await the date of the next meeting following the Maesteg race being cancelled due to the soggy conditions. This season there is a new Bridgend Schools Cross-country Facebook page you can follow.

Rugby - the rugby season is progressing well and the boys have been developing their skills and fitness levels during training sessions. The team are undefeated in the interschool's matches.

Bendigeiddig!

Sainsburys Calendar Competition

Congratulations to Maria and Rhys whose winning entries made it onto the February page of the Sainsbury's calendar 2016! Together with their families they enjoyed a trip to the Pantomime with backstage passes and a moment on the stage! Well done to you both.

New Nursery Pupils

Our Sunbeams are settling beautifully into part time Nursery. We are looking forward to meeting new rising 3 pupils after Easter.

If your child will be 3 before September 2017 please contact the office for an enrolment form for either part time or full time Nursery.

Parent Forum and Learning at Home

There are many ways to get in touch with us here at school. We love to hear from you whether it be good news, concerns, thanks or suggestions. As you know, the recently formed Parent Forum is in its infancy but has already brought many ideas to the attention of staff and given us the opportunity to work with parents and carers for the benefit of the children. We hope to build on this early enthusiasm and commitment. The earliest successful examples of the initiative in action were the Maths Overviews held this half term. We are looking forward to collating the feedback data.

We appreciate that not all parents and carers were able to attend due to work and other commitments and so the information delivered in the overview will be posted on Moodle for all to access.

The atmosphere was very positive and we hope that parents and carers feel more comfortable in helping their children with Maths at home.

See the education begins at home page at the end of this newsletter for some links to recommended websites and further information about the National tests.

CALLIO – Attendance

You will have received your Callio update this week if your child is of compulsory school age. This is a snapshot of their attendance figure for the first half of Spring 2016. To find out their overall attendance you may contact the school.

DIARY DATES

INSET DAYS – 18TH 19TH & 20TH JULY 2016

Back to school – Monday 22nd February

St David's Eisteddfod – Mon 29th February (Infants)

& Tuesday 1st March (Infants & Juniors)

Water Bottles

As a school we promote water consumption during the day. Children who bring water bottles to school have access to them throughout the day and may drink as they feel the need. We are also lucky to have water fountains around the building.

“According to a study published in Archives of Diseases in Childhood, more than 70% of preschool children never drink plain water! What are they drinking? Drinks made with sugar, fruit juice, acids, or sugar substitutes. Yes, these drinks all have water in them, but these drinks also dehydrate your body because your body needs water to process these sugary drinks. Second, another health problem these sugary drinks cause correlates with weight gain. Many experts believe that these sugar filled drinks are a major contributor to childhood obesity”so

Please ensure that your child's water bottle contains nothing other than plain water. For more advice please visit:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodfood/Pages/water-drinks.aspx>

If you have concerns about your child's water consumption please contact us to discuss. If your child has a medical condition which affects their fluid requirements or a diagnosis of any kind it is very important that the school is made aware.

Peter our Road Safety Crossing Assistant

We hope you will join us in extending a huge thank you to Peter for ensuring the safety of our pupils when crossing West Road for over 10 years! Peter will be missed by all the children and the staff will miss his cheery wave on the gate whatever the weather! Good luck and enjoy lots of sunshine Peter.

School Meals

School meals continue to be £2.10 per day and are payable online at www.bridgend.gov.uk. For a reminder of your reference number for making payments or for assistance topping up your child's account just call or email the school office.

Please ensure you use the correct code and take care to **select the right school** when paying dinner money, especially as more schools become cashless. Mistakes are difficult to rectify later. It is good practise to input your email address to keep track of your payments.

[Click here for full screen menu](#)



	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3
MONDAY	• Cold Corn Curls • 1/2 Roast Beef or 1/2 Chicken • 1/2 Potato or 1/2 Sweet Potato • 1/2 Carrot or 1/2 Broccoli • 1/2 Cucumber or 1/2 Tomato • 1/2 Onion or 1/2 Garlic • 1/2 Mushroom or 1/2 Peas • 1/2 Spinach or 1/2 Kale • 1/2 Lettuce or 1/2 Cabbage • 1/2 Avocado or 1/2 Olive • 1/2 Lemon or 1/2 Lime • 1/2 Orange or 1/2 Apple • 1/2 Banana or 1/2 Pear • 1/2 Strawberry or 1/2 Raspberry • 1/2 Blueberry or 1/2 Blackberry • 1/2 Raspberry or 1/2 Strawberry • 1/2 Blackberry or 1/2 Blueberry	• Cold Corn Curls • 1/2 Roast Beef or 1/2 Chicken • 1/2 Potato or 1/2 Sweet Potato • 1/2 Carrot or 1/2 Broccoli • 1/2 Cucumber or 1/2 Tomato • 1/2 Onion or 1/2 Garlic • 1/2 Mushroom or 1/2 Peas • 1/2 Spinach or 1/2 Kale • 1/2 Lettuce or 1/2 Cabbage • 1/2 Avocado or 1/2 Olive • 1/2 Lemon or 1/2 Lime • 1/2 Orange or 1/2 Apple • 1/2 Banana or 1/2 Pear • 1/2 Strawberry or 1/2 Raspberry • 1/2 Blueberry or 1/2 Blackberry • 1/2 Raspberry or 1/2 Strawberry • 1/2 Blackberry or 1/2 Blueberry	• Cold Corn Curls • 1/2 Roast Beef or 1/2 Chicken • 1/2 Potato or 1/2 Sweet Potato • 1/2 Carrot or 1/2 Broccoli • 1/2 Cucumber or 1/2 Tomato • 1/2 Onion or 1/2 Garlic • 1/2 Mushroom or 1/2 Peas • 1/2 Spinach or 1/2 Kale • 1/2 Lettuce or 1/2 Cabbage • 1/2 Avocado or 1/2 Olive • 1/2 Lemon or 1/2 Lime • 1/2 Orange or 1/2 Apple • 1/2 Banana or 1/2 Pear • 1/2 Strawberry or 1/2 Raspberry • 1/2 Blueberry or 1/2 Blackberry • 1/2 Raspberry or 1/2 Strawberry • 1/2 Blackberry or 1/2 Blueberry
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We are collecting Sainsbury's Vouchers! Thank you

School Car Park

Unfortunately, a car has been damaged in the staff carpark. It is not permitted for parents or carers to drive into the carpark. Apart from damaging parked cars there is the more obvious **risk to our pupils**. Recent media coverage highlighted the dangers of parking around schools. We have CCTV to monitor the carpark but the problem can only be resolved if the **no entry** rule is obeyed. Please help us by reminding anyone who collects your child from school or after school clubs not to drive inside the gates.

A similar problem persists around the Rockfields gates. Drivers have been reported mounting the pavements and exhibiting road rage. Many parents and carers have jobs to get to and morning traffic can be chaotic but I must urge all drivers to remain calm and drive safely in the interest of our number one priority – the children. Thank you.

Reception "Bling Your Bike Day!"

Thank you for supporting "Bling Your Bike Day", in connection with the Sustrans initiative to encourage people to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys. The children were so excited about bringing their bikes and scooters to school and enjoyed showing off their crazily decorated bikes to their friends! For more information on the charity Sustrans visit:
<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/wales>



Coming Up...Hwb+

Hwb will soon take over from Moodle. Hwb will work in a very similar way but will contain more online resources for families including Office applications such as Word, Excel and Outlook!

Letter to follow

Moodle

The Moodle continues to be updated weekly for your convenience. If you have a query, have forgotten your password or simply need help to navigate the site, please do not hesitate to call the office and we will be more than happy to help.

<http://www.moodle.bridgend.gov.uk/wpp>

Remember to discuss e-safety regularly with your child and check they know how to stay safe on line.

Ask your child what PC Carpenter tells us about staying safe online.

Use [Think You Know](#) for helpful guidelines

St David's Day & Eisteddfod

We have been learning about our Patrol Saint and taking part in Welsh activities. To celebrate St David's Day we will hold an Eisteddfod which will be a celebration of singing, dancing poetry and sketches in the company of guest judges. Our adjudicators will award house points for art and craft submissions as well as creative writing pieces and examples of cooking all presented by the children.

Children will be invited to dress in their Welsh costumes or wear something symbolic of Wales. (See diary dates)

Details will follow in a separate letter.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

The **Spearing** family for the newest addition to our Early Years Unit – 'Slowmo' the Giant African Land Snail! He's enjoying 'recycling' all our food scraps!

Porthcawl Comprehensive drama department for inviting year 5 and 6 to their fantastic performance of We Will Rock You in the Grand Pavilion

Our fabulous **fruit ladies** Michelle, Sara, Jan, Carol & Mary for their tireless support in helping us provide the fruit tuck initiative

PC Carpenter for delivering safety advice on how to make good decisions

Staff at **Cardiff Museum and Cardiff Castle** for being very accommodating on our recent trip.

The **Card** family for providing us with the delicious meat feast for our Tudor festival! Yum yum!

The **PTA** for joining us at the Maths overviews and providing refreshments.

Jessica who recently made the honourable decision to cut off her beautiful blonde locks to donate her hair to the Little Princess Trust.



This year the National testing period will be between the 3rd and the 10th of May.

The links below will take you to the Learning Wales website where you can find information about the National Tests including support materials and sample tests.



Numeracy – Procedural

The numeracy part of the test lasts 30 minutes. Children are tested on Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. There is a different test for each age group.



Reading

The reading tests lasts up to an hour. Children read a passage before answering a mixture of multiple choice questions and questions needing short, closed responses like ordering, pairing and underlining.



Numeracy – Reasoning

The reasoning part of the test assesses how well the children can apply maths to everyday situations. There is a separate test for each age group.

Education begins at home!

“The things you do at home will help your child do so much better at school”

For some great ideas visit:

Booktrust – a range of programmes and projects designed to help people of all ages and backgrounds enjoy reading and writing www.booktrust.org.uk

National Numeracy – help your child with maths <http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk>

Bitesize – the BBC’s free online resource to help with school work
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

Lovereading4kids – to help you find exciting books your children will fall in love with
www.lovereading4kids.co.uk

Sumdog – a site full of games and ideas to make maths fun! www.sumdog.com

Summer Reading Challenge – a scheme run by the library to encourage reading through the holidays www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk



PTA Message

With the proceeds from the refreshments and Cake Bake the PTA are looking forward to purchasing more resources to enhance the children's experience at school. We are looking forward to seeing the new canopy coming to good use in the better weather.

Thank you for supporting all of our fundraisers.

To join the mailing list just email ptawestpark@gmail.com

Coming soon!.....T-Towels and canvas bags for Juniors!

