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Message from the Headteacher

Sut mae bawb/Hello everyone

Firstly, a huge thankyou to all parents, the standard of uniform displayed by the children since the start of term has been excellent, don't forget if you are unsure of what our school policy is please contact the school office and ask.

The children have settled back into school extremely well over the last 4 weeks and they are already enjoying some great learning opportunities planned for by the teachers. We have introduced, as part of our curriculum pioneer work, our new SHINE books for the children to record their theme and topic work in and both children and staff are being extremely creative, as you will see when you come to look at the work during parent's consultations, in displaying their cross curricular work.

This term see's the continuation of our 'FaCE' work (Family and Community Engagement) and soon we will be holding the first meeting of our 'Parent Voice Group' this coming week. We have many more parental engagement opportunities planned for the term so please look out for the dates on letters, tweets and our facebook page. As always, should you have any ideas or comments please let us know and should you make comments via social media, please ensure they are made in an appropriate manner.

The leadership team, staff and pupils are developing our new school improvement plan for 2017-2020 and we will be asking our parent voice group to input to this and help shape the future of our school over the next few years.

One of the areas in which our pupil voice team will be concentrating on will be to continue to raise awareness of 'Health Eating' and 'Healthy Living' our children highlighted this as an area for development, we already have 5 Healthy Schools awards and they wanted to achieve the 6th and most prestigious 'Platinum' award for our school, hats off to the children for that.

As ever, please take note of the information in our newsletter, you'll find key dates and events that are planned and should you have any issues, concerns or comments please let us know.

Finally, congratulations to Cody Davies and Amy Lewis our Head Boy and Head Girl for this academic year and to Ryan Mathe and Jessica Hodge their deputies, well done also to all the year 6 pupils who applied for these positions, all the applications were outstanding. Best wishes to everyone for a successful academic year. ☺

Important Dates for Diary

- 12 + 13 October School Photographs
- 16 October Class RC Parent Consultations
- 23 + 24 October Parent Consultations – whole school
- 2 November Llamau Sleepout
- 15 November Y4 Trip to Cardiff Museum
- 15 November Schools Shakespeare Festival,
Riverfront Theatre 'Romeo & Juliet'
- 30 November Christmas Fayre – 3:00pm
- 1 December Training Day - School Closed**
- 4 December – FaCE Christmas Crafts 9:30am + 2:00pm
- 15 December 'Aladdin' Pantomime Y2-Y6
- 18 December Y3 Singing Christmas Carols, Friars Walk
- 20 December Christmas Dinner Day
- 22 December – End of Term

School Training Days 2017-2018

- 1 - 25th September 2017 (gone)
- 2 - 1st December 2017
- 3 - 22nd June 2018
- 4 - 23rd July 2018
- 5 - 24th July 2018

School will finish in the Summer Term on Friday 20th July, we are hoping this should make childcare/holiday arrangements easier, especially for those who also have children in St Julian's School. Staff will be involved in 6 after school twilights to cover the 23rd and 24th July.

Individual Photographs

Tempest will be coming in to school on the **12th & 13th October** to take individual and sibling photos

School Dinners / ParentPay

School dinners are now **£2.10**, the cost increased on 18/09/17. Can you please check your child's balance to ensure that you are not in arrears and your child has credit on their account.



Attendance Figures September 2017

Whole School Attendance	96.3%	Best Class Attendance ...so far	
Foundation Phase	96.5%	1H	98.4%
Key Stage 2	96.2%	5GG	98.4%

Attendance - Our curriculum is so irresistible your children cannot afford to miss it!!!!

Our target for children's attendance this year is set at **94.9%**. I am pleased to report that the level of attendance to date is **96.3%**. Last year we did not manage to reach our target and fell short by 1% which was extremely disappointing. Average attendance figures for primary schools in Newport have increased to 95% and yet we cannot seem to keep pace. As a school we are doing all we can to encourage and support higher attendance using a substantial amount of resource to do this, please remember it is your responsibility to ensure children attend school as much as possible, so let's ensure we achieve our target this year. If for some reason you are experiencing difficulties, please let us know we may be able to help, by ensuring your child/children are in school, you are helping them to **make better progress** in all aspects of their learning. *(Persistent lateness or absence will be brought to the attention of the school's EWO and fixed penalty notices can be used to support better attendance.)*

FaCE

We have a number of Family and Community Engagement (FaCE) events running this term:

Our **Practical Parenting** programme is a 10-week course run by Mrs Tretton and Mrs Tilley and is an opportunity for parents to meet together to get support and advice with any issues they may be experiencing at home in an informal setting. If you're interested in finding out more, pop into the coffee morning in the Family Room on 9th October at 9am.

Parent and Toddler Group is up and running again, every Thursday morning in the small hall from 9.45- 11.00am. All are welcome!

Our **5 Easy Teas** programme will be running after half term, every Thursday afternoon from 2.00pm. Please let Mrs Tretton or Mrs Rowberry know if you would like to attend. The first session will be on 9th November.

We're organising a **Family Quiz Night** on Wednesday 25th October, there will be something to suit the whole family with a few extras thrown in along the way! It's 6.00 - 7.30pm in the large hall. Please come along and take part.

There will be two **Family Christmas Craft** sessions on 4th December, at 9.30am and 2.00pm. Come along and get into the Christmas spirit!

We have also set up a new **Parent Voice** group who will work in collaboration with staff and parents over the course of the year. This is an exciting way to get parental feedback and work together to improve overall engagement and ensure that what we provide matches the needs of our families.



Immersion Days

Reception Magnificent Me - The Reception children had a very exciting first Immersion Day to celebrate the introduction of our new topic Magnificent Me. The children wore a fantastic variety of costumes which demonstrated their own personalities. We had a really good response from parents letting their children bring in family photographs which we used to discuss different families and the children had some lovely ideas about what they would like to find out about themselves and others in the year group.

Y1 Bright Lights, Big World - On Friday Year 1 had our exciting Immersion Day. Our classroom turned into a construction site. We were challenged to design and make our own buildings, alongside the River Usk and the M4. Some learners decided to collaborate to make our designs come to life. We spent time designing our dream role plays and that tools we would need in our new areas. What an amazing day we had, it gave us lots of imaginative ideas for our new topic!

Y2 Mind Boggling Bodies - On Tuesday 12th September, year 2 had an Immersion Day for their new topic 'Mind-Boggling Bodies'. The children were treated to a range of activities: making their own fruit salad, learning some vital first aid techniques, and reflecting on how exercise affects our bodies. We even took part in the Joe Wicks live workouts! During the afternoon, learners participated in a pupil voice session where they decided on their lessons. We had some fantastic ideas such as "why do teeth wobble and fall out?" and "what do the different parts of the brain do?" We even discussed building our own 'perfect' superhero!

Y3 Wales & Beyond - Year 3's new topic is "The wonderful world of Wales...and beyond". For immersion day we had some special visitors from Newport County and coaches from Newport Live who taught the children some football and rugby skills. They also learnt how to cook Welsh cakes and decorated their own love spoons.

Y4 Egyptians - For our Year 4 Immersion Day we went to Egypt! We learnt lots of facts about Ancient Egypt and did some really fun activities to help us learn. We created traditional Egyptian headdresses with Mrs Neal, we wrote our names in hieroglyphics with Mrs King and we completed the mummification challenge with Mrs Savigar! We had a great day!

Y5 WWII - During our immersion day in Year 5, we stepped back in time into the shoes of a World War Two evacuee. After ensuring that we had appropriate documentation, we created our own gas masks which we had to carry everywhere with us. We also learned some songs from the era, such as Run Rabbit, Run and Kiss Me Goodnight Sergeant Major. After lunch, we experienced how it would feel to be an evacuee and waited patiently hoping to be picked by a new family. We had the opportunity to participate in role play activities and tucked into our meagre rations. Yum!

Y6 Out of this World - had a fantastic Immersion day, the children had an opportunity to make Plasticine alien figures and a background/scenery for these aliens to be kept in and displayed in the classroom. Learners will have chance at a later date to create a stop motion animation which will involve the children collaborating and creating scripts to present to each other. Learners also had the chance to create & taste space themed smoothies. We had some weird and wacky concoctions!!



Uniform

We are delighted to see children looking very smart and proud in their Glan Usk uniform. At GUPS we believe that school uniform is an important part of school life and we are expecting all children to attend school in full school uniform each day. Please refer to the appropriate section in our school prospectus that outlines our current uniform and if you are unsure of anything please contact the school for advice. Please remember that all children should be wearing **black school shoes** and children from **Y2 to Y6 should wear a white shirt and school tie** in the autumn and winter months. NB we do have a selection of nearly new school uniform kept in school for any families who need help, please speak to one of the office staff for assistance.



School Intake Applications/Admissions Survey

Secondary School apply online between 2 October - 30 November '17
Reception apply online between 1st November 17 - 12th January 18

Admissions have put together a short survey to gauge why some parents apply for schools that aren't their catchment, the survey has been created to provide them with information which will ensure they can improve planning and improve future provision.

http://www.newport.gov.uk/dc/static/surveys/school_admissions_survey.htm

Yellow Cards – KS2 Update

There has recently been a rise in 'rough play' incidents at break and lunchtime between a minority of children in KS2. Although these instances are immediately dealt with by members of staff on duty and Mr Beecher or Mrs Glasbrook, we are aware of a negative example being set to younger pupils. As a result, Mr Beecher has introduced a 'card' system of consequences. For any instance of rough play or fighting, pupils will be listened to, spoken with, and given a 'yellow card' where a consequence is appropriate. If a pupil goes on to have 3 'yellow cards' in the course of a term, they will receive a 'red card', and we will invite parents in discuss ways forward. This system has already been successful and behaviour has been much improved in the playground. Please continue to support us in encouraging positive behaviour at all times.

Important - Free School Meals

If you think your child/ren could be entitled to Free School Meals, please pick up an application form from the School Office. **As a school we receive additional grant funding based on the number of children who claim Free School Meals so it is vitally important that if you are entitled to claim that you do, even if your child doesn't wish to stay for school dinner!!** As the children don't bring money into school for dinners anymore, there would be no way of knowing if a child is receiving a Free School Meal or paid school meal! If you think you could be entitled, please apply!

School Food/Supplies Bank

A number of our families access our Food School Bank. If any of our families are able to donate any items such as bedding, towels, non-perishables such as tinned potatoes, tinned mince, instant mash etc and in particular toiletries, it would be much appreciated to help our families in need!