

# NEWSLETTER

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

## **PTA**

The school PTA needs to elect parents to the main posts on the committee for this academic year. The previous post holders have stepped down – following a very successful period of leading fundraising events for the school – and more volunteers are needed. The PTA is holding a meeting at 6.30pm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October in the Turf and Feather Pub. Any parent interested in standing for a post or in helping the PTA organise and hold events is welcome (and encouraged) to attend. If you are interested, but unable to attend, please pass your details to the school office and we will pass these onto the PTA committee.

## **South Africa Partnership**

Last week, we welcomed four members of staff from our partner primary school, Pineview Primary, in Grabouw (near Cape Town) in South Africa. The partnership has now been in place for five years and a number of exchange visits (supported by successful external funding bids) have taken place. During last week's visit, the staff from Pineview spent all their time in school working alongside our teachers in classes. This provided many opportunities for our children to find out about life in Grabouw, as well as ensuring that aspects of best practice at our school will now be transferred to the learning in Pineview.

## **Plas Caerdeon Outdoor Education Centre**

Next week, our Y6 children will be visiting Plas Caerdeon Outdoor Education Centre to take part in a wide range of activities in the wonderful Welsh countryside (and weather!). Mrs Evans, Mr Donoghue, Miss Houghton and Mrs Haynes will be accompanying them on the visit. Mrs M. Robinson will teach Mr Donoghue's class and Miss Houghton's class will be led by Mrs Alexander.

## **Reminders**

- KS2 Assessment Meeting: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 5.30pm.
- 'Open Session' for parents to have an informal chat with Mrs Evans and myself about anything at all to do with school: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 3.30-5pm.

## **Harvest**

The annual Harvest Festival took place this morning at Thomas Risley Church. Thanks, as always, go the staff (especially Mrs Jennings) for organising the event and Reverend Willett and Thomas Risley Church for, again, making our children welcome and ensuring our children learn more about the meaning of Harvest.

## **Parents' Evening**

The first Parents' evenings of the school year took place this week. I have yet to get final attendance rate information from class teachers, but, as always, initial indications are that Parents' Evening was very well attended. Thank you for, yet again, demonstrating the continued strong partnership

between parents and our school in supporting the education of Locking Stumps children.

## **Football**

The first football matches of the season took place two weeks ago at Gorse Covert. The Y5/6 team won a close fought game, 3-2, with goals from **Matthew Kersey, Sean Mellor-Savage** and **Aaron Hardman**. The Y3/4 team won a little more comfortably, 10-0 with goals from **Jarrell Quansah, Zak Lowe (3) Jamie McCready (5) and Harry Yemm**. Of course, it is always nice to win and our children, quite rightly, have a reputation for competing well but, more importantly, being able to both win and lose graciously. Mr Donoghue reported that this was again the case with these 'new' teams. Well done to all and to Mr Donoghue, Mr Hankey and Lisa Hankey for the excellent coaching that our children continue to receive.

## **Communication with Parents**

Following feedback from parents, we will now be taking the following measures to further improve communication with you. In addition to the 'Open Session' (see Reminders), we:

- have updated the school website
- will be identifying weeks when there is no newsletter on the website
- will be 'backing up' any permission request letter with a text message to parents of the relevant classes/year groups
- will be placing curriculum planning outlines on the school website in Spring 2012
- are considering the feasibility of emailing the newsletter to parents, as well as offering paper copies. Depending on the outcome of this, we will then consider emailing all letters to parents

If you have any further suggestions, please forward them to me at school. I would like to thank those parents who have made suggestions already.

## **Children's Corner**

This week's topic work on mummification, printed overleaf, is by Faye Meechan in Mrs. Evans' Y6 class.

## **Happy Birthday**

The following children have had birthdays in the last 2 weeks:-

Jamie Wesson	~11
Harry Stamper	~11
Connor Wrench	~ 6
Sophia Mulcahy	~ 6
Thomas McGarity	~ 5
Rhys Williams	~ 5
Ebony Murray	~ 5

Happy Birthday to you all ☺