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09.04.25

End of Term

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Staff

I write at the end of an exceptionally busy Spring Term where the school has achieved so many wonderful things. It seems like only yesterday that we were taking ownership of the new building. Since then, the school community has worked tirelessly to move into the building and make it feel like home. At the same time, we have worked with the LA and building contractor to vacate a large area of the existing building to ensure that roofing and refurbishment works can progress. This is very important and much needed work and I would like to formally thank the Governing Body, Caerphilly Council, Welsh Government and Willmott Dixon for prioritising our school.

Throughout the last 18 months, our pupils have obviously been our priority. They have been magnificent throughout the spring term and the support they have received from staff has been unrivalled. To our parents and carers, I would also like to extend my sincere thanks for your support and patience. The last 18 months has not been 'business as usual' and whilst hugely exciting it has also meant compromises have been needed.

The roof replacement is proceeding well and is currently 2 weeks behind schedule. In mid June (ish), we hope to complete phase 1 and move to the second phase of the roof refurbishment. This will be managed sensitively and with compassion and parents will be fully involved in this process. As published, it will affect the following classes:-

- Maple
- Hazel
- Bluebell
- Tulip
- Blossom
- Buttercup

Curriculum Development

Our curriculum also continues to progress well and I am very pleased with the quality of the planned learning experiences. We are working hard to ensure these experiences match the objectives in each pupil's IDP whilst also embracing wider curriculum targets for pupils. The theme for each term is further supported by enrichment activities. This term, we have experienced 'Animal Encounters' and our 'Harry Potter Day' which had a Science and Technology Focus.

We also continue to embed our new 'phases of learning'. As a reminder these are as follows:

- Explorers (years Nursery – year 2) – led by Rachel Westren
- Adventurers (years 3 – 6) – led by Sian James
- Investigators (years 7 – 9) – led by Jo Daniels
- Researchers (years 10 & 11) – led by Libby Harman



- Aspire (pupils in sixth form) – led by Libby Harman
- These are supported by our N-Gage intervention team which is led by Hannah Pearse

We were delighted to present further information on our curriculum and assessment procedures to families over a series of open sessions. In excess of 60 families attended and provided excellent feedback. We will look to arrange more sessions of this nature in the Summer Term to ensure you are fully involved in your child's learning.

Our focus in the Summer term will turn to our literacy strategy with a focus on reading. We will also continue to develop our Whole School Approach to Wellbeing which will involve the following areas of work:

- Analysing the recent school community wellbeing questionnaires
- Refining and embedding our approach to positive behaviour support linked to rules, rewards and specialist frameworks to promote quality of life
- Further developing our provision for sport and the expressive arts
- Working closely with staff to finalise a formal staff wellbeing offer

As the school continues to grow, so do our staffing requirements. I have been delighted with several appointments we have made during the Spring Term. Coupled with a robust induction and professional learning programme which has involved staff visiting other schools, attending specialist training and undertaking coaching with senior staff, we are well placed to meet the needs of pupils.

Attendance – thank you for your continued support with attendance this term. It is hugely appreciated and we are committed to working with you to maximise each individual pupil's attendance at school.

Transport – I wish to remind parents that we would encourage those who drop/collect their child to/from school to park inside the school gates in the morning and afternoon. This will ease congestion in the surrounding roads.

Dates

INSET Day – Friday 11th April
 Pupils return to school – Monday 28th April
 May Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May
 Pupils finish for half term – Friday 23rd May
 Pupils return to school – Monday 2nd June
 INSET Day – Monday 9th June

It only leaves me to wish you a happy and safe Easter break. We look forward to welcoming you back for the start of the summer term. As always, if you have any ideas, suggestions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of my senior team.

With best wishes as always

Dave Jenkins



Executive Headteacher

Learning together in a changing world, creating success for all
 Developing all pupils as ambitious, enterprising, ethical and healthy learners.

