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19.03.24

Easter Letter to Parents

Dear Parents and Carers

I trust this letter finds you and family well as we finish the Spring Term. It seems to have gone in the blink of an eye. Despite it being a short term, we have been incredibly busy in school and it's clear that the pupils have enjoyed the various special events that take place at this time of year. For example, our Welsh Celebrations proved to be a wonderful celebration of our Welsh culture, heritage and language. It was great to welcome a Welsh harpist and Male Voice choir to the school to help our learning. I would like to thank Aber Valley Male Voice Choir who held a concert recently and raised £500 for the school. We will spend this money on music equipment for our pupils.

We also celebrated World Book Day and took part in Red Nose Day activities. This is important for our school to also give something back to other charities in need. Thank you to all parents, carers, pupils and staff for the way you have supported these special events.

I am also delighted to inform you that our physical literacy and sport opportunities continue to grow. This term, we have started our first e-sports team who compete against other schools online in a range of digital activities. I am delighted to announce to you that our team have made the final and will appear in the Principality Stadium shortly.

In addition, our Boccia teams have taken part in competitive action against other schools. This has been a great experience for pupils and staff. The school has engaged well with Cricket Wales who have been into school to run sessions with our pupils. We hope that in the very near future, we will be able to compete against other schools in cricket and table cricket. Many pupils (and staff) have also enjoyed taking part in wheelchair rugby sessions. It's fair to say that this sport is a favourite amongst our school community. Finally, we have enjoyed our annual Six Nations Rugby tournament in collaboration with Caerphilly Sport, WRU and Dragons Rugby. It was so clear to me that pupils had a wonderful experience at this event. Many thanks to all involved.

We've also been very busy with more formal aspects of school life. Staff have undertaken a very productive round of peer observations where nearly all teachers have had the chance to observe others. We hope to complete this process after Easter and update our teaching and learning policy from the information gained. Teachers and Higher Level/Senior Teaching Assistants have also undertaken work scrutiny sessions aimed at celebrating the work of pupils and identifying important next steps in their learning. These processes have been supported by school improvement officers and members of the Governing Body.

It is with very mixed feelings that I need to inform you that Laura Thorpe will be leaving us at the end of this term to take up a promoted post. Laura has given the school many years of exemplary service and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank her and wish her well with her new challenge! Libby Harman will take over from Laura in her role as the lead for



our 14-19 department. Congratulations Libby. We are currently in the middle of our latest recruitment drive as we seek to appoint staff at all levels to accommodate planned increases in pupil numbers.

We hope that parents/carers enjoyed parents evening recently which is always a nice chance to hear about your child's progress and next steps. It is also a very important way to build relationships with the staff working with your child. At the same time, we issued some questionnaires to parents/carers to capture your views on school life. Thank you to everyone who has completed a questionnaire. They are very positive and a pleasure to read. However, we are of course making plans to address the very few suggestions for improvements. For example, we are working to ensure all pupils have access to educational visits and we are working tirelessly to ensure the pool is up and running ASAP!

The building work continues to move forward on schedule. The concrete floors will be completed at the end of this week before attention turns to the walls. Unfortunately, the car park near the council sports pitches continues to be delayed. We are anticipating this being ready at the end of April. I would like to thank all members of the school community for their patience with this situation. The start and end of the day are clearly difficult times and your flexibility and compassion are greatly appreciated.

And so to our plans for the summer term. Staff will be in school on Monday 8th April for our last INSET day of the year. Staff will be focussing on curriculum design and effective team working during this day. **Pupils will return to school on Tuesday 9th April.**

Finally, it only leaves me to wish you and your family a happy, safe and restful Easter break. Thank you once again for your continued support as we strive for the very best provision for our school community.

With very best wishes



Dave Jenkins
Executive Headteacher

