

## Trinity Fields School & Resource Centre,

Caerphilly Road, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed. CF82 7XW

School No: 01443 866000

21.05.24

## May Half Term Letter to Parents/Carers

Dear parents/carers,

I hope this letter finds you and family well. School life has been incredibly vibrant, purposeful and productive. I write today with a very brief update of what we've been up to:

**Curriculum Development** – We enjoyed a whole school INSET and subsequent twilight sessions to review our school curriculum and to ensure it develops in line with the latest guidance and specialist support. We have reviewed out themes for learning to ensure they are authentic and inspire pupils. We have also reviewed our target setting procedures using several specialist frameworks which dovetail with pupils' IDPs.

Our themes for learning each term will broadly be the same but made age appropriate according to each department. Our theme in September 2024 will be 'The Great Outdoors' and staff are currently busy designing activities which will link with this theme. Our learning will involve a number of whole school enrichment activities including 'Paralympic Games' 'Roald Dahl Week' and of course our usual Christmas celebrations. We've linked with other schools and Local Authority specialist advisors to ensure we're bang up to date! We're really excited by what our learning will look like in September.

During the next half term, we hope to be in a position to invite parents/carers into school to hear more about the curriculum and to gain your opinions and perspectives about what you would like to see included. This will be a lovely opportunity to meet with staff leading our curriculum over a cup of coffee in our newly re-opened Café Oren.

**Self-Evaluation** — The summer term is a time where the school gathers and analyses as much information as possible in order to identify our strengths and to plan new targets for continuing improvement. We have been collecting information throughout the year to make this important task efficient. This has included reviewing pupils' academic assessments, wellbeing assessments, lesson observations, celebrations of pupil work, moderation, questionnaire results and links with outside agencies. We hope therefore to evaluate formally the school's improvement plan and publish new targets for improvement which will start in September.

Pupil Attendance – I am delighted to inform you that our pupil attendance is steadily increasing and is now approximately 86.2%. Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support.

Class Lists – we have been working hard on formulating the class lists ready for September. This is always a vitally important job and it's important we consult with staff as much as possible. This year,



















we also have to factor in the opportunities created by the new extension so it has taken slightly longer than usual. We intend to inform parents of their child's new class before half term. The second half of the summer term will be dedicated in part to robust transition if any pupils need to move classes/staff.

Staffing – Our recruitment drive continues and I am delighted to welcome several new staff members to the school. In September, Fran Reddy, Carrie Ann Sutton and Amy Barrett will join the school as teachers following impressive interviews. We also welcome Deb Jay, Leighton Mattey and Leanne Bishop as Level 3 TAs along with many new Level 1 post holders. I am looking forward to working with everyone. Staffing is always bittersweet however, as we also say a fond farewell to Claire Boswell, James McQueen and Charlene Smith who will leave Trinity Fields in July to take up promoted and different roles. I would like to wish them well and sincerely thank them for their tremendous service to the school.

Special Events – As always, we continue to invest heavily in special events for our pupils.

- We have been delighted to welcome Theatre companies to school this term and it's clear that pupils really enjoy developing their expressive arts skills.
- Our Physical Literacy/Sport provision continues to develop well with pupils of all ages and across satellites taking part in many sporting competitions. Nearly all other pupils engage in PE activities in school and thoroughly enjoy this aspect of learning.
- Educational Visits we have listened very carefully to parental and pupil questionnaire feedback which clearly states that we need to increase the number of educational visits pupils attend. I am delighted to say that we've seen a significant increase in trips. We are working hard to provide authentic learning experiences for pupils and visits to their local community is a vital part of this aim.
- MOVE I am delighted to inform parents that we have been successful in securing the gold standard quality mark for our MOVE provision. I am so proud of the school for achieving this prestigious standard. We will be celebrating MOVE Olympics in the Summer Term which we are all looking forward to.
- Cycling throughout the fortnight starting 13.05.24, we have welcomed a cycling company into school to help our pupils experience cycling. This has been a great experience.
- Skateboarding we have also been running a skateboarding club every Friday for the past few weeks. I think it's fair to say that this has been a success and all have thoroughly enjoyed the experiences.

**Hydrotherapy Pool Update** – I can only apologies to pupils and families for the length of time it has taken for the pool to be fixed. I am delighted to say that we are now in the final stages of testing the water quality and lifeguard training is being organised for the first week back. We therefore hope to get pupils into the pool from 10.06.24. We cannot wait. Thank you for your patience.

Building Work – I am delighted to inform you that the extension continues to progress on time and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our brilliant team of builders and council officers for their commitment to the school. The two new carparks should be complete by Whitsun half term which should alleviate some pressure. However, builders will then turn their attention to the new entrance canopy which will impact on our traffic management procedures. Your patience is hugely appreciated. I am also pleased to inform you that one of the new rooms in the extension will be a hair



















and beauty salon. This will support learners in the 14-19 department to choose a hair and beauty pathway and will also be a great facility for pupils who find difficulty attending hair dressers.

In September, we will take ownership of two new classrooms with the remainder of the building anticipated for handover after Christmas. With that in mind and to manage the huge logistical challenges of moving into the new building and getting the existing building ready for refurbishment, the Local Authority have granted us two additional moving days. We will combine these with our INSET days and will therefore have 8 x closure days next year. These dates are:

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September INSET statutory training
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September INSET curriculum development
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September Moving Day
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January Moving Day
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January INSET Day Curriculum Development
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April INSET Day Curriculum Development
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June INSET Day Transition
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 INSET to be taken as twilights throughout the year

Further diary dates will be circulated to you separately.

It only leaves me to wish you a happy and safe Whitsun break. Thank you for your continued support as we continue to manage exciting but logistically challenging times with the new build. I look forward to developing our school together.

With very best wishes



**Dave Jenkins** 

Executive Headteacher, Trinity Fields School & Resource Centre

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



































