

15th July 2011

Dear parents,

Diary reminders

Monday July 18th

1.30 - 3.15 Open afternoon: Reception - Year 6

Parents may drop in to classes to see the work their children have completed during the year. Take the opportunity to celebrate your child's achievements with them.

Tuesday July 19th

1.30 - 3.00 Change over afternoon: the children will go to their new classrooms and meet their classmates and teachers for next year.

3.30 - 4.00 Parents drop in: visit your child's new class too so you know where they will be next year - your child can take you in.

Wednesday July 20th

9.30 Year 6 Leavers service for parents in the Upper Hall.

4.30 - 6.00 Leavers Barbecue & Party.

Thursday July 21st.

Last day of school for the children, they may bring in games and need not wear uniform for the last day.

Staffing

We will say goodbye to Mrs. Natalie Gibson who leaves us next Thursday. I know she will be an asset to her new school and wish her success in her future career, Miss Gemma Normansell will be getting married on July 29th and will rejoin the staff as Mrs. Wason, best wishes to the happy couple.

New appointments

Nursery - Our second nursery teacher will be Miss Nicola Caldwell.

Reception - Our third reception teacher will be Mr. Alun Steen.

They are both newly qualified teachers who have specialised in the Foundation Phase and will add more expertise to our very strong early years' team.

Alun is a very keen sportsman and Nicola is a talented musician and performer so they will both be involved in extra-curricular activities too.

Miss Lizzie Bennett, LSA year 1 and Mr. James Kerr- Smith LSA reception will both be leaving us to take up Post Graduate Teacher training programmes in Swansea and Cardiff Universities respectively. We wish them success in their teaching careers and health and happiness for the future.

Mr. Smith will be replaced in reception by Mrs. Roberts who is moving over from nursery.

Miss Bennett will be replaced by our new appointment Miss Kirsty Davies.

Reports

The children will be bringing home their reports today.

Children's learning focuses on the learning and development of skills as they progress through the school. We are continually assessing their skill levels in order to move them on. We now have an electronic system of recording the assessment data. Staff enter information on each individual child and this records their current skill level, this has taken hours of work as we only bought in the system in April and staff have inputted all data for every child in every area of learning. This system then generates a report on the pupil's progress overall.

This report is the basic format for the annual report to parents with additional comments by the teacher specific to each child.

This is the first year of this new format and there have been some problems, please bear with us: if there are any issues please let us know. There is a comment slip on the end of the report, please feel free to send in any comments.

Homework

All children should be encouraged to learn their number bonds and /or mathematical tables for 10 minutes a day during the holidays. Pupils will be given books to record a diary of the school holidays. Please encourage a daily entry.

We are also sending home reading books, so please either read with your child for 15 minutes each day or encourage your child to read each day.

Penarth Library is running a reading scheme and this is an excellent opportunity for the children to read every day at no cost to you. Please take your children to the library and encourage them to explore the books available to them.

The children need to do a little every day rather than hours once a week, this is try and keep their skills up during the long holiday - or they forget so much!

Year 6 Cycling

We apologise that Year 6 have not been given the opportunity for cycling proficiency this year. We normally book it in at the start of the year but the road safety team did not know if they would have funding. When funding came through late in the year, the dates they offered clashed with the PGL week and planned activities.

Start of Autumn Term

Staff return on **Monday 5th September**. Yr1 - Yr6 return on **Tuesday 6th September**. Nursery and Reception return on staggered intake from **Wednesday 7th September**.

VICTORIA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the school staff, support staff and all the school community for their professionalism and commitment and hard work throughout the year. Also, thanks to the volunteers who help so willingly in school and enrich the learning for the children.

My thanks to the PTA committee who are brilliant fund raisers and to all you parents who support all fund raising events and everything that the school does.

Lastly, my thanks to all the children for their energy, enthusiasm, endeavour, humour and sense of fun. What a pleasure it is to see them all at work and play.

Best wishes to Year 6 as they move on to Stanwell; I am sure they will enjoy their last week next week. They have been a lovely cohort of children who have excelled in all areas of school life. Well done.

Enjoy the holidays together and I look forward to seeing all our new children with our current nursery - year 5 in September.

Thank you all for a very busy but very enjoyable year: Together we aim for the stars!

Regards
T Taylor