



“Making a Difference Together”

Friday 27th October 2017.

Newsletter 2 (Autumn Term)



Annwyl Rieni a Gwarchodwyr,
Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all looking forward to the half-term break; hopefully the weather will be kind to us! Thank you very much all our families and friends who attended the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 Harvest Services today and yesterday. They were both delightful celebrations of the season giving us all time to reflect and be thankful.

The kind donations made will be forwarded to the **British Heart Foundation** and the **Downs Syndrome Association** immediately so they may be put to good use. Your support and constant encouragement is very much appreciated by both the staff and the children.

Below I have outlined some items of news; information and updates for you along with some brief reminders.

Good News!

Super Ambassadors

Ruby Howells and Ollie Edwards-Gonzalez in Year 5 were elected as the school's **Super Ambassadors** this month. This means they have a role in promoting the United Nations Rights of the Child (UNCRC) within school to ensure children are aware of the 42 'Articles' as they grow and develop.

On Monday 9th October they attended the Wales Millennium Centre to participate in their training along with all the other Super Ambassadors in South Wales. They met the **Children's Commissioner for Wales, Sally Holland**, and after the half-term break, Ruby and Ollie will be embarking upon the Commissioners first 'Special Mission' linked to Anti-bullying Week in November. Within this they will lead all the classes through a learning resource called 'Sam's Story' and be responsible for an anti-bullying display in the school hall that reflects '**Article 19 – You should not be harmed and should be looked after and kept safe.**'

I'm sure you all agree this is a great opportunity for Ruby and Ollie as well as a very important learning experience for all the children at Malpas Park.

Swimming Lessons

The three week swimming course for Year 3 and non-swimmers across Key Stage 2 begins on Monday 6th November which is the first day back after the Half-term break. Please ensure the children who are attending arrive in school fully equipped for their session at the pool each morning.

Information and Updates

Mr Vernon Jones MBE

It was with great sadness that this morning I had to inform the KS2 children of Mrs Jones' passing yesterday. Mr Jones delivered fortnightly assemblies to the KS2 children that taught them about the values and stories of Christianity and they always enjoyed the time he spent with them. At the end of the Summer Term we marked the end of his long commitment to school that stretched over more than 24 years which he regrettably had to relinquish due to his health. Today the children sang a song as a tribute to him that he brought to our school a while back now, 'Shine Jesus Shine'! For those of you who were present at this morning's service, I am sure you will agree that this tribute was really special and very much deserved by the well-respected and true gentleman that he was. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

Parents' and Carers' Consultation Evenings

The opportunity for you to meet with your child's Class Teacher to discuss their current level of progress, view their work and agree their next steps in learning is from **Monday 6th November to Thursday 9th November**. Appointment sheets are available outside each classroom for you to select a consultation time that suits you best.

If any parents would like to meet with me during this period I am available from Monday 6th November to Wednesday 8th November from 15:45 until 18:30.

Informal Parents' and Carers' Forum

Since introduction two years ago these forums have proved to be very effective. Those in attendance were consulted on issues of potential change or improvement within school but there is no set agenda. They are an opportunity for the participants to talk openly with me about the positive aspects of school as well as those of current concern or those issues that could potentially be problematic in the future.

The forums are very informal and I view them as an opportunity for us to work together in 'real time' at improving Malpas Park for the entire school community instead of just waiting for the outcome of the parents' and carers' survey.

The next Parents' and Carers' Forum is scheduled for **Thursday 23rd November at 14:00**. Any parent or carer of a pupil at Malpas Park is welcome to attend the forums. There is no 'set' group. I look forward to seeing you there; the kettle will be on!

Support for Families – MindEd Website

The School-based counsellor and the school's Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) are required more and more to support children who at times display characteristics of being emotionally challenged. Experiencing troubled times when their mental health is not as we would like it to be of course impedes their learning.

The staff at school are very well experienced and trained in managing children during these times but in the interest of prevention at the point when concerning behaviours are beginning to show, I would like to draw your attention to the MindEd website at <https://www.minded.org.uk/>

This is a hub for accessing free e-learning and information resources, including easy-read information sheets providing guidance to parents and carers. These can be located in the families section and include information on issues such as:- Feelings and Emotions, Anger and Aggression, Sleep Difficulties, Family and Relationship Problems, Poor Concentration and Over-activity, Autism, Mood-swings and Muddled Thinking, Wetting and Soiling, Eating Disorders, Self-harming, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and finally Tics and Twitches.

Midday Supervisor Vacancy

We are currently in need of an additional Midday Supervisor to cover the lunchtime period from 12:00 until 13:00 Monday to Friday. If you are interested in fulfilling this role or you know someone who might be available please contact Mrs Kindred at the School Office as soon as possible for further information.

Telephone: 01633 675900

Email: malpaspark.primary@newport.gov.uk

Reminders

Parking Safely

The community police officers will be attending the school at regular intervals in the future to address the issue of safe parking. As you are all aware, it is not safe for cars to be dangerously parked or mounting the pavement where children are walking into school. I understand that the volume of parking or 'awkward' parking on Almond Drive and Wavell Drive may be contributing to this occurrence but it must be avoided for the safety of our children. Please park safely and with consideration in order to reduce the risk of **your child** being hurt.

Arriving Late to School

In the unavoidable and rare event that you arrive after the gates are secured with your child they must be brought to Main Reception and left in the care of Mrs Kindred or me. Any messages will be conveyed to the Class Teacher on your behalf to ensure teaching is not disrupted as a result.

Access to Teachers during the School Day

As you are already aware we have an 'open door' policy with regard to parents' and carers' access to the Class Teachers and on the whole this works very well.

Before School - If you have urgent need to speak with a Class Teacher before school starts however this is not possible after 08:50 as they will be preparing the first lesson of the day and to receive the children; this is their priority. If you urgently need to meet with a Class Teacher prior to the school day please ensure that you report to Main Reception by 08:30 and Mrs Kindred will check their availability.

After School – This is easier to accommodate providing the Class Teacher does not need to attend a meeting, has a prior appointment or is responsible for an after school activity which cannot be delayed.

Collecting Key Stage 2 Pupils at the end of School

At the end of the school day **Key Stage 2 children should be met on the large yard; there is no need for any children in the Junior Department to be collected from inside the school building** unless the parent or carer has requested or has been requested to meet urgently with a Class Teacher. If adults and children assemble on the large yard at the end of the school day the Junior Exit Door, the ramp and the perimeter path will be prevented from becoming blocked which has been problematic due to numbers and pushchairs.

Remember that for both Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 **the school day does not finish until 15:30** and therefore in order to meet their statutory entitlement of learning hours the children will not be released before this unless exceptional circumstances apply.

Reporting Absence

In the event that your child has an appointment or is ill and therefore absent from school, **you must notify the school by 09:30 on each day of their absence and follow this up with either an email or a letter of explanation** upon their return to school.

For the purposes of audit by the Education Welfare Officer **the school requires notification in writing of the reason for absence in every case** to prevent this being recorded as unexplained and therefore unauthorised.

Newport City Council has adopted a Code of Conduct which allows the Local Authority to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to the parents of pupils who lose five school days or ten school sessions which are **unauthorised** or to the families of those children who are **persistently late**.

Training Days

The remaining training days for the year are **Friday 24th November, Friday 16th February and Monday 23rd July and Tuesday 24th July.**

The final day of the academic year for the children is **Friday 20th July.**

Attendance

The United Nations Rights of the Child – Article 28 states **that 'every child has the right to have a primary education'**. Our whole school attendance is currently **96.4%**. Our target directed by the Local Authority by the end of July 2018 is **95.8%**. I very much appreciate your support in maintaining and improving upon this standard of attendance at school this year.

On Target				Off Target			
Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
91.7%	97.1%	94.2%	95.6%	97.5%	97.6%	95.7%	97.1%

Well done to all year groups and keep working hard towards **95.8%**.

Thank You

Jellybeans and Dragonflies Playgroup

We were lucky enough to be contacted by Jaxon and Ruby's Mum who runs Jellybeans and Dragonflies Playgroup in Malpas with the purpose of sharing Harvest contributions. The children held a Harvest Festival at playgroup and the food donations have been added to our school food bank. Thank you so much Jellybeans and Dragonflies!

If any more of our families would like to discreetly access the school's food bank, please contact me directly via the school office

Year 6 Parents

I would just like to say a very big thank you to the Year 6 parents for their support of Mrs Davey throughout this last week or so following a serious accident involving her son. Thankfully William is now doing really well and very much 'on the mend' although this will be a steady process. I know she would like me to thank you all for your kind words and for the generous gifts and balloon given to William and her in the interest of raising their spirits; your compassion and understanding has been very much appreciated by Mrs Davey and I.

Thank you very much Jayne Hayden for organising the collection.

Parent Staff Association (PSA)

The first PSA function of the year took place last Friday when children's attendance at the FP and KS2 discos was an all-time high and raised a very impressive **£478.09!** This will now be put to good use across the school year and this year's projects include the purchase of a second set of iPads to enhance learning. Thank you to parents and carers for supporting this event.

A **huge 'thank you'** from us all here at school to Zoe Smith-Doe and the rest of the committee; your hard work and dedication to the school is much appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns over any of the above, do not hesitate to contact me at the school. Thank you once again for your support throughout the last half term; it really is much appreciated by all the children and staff.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,
Yours faithfully,

Kate Guest