



February Newsletter 2017

Parent E-Mail Address - URGENT RESPONSE NEEDED!

Thank you to those of you who have provided us with your email address to help us to further improve our means of reliable communication. Sadly, we have only received 1/3 of all the emails we need. To enable you to be kept 100% in the communication loop, you must provide us with your email address. Please email school on (wwwmail@hwbcymru.net) stating clearly your child or children's names and class, your name and your relationship to the child, eg *Mother or Father*. We can then save your email address on our website for school staff to use. Rest assured, your personal information will be kept secure.

In relation to split families, please can you make sure you communicate with other adults with parental responsibility so they can provide their own email address. In such cases, it is vital that we are provided with the name of the other parent and the relationship with the child. Please bear in mind that although we know who you are on a face-to-face basis, we may not recognise you by your email address alone. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Email example:

My name is Mick Sturbs and my children are called Rosemary (Class 3) and Basil (Class 6). I am the father of both children.

Year 3&4 Glan Llyn Residential Trip (Tues 28th Feb-Wed 1st March)

Thank you to those parents who have paid for the trip on time, you have made the administration for this trip easy. We extended the payment period as far as we could with Glan Llyn as we have to settle the full cost of the trip before we go - as with any holiday. If school have to pay any outstanding charges for children, we run the risk of losing a lot of money should children decide not to go or if parents find themselves unable to pay after half term.

Year 5 & 6 Nant BH Residential Trip Mon 13th March to Wednesday 15th March

Many thanks for all deposits and payments made to date. **The full cost of the trip is needed on or before Friday 3rd March. Full paying child places cost £160 and for those receiving Free School Meals the cost is £100 (all transport is included).** Sadly, children will not be able to attend this experience without full payment in advance of the trip. A kit list and medical form will follow.

Breakfast Club Behaviour

The vast majority of Breakfast Club users are able to behave perfectly well every morning, follow staff instructions and are able to enjoy a positive start to the school day. Sadly, a minority of children have not been displaying appropriate behaviour, challenging staff instructions and have been causing other children distress. This is unacceptable. For such cases, I have one simple solution. If the Breakfast Club staff report any ill-behaviour to senior staff a ban will be enforced on the individuals involved. This decision will not be negotiable as senior staff judgement on any given situation is final. If you know your child has the tendency or potential to misbehave, please make this warning perfectly clear to them.

Parking Worries

I am receiving an increase in the number of complaints over parking and driving in restricted areas. I understand how frustrating the school run can be but for the safety of our children, please adhere with the following guidance.

- A) DO NOT use the Westwood Centre Car Park for dropping off or picking up children. It is not safe and it does not belong to the school.
- B) DO NOT use the Westwood Centre car park to turn your car around.
- C) DO NOT use the staff car park at any time.
- D) DO NOT park your car on the yellow zig-zags outside school. This includes waiting. Even Blue Badges are not permitted to wait or park on zig-zags.
- E) DO NOT use the Church Community Centre car park opposite the school. Rev. Rosemary Clarke has asked me to kindly stop using this area for school run parking.
- F) It is helpful for me if parents could report any further issues relating to parking outside school to the local authority as my parking enforcement abilities are limited.

As a result of a helpful parent supporting my concerns with the local authority, I have arranged a site meeting with a road safety officer, a traffic enforcement officer and area supervisor to help tackle the problem.

Preparing for On-line Payments

Following a discussion in a governor finance planning meeting this week, it was decided that Westwood needs to take giant steps forward to become a

"cashless school". This change would require all parents to have the means to pay for dinners, trips, snack and other experiences over the internet. Amongst other things, this change would increase financial security within the school and eliminate the problems caused by children losing money from envelopes and would simplify the process of coming into the school office to pay, get change or check how much was owed. I'm sure the vast majority of the population are able to pay on-line from a bank account already. We are aiming to begin this service in September 2017.

Change of Address or Phone Numbers

Please make sure you inform the office of any changes to your contact information. It is essential that we are kept up to date should we need to contact you. Several times this academic year we have been unable to contact parents because we have not been given an updated phone number.

School Eisteddfod Competition

We will be hosting our annual school Eisteddfod on the morning of Friday 3rd March (as close to St David's Day as possible) in the school hall. This competition is a friendly celebration of the Welsh language and culture where children present art, poetry, writing and singing to a panel of judges. House Points are awarded for lucky winners and the House with the highest points total become the Eisteddfod winners! There are two particular events that will need your support at home:

1. Parent & Pupil Art and Design Project

The theme this year is "A Welsh Land Mark". Parents work with their children at home to come up with a creation of any shape or size using any material. It can be either 2D or 3D. The only limitation to your creativity is it must be linked to the given theme. Please remember that you must work *with* your child so don't get too competitive and lock yourselves away in the garden shed for the half term week! Think of castles, mountains, lakes, churches, stadiums etc. Be sure to clearly label your creation with the name of your child, their class and their house (name or colour). Good luck!!

2. Learning Logs

In their Learning Logs, children must produce a well-presented piece of work relating to a famous Welsh person. More information will be discussed in class with your child's class teacher. Perhaps the famous Welsh person could be past or present, a celebrity, artist, sportsperson, singer or legendary character?

The children will also be working hard in class to produce entries for other categories in the competition like handwriting, poetry recitals, and art.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE IN SCHOOL READY FOR JUDGING ON TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY - LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE JUDGED!

World Book Day & Fair Trade Reading Café - Friday 10th March

National World Book Day falls on Thursday 2nd March (The day before our planned Eisteddfod). However, in Westwood we are giving you more time to find or make a costume by holding our celebration of reading on **Friday 10th March**. It'd be great to see all our children dressed up as their favourite book character on Friday 10th. Roald Dahl, David Walliams, JK Rowling, Mr Men, comic book heroes, fairy tales or legendary characters - to name a few ideas.

We are inviting family members to join us in school for a variety of refreshments and to share some reading with the children from 2pm. More specific details will follow after half term.

Key Strings Performance

The amazing Key Strings musical duo are in school on 3rd March to entertain and educate the children with a variety music. This session is fun, lively, inspiring and unique for children of all ages. We are using the money raised in the school disco to pay for this experience so there will be no additional contributions needed.

Penguins Playgroup

Penguins Playgroup in the Westwood Early Years Centre have places available for children aged 2 to 4 years old. Sessions times are 9:00am to 11:15am and 12:45pm to 3:00pm Monday to Thursday. A pick up service from Westwood Nursery Department is also available. This is a great opportunity for your child to experience a learning environment with the friendly staff. Evidence suggests that children settle more readily into school if they have taken part in a playgroup setting beforehand.

Please feel free to pop in for a chat to see what's on offer or phone us on 07955 114184

Quick Hits!

- ~ Put names in all clothing.
- ~ Send us your email address.
- ~ Do something great over half term.
- ~ Read every day.
- ~ Stay active, play sports, wear yourself out!
- ~ Get creative with the Eisteddfod projects.
- ~ Come back to school on Monday 27th February.