

May Half-Term 2018

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another half term has whizzed by and there have been lots of exciting things going on as you will see below. There are lots of upcoming events and all of these are also listed below. Please keep these dates in a safe place! Stick them to the fridge, put them in your diaries etc, as in the main, they go out quite far in advance, so that you know what is coming up.



Sunshine!

The weather is finally warming up and as it has been quite hot recently, this is just a reminder to please ensure that the children have the following to make them as safe and comfortable in this weather as they can be;

- a sunhat
- apply suncream before they come to school (we cannot apply this in school)
- a bottle of water which they can keep in class (no squash or fizzy drinks)

Nursery

- Nursery children should wear a T Shirt (no strappy tops or vests please, as shoulders burn easily)
- Sandals can be worn, but preferably no open toe shoes (e.g. children can wear canvas daps or closed toe sandals)
- No flip flops should be worn to school

Reception - Year 6

Children are able to wear their summer uniform to school. A number of children have started to wear trainers to school since the weather has warmed up. Please ensure that black school shoes are worn only (or sandals as per uniform list below). Some children have not been wearing full uniform in the last week or so. Please ensure that children are sent to school wearing the correct uniform. PE kit is a pair of navy shorts and a yellow T shirt. No branded/ brightly sportswear should be worn for PE. They look so smart and it brings us all together as a school family, giving them a sense of pride in belonging to St Illtyd's.

Summer Uniform is as follows:

Summer Uniform (Summer term only, but may also may be worn in September if the weather is still warm)	
Girls	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Grey Tailored shorts if preferred to skirt /pinafore● Yellow Polo T-shirt (with logo preferable) OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pale blue or pale yellow gingham dress● Blue jumper or cardigan (with logo preferable)● Black shoes or plain sandals (preferably not open toed or brightly coloured)	
Boys	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Grey tailored shorts or trousers● Yellow Polo Shirt (with logo preferable)● Blue jumper (with logo preferable)● Black school shoes / All black trainer style shoes with a black sole	
Not permitted Cycle /Lycra shorts Denim shorts / trousers / jeans Leggings or Jogging bottoms (other than for PE lessons - see below) Hoodies Bright coloured trainers / trainers with a white sole High heeled shoes or boots	

Health and Safety

The car park is always busy at the start and end of the day. All FP children should be picked up from the classroom door. If you pick up your KS2 child by car at the end of the day please can you let a member of staff know that you are there. Year 5/ 6 children are permitted to walk home alone and therefore will be escorted to the front gates. For children in Year 3/ 4 parents should be aware that staff will not send children out to the car park to you unless you alert them to the fact that you are there and you get out of the car to meet your child. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Extract from our school Prospectus available on our website

*Foundation Phase children **MUST** be collected by an adult. Children in Years 3 & 4 **MUST** be collected by either an adult or a responsible person over the age of 16. They should be collected from the school gates. Please let us know who will be collecting your child on a regular basis and inform us if this is to change.*

Attendance

Attendance is currently 94.9%, below our target of 95.4%. Please help us to reach this by ensuring that your children are in school, on time every day unless they are ill. Please

remember that term time absence will not be authorised if your child's attendance falls below 95.4%, whatever the reason for that may be. Please telephone in on the first day of absence to let us know why your child is not in school.

A number of parents have asked to collect their child / children early from school. There needs to be a valid reason for collecting children early. Dentist / Drs appointments should be made outside of school time if possible.

Wales Curriculum Reform

Please follow the link below to find out more about how and why the curriculum in Wales is changing.

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculuminwales/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/?lang=en>

Fundraising News

Every year group participated in a challenge to support the NSPCC recently. You helped to raise over £1200 for the NSPCC. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity





Relief Kitchen Staff Needed:

There is a vacancy for a relief kitchen staff employee. 7.5 hours 12:-1:30pm You need to have Food Safety Level 2, which can be done online. Please contact our cook Victoria Jones for further information at the school. 01495 321718

School Improvement Priorities

We continue to make progress in all areas. As part of our Amber support categorisation, we have regular half termly Progress Review meetings with the Challenge Advisor and the Local Authority Education Directorate. We are demonstrating progress month by month.

Our priority	What we have done so far...
Teaching and Learning Further improving the quality of teaching and embedding a consistent approach to the teaching of English, Maths, Science, ICT and Welsh, in particular.	<p>All staff have been reflecting on their professional learning needs and what they need in order to further develop. Staff have visited other schools and settings in the region and across Wales to see good practice in other schools. We have further visits planned after half term.</p> <p>Staff have attended many professional learning events in and out of school time. Recently several of us attended a NetworkEd event on Saturday. It was an inspirational day!</p> <p>One of the contacts we made on that day came in to school to work with year 2 this week, for example. Year 2 were</p> 

	<p>incredibly lucky to be joined by @Mat6453 this week we certainly did develop our ICT skills! Thank you Matt! @AppleEDU We are linking all of our professional learning to the Estyn recommendations for the school and to the forthcoming new Professional Standards for teachers and leaders, which come into effect in September 2018.</p> <p>All classes are attending the Eden Centre this half term, fully funded by the school. This is to improve their ICT skills, but it is also good professional learning for staff in order to learn how to use similar ways of teaching back in school.</p>
<p>Standards and Curriculum Developing the whole curriculum to ensure that the basic skills of the subjects listed above are taught really well, but that they are linked with other subjects such as art, music, PE and RE as part of class topics and themes. By linking them all together in exciting and meaningful experiences for the children it will make our learning experiences more relevant for our children and more engaging for them.</p>	<div data-bbox="606 649 1173 1500">  </div> <p>What we have done so far... As a result of the professional learning in the school, our curriculum development is progressing at pace. Staff are working in a different way, talking to and listening to what and how the children say they want to learn. Staff then take these ideas and create themes and topics based around them, whilst ensuring that the basics of Literacy, Numeracy and ICT run through all aspects of their learning.</p> <p>Here are a few examples, all of which are on our social media pages (Facebook and Twitter).</p> <p>Nursery children have been getting creative, being 'snail scientists' and there has been lots of outdoor learning and play!</p>



Reception have been using their senses to explore gummy bears. We stretched and squashed them and watched as they went back to shape. We wondered what would happen if we put them in water so we decided to find out! We wrote our ideas on a wonder bubble. What do you think will happen?



Year 5 have been learning about 'Food'. They are continuing their journey around the world in 80 tastes thinking about how although the foods look and taste different from country to country, the food groups needed to comprise a balanced diet remain constant. [#enrich](#) [#succeed](#)



Wellbeing and Attitudes to Learning

Making sure that we teach PSE really well and are good at providing for children's wellbeing, which includes identifying early on if their wellbeing is low and if they need help and support. Involving children more in decision making and giving them more of a voice in school so their views are heard.

Our Pupil Leaders are developing their roles.

Da iawn to the **Eco Committee and School Council** for working with [@BGECO Education](#) to turn plastic bottles into flowers. These will be on display at the free Go Wild event at Parc Bryn Bach on 9th June 10AM - 3PM.



Mrs Hughes has been meeting with Criw Cymreig. They will be taking part in Cymraeg Campus, an initiative aimed at developing the use of Welsh in school, run by the children.



VOICE team and the School Council have recently led an assembly entitled 'What is Curriculum'.



Digital Leaders have been busy teaching other children how to make the best use of the new technology we have in school.

A number of staff



	<p>volunteer their time after school to run clubs such as craft club. Gardening club have been busy planting and growing. Thank you Miss Meek and Mrs Wayne for craft club and also Mr Meek and Mrs Warfield for gardening with our children.</p> <p>After half term we will be supporting the children with their transition to the next class / phase. All children will spend some time in their new class with their new teacher. The secondary schools are confirming their arrangements for transition.</p> <p>Recently children in years 5 and 6 had an assembly with Mr Thomas, Head of Campus @abertillery3_16 today to talk about secondary school.</p>  <p>We are always helping the children to reflect on their learning. We talk about whether they are motivated, how much effort they have put in, what they need to do improve and how to develop their resilience. Being a good life-long learner will help them as they move through school, on to secondary school and in their working lives. E.g. Year 4 have been learning to 'learn' through problem solving.</p> 
<p>Care Support and Guidance Making sure that we track the progress of our children really well, that we know them really well, identify their needs early on and put</p>	<p>Further Pupil Progress Meetings took place in in April between Mrs Williams and all teachers to discuss the progress of every single child in their classes during the Spring term. The progress of every child is closely monitored through these meetings and teachers are adapting their planning according the the needs identified.</p>

<p>things in place quickly to help and support them. Working more closely with parents and carers.</p>	<p>This information was also used by Mrs MacKay to ensure that children are supported effectively.</p> <p>Mrs MacKay has completed a range of assessments for our pupils with ALN in order to further identify their broader and specific needs and further improve the support we offer.</p>
<p>Leadership and Management Building a Leadership Team to drive all the key school improvement areas, including School Governors. Governors becoming more involved in the life of the school.</p>	<p>Governors The Finance committee met on 08.05.18 and the full Governing body met on 09.05.18. The sub committee for Care, Support and Guidance have met. The sub committee for Teaching and Learning meet this week. These committees look at the day to day work of the school during school hours, including lessons and pupils' books.</p> <p>The Appointments committee have assisted to date in the recruitment of another teacher this week. More information will be given after half term.</p> <p>Leaders in the school; Mrs MacKay, Mrs Banks and Miss Evans, have presented on the impact of their work to Governors.</p> <p>Mrs Banks has completed her Excellence in the Leadership of ICT course. Well done to her!</p> <p>Miss Evans is part way through a PB Cert in Curriculum and Successful Futures and has just passed her first assignment with flying colours! Well done to her too.</p> <p>Mrs MacKay has attended several curriculum pioneer events. We are not a Pioneer school, but Mrs MacKay is working with the Welsh Government and is helping to write the Health and Wellbeing aspect of the new curriculum. We are proud that she is representing the school nationally and that our staff and children are part of the process of curriculum reform. Well done Mrs MacKay! Your children are also having a voice in shaping the future curriculum.</p> <p>Mr Thomas remains on sick leave currently. Mrs MacKay and Miss Evans have been covering his role.</p> <p>Mrs Williams has been appointed to the Board of the National Academy for Educational Leadership, meeting monthly with Welsh Government. This will enable the school's leaders to be at the forefront of leadership development across Wales and keep up to date with</p>

	<p>national priorities.</p> <p>Mrs Williams has also recently attended, by invitation, a workshop with Estyn (The Inspectorate) and the OCED (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). This was to develop effective self evaluation materials for school leaders across Wales.</p> <p>Some parents have asked what this means for St Illtyd's school and it is a fantastic opportunity to experience and influence first hand what the national developments are and also for school leaders at St Illtyd's to have an influence on policy and practice at a national level. One of the new Professional Standards for teachers and leaders which come into effect from September 2018 is to engage in collaboration with other schools and agencies. We are providing many opportunities for this at St Illtyd's and our school is being represented nationally in many forums. We are very proud of our school!</p>
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Breakfast club times


Breakfast club opens at 8:15am. Last admission is 8:40am. Children will not be admitted to breakfast club after 8:40am. If you are late for breakfast club (after 8:40am) then you will need to wait until the school doors open at 8:50am.

Health and Safety

Please remember that all areas of the school site are 'No Smoking' and this includes the use of e-cigarettes.

Dogs are not permitted within the school grounds.

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THE DIARY DATES BELOW. THEY WILL ALSO BE PUBLISHED ON OUR WEBSITE AND ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES.

<p>Dates for your Diary</p> <p>Please keep for future notice!</p>	
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Family and Community Engagement events are in blue below

New dates set since the last newsletter are highlighted in yellow.
All other dates have been sent out on previous letters and are on the website.

May

23.05.18	Year 5 Class Assembly 9:15-9:45 Families are invited to come and watch Year 5 in a special assembly they will prepare to share their learning journey with you.
24.05.18	Year 4 Class Assembly 9:15-9:45 Families are invited to come and watch Year 4 in a special assembly they will prepare to share their learning journey with you.
25.05.18	End of half term
28.05.18	School closed for half term

June 2018

28.05.18 - 01.06.18	School closed for half term
04.06.18	Start of second half term
NEW DATE 06.06.18	Meeting for Parents of pupils in Y5 & Y6 attending Gilwern Outdoor Education Centre Meeting 1 starts at 3:15pm Meeting 2 starts at 5:00pm Please choose the most convenient time slot
07.06.18 Re-Arranged Date	Meetings for Parents of pupils in Y3 & Y4 attending Hilston Park Meeting 1 starts at 3:15pm Meeting 2 starts at 5:00pm Please choose the most convenient time slot
NEW DATE 07.06.18	Cricket Festival Abertillery SC Y5, 6 More Information to follow
14.06.18 Re-Arranged Date	Year 3 Class Assembly 9:15-9:45 Families are invited to come and watch Year 3 in a special assembly they will prepare to share their learning journey with you.
12.06.18	Year 6 Class Open Session 9:15-9:45 Families are invited to come and spend some time in Year 6 where they will share their learning journey with you. (Later in July they will perform in a special

	assembly to celebrate their achievements).
NEW DATE 13.06.18	Cricket Final TBC Y5,6 More Information to follow
13.06.18	Year 2 Class Assembly 9:15-9:45 Families are invited to come and watch Year 2 in a special assembly they will prepare to share their learning journey with you.
NEW DATE 15.06.18	Swimming Gala Final Ebbw Vale Y5, 6 More Information to follow
NEW DATE 18.06.18	Sports Day *DRY WEATHER DEPENDENT* - Llanhilleth Rugby Field KS2 9:45am-12:00 FP 1:30-3:00
NEW DATE 20.06.18	Alternative DATE - if weather is wet on Monday 18th June - Reserve Sports Day KS2 9:45am-12:00 FP 1:30-3:00
NEW DATE 21.06.18	Athletics Final Ebbw Vale SC Y3,4,5,6 More Information to follow
NEW DATE 21.06.18	YEAR 5 MYSTERY EXPERIENCE @ Newbridge Comp *Awaiting Letters to be sent by Newbridge Comprehensive
NEW DATE 22.06.18	YEAR 6 ALC 3-16 TRANSITION DAY *Awaiting Letters to be sent by ALC 3-16
27.06.18	New Reception (September 2018) Intake Meeting for (current Nursery) Parents whose children will start Reception in 2018 2:00-3:00 School Hall
NEW DATE 28.06.18	YEAR 6 Newbridge TRANSITION DAY *Awaiting Letters to be sent by Newbridge Comprehensive
28.06.18 - 29.06.18	Y3 & Y4 Hilston Park Visit

July 2018

NEW DATE 03.07.18	Boys world cup festival Football Y3,4 More Information to follow
NEW DATE 05.07.18	Girls World Cup Festival Football Y3,4 More Information to follow
06.07.18	Transition Day

	<p>Reception to Year 6</p> <p>All children will move to their new classes in school and spend the day with their new teachers and TAs.</p> <p>Year 6 will remain in school and will be involved in Transition activities.</p>
11.07.18	<p>New Nursery (September 2018) Intake Meeting for Parents</p> <p>2:00-3:00 School Hall</p>
09.07.18 - 12.07.18	Y5 & Y6 Gilwern Visit
18.07.18	<p>Year 6 Leavers' Celebration</p> <p>Families are invited to come and watch Year 6 in a special assembly they will prepare to share their learning journey with you, as they prepare to move on to secondary school.</p>
18.07.18	Nursery closes at 10:45am
19.07.18	Nursery closes at 10:45am
18.07.18 and 19.07.18	11:30-12:30 New Nursery (September 2018) Intake Transition Sessions
24.07.18	Last day of term

INSET

No more INSET days will be taken before the end of July.

September

Monday 03.09.18	School Closed INSET
Tuesday 04.09.18	School Closed INSET
Wednesday 05.09.18	<p>Reception to Year 6 Start of Term</p> <p>No staggered start - all children will stay all day from 05.09.18</p>
Wednesday 05.09.18	Nursery Closed INSET
Thursday 06.09.18	<p>Nursery Start of Term</p> <p>No staggered start - all children will stay until 11:30am from 06.09.18</p>

