

Ysgol Penmorfa Newsletter

April 2014

School will close on Friday 11th April for the Easter Holiday. The start of the new term for pupils will be on Tuesday 29th April.

Listening to children read

The development of pupils' literacy skills, especially the development of independent writing, is our main priority in the School Development Plan. The school has introduced several new strategies to successfully raise standards in the quality of pupils' writing skills.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support children with their reading at home. Written comments in children's Reading Records show that many of our pupils are regularly listened to as they read at home. A group of teachers from local schools have worked together to produce the attached leaflet as a guide for parents and carers.

The school also welcomes parents and carers who are able to do voluntary work at school, e.g. listening to pupils read. All volunteers need to go through the registration process and relevant checks as a Denbighshire volunteer worker before they can help in the classrooms. Anyone wishing to volunteer support at school is invited to inform staff in the main office or discuss it with the Headteacher.

Family Link Worker

Language and play sessions are being held at school every Friday morning between 9.00 and 10.30 a.m. The sessions are provided for parents and toddlers between the ages of 12 months to 30 months.

Parents' Evenings

Open Evenings for parents to meet with their child's teacher will be held next term. As usual, in order to reduce the amount of traffic outside of the school, the Open Evenings will be staggered over several weeks.

Penmorfa Playmates

Many of our Nursery pupils attend the Penmorfa Playmates pre-school group, which runs at our school from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily. Anyone wishing to contact the pre-school can do so by telephoning 07872 382 182 or by calling in at the main office at school. The Penmorfa Playmates are currently looking for people to join the committee.

School Website

Work has started on designing a new school website to make it more useful for parents, staff and pupils. If you have any suggestions to be included in the new website, please let us know at school and we will pass on those ideas and suggestions to the people who are designing the site.

SPORTS DAYS

School inspections are usually carried out once every six years. As the last Estyn inspection was summer term 2008, we anticipate another visit from Estyn inspectors during the summer term. For this reason, we intend to hold Sports Days during the week commencing 19th May.

Early Years	Monday 19 th May
Year 1 + Year 2	Wednesday 21 st May
Key Stage 2	Thursday 22 nd May

The times of the sports will be confirmed closer to the time.

Supporting Charities

Ysgol Penmorfa supports at least one local and one national charity each year.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Sports Relief charity this term. The school raised a total of £2173.00, which is a fantastic amount of fundraising.

In April, a group of key stage 2 pupils organised a cake stall at school and raised £91.00 for a hospital charity.

Term Dates

Half Term	School closes School re-opens	Friday 23 rd May Monday 2 nd June
Summer	School closes	Friday 18 th July
Autumn	School opens School closes	Wednesday 3 rd September Friday 24 th October

Sport Success

The school netball team were placed in fourth position out of 190 schools when they played in the North East Wales Championships this term.

Links with local businesses

Pupils from every class have visited the local Tesco Store this term. Each class spent a couple of hours at the store, learning about different types of food and the countries where the food is grown. The children were also taken behind the scenes to see how food is stored and kept fresh until it is placed on the shelves for sale. A tour of the in-store bakery showed the children how bread is made and how the loaves for the store are produced.

Head Lice

The school nurse has arranged to come back into school on Thursday 1st May to meet parents and plan a Bug-Busting Day. Our aim is to raise awareness of the best treatments for head lice and to coordinate a whole school approach. We also aim to provide parents with the appropriate products to treat head lice. Parents wishing to attend the meeting are welcome to come along to the school's Community Meeting Room at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 1st May.

Pupils' Individual Learning Targets

All pupils from Reception classes up to Year 6 have targets that they are currently working towards at school. The targets are for literacy and numeracy. In the Foundation Phase the children refer to their targets as 'Teddy Targets' because they are written on a Teddy Bear and displayed in the classroom. Each week the children have designated time to practise their skills. They change their targets as they make progress. Parents and carers are encouraged to ask their children about their targets at school.