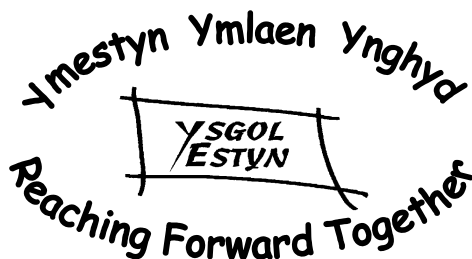


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Head teacher Mr Gareth David Jones BEd (Hons) NPQH Prifathro

7th February 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

Good bye and good luck

Mrs Debra Skelly will be leaving the Ysgol Estyn team on Friday 8th February to take up her new role at Gwyn Evans swimming baths. Mrs Skelly has worked at school for 9 years and fulfilled numerous roles during this time, most recently as a teaching assistant in nursery, breakfast club assistant and MDSA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for everything she has brought to our school and wish her good luck for the future.

Mrs Sam Davies has been appointed in our nursery class, Miss Clare Jones as Breakfast Club Assistant and MDSA.

Good News!

Following our successful MBNA application we have received the funds from the bank and the SMART boards were installed during the Christmas holidays. Both these and the new iPads ensure that we keep up to date with the ever developing digital classroom approaches.

Thank you to all who supported our 'Big Lottery' application. I am pleased to announce that we were successful with our bid and our new 'Daily Mile' track will be installed during the February half term holiday!

St Davids' Day Celebrations

We will be holding our annual St David's' Day assembly on 6th March. As I will not be present I have asked Mrs N Jones and her 'CriwCymraeg' team to lead this year's celebrations. They have been busy planning their assembly, which we hope to film and post it on our numerous social media platforms.

As part of the celebrations we have been contacted by the Daily Post as they are wanting to publish an article in their paper. Therefore on 14th February all children are encouraged to wear something red for Wales, as a photographer will be coming to school to take pictures, these will feature in their paper on 1st March. Some of the work, which the classes are busy preparing will also be photographed.

Homework

As a school we have recently reviewed our homework policy and have decided that we will no longer be sending fortnightly Learning Log tasks home. However we will be now setting Mymaths homework weekly. We would urge parents to support school with this as all homework set is a follow up from what the children have been doing in their math's lessons. I am aware that some children have problems with their internet connection or some tasks requiring Flash Player, however as I have mentioned previously when the children move to high school they will be expected to use Hope Community Library, which has 3 PCs and is open from 10am – 12pm on Saturday mornings, Monday and Wednesday evenings. The children have one full week to complete the homework. We allow this amount of time so that the children can make use of the practice questions and tutorials linked to the tasks set. If following a number of attempts they are still struggling with the questions, we encourage them to discuss any issues with their class teacher.

CONSORTIWM



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Along with their Mymaths the children should still be practising their times tables (use HWB games), reading and spellings from their spelling log regularly during the week.

Parents' Evening

Our mid-year parents' evening will take place on 27th March between 3.15pm and 6.30pm. More information to follow.

Other news and reminders

It has been brought to my attention and also witnessed on CCTV that even following numerous polite requests some parents are still using the staff car park and its entrance as a drop off area in the mornings. Even more worrying is the speed at which these parents are driving. Please could the parents concerned consider the safety of all when dropping their children off in the mornings.

A reminder to parents that the 'Free Breakfast Club' opens at 8.15am, with last admission at 8.30am. If any parents want to access the paid for child care element from 7.45am – 8.15am please contact school or visit ysgolestyn.com for a form.

There are still a number of children who do not have the correct clothing for PE lessons. It is statutory for children to take part in PE in school, therefore could you please speak to your child to ensure that they have a kit in school. Children who do not have their kit will be kept in the following break time to complete class based tasks.

Family First Aid takes place next Tuesday and Wednesday – please contact school or visit ysgolestyn.com for details.

Hope Dragon's youth Football Team are hosting an open training session this Sunday between 11am and 1pm for all Year 1 – 4 pupils in readiness for the 2019/20 U8, 9 and 10 teams – all welcome!

Dates for your diary

February

8th Year 4 family forest schools
12th Disco
12th& 13th Family First Aid Years 3 – 6
20th Toddler Techniquet
25th Break for half term

March

5th Year 6 boys social event at Castell Alun
9am – 3pm
6th St David's Day Celebration service
7th Year 6 Football Numeracy and Year 3
Football Geography commences (5
weeks)
Reading Cafe- more information to follow
13th Reception – Year 2 Techniquet After
School Club commences
15th Year 3 Family Forest School session
18th - 20th PGL residential Year 5
21st Year 5 Parent's Lunch
29th Tempest informal photograph for
Reception and Year 6

April

5th Easter Bingo
9th Image Theatre – Pinocchio
11th Year 4 Parent Lunch
12th Year 2 Family Forest School session

School closes for the Easter holidays on 12th April and re-opens for pupils on 30th April. Please be aware that 29th April is a staff training day.

May

1st Year 6 residential to Cardiff (3 days)
7th - 14th National Tests for Year 2 – 6
20th Nursery and Reception Techniquet
Family Learning
21st Year 3 and 4 Techniquet Family
Learning
22nd Year 2 and Year 1 Techniquet Family
Learning
23rd Year 6 and Year 5 Techniquet Family
Learning

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Jones
Head teacher