



12 December 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

As we come to the end of a successful term here at St Cenydd, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. It has been a good start to the school year, with many pupils enjoying considerable success both in and out of the classroom.

Ready, Respect, Safe

As you will be aware, the school launched a new Reward and Behaviour Policy in September based on one school rule: Ready, Respect, Safe. We expected all pupils to be ready to learn; to be respectful of themselves, others and their environment; and to act in a safe manner. Please ensure that your child is ready for school by being in full school uniform that complies with our expectations (e.g. wearing their blazer and tie, both of which are compulsory every day) and with the correct equipment for their lessons.

New School Website

We have launched our new school website which you will find at www.stcenyddcommunityschool.co.uk. I hope that you will find it a useful tool for keeping in touch with school news and information. I would welcome your comments about the new site.

Reading Programme

Our new reading programme has proven to be successful this term. The whole school read 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell at the beginning of term, and in the last month KS3 pupils have listened to 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. We intend to keep up this programme, introducing KS3 pupils to literature and language they may not have previously encountered.

Building Works

The lift in the main school block has been out of action this term, and we are working closely with Caerphilly Council to ensure that all works are completed as quickly as possible. We hope that the lift will be fully functioning in early January. The plans for main school gates and secure entry/exit for traffic and pedestrians onto school site are underway. It is likely that these works will take place in the Spring Term. As detailed in my summer letter, following these works, parents will not be able to drive onto school site from 0810 until 1510 to ensure the safety of all members of our school community.

Attendance and Fixed Penalty Notices

Improving attendance of all pupils remains a key priority for the school. The vast majority of pupils are punctual to school and their attendance is very good. However, there are a few instances of poor attendance. I will be discussing

the use of Fixed Penalty Notices with Governors in January, and these will be issued by Caerphilly Council where poor attendance has not improved despite intervention and monitoring.

Adverse Weather Plans

As we are now in the winter months, please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for the weather in a warm, waterproof coat that fits over their blazer, and in suitable footwear. Please be assured that the school will always open providing we have sufficient teaching and support staff available for lessons to take place throughout the day, and that it is safe to do so.

However, in extreme weather conditions, it may be necessary to close the school. My decision to do so, along with the Chair of Governors, will be based on three factors: the safety of the site; how many staff can safely attend school to ensure the education of pupils; and the weather forecast. Should it be necessary to close before the school has opened for the day, parents will be informed by text and this information will be lodged on the new school website and the council website (www.caerphilly.gov.uk). Please ensure that the school has your up-to-date mobile telephone number. Should the school have to close during the school day, you will be informed by text. Please ensure that your child has an emergency telephone number for you should they need to be sent home and please discuss with them your plan of where they are to go in the event of such a school closure e.g. directly home, to a friends' home, or to a relative or neighbour.

Staff updates

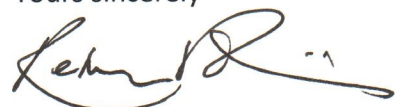
- At the end of this term, Mr Jason Rees (Assistant Headteacher) will be leaving to take up the post of Deputy Headteacher at St Julian's School in Newport. I am grateful for all he has done here at St Cenydd, and know that he will be much missed by staff and students. We wish him every success in his new post.
- We have a new school caretaker, Mr Paul Haines who joined us at the beginning of December. Mrs Emma Rogers will join the Geography department and Miss Jade Lewis will join the RE department in January.

End of term and new year arrangements

- Our Christmas Fayre was a great success, showcasing the entrepreneurial skills of our KS4 pupils and raising an impressive £850.
- On Friday 16th December we will have the traditional staff pantomime and 'Christmas Jumper Day'. Students are invited to wear a Christmas themed jumper over their school uniform, or accessorise their school uniform, raising money for The Teenage Cancer Trust which has recently supported some of our students.
- We return to school on Tuesday 3rd January, following the Bank Holiday Monday.
- Please note the dates of our three remaining INSET days: 3rd February 2017, 26 May 2017 and 21 July 2017.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Miss Rebecca V. Collins
Headteacher