

Nant-y-Parc Weekly Newsletter



Contact details:

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nantyparcprimary@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk

13th September 2024

WELCOME BACK

I hope you have all had a great summer and lots of family time. It is great to see you all back at school, ready for the new academic year. This is just a quick reminder that our newsletter will be published every two weeks, and a link will be sent via text messaging for you to gain access. We will continue to limit the amount of paper we send home, but if you require a paper copy, please call the school office.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS / GRANTS

CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR CHILD IS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS.

If your child qualifies for free school meals, you may be able to get help with other school costs/essentials such as school uniforms etc.

Check via the following link: <https://www.gov.wales/get-help-school-costs>

Please note that this is different to the universal primary free school meals to which all pupils are entitled. Refer to page 2 for further details.

MEET THE TEACHER

Meet the Teacher will take place on **Wednesday, September 11th**. You will be invited to school to meet with your child's class teacher and discuss any queries you may have. The class teacher will share relevant information with you during this time and will inform you of their expectations this academic year. This is an informal drop-in session; you can call in anytime from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

PUPIL PHOTOGRAPHS

On **Monday, September 16th**, the photographer will be in school to take the children's photographs. There will also be an opportunity for siblings to have photographs taken. Please inform your child's class teacher if you require sibling photos to be taken by Friday, September 15th, so that we can organise this. Please can you try to ensure your child/children wear their school uniform on this day?



JEANS FOR GENES

On **Friday, September 20th**, children can wear denim or jeans to school. A £1 donation to this great charity would be much appreciated.

HEAD BOY & GIRL INTERVIEWS

On **Thursday, 18th September**, we will be holding our elections in school. The children who wish to apply will need to prepare a short presentation about why they believe they would make good leaders. Year 6 pupils will need to complete an application form (provided by Mrs Davies) if they wish to be considered for an interview. Head Boy/Girl, Deputy Head Boy/Girl, Pupil Leadership Team and Mini Senedd Team will be announced in assembly on Friday, 20th September.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER EXCHANGE

This year, we have decided to continue to hold the Christmas jumper exchange scheme where families can donate any Christmas jumpers/t-shirts/shirts that their children have outgrown. If these could be donated by Wednesday, 13th November, we will launder them and have them available for parents to browse and take away on 18.11.23 free of charge. As a school, we are trying our best to limit costs around the Christmas period and thought this would be a great way to re-use jumpers/t-shirts/shirts which no longer fit your child and may be of benefit to others.



PLEASE REFER TO EACH OF THE ATTACHMENTS FOR FURTHER UPDATES

Value of the month: **Respect**

A peek at the next few weeks...



Diary Dates

11.09.24	Meet the Teacher
16.09.24	Pupil Photographs
17.09.24	Multiply Event for Reception Parents (9:05 am)
20.09.24	Jeans for Genes Day
23.09.24	UN International Peace Day
26.09.24	Macmillan Coffee Morning – Cakes and tea/coffee available in the hall from 9:30 until 10:15
26.09.24	European Day of Languages
October	Black History Month
08.10.24	Flu Vaccinations – (all pupils)
10.10.24	NSPCC Workshops for Y2/5/6
14.10.24	1913 Mining Disaster Memorial Day

TERM DATES



27.09.24 -	INSET Day – CANCELLED
04.10.24 -	INSET Day (school closed for pupils)
28.10.24 - 01.11.24	Half Term
25.11.24 -	INSET Day (school closed for pupils)
20.12.24 -	End of autumn term (1:15 p.m. finish)
06.01.25 -	Spring term begins

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is crucial for primary school pupils as it lays the foundation for their academic success, social development, and overall well-being. Consistent attendance ensures that children have access to high-quality teaching, engage fully with the curriculum, and build important relationships with their peers and teachers. Missing school, even for a few days, can disrupt their learning and make it harder for them to catch up, potentially affecting their confidence and progress.

We strongly encourage parents to prioritise their child's education by sending them to school regularly and on time. If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please report their absence to the school office as soon as possible. Your cooperation is vital in helping us provide the best possible education and support for your child's development.

Get Help with School Costs

The Welsh Government is offering support to eligible children to help with school costs. This includes the rollout of Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) to all Primary school children, access to Free School Meals and the School Essentials Grant.



Parents can check eligibility here:
[Get help with school costs | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

Click on the images to download the assets from Dropbox.

SCHOOLS

Please use the content provided and share the assets. It is essential that parents/carers continue to check eligibility in order to access the support available and to ensure extra funding can be accessed for your school.

Free School Meals and the School Essentials Grant

Examples of images to use:



Universal Primary Free School Meals rollout

Examples of images to use:



Animation to use:



For more information or any queries, please email:
dysg@gov.wales

#FeedTheirFuture



'No Limits to Learning!' - 'Dim Ffiniau i Ddysgu!'



02.09.24

"Attend to Achieve"

Dear Parents/Carers,

This year, we continue to encourage and promote regular school attendance for all pupils. Our aim is for each pupil to achieve an attendance rate of 95% or higher, with a whole school target of 93%.

Therefore, we will maintain contact with families where attendance falls below 95% and becomes a concern. This may involve various forms of communication, such as a phone call home, a letter requesting medical evidence, an invitation to a meeting to discuss your child's attendance, and in more serious cases, a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN), or a referral to the Education Welfare Service (EWS). If you are invited to attend a meeting, please make every effort to attend, as these sessions are supportive and allow us to collaborate in finding solutions to improve attendance.

If your child has numerous recorded illnesses, we may request medical evidence for subsequent absences to continue authorising them. Failure to provide the requested medical evidence may result in your child receiving an unauthorised absence mark. Accumulating 10 sessions (5 school days) of unauthorised absence may lead to the issuance of an FPN or a referral to the EWS. However, our priority is to engage with parents through early interventions to prevent such measures. Effective communication is crucial in this process.

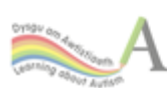
Did you know that pupils with poor attendance are more likely to fall behind in their studies, have gaps in their learning, and consequently achieve lower examination results? This can adversely affect their future opportunities.

We all share the responsibility to ensure our pupils have the best possible start in life, enabling them to reach their full potential.

I encourage all parents and carers to work with us to ensure pupils attend regularly this academic year. If a pupil is unhappy about attending school or health concerns are hindering their attendance, I urge parents to contact the school. We must work together to address poor attendance promptly.

How can the Local Authority support you?

Education Welfare Officers (EWOs) support schools, pupils, and parents/carers in encouraging regular school attendance. They assist children in overcoming obstacles that prevent them from attending school.



If you wish to discuss your child's attendance, please ask the school for the EWO's contact details.

If your child does not attend school regularly, the headteacher will want to meet with you to discuss the reasons. If attendance issues persist, the school may refer the matter to the Education Welfare Service.

Authorised Absences

There will be times when your child is ill, which is to be expected.

Occasionally, your child may need to visit the doctor or dentist. Such appointments should be scheduled outside school hours whenever possible. If this is not feasible, your child should attend school for as much of the day as possible. Providing appointment cards, letters, or copies of prescriptions helps us record the absence appropriately as a medical appointment.

Holidays

Holiday request forms can be obtained from the main school office. If your child has missed a significant amount of school, we may choose not to authorise a holiday, considering their attendance over time and the importance of their presence in school.

Please note that even if a holiday is authorised, it will still affect your child's attendance percentage. Combining illness and holidays can significantly reduce this percentage. While illness is often unavoidable, holidays are not, so please consider this carefully when planning, as unexpected illnesses can occur.

We will not authorise holidays if your child's attendance falls below 95%.

Legal Requirements

All children of compulsory school age (between 5 and 16) must receive a suitable full-time education. As a parent/carer, you are responsible for ensuring this and encouraging regular school attendance. Most school governing bodies have opted to use fixed penalty notices for parents/carers who do not collaborate with the school to support their child's education. These notices can be issued in accordance with the school's attendance policy.

Lateness

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time. Arriving late can be very stressful and disrupt lessons for others. Persistent lateness can be classified as unauthorised absence and referred to the Education Welfare Service.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership with our school. We appreciate the challenges that can sometimes contribute to poor attendance and are here to support you. We are committed to doing everything possible to encourage regular school attendance.

Kind regards,

Kirsty Nelson
Deputy Headteacher

IF YOU SHOP AT ASDA
PLEASE SIGN UP AND
SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

DON'T FORGET TO OPT-IN...

...once signed up, you can check
your app to see your school's
Cashpot so far.

HERE'S HOW:

- 1** Download the Asda Rewards app and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools.
- 2** Choose your primary school
- 3** Shop in-store across Asda & George, and scan your Asda Rewards app at the checkout.
- 4** Shopping online?
Simply log in to Asda.com using the same details as your Asda Rewards account.
- 5** We'll do the rest!
We donate ££s to your chosen school every time you shop, so they can spend it on exactly what they need.



**CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS**

Only with
**ASDA
Rewards**

Download and
opt-in today



YOU SCAN, WE DONATE ££S TO SCHOOLS.

Download the Asda Rewards
app and opt-in today

**CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS**

Only with
**ASDA
Rewards**



Caerphilly Cares

Within the Council, there are a range of services providing support to our communities at this time. You can find a detailed list of these services on the Cost of Living Landing Page on the CCBC website. However, we thought it might be helpful to summarise some of the specific (and often immediate) cost of living support options available currently, which could hopefully benefit you.

- **Welcoming Spaces** – You may be aware that we now have a network of Welcoming Spaces (also known as Warm Hubs) across the county borough, which are totally free to use and provide a warm welcome to all. Some offer activities, advice and support or even hot food and drinks – but all provide a warm place and a friendly face this winter (and beyond). Welcoming Spaces open so far include libraries, community centres, church halls, sports clubs, and other places. [A map of all Welcoming Spaces](#) currently running can be found on our website (please note locations could be subject to change but the map will be updated on a regular basis)
- **Warm Packs** – With rising fuel costs and upcoming cold snaps, we know that many people will be struggling to keep warm. To help combat this, we have funded a supply of warm packs, containing warm clothing and other useful items (such as a hot water bottle) to help those most at risk to stay warm in their home or when venturing outdoors. If you know someone in need, then please contact us and we can advise you further on whether they might be able to access a warm pack. Please note that warm packs should only be seen as an urgent short-term solution, and anyone experiencing ongoing problems with heating their home or staying warm should contact Caerphilly Cares to explore what other support options might be available.
- **Maximising Income**—The Welfare Benefits and Cost of Living teams within Housing (Rents) can support residents with a wide range of issues relating to maximising their income, including helping them explore any additional benefits and grants that they might be entitled to. Advisers can also provide advice on reducing energy costs in the home and providing access to fuel vouchers.
- **Fuel Vouchers**—While we're on the subject, did you know that residents struggling with the cost of topping up their pre-payment meter could be eligible for a fuel voucher, which can be used to quickly add credit to their energy supply? Get in touch for more information.
- **Foodbank** – If you are struggling to pay for food, they may be able to benefit from a foodbank parcel. The foodbank network extends across the Caerphilly County Borough, and a referral can be made immediately to support someone in urgent need of food and other household essentials.
- **Mobile Phones**—We are aware that some of our most vulnerable residents may struggle with accessing services due to a lack of a working phone. If you support customers who require a phone to remain in contact with you and other services, Caerphilly Cares may be able to provide a basic (call-only) phone and phone credit to help them stay in touch.
- **Data SIM Cards** – For customers in need of data to help them engage with key services, CCBC Library Service, in partnership with the Good Things Foundation, are launching a new scheme, offering pre-loaded data SIM cards to residents who are most in need. CCBC staff may refer customers to any library to receive a SIM card – they will need to attend their local library to request their SIM and will have to advise library staff which member of staff/team has referred them (Sims will only be given to customers who have been referred and who have identified need).
- **Housing and Homelessness Support**—If you are experiencing difficulties with housing, including problems with your tenancy or even the risk of homelessness, the Supporting People team is available to provide expert support and advice, including help finding housing, support with form filling, debts, benefits, eviction notices, and rent/mortgage arrears.
- **Employment Support**—Did you know that the Council has a dedicated team to help people find work? The Employment team can help people gain new skills, access training, and improve their chances of getting a job by helping with things such as updating their CVs, job searching, interview skills, etc. We can also complete "better off calculations" if customers have questions or concerns about how working might impact their current benefits.
- **Community Connectors**—The Community Connectors team aims to promote well-being, reduce social isolation, help people feel part of their community, and promote independence. The team reconnects residents (18+) with their community by helping them find suitable groups, linking them to other people who have similar interests, and encouraging them to participate within their community. If you are aware of someone who might be isolated and would like to get connected in their community, please get in touch with Caerphilly Cares using the details below.

These services are here to help customers and residents of Caerphilly County Borough (and you, your friends, families and neighbours).

To discuss any of the services above or to make a referral for someone else, please contact Caerphilly Cares. Our friendly and experienced team will find the best support available for residents around food poverty, debt advice, rent arrears, the cost-of-living crisis, and isolation and loneliness.

You or the people you support can contact the team via email, telephone, or simply text SUPPORT to *07537 414 443*, and one of the team will contact you directly.

Call: 01443 811490 | Email: caerphillycares@caerphilly.gov.uk | Website <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/services/cost-of-living-support/>



Every Tuesday 6-7pm

**St Martins School, Hillside,
Caerphilly CF83 1UW**

Open to girls aged 4-6 years old



Sign up now



contact us at **07930820643** or email us at
caerphilly.social@hotmail.com to sign up



2024 Aber Valley group

Everyone welcome!

Free to
attend.
£1 per
craft

Every THURSDAY

During term
time!

The YMCA,
Abertridwr
CF83 4HB

For more info get in
touch!

07487857745/ 01443875444
rachelhaines@parentcaer.org.uk

The Parent Network



Have anxiety?
Scan here

2024 Caerphilly group

Everyone welcome!

Free to
attend.
£1 per
craft

Every **TUESDAY**
During term
time!

9:30-11:30
am

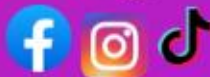
Caerphilly Fire station
Caerphilly.
CF83 3HL

Crafts,
Courses,
refreshments
and much,
much more!

For more info get in
touch!

07487857745/ 01443875444
rachelhaines@parentcaer.org.uk

The Parent Network



Have anxiety?
Scan here

Teenie Butterflies Parent, Baby and toddler group



ST James ICC
Pen-Y-Cae
CAERPHILLY
CF83 3GT

Every Monday
during term time.
10:30-12:30

Lots of play
activities for
children



Ages 0-4 yrs

come along to a session for £1 per child



Meet new people in a
warm, safe and friendly
environment



The Parent Network or Bridging
Together



07487850385





Primary School Meals Week 1

Make your own choices of mains and sides each day



Monday

Mains

- ⊗ Beef Lasagne
- ⊗ Cheese & Onion Savoury Bake
- Fish Goujons (non fried)

Sides

Garlic bread or twisted potatoes and a choice of baked beans, peas or salad bar

Dessert

Chocolate & Pear Brownie with Ice cream



Tuesday

Mains

- French Pizza Bread
- ⊗ Ravioli in Tomato Sauce & Focaccia
- Filled Jacket Potato

Sides

Wholemeal savoury rice or wedges (non-fried) and a choice of sweetcorn, green beans or salad bar

Dessert

Fruit Crumble & Custard

Wednesday

Mains

- ⊗ Beef and Yorkshire Pudding
- Sausage and Yorkshire Pudding
- Chicken Goujons

Sides

Oven baked dry roast potatoes, mashed or boiled potatoes and a choice of carrots, cabbage, swede or salad bar

Dessert

⊗ Welsh Cake with Fruit Wedges



Thursday

Mains

- Sweet Chilli Chicken
- Margarita Pizza
- Filled Wrap

Sides

Noodles or herb diced potatoes (non-fried) with a choice of BBQ beans, mixed vegetables or salad bar

Dessert

⊗ Yogurt

Friday

Mains

- Harrold's* Fish Portion
- Beef or Quorn Burger in a Bun
- Filled Baguette

Sides

Wedges (non-fried) or chipped potatoes and a choice of peas, corn on the cob or salad bar

Dessert

Flapjack



On the Day

Depending on the availability of food items, cooks may need to change menu items. Meal options may include a filled jacket potatoes, pasta & sauce, sandwiches, baguettes or wraps, with salad and vegetables followed by a dessert.

Always Available

- ⊗ Semi Skimmed Milk | Drinking Water | Half Slices of Wholemeal Bread
- ⊗ Yoghurts | ⊗ Fresh Fruit | Tinned Fruit | Fruit with ⊗ Ice Cream

- ⊗ Welsh Produce
- ⊕ Vegetarian Option



Our Welsh Suppliers



Caerphilly Catering Services reserve the right to change products subject to availability.

Code: A-012



Primary School Meals Week 2

Make your own choices of mains and sides each day

Monday

Mains

- ☒ Hot Dog Onions & Ketchup
- Tomato Pasta Bake with Garlic Bread ☑
- Fish Goujons (non-fried)

Sides

Wedges (non-fried) or mashed potatoes and a choice of peas, coleslaw or salad bar.

Dessert

Strawberry Flapjack



Tuesday

Mains

- ☒ Curry or BBQ Chicken
- ☒ Cauliflower Cheese ☑
- ☒ Welsh Cheese Toasted Panini ☑

Sides

Rice, noodles or herb diced potatoes (non-fried) and a choice of corn on the cob, mixed vegetables or salad bar

Dessert

Ice cream Sponge Roll

Wednesday

Mains

- ☒ Roast Turkey with Yorkshire Pudding
- Margherita Pizza ☑
- Meatball Baguette with BBQ Sauce ☑

Sides

Sage & thyme dry roast potatoes, mashed or boiled potatoes and a choice of carrots, cabbage, peas or salad bar

Dessert

Fruit flavoured Jelly



Thursday

Mains

- Jumbo Fish Finger
- ☒ Macaroni Cheese ☑
- Filled Sandwich

Sides

Pommes noisettes or tomato & garlic cheese bread and a choice of sweetcorn, baked beans or salad bar

Dessert

Fruit Sponge & Custard



Friday

Mains

- Battered Chicken Fillet Bites
- Cheese Omelette ☑
- Salmon & Cod Fishcake (non-fried)

Sides

Wedges (non-fried) or crispy fries and a choice of peas, baked beans or salad bar

Dessert

Cookie & Fruit



On the Day

Depending on the availability of food items, cooks may need to change menu items. Meal options may include a filled jacket potatoes, pasta & sauce, sandwiches, baguettes or wraps, with salad and vegetables followed by a dessert.

Always Available

- ☒ Semi Skimmed Milk | Drinking Water | Half Slices of Wholemeal Bread
- ☒ Yoghurts | ☒ Fresh Fruit | Tinned Fruit | Fruit with ☒ Ice Cream

- ☒ Welsh Produce
- ☑ Vegetarian Option



Our Welsh Suppliers



Caerphilly Catering Services reserve the right to change products subject to availability.

Code: A-012



Primary School Meals Week 3

Make your own choices of mains and sides each day

Monday

Mains

⊗ Pork Meatballs in Tomato & Basil Sauce

Vegetable Nuggets ♻

Filled Jacket Potato

Sides

Mashed potatoes or pasta and a choice of peas & sweetcorn, cheesy coleslaw or salad bar

Dessert

Sticky Orange Date Brownie & Orange Wedges



Tuesday

Mains

⊗ Sausage Roll

⊗ Ravioli in Cheese Sauce ♻

Lemon Sole (non fried)

Sides

Mexican bread or potato croquettes and a choice of baked beans, sweetcorn or salad bar

Dessert

Fruit Crumble & Custard

Wednesday

Mains

Roast Chicken with Yorkshire Pudding

Vegetarian Cottage Pie ♻

Vegan Sausage Roll ♻

Sides

Oven baked dry roast potatoes, mashed or boiled potatoes and a choice of cauliflower, swede, peas or salad bar

Dessert

Angel Delight



Thursday

Mains

Minced Beef Pie & Gravy

Margherita Pizza ♻

Filled Jacket Potato

Sides

Herb diced potatoes (non fried) or wedges (non fried) and a choice of peas, mixed vegetables or salad bar

Dessert

Pancake with Fruit & Ice cream



Friday

Mains

Crumbed Fish Bites

Cheese & Potato Pie ♻

Filled Baguette

Sides

Boiled potatoes or chipped potatoes and a choice of peas, baked beans or salad bar

Dessert

Chocolate Cookie



On the Day

Depending on the availability of food items, cooks may need to change menu items. Meal options may include a filled jacket potatoes, pasta & sauce, sandwiches, baguettes or wraps, with salad and vegetables followed by a dessert.

Always Available

Semi Skimmed Milk | Drinking Water | Half Slices of Wholemeal Bread
⊗ Yoghurts | ⊗ Fresh Fruit | Tinned Fruit | Fruit with ⊗ Ice Cream

⊗ Welsh Produce
♻ Vegetarian Option



Our Welsh Suppliers



Code: A-012