

Friday 11th December 2015

Message from the head

You will be aware that we are currently looking at the best systems for homework. I do hope you will manage to complete the online questionnaire at the Christmas Fair on this subject because we really do what to gather the opinions of everyone in the Brecknock community, there would appear to be a number of very strong opinions on the matter! We have featured some of the children's home learning projects from the new topic based matrices which we are trialling before but please do take a look at the photographs on the other side of the newsletter of some of the fabulous work coming from Year 1. I have been so impressed by the children's creativity and the depth of their learning when it is contextualised and self-initiated.

On a less pleasant note I am sorry to tell you that there have been two unfortunate playground accidents in school this week. Although accidents such as these are thankfully rare we spend much time talking to children about safe ways to use the playground and we ensure that there are a lot of staff on duty to ensure that equipment is used safely when children are playing. I have noticed however that children are sometimes playing unattended after they have been picked up by parents at the end of the day. Please be vigilant and make sure that you have always got your child within sight and are actively monitoring their safety if they are playing in the school playground whilst in your care. Thank you.

And

Win an iPad mini!

I am delighted to tell you that we have been given an iPad mini to award as a prize to a child with perfect attendance. This will be a fantastic reward for resilience for one lucky winner and it will be awarded at the end of the summer term.

In order to give everyone a chance to win we will start the competition from 4th January 2016. Every child who has 100% attendance from this date until the end of the summer term will be given a raffle ticket and their names will be entered into a prize draw. One lucky person in the draw will win the iPad mini and the rest will receive runner-up prizes. This is a win/win situation – if you are in school every day you learn more and so become a winner and additionally one lucky person will also win an iPad mini. Start trying now – it could be YOU!

Dates for your calendar

14th December	Sicily Class to CLC
15th December	Year 1 Christmas Show @ 2pm
16th December	Year 2 Christmas Show @ 2pm
18th December	Last day of term—close @ 2pm
21st Dec-1st Jan	Christmas Holidays
4th January	INSET Day—School Closed
5th January	School Opens—children back
12th January	Jersey Class to CLC
15th January	Guernsey Class to CLC
25th January	Hawaii Class to CLC
1st February	Year 5 to the Royal Observatory
10th February	Year 5 to Unicorn Theatre
10th February	Tahiti Class to CLC
15th-19th Feb	Spring Half Term Holiday
22nd February	School Opens—children back
3rd March	Jamaica Class to CLC
4th March	Cuba Class to CLC
7th-11th March	Brecknock Book Week
8th March	Year 1 to Unicorn Theatre
24th March	Last day of term—close @ 2pm
25th Mar-8th Apr	Easter Holidays
11th April	School Opens—children back
2nd May	May Day Holiday—School Closed
30th May-3rd June	Summer Half Term Holiday
6th June	INSET Day—School Closed
7th June	School Opens—children back
20th July	Last day of term—close @ 2pm



Starting school in Camden 2016

Parents whose children are starting reception classes in Camden primary schools in September 2016 need to apply by **15th January**. You can apply online. Got to our website for more information and links to the relevant pages at Camden.

<http://www.brecknock.camden.sch.uk/news/starting-school-in-camden-2016/>



Mayors Maths Fund—Parental Engagement Project



The 'Scrapbooks' and the first activity have been sent home this week for children in years 1-4. If you have not received yours please speak to your child's class teacher. A copy of the information that was sent home with these is available in the news section of the website. One of the outcomes of the recent survey was that parents would like more activities they can do with their children and that is what this project is all about. We would encourage you to do these fun and engaging activities with your children if you can.



Attendance Rabbit & Early Bird Winners

30th November-4th December

Attendance KS1: **Guernsey—100%**

Attendance KS2: **Sumatra—98.5%**

Early Bird: **Sumatra—2 lates**



Feel the Rhythm with the Samba Band!

Samba Band - on Thursday at 8.15am - is flourishing.

However, we could still fit in a few new members to beef up the sound! It's free! Speak to Rod Arran.

Peace Pledge Union

Thank you to Peter Glasgow from Peace Pledge Union who was in school this week talking to parents about pacifism & peaceful play. It was a great message for troubled times.



Home Learning Survey

We have been trialling a new system for homework in Year 1-5 this term—the home learning matrix. You may have seen some of the incredible work children have been bringing in celebrated in previous newsletters, on the website and on the back of this newsletter. As we approach the end of term we would like to get your opinion on homework in general and specifically on the matrices that have been sent home. The survey is online and can be accessed at the following address. We will be considering the views of the children, teachers and yourselves as we attempt to create a new home learning policy. Thank you for your support.

<http://goo.gl/forms/RVFia3Z1EW>



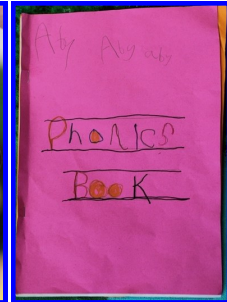
Freightliners Farm

Nursery recently had a wonderful visit to Freightliners Farm, meeting lots of animals. They walked all the way there and back. Thank you to all our parents and Grandparents who came with us. A very successful first trip for Nursery.



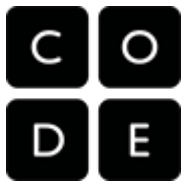
This week we have some fantastic examples of home learning done in Year 1. They have been very creative with children creating their own 'Phonics Book', some number bond bugs, some tree decorations and some very creative pieces based on the story they have been studying, 'Beegu'.

Homework



Hour of Code!

The Hour of Code is upon us again and Brecknock is again taking part in this international initiative to get more children coding. By the end of this week nearly every child in from Reception to Year 6 will have done an hour of coding or computational thinking activity. In years 2-6 they have been using the activities produced especially for the initiative and the link to them is below. We would encourage you to try out these activities with your children at home too. They will work on all computers or tablets with an internet connection. They are great resources and totally free. Try them out! With thousands of well paid jobs in coding going unfilled we strongly believe that all children should leave primary school with a good understanding of coding.



<https://code.org/starwars>
The Star Wars themed activity



<https://code.org/mc>
The Minecraft based activity



Golden Book Awards and this weeks winners are...



Anisa & Etienne—Mull, Mirna & May—Skye, Donya & Khalid—Guernsey, Musa & Abdi—Jersey, Tesnim & Milly—Y3, Isra & Abdurrahman—Y4, Samuel & Rhys—Y5, Ruben & Alisa—Y6