



Nant-y-Parc Weekly Newsletter



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9th December 2022

FOOD BANK

Local food banks are appealing to residents, staff and local businesses for donations to support local foodbanks this festive season.

Foodbanks provide emergency food and support to families and individuals who find themselves in financial crisis. They rely heavily upon donations, particularly over Christmas, and have seen demand for their support increase throughout the pandemic and as a result of the current cost of living crisis.

They're collecting cash donations as part of this year's appeal to enable foodbanks to purchase the supplies they desperately need.

Donations can be made online via their website (click link): Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough

Alex Wharton

On Tuesday 20th December, poet and writer Alex Wharton will be in school to share a series of Christmas poems with the children. We look forward to Alex joining us to perform his poetry and enthuse the children's writing as he facilitates writing workshops across the school.

Attendance Prizes

As attendance is high on the agenda this academic year following the pandemic, we are excited to announce that we will be resuming with attendance prizes starting with prizes being awarded for 100% attendance throughout the autumn term. We look forward to seeing how many children have attended school for 100% of the time this term.

Please continue to support school as we work towards our attendance target. Regular attendance at school is important for your child's education. If your child is likely to be absent, please inform the office as soon as possible.

End of Term / Back to School

REMINDER

School will close at 1:15pm on Wednesday 21st December for the Christmas holidays. School will reopen to pupils on Monday 9th January 2023. We look forward to welcoming the children back in the spring term.

Progress Reports

On Friday 16th December, progress reports will be sent home with pupils to reflect your child's progress across each of the Areas of Learning for the autumn term. For your information, the progress reports are formatted differently this year due to teachers no longer being required to assess children in line with National Curriculum subjects and they will no longer receive levels. Instead, class teachers will assess pupils across each of the Areas of Learning Experiences and will assess each pupil based on the following:

- Attitude and Effort
- Level of Understanding
- Progress Made

The Elves

Last week, the mischievous elves made a comeback causing lots of laughter and chaos around the school. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and it was a great way to kick start our countdown to Christmas. We are also excited to announce that the elves will be returning to school on Monday 19th December to perform 'A Big Good Christmas' for all pupils. This will be a fun filled performance which really will get the children in the Christmas spirit.

Value of the month: **Appreciation**

A peek at the next few weeks...



Diary Dates

14.12.22	Jack and the Beanstalk Panto Trip (Y2&3)
15.12.22	Jack and the Beanstalk Panto Trip (Y4,5&6)
12.12.22	World Religion Week
16.12.22	Pupil Progress Reports sent home to parents
19 th - 21 st Dec	Christmas WOW Days

Term Dates

21.12.22	End of autumn term - finish 1.15pm
09.01.23	Spring term begins
20.02.23 - 24.02.23	Half term week
31.03.23	End of spring term
17.04.23	Summer term begins

Welsh Phrase of the Week

Week beginning 12.12.22 - Ewch allan i chwarae

Week beginning 19.12.22 - Nadodig Llawen

Thank You

A big thank you for your continued support this term. We really do appreciate the role you played in supporting our wonderful children during their Christmas concerts and for supporting the school with another successful Christmas market.



Urgent Safety Alert issued for baby self-feeding pillows

**NEW
INFORMATION**

Self-feeding pillows/prop feeders present a risk of serious harm or death from choking or aspiration pneumonia.

From: [Office for Product Safety and Standards](#)

Published 30 November 2022



The Office for Product Safety and Standards has issued an Urgent Safety Alert for baby self-feeding pillows and is urging the public to stop using them immediately and dispose of them safely.

Businesses selling these products must immediately remove them from the market as they cannot comply with the safety requirements under the General Product Safety Regulations 2005.

Baby self-feeding pillow products are designed to be attached to a bottle so that the baby may be positioned on its back to self-feed without the assistance of a caregiver holding the bottle and controlling the feed.

This is inconsistent with [NHS guidance in relation to safe bottle feeding](#).

When used as intended, even whilst under the supervision of a caregiver, it could lead to immediate, serious harm or death from choking or aspiration pneumonia.

Consumers, local authority trading standards services and businesses are asked to take specific action to cease use or remove these products from the market as advised below.

Action

OPSS has identified that this category of products will always be dangerous due to their design and intended use and can never be made safe.

Consumers

- Consumers should immediately stop using these products and dispose of them safely.

Businesses

- Must immediately remove these products from the market as they cannot comply with the safety requirements under the General Product Safety Regulations, 2005.
- Must comply with their obligations under product safety law.

Local Authority Trading Standards and Northern Ireland Environmental Health

- Should identify and take appropriate action against businesses that sell baby self-feeding pillows as they do not comply with the safety requirements set down in the General Product Safety Regulations, 2005.

[Visit the Office for Product Safety and Standards web pages on GOV.UK](#) for further information and contact details.

**THIS LETTER
WAS SENT
OUT
PREVIOUSLY**

Free School Meals Arrangements School Holidays (up to February 2023)

Due to the ongoing Cost of Living Crisis and the pressure this puts on low-income families during the school holidays, Welsh Government have decided to extend the holiday provision offer for those learners who receive free school meals up until the end of February half term 2023 (this will include school holidays in October, December 2022 and February 2023).

Caerphilly County Borough Council will no longer be delivering free school meals to pupils' homes during school holidays.

A weekly payment of £19.50 per child (£3.90 per day) will be made to eligible parents / guardians. We are currently working in partnership with the Post Office to deliver this payment.

Parents will receive correspondence from the Post Office by Friday 4th November with further information about how to claim this payment.



Holiday Free School Meal Payments – FAQ

Why are payments being made in the holidays for free school meal pupils?

Due to the ongoing Cost of Living Crisis and the pressure this puts on low-income families during the school holidays, Welsh Government have decided to extend the holiday provision offer for those learners who receive free school meals up until the end of February half term 2023 (this will include school holidays in October, December 2022, and February 2023).

Please see FAQ below for the eligibility of free school meals.

Who is eligible for this Free School Meal Holiday Payment?

Children who currently attend full-time school in Caerphilly County Borough and are eligible for eFSM. You need to apply for eFSM - here is the link to the application form Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough

For children/young people to be eligible to receive free school meals:

- you, as a parent, or your child, must receive the relevant benefit or support payment
- you should have submitted an application for free school meals to the local authority (or an application should have been submitted on your behalf)
- the application should have been approved by the local authority, or documents should have been seen by the local authority which strongly indicate your child is eligible.

Excludes part-time nursery children

Excludes pupils who are eligible for UPFSM (receive free school meals in school but have never applied for free school meals)

When will I receive my Post Office Pay-out letter?

The aim of the Post Office is to send the letter one week prior to school holidays

When will you receive your cash payment?

You will receive it when you take your letter to the Post Office with the appropriate Proof of ID.

What Proof of ID do I need?

- Driving Licence (paper or card)
- Passport
- 2 Utility Bills
- 2 Official letters – e.g., Tax office, council letter, legal letter, benefit letter which include your address
- P45
- P60

What if I haven't got the ID?

Please email fsmholidaypayments@caerphilly.gov.uk or call 01443 864055

What do I do if not all my children are listed?

Please email fsmholidaypayments@caerphilly.gov.uk or call 01443 864055

What happens if I can't get to the Post Office straight away?

There will be an expiry date on your letter; one month is given to redeem the voucher.

This can be redeemed in any Post Office in Wales - this should give you sufficient flexibility to make arrangements.

What happens if I have moved and did not let you know?

You will need to email us on fsmholidaypayments@caerphilly.gov.uk urgently

How much will I get?

This will be stipulated in the letter you receive. Currently it is £19.50 per eligible child, per week. (£3.90 eligible child, per day)

What if I don't want to receive the payment?

You do not need to take your letter to the post office. Please notify us so we can remove your details from our database. Please email fsmholidaypayments@caerphilly.gov.uk

What if I think I'm eligible but I don't receive a letter?

Please email fsmholidaypayments@caerphilly.gov.uk or call 01443 864055 stating the reasons why you think you are eligible. Please include contact details so we can contact you if necessary.

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Admission to Reception September 2023

Applications are now open for admission to Reception classes in
September 2023

You must apply by 16th December 2022

You can apply by visiting www.caerphilly.gov.uk and searching for
school admissions or by scanning the QR code below
For help and support call the Admissions team on 01443 864870



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Free School Meal Rollout

For further information
please [click here](#)



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urdd.cymru/eisteddfod

SPORTS

Rugby, swimming, football, basketball, gymnastics, urban games... There are all sorts of clubs, activities and competitions available through the medium of Welsh.

urdd.cymru/sports

MAGAZINES

Free, fun and informative Welsh magazines available digitally. IAW is a magazine for secondary Welsh learners.

urdd.cymru/magazines

TO JOIN

Membership cost: Family membership:
£10 **£25**
per child (three or more children)
(Discounts available*)

Visit urdd.cymru/join to start your journey as an Urdd member.

*We know that there are changes to school meal payments in Wales. However, if a child receives 'free school meal vouchers', the school uniform grant or education maintenance grant scheme then the price for membership is £1.

The Urdd - offering unique, exciting and unforgettable experiences through the medium of Welsh to the youth of Wales.

#DwinAelod

