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Gaer Primary School  
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NP20 3GY

## 'Off to a Flying Start'

The summer now seems a distant memory and the children are fully immersed in their autumn term learning. It has been a pleasure to see them enthused by our new projects and committed to voicing their ideas and shaping the learning. Our launch day on Monday 18th September was exciting and engaging. A wonderful and memorable start to our new projects '#We All Stand Together' and 'All About Me'.

The children look well polished in their new uniform and have clearly 'recharged their batteries' during the summer break. I would very much like to thank you for supporting us to achieve the very highest standards with regard to dress code. Our new nursery and reception children have had a smooth transition into school and are an absolute delight.

Breakfast Club has had a smooth transition to the school building. Thank you for supporting the new procedures and routines. As a reminder, driving is not permitted on the school site and the doors to breakfast club are closed at 8.30am promptly.

This term we are excited to be continuing to embed our whole school initiatives- Growth Mindset, BLP-Building Learning Power; De Bono's Thinking Hats and Thinking Maps. Each of these exciting initiatives enable our children and us to become 'better learners'.

Extra-curricular clubs are now up-and-running. It is wonderful to see so many of our children grasping these additional opportunities. Please remember to collect the children promptly.

We are delighted to welcome some new staff to Gaer Primary. Miss Powell is joining us in Class 9 to cover Miss Smart's maternity absence and Miss Murphy is joining us in nursery to cover Miss Clark's maternity absence. They have already settled brilliantly into our Gaer Primary team.

We have many new priorities and exciting challenges ahead of us this year. All of which centre around providing rich and exciting opportunities for our children. We embark upon our journey as a 'Lead Creative Practitioner' school; a project partnership with the Arts Council of Wales. We also have made new exciting links with Cardiff Metropolitan University and the University of South Wales to undertake new projects and small scale research.

Diolch yn fawr iawn for your interest and continued support.

Mr A. Smith

Headteacher / Prifathro

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## Gaer Primary School

Autumn Term

September 2017

### Dates for Your Diary

Training/Closure Days 2017-18

Four further planned training days are:

Friday 24th November 2017

Monday 8th January 2018

Monday 23rd July 2018

Tuesday 24th July 2018

### Parent

#### Consultations:

Monday 23rd October  
Parental Consultations

Tuesday 24th October  
Parental Consultations

Wednesday 25th October  
Parental Consultations

(Letters to follow.  
Appointments to be made with  
the class teacher)

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## Teachers2Parents

I would like to remind parents to make sure that we have up-to-date contact details for all children. The first contact mobile telephone number will receive texts to remind you of events or to inform you of unavoidable changes to plans.

## @GaerPrimary

Our twitter account has been a real success this year. We currently have 963 followers. Twitter is used to celebrate the learning at Gaer Primary. It provides you with a snapshot of school life that you would otherwise be unable to attain. Thank you to our many followers. It would be great to reach the 1000 tally this term!

## Health & Safety

Can I remind all parents that you are not permitted to drive onto the school site at any time. Also, smoking and dogs are not permitted on the school site. This is in the best interests of all of our children. Please respect our wishes.

## School Attendance Matters

We continue to work hard on achieving good attendance. Again, this year we will be sending attendance letters to all families providing details of your child's attendance. You will receive two attendance updates each year; one at the end of the autumn term and another at the end of the spring term. Our whole school attendance for 2016-17 improved again this year. Thank you for supporting us in this continual improvement.

## Punctuality

Lateness continues to be a problem for some families. The morning routine is an important part of social and academic learning, so children need to be in school on time if they are to be ready and prepared for the challenges of the day. Please make sure you take account of difficulties with traffic and parking before deciding what time to set off in the morning.

## Healthy School

Please make sure that your child brings a healthy snack (fresh fruit, veg or dried fruit only please) to school and water for the day. We also promote 'healthy lunch boxes' to help ensure that our children enjoy a healthy and balanced daily diet. Our school meal providers 'Chartwells' ensure that the children enjoy healthy and balanced meals. We are delighted to announce that our school kitchen has a hygiene rating of 5. This autumn term we are striving to achieve the 'Healthy Schools Phase 5' Award; this is in recognition of our commitment to the health and wellbeing of our school community.

## School Website

Remember to look at the school website to receive 'Latest News' items; calendar dates and 'Home Learning Links'. Class pages are updated by class teachers to provide you with additional information.

## Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September Governing Body AGM-5pm at Main Building

Tuesday 3rd October Reception visit to Techniquet

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October Colorfoto Individual Portraits

Wednesday 11th October Year 1/2 Harvest in main hall-9.30am (parents invited)

Wednesday 11th October Junior (KS2) Harvest in main hall-1.45pm (Year 3 parents invited)

Thursday 12th October Reception Harvest in main hall-9.30am (parents invited)

Thursday 12th October Nursery Harvest (a.m) 11.00am in nursery class (parents invited)

Thursday 12th October Nursery Harvest (p.m) 2.45pm in nursery class (parents invited)

Monday 16th October Year 6 to Crucial Crew

Monday 16th October Year 1 (Class 6) to Pizza Hut

Tuesday 17th October Year 1 (Class 5) to Pizza Hut

Thursday 19th October Year 3 (Class 10) to Wastesavers

Monday 23rd October Year 5 and 6 to 'Energi'

Tuesday 24th October Year 6 visit to The Royal Mint

Tuesday 24th October Year 3 (Class 9) to Wastesavers

Wednesday 25th October Nursery-Year 4 Flu Immunization

Thursday 26th October Year 4 (Class 11) to Wastesavers

Thursday 26th October PTA Ghosts and Ghouls Discos

Friday 27th October Finish Half Term

Monday 6th November Return to School

Tuesday 7th November Year 4 (Class 12) to Wastesavers

Friday 24th November Cluster INSET Day

Thursday 7th December PTA Christmas Fayre-3.30pm

Tuesday 12th December PTA Pantomime-at school

Wednesday 13th December Nursery Concerts 10.30am/2.15pm

Friday 15th December Reception Concert 9.30am

Monday 18th December Year 1 and 2 Concert 1.45pm

Tuesday 19th December Year 3 and 4 Concert 1.45pm

Friday 22nd December-End of Term

Monday 8th January 2018-School Closure Day; INSET

Tuesday 9th January-Children return to school