Waunfawr Primary School

Waunfawr Road, Crosskeys, Caerphilly NP11 7PG

Dear parents and caregivers,

It's hard to believe we are already into October! Autumn has well and truly arrived in our beautiful valley, with misty mornings, changing leaves and conkers appearing everywhere.

The children have been making the most of the changing season during their weekly Forest School sessions, building dens, exploring the woodland and searching for seeds and natural treasures. Forest School has quickly become a much-anticipated part of our curriculum — something the children (and adults!) look forward to each week.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Our dedicated governor, James Gerry, has now come to the end of his term of office. We would like to thank James for his commitment and support to the school over the past four years.

We are now inviting applications from parents who would be interested in becoming a Parent Governor. Information and application forms were sent home this week, and completed forms should be returned by 17th October.

The election will take place during the week beginning 26th October.

We are very grateful to all our parent volunteers who give their time to support the school. We believe that parents have an important role to play in shaping our school community, and we would love to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming more involved in the life and future of Waunfawr.

Communication with school

We really value the positive, respectful communication we have with families in our school. We have worked hard to ensure that parents and carers feel able to raise questions or concerns with us through the ClassDojo App, email or on the school gates. At the same time, we ask that everyone is mindful of staff working hours. Teachers have responsibilities before, during and after the school day including planning, meetings, clubs and caring for children so they are not always available for an immediate conversation. Our team do their best to accommodate unscheduled meetings, but we ask that families contact the school office to arrange a mutually convenient appointment rather than turning up to school unexpectantly.

ClassDojo is a fantastic tool, but it is not an instant messaging service. We encourage you to contact the school office for emergency messages and to message class teachers within school hours only. Teachers will acknowledge your message within 24 hours and respond within 48 hours in the working week. We appreciate how respectful families are of our staff's time and hope by working together on our communication we can balance everyone's needs.

Exciting Music News!

We are delighted to announce that Rocksteady Music School will be coming to Waunfawr! Our children will have the opportunity to experience what it is like to learn and perform as part of a real band, developing musical skills alongside confidence, teamwork and creativity. We'll be holding a Rocksteady launch day on Friday 23rd October, with workshops for children across the school. There is lots more exciting information to come about how children can access theweekly band sessions — watch this space!

A conversation about Grand Theft Auto

We have already heard children talking excitedly about the upcoming release of Grand Theft Auto VI, with some telling us they are hoping to receive it for their birthdays or at Christmas. We know that simply saying *"it's an 18-rated game"* doesn't always give parents the information they need, so we would encourage families to look beyond the age rating and find out what children will actually see, hear and experience when playing. GTA includes extreme violence, sexual content, nudity and drugs, and the wider online gaming environment can also involve communication with people children do not know. If your child is asking to play a new game, please take a few minutes to research it first, check the age rating and content, understand who they can play or communicate with, and look at the privacy and parental controls available. There are lots of exciting alternatives that are much more appropriate for primary-aged children, including Minecraft, Mario Kart, Rocket League, LEGO games and Pokémon, depending on the age and maturity of your child. The important thing is not to take someone else's word for what a game is like — know what your child is playing before you download it or buy it.

And finally, a reminder from our Circle of Security work: remember, you are the parent wh child. You are not being 'mean' when you protect them through the choices you make. Sometimes being the grown-up means setting a boundary that your child may not like — and that is okay.

Mrs M Armishaw
Headteacher

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waunfawrprimary@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working with us to make Waunfawr such a positive and welcoming community. We really do appreciate the part you play in helping our children thrive.
Wishing you all a lovely weekend and a happy October!

Best wishes,
Melissa Armishaw
Headteacher

I need to contact the school regarding	Who	Email
AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS DAILY ABSENCE COLLECTION OF PUPILS MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS SCHOOL TRIPS PAYMENTS	Mrs Walkley School Admin Family Engage-ment Officer	waunfawrprimary@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk 01495270269
SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS FAMILY SUPPORT WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR PUPILS CONCERNS REGARDING PUPIL PROGRESS LINKED TO AN ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEED	Miss Shepherd ALNCO	shepherdh24@hwbcymru.net
QUERY REGARDING CLASS EVENTS	Teacher	CLASSDOJO
ANY CONCERN THAT HAS BEEN REPORTED TO A CLASS TEACHER/STAFF MEMBER AND YOU ARE UNSATISFIED WITH THE RESPONSE	Mrs Armishaw Miss Evans Head and Deputy Headteacher	waunfawrprimary@sch.caerphilly.gov.uk