

Palmerston Primary School

Head Teacher's Newsletter

'Together we will succeed'



Overall school attendance:
90%

Dear Parent / Carers,

It was so lovely to see a hall full of families as we celebrated '**Christmas Across the World**' with our school last week. The children performed brilliantly, and we are proud of each and everyone of them. Once again, thank you so much for your support, it really does make a difference!

We are so pleased to see our PTA grow significantly this term and I wanted to say thank you for all the help that we have had. Our Winter Fayre raised over £1,300, which we believe is a record amount of money. Your support, especially during these financially difficult times is hugely appreciated. A huge well done must also go to our outstanding Yr6 who raised an impressive £200 for Noah's Ark.

We believe passionately in community engagement and supporting our families. It was amazing how well attended our '**Bright Sparks**' Family Maths sessions were. These sessions, run by the Cardiff & Vale College, allow a member of your family to come into school to work alongside your child. We are pleased that from **Wednesday 17th January** Cardiff & the Vale College will be running another workshop called '**Money Smart**'. This will be from **1.15pm** in our Oasis Room, so if your child is in **Year 1 or 2** please pop along.



Our amazing cook Tracey has been running cooking demonstration workshops. She baked delicious 'old school' tray bakes as well as Christmas shortbread. We will continue to offer this in the Spring term and it is completely **FREE** of charge. So, when we confirm the dates in January ring the school on **01446 747393** as we anticipate the places will fill up quickly.

In other news our wonderful choir sang at Cartref Care home in Porthkerry and enjoyed entertaining the shoppers at Home Bargains in Barry. We continue to develop our outdoor areas and were so pleased to secure funding from '**Big Fresh**' to build an extended outside dining area for all our children.

The children across the school have been learning all about '**Let's Celebrate**' in all sorts of exciting ways. As part of an expressive



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arts theme across the school they have been getting creative and enjoying the positive experiences that it brings. Many classes created some beautiful items that were sold at our Winter Fayre such as baubles, calendars, cards, wooden decorations and reindeer food.



As you are aware we share a Palmerston 'Value of the Month' with our children. We will be considering the value of 'optimism' when we return in January and will focus on the attitude of 'enthusiasm'. Our newly formed 'Cryw Cymraeg' have been particularly enthusiastic. They have set themselves ambitious targets to help the school achieve the Bronze Starter Iaith award, one of these is to encourage children to participate in Welsh games such as 'Faint o'r gloch Mr Blaidd?' during playtime. Further developing Welsh language skills is a key priority for the school

and we would love it if some of you would consider joining us on the journey by signing up to become a Welsh learner. Pop in and see Mr Jones who will happily enrol you on a **FREE** Welsh language course that can be fitted around your existing commitments.

We would like to thank you in supporting another school priority as we continue our drive to improve attendance. We know that statistically children have a better chance of succeeding in education and later in life by consistently attending school, but unfortunately, attendance has dipped significantly over the last few weeks. We expect children to be in school for **92%** of the academic year, if there are reasons your child is below this target or if there is anything we can do to support, please get in contact.



Sadly, I need to remind a small handful of people again to be considerate when parking and driving near the school. This is an ongoing issue and we would appreciate your help in this matter. Please could you also ensure that when walking onto school grounds you use the designated pedestrian paths and do not walk directly through the car park.

In the meantime, I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming you and your children back on **Tuesday 9th January**.

Sarah Cason.

Rights Respecting Article:

Article 2 – All Children should be treated equally



Value of the Month:

January – Enthusiasm
February – Gratitude and kindness



Dates for your diary:

Monday 8th January – Inset Day
Friday 12th January – Yr3 Assembly
Monday 15th January – PC Kevin Yr3
Wednesday 17th January – Money Matters workshop for Yr1 & 2 parents
Tuesday 30th January – PC Kevin Yr4
W/c 29th January – Yr5 swimming
Friday 9th February – Yr1 Assembly
W/c 12th February – Half term break

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