



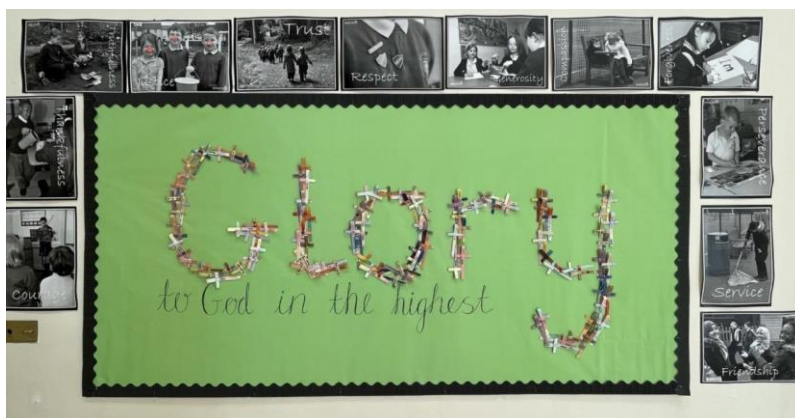
Spittal V.C. School

Newsletter 24 - Summer term 2023

New teaching staff – We welcomed Mrs Holmes to Spittal School earlier this week as class teacher in Dosbarth Skrinkle Haven. Joining us from Prendergast School, Dosbarth Skrinkle Haven have had a busy week getting to know each other. We also welcome Ms Claire Thomas as a part time LSA. I know you will join with us in extending them a warm welcome.

New Governor – We welcome Mr Steve Brown as a new community school governor and look forward to his further involvement with our school.

Church school display – Yesterday our most recent church school display was finished, with contributions from every child in the school. We used our palm crosses from St Mary's Church which we decorated with our names, to create the title of one of our favourite hymns. Diolch yn fawr to Mrs Cruz and Miss Morgans for creating the display which is a fantastic backdrop to our school collective worships.



First Experiences – Dosbarth Skrinkle Haven enjoyed the beginning of their 'First Experiences' sessions with Pembrokeshire Music Service this week. Welsh Government have invested in ensuring that all year 4 children across Wales experience the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in weekly sessions over a half term. As our year 3 and 4 pupils are together in Skrinkle Haven, the whole class will participate in this initiative. We welcomed Ms Wilkinson from Pembrokeshire Music Service along with the pBuzzes! Everyone enjoyed the first session and it was fantastic to see the children's enthusiasm.

Absence – Reminder that if your child is not well enough to be in school please ensure that you let us know on the first day of absence and the reason for this via Dojo. It is the Local Authority's policy that this should be repeated on every other day for continued absence. Where reasons for absence are not provided this is recorded as unauthorised absence. Thank you for your help with this.

Governing Body – The School Development Plan sub-committee had their monthly meeting this week to learn more about two topics. Mrs Cruz shared information with governors regarding recent RVE (Religion, Values and Ethics) training and led discussion on the plans for further developing this

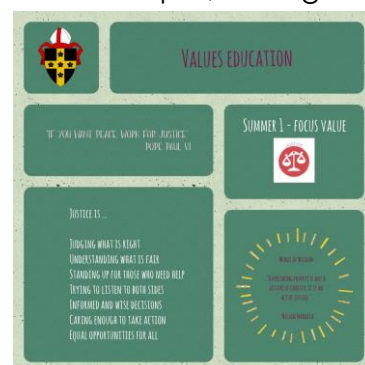


part of our curriculum across the school. Mr Gibbens and I shared information from training we have attended regarding assessment and pupil progress and our reflections on this. As you are aware, this academic year sees the full roll-out of the new curriculum across Wales which requires a new approach to how we assess children's progress in learning and how we track and record this. We will share more information regarding this throughout the term.

Breakfast Club – In response to the school community feedback during the consultation undertaken by the school and Governing Body regarding the Asymmetric week, from Tuesday 2nd May Breakfast Club will open at 8am. Entry will continue to be through the hall door and children need to have registered prior to their first session.

Late arrivals and early departures – Please be aware that school starts promptly at 9am with the doors open from 8:45am. We continue to need to respond to the school door bell to let a regular stream of children in after 9am. As a small staff this does disturb the start of the morning as we respond to the bell. We would be extremely grateful for everyone's support in enabling the start of the day to run smoothly for all classes. Likewise, whilst we will always endeavour to ensure your child is ready by a lobby if there is a significant reason for them leaving earlier than 3:30pm, this again takes staff from learning tasks which do run up to the end of the school day. Thank you to everyone's help with this.

Values Education – We have started learning about and reflecting on our whole school value for the half term which is 'Justice'. We learnt about the actions of the King of Denmark during World War 2 and reflected on a number of other individuals and stories we have heard where the children have recognised the justice taking place, or not happening. Ask your child the question asked by the King of Denmark, 'Where do you hide a star?' to learn more!



Headlice – Unfortunately there are cases of headlice in the school again. In order to deal with this pest can all families please ensure that they check their child's / children's hair thoroughly and treat if required. Thank you for your support with this.

Hedgehogs – Dosbarth Dale ended the week with a fantastic surprise as Pembrokeshire Hogspital paid a visit to class again. Following on from our visit from hedgehogs earlier in the school year, Ginny was back to visit us again with two hedgehogs who had been in the hogspital, but were found in Spittal! They are now back to full health and size and were ready to be released back into their natural habitat. Dosbarth Dale were ready with two hedgehog houses and two feeding stations as homes for the hedgehogs! Everyone was very excited to see the hedgehogs enjoying their new space and homes in our school grounds.

We hope everyone has a good Bank Holiday weekend and we will see everyone on Tuesday.

Mrs Vaughan
Headteacher

Dates ahead

- Week beginning Monday 29th May – Summer half term break
- Wednesday 12th July – Haverfordwest cluster INSET day
- Friday 21st July – Last day of term for pupils