



Spittal V.C. School

Newsletter 26 - Summer term 2023

Rogation service - The children made the walk down to St Mary's church on Wednesday where they were led by Reverend Rees in a Rogation Service. Taken from the Latin 'Rogare' (To ask), Rogation is an ancient church festival, where communities ask God for protection from calamities! In our case and following our service in the church itself, the children travelled the short distance to Lower House Farm, where they viewed farm machinery; listened to a poem and sang as part of our asking God to bless the land. Congratulations to all of our Church Champions and readers who led their school ably in prayer and reflection. It was a truly lovely event and a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together in such a meaningful way. Special thanks must go to Mrs Anne Barrett-Evans for her organisation; Reverend Rees for leading our worship and Mr John Jenkins for the use of his field and opportunity to view the machinery. Diolch yn fawr iawn!



Eco - committee - Last week the Eco-committee had their first meeting with school governor Mrs Liz Talbot. It was a busy meeting as the children have so many ideas on how to continue increasing both eco-awareness across our school community and eco-features throughout our school day and building. Our lockdown drill also took place during this meeting adding a little more to the events!



Attendance – There has been an increase in non-attendance which are not linked to illness and especially to odd days absence which do add up. We will shortly be sending individual attendance letters out for all pupils. Thank you to parents who report non-attendance to the class teacher giving the reason why and we ask for your help in ensuring that this happens with everyone. Thank you.

Lockdown drill – At least termly we practise our safety drills; fire drill and lockdown drill. As a school we can evacuate the building and meet all the required safety measures (all doors and windows closed and all staff and classes lined up at the designated area) in under a minute. This term we practised lockdown drill, moving everyone from outside to inside with all doors and windows locked and blinds down. Without any notice this was done in 50 seconds, again under our 1 minute target. Well done to everyone for the calm manner in which this happened and for moving swiftly and sensibly.

Urdd Eisteddfod – Llongyfarchiadau to those children in Dosbarth Cwm-yr-Eglwys whose creative woodwork was selected to represent Spittal school in the recent art eisteddfod. I know the judges were complimentary about the children's interpretation of the theme 'Cynefin'.

RNLI Visit- Dosbarth Cwm-Yr-Eglwys have launched the context for their 'warning stories' with a visit from Mrs Liz Talbot to deliver invaluable learning opportunities on the topic of beach safety. The children engaged well in the subject matter gaining knowledge of how to safely enjoy the water



and have been inspired to begin some descriptive opportunities to warn others of the potential dangers of our coastline. Diolch yn fawr iawn to Mrs Talbot for a really engaging session.

Athletics taster session – The children really enjoyed the taster session earlier in the week which was provided by the Urdd. The children demonstrated great listening skills, the Spittal growth mindset to having a go and trying new skills. There are definitely some budding athletes in the school!



Balance bikes and scooters – We are always in need of scooters and balance bikes for the younger children. When your child finishes with theirs please do consider us for a second home! Thank you.

Working party Saturday – Last Saturday we held our first working party since Covid; the last one took place just before the first lockdown. Thank you to parents, children, governors, extended families and staff for joining us and working relentlessly to get through the to do list which included tasks both inside the building and around the school grounds. Your help was really appreciated and has made a big difference.

Conjunctivitis – We have had a number of cases of conjunctivitis and have reported this to Public Health Wales. Please be observant for the symptoms and treat using the recommended actions. Children are allowed to attend school with conjunctivitis. Please use the following link for more information. [Conjunctivitis - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

School uniform / clothes – We are finding a significant number of items of clothing which are not marked with a name. We would appreciate it if all families can check that jumpers and cardigans especially are labelled as we have a growing number of items which we cannot repatriate with their owners! Likewise, with the exception for Tuesdays for PE we encourage children to wear school uniform; it does make a difference to the children throughout the day encourage a school mindset. Thank you for your help with this.

Late arrivals and early departures – Thank you to everyone who has helped ensure that all classes are able to benefit from starting the school day promptly with children arriving before 9am with nearly all children arriving before the bell. We ask for your continued help in reducing the number of children needing to be collected before the end of the school day as we are in learning tasks until the end of the day. Thank you.

Mrs Vaughan
Headteacher

Dates ahead

- Week beginning Monday 29th May – Summer half term break
- Wednesday 12th July – Haverfordwest cluster INSET day – No school for pupils
- Friday 21st July – Last day of term for pupils