



Newsletter September 2023



HEALTHY AND CONFIDENT

Responsibility ~ Respect ~ Resilience

Welcome back

Our team here at Stepside are planning an exciting and enriching year ahead full of adventures, amazing learning, creativity and enjoyment. I look forward to sharing all of this with you in the coming year.

Unfortunately, I have not been around for the start of the new school year. Sadly, during the summer holidays, my mum passed away. I am staying in Port Talbot for a few weeks to spend some time with my dad and help him with the necessary arrangements.

Staff tell me that our fabulous children are very excited to be back in school and have had a very positive start to the new school year. I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Attendance

At Stepside it is our priority that children are in school every day in order to grow and learn. Research clearly shows that when pupils miss school, it has negative effects on their well-being and education.

Attending school each day helps pupils to;

- Keep learning and developing new skills
- Has a positive impact on their mental health
- Helps develop their social skills
- Improves resilience, health and well-being.

Our attendance for the last academic year was 90.41%. This is significantly lower than our target of 95% and of other schools in pembrokeshire. I will be sending out information which explains attendance in more detail.

Please note that for pupils with low attendance, this will automatically trigger intervention from the Education Welfare Officer.

Stepaside Senedd

Our three core values are shown in the school logo below:

Responsibility
Respect
Resilience



Over the coming year we will be learning about these core values through assemblies and class sessions.

Attendance Target 2023-24:

95%

Attendance 2022-23:

90.41%

Seesaw

In our parent questionnaire last term, a couple of parents mentioned issues with the Seesaw App. I do understand that this can be very frustrating at times. We have spent a lot of time considering and discussing various alternatives and we feel as a school that Seesaw is one of the safest and most secure ways of sharing information, such as photos, videos and messages with our parents.

Many parents commented on how convenient it is to be able to message the class teacher and how much they enjoy seeing pictures of their children's work.

To make using the App easier, we will try and streamline the way we use Seesaw. Whole school messages will be sent in one conversation thread and newsletters will be sent in a separate thread – this way you can find important information and dates more easily.

It might help to tidy up messages by hiding old conversations. You can do this by pressing and holding on a conversation until "**Hide message thread**" appears. Select this option and the message will disappear. If you have any questions or problems with Seesaw, please come and ask at the office where Mrs Williams or I will be able to help.

Classes for 2023-24

Our classes for September will be as follows:

Dosbarth Amroth

Nursery

Mrs R Owen

Mrs Faye

Reception / Year 1

Mrs Donald

Mrs Davies

Mrs Scourfield - pm

Dosbarth Barafundle

Year 2/3

Mrs Blewitt (Monday – Thursday)

Mr Jones (Friday)

Miss Brockway

Mrs Scourfield - am

Dosbarth Broad Haven

Year 4/5

Mrs Chandler-Hall

Mrs Badham

Dosbarth Newgale

Year 6

Mrs C Badham (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)

Mr Adams (Thursday, Friday)

Mrs Tulley

School Uniform

Red jumper or cardigan

Red or white polo shirt

Black trousers / skirt / leggings

P.E. kit (to be worn to school on the day)

Red or white plain t-shirt

Black joggers / shorts

Trainers

Uniform with our school logo can be ordered from the following local suppliers:

Uniforms 4 schools:

<https://www.uniforms4school.co.uk/stepaside-cp-school>

Tojaz:

<https://www.facebook.com/Tojaz123/>

Teesrus:

<https://www.teesrus.co.uk/product-category/school-shop/stepaside-cp-school/>

Important Dates:

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| Friday 1st September | INSET DAY |
| Monday 4th September | INSET DAY |
| Tuesday 5th September | Start back to school |
| Friday 15th September | Dosbarth Broad Haven – visit Lily Ponds |
| Thursday 21st September | School Photographs - family groups and individuals |
| Tuesday 26th September | Dosbarth Broad Haven – visit Carew |
| Tuesday 10th October | Parents Evening |
| Wednesday 11th October | Parents Evening Y6 – Mrs Badham |
| Thursday 12th October | Y6 Parents Evening - Mr Adams |
| Friday 20th October | Wear Red Day – Racism Awareness |
| Wednesday 25th October | Halloween Disco |
| Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November | Half Term |
| Friday 10th November | INSET with the cluster of schools – school closed. |
| Friday 22nd December | Visit to the PANTO End of term |
| Monday 8th January | INSET – school closed |
| Tuesday 9th January | Start back to school |