



GWAUNFARREN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr A. Lewis

Alexandra Avenue,
Merthyr Tydfil,
CF47 9AF

01685 351810

RE: Welcome Back

Dear parent/ guardian,

We are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school on **Tuesday 3rd September**. Please find below some information about the new academic year.

Our class structure for September will be as follows;

Nursery	Mrs Morgan
Reception	Mrs Cross
Year 1	Miss Evans
Year 2	Mr Jones
Year 3	Mr Chislett
Year 3/ 4	Mrs Stephens
Year 4	Mrs Bibby
Year 5	Mrs Butler/ Mrs Herridge
Year 5/ 6	Mr McCarthy
Year 6	Miss Warren

Below are the confirmed INSET (Inset Training) days for the academic year 2024/25. These INSET days are vital for our teaching staff to engage in professional development, training, and planning to enhance the educational experience for your children.

The following days have been designated as INSET days, and as a result, the school will be closed to all students:

- Monday 2nd September 2024
- Friday 4th October 2024
- Friday 25th October 2024
- Monday 6th January 2025
- Tuesday 7th January 2025
- Monday 21st July 2025

We kindly ask for your cooperation and understanding regarding these closures. While I understand that these days can be an inconvenience for parents who may need to arrange alternative childcare or schedules, please know that these days are crucial for the continued professional development of our teaching staff. This directly contributes to the high-quality

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education we strive to provide for your children.

Over the next academic year, we have planned lots of opportunities for parents to join us in school, to engage with the children's learning. There will be workshops and learn with us sessions. In early September there will be a 'Meet the Teacher' session, which we would love to see all parents attend, please make every effort to attend.

Meet the teacher sessions

Wednesday 4th September Mrs Bibby – 9am Mr Jones – 3pm	Thursday 5th September Miss Evans – 9am Miss Warren – 3pm	Friday 6th September Mr McCarthy – 9am Mrs Cross – 3pm
Monday 9th September Mrs Butler/ Mrs Herridge – 9am Mrs Stephens – 3pm	Tuesday 10th September Mr Chislett – 3pm	

Drop off and pick up times

We have made some changes to our drop off and collection arrangements starting in September 2024. Please adhere to these arrangements, as these have been implemented for safeguarding and health and safety purposes.

Class	Drop Off	Collection
Mrs Morgan	8.55am – classroom door	3.20pm – classroom
Mrs Cross	8.55am – classroom door	3.20pm – classroom
Miss Evans	Gates open at 8.45am drop off at school gate	3.20pm – classroom
Mr Jones	Gates open at 8.45am drop off at school gate	3.20pm – canopy
Mr Chislett	Gates open at 8.45am drop off at school gate	3.30pm – main school gate
Mrs Stephens	Gates open at 8.45am drop off at school gate	3.30pm – main school gate
Mrs Bibby	Gates open at 8.45am drop off at school gate	3.30pm – main school gate
Mrs Butler/ Mrs Herridge	Gates open at 8.45am drop off at school gate	3.30pm – main school gate
Mr McCarthy	Gates open at 8.45am drop off at school gate	3.30pm – car park gate
Miss Warren	Gates open at 8.45am drop off at school gate	3.30pm – car park gate

If you are collecting children from both our junior and infant classes, and the weather is bad, you are more than to wait under our shelter. There will be no early pick-up for junior pupils as this is impacting on teaching and learning time.

Attendance

Being in school is important to your child's academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. There is evidence to suggest that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children and young people's educational, economic and social outcomes. Schools can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a contributes to better

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mental health and wellbeing.

Attendance at school is crucial to prepare young people for successful transition to adulthood, and to support their longer term economic and social participation in society. If your child is unwell during the school year please contact the school office on the first morning so we can update our registers.

Parents do not have the automatic right to withdraw their children from school for an annual holiday and will be reminded of the effect absences can have on a pupil's potential achievement. If you wish to take a holiday during term time you must apply in advance (<https://www.gwaunfarrenprimaryschool.co.uk/form/?pid=7&form=18>). Parents should be made aware that a Fixed Penalty Notice could be issued for unauthorised leave of absence for more than five consecutive school days or more taken during term time.

Uniform

Although not compulsory, pupils are encouraged to wear school uniform as the staff and governors feel that it helps foster a sense of belonging and pride in the school. It also places all pupils on an equal status. The school uniform is:-

- Red sweatshirt or cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Dark trousers or jogging bottoms / grey skirt

The wearing of make-up is not allowed at any age.
The wearing of smart watches is not permitted.

Jewellery

Children are discouraged from wearing jewellery to school. However, if children wear earrings, they are advised that only stud earrings are acceptable. Children will be asked to remove the items before taking part in P.E. or Technology activities for safety reasons. The school will not accept responsibility for the loss or damage to any child's jewellery.

Ok for school	Not ok for school
One small pair of studded ear rings One watch	Looped earrings Rings Bracelets/ bangles Necklaces E-Watches

Communication

We will continue to use our normal lines of communication for this academic year. If you would like to speak to someone at school, please contact the school office.



Please keep up to date with our social media posts...

Twitter - @GwaunfarrenSch
Facebook - Gwaunfarren Primary School

Parent Pay - Please download the Parent Pay app - you will need to book your child's lunch on this even if they are Free School Meals

Website - <https://www.gwaunfarrenprimaryschool.co.uk/>

Text Messages - Please ensure we have your correct contact details at the office, as we send regular messages

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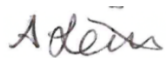
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We look forward to seeing all our pupils back in school for the start of another exciting school year.

Thank you for your continued support,



Mr Lewis - Headteacher

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