

Durand Primary School

Newsletter

Summer 2023 Issue 2



Learning Together, Achieving Together
Dysgu Gyda'n Gilydd, Cyflawni Gyda'n Gilydd

As we get near to the end of the year, with less than six weeks to go, I wanted to share some updates with you and to say a huge thank you, once again, to everyone in our Durand School Family for their continuing and ongoing support.



Staff News

I know that you are already aware of the fact that I am taking early retirement at the end of this academic year but just to make you aware that we have a number of other staff members who will also be leaving the school at the same time as myself.

Mrs Sara Williamson, Mrs Wendy Collier and Mr Steve Edwards are also retiring, and I am sure that you will join me in wishing them a long and happy retirement as they start their new adventures!

Mr Rob Wilks, Mrs Karen Noblet, Mrs Caroline Middleton, Mrs Sian Dolbel and Mrs Helen Seymour will be leaving the school and looking to move on to 'pastures new', once again I am sure that you will join me in wishing them the best of luck!



As a result of the above news, we will be welcoming three new members of staff to the team. Mrs Hannah Kilbourn is joining as the new Headteacher from September but will make some visits to our school before the end of term, Mrs Sinead Perry will be joining our teaching staff team and Mr Jonathan Lane will be taking up the position as Caretaker. There will also be some internal staff changes to fill some of the other positions. Further details will follow before the end of term.

Leaver's Photo

Just to let our Year 6 parents know that Wye Valley studios will be in school on Wednesday 14th June during the afternoon to take our Year 6 leaver's photographs.



50th Anniversary Celebrations

As you will be aware, we are celebrating the school's 50th Anniversary this year. We have already had our fabulous Art Exhibition which I know that many of you were able to attend. A HUGE THANK YOU to both Miss Ley for working with our pupils to create their amazing artwork and Mrs Irene Quelch for producing the wonderful commemorative mural that is now displayed in our school hall.



Last Friday our pupils from Year 1 up to Year 6 had a fantastic time learning about the 70's during the 70's Music workshop delivered by Upbeat Music.



The final and biggest event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary is our Outdoor Music Festival. We are delighted that Caldicot Male Voice Choir will be joining us to perform.

We are holding this event for pupils from Reception up to Year 6 on Friday 30th June, from 1.10pm to 3.10pm in the school grounds. From 3.10pm to 4pm you are welcome to stay and take photographs to commemorate the event as we are setting up a 'photobooth'. Our PTFA will also be serving cream teas and have organised an Ice Cream van. All will be welcome to attend.



Sports Day

Just a reminder of the dates for the Sports Day events that parents are welcome to attend.

The dates for parents to attend our Sports day events are:

Years 1 & 2 – Tuesday 11th July – 1.30pm start

Years 3 & 4 – Wednesday 12th July – 1.30pm start

Years 5 & 6 – Thursday 13th July – 1.30pm start

Morning Nursery and Reception – Thursday 13th July – 9.30am start



Transition Day

As the majority of our Year 6 children will be visiting Caldicot School for the day on **Monday 10th July** we are taking this opportunity to hold our own **in-school transition 'moving up day'** when your child will get to visit their new class and meet their new teacher.

Please do not assume that the teacher, who is currently teaching your child's next year group, will be their teacher in September as staff can move year groups. We will send out the new classes and tell our pupils on Friday 7th July in readiness for our moving up day on Monday 10th July.

Leavers' Performance

We are delighted to be able to invite the families of our Year 6 pupils to this year's 'Leavers' Performance' that is being held in our school at 2pm on Tuesday 18th July. This performance will be for family members only, the pupils in our other classes will watch a dress rehearsal prior to the family performance. Don't forget your tissues!



Training Day

Just to remind you that our final training day for this academic year is being held on Friday 14th July.



End of Year reports

We will be sending home your child's end of year report on Tuesday 11th July to give parents the opportunity to contact their child's class teacher should they wish to follow up on anything contained within the report. All staff are happy to be contacted via their Hwb email or parents can either see their child's teacher when they are picking up from school or ring the office to arrange to speak to them.

PTFA News

A huge thank you to our fledgling PTFA who have been working really hard to hold a variety of events to raise money for the benefit of our pupils. As well as supporting our Music Festival they are planning on holding a sponsored 'Rainbow Run' during the afternoon of Wednesday 19th July. Further details of this event to follow but I look forward to sharing this with the children, who wish to take part, before I leave.

Healthy Schools

As the weather (hopefully) gets better pupils may need greater access to water so please could you ensure that your son / daughter has their water bottle in school. Please note that, in line with Healthy School guidelines, pupils should only be accessing water during lesson times. Squash and other drinks should be for lunchtime only.

As you will be aware, we continue to make greater use of our outdoor spaces. As the weather (hopefully) improves could you please apply an appropriate factor, long lasting sun cream to your son / daughter before they come to school in the morning and provide them with a sun hat/cap.



Many thanks to you all for your continued support!

I look forward to working with you all during my last half term as Headteacher!

Take care, stay safe!

**Mrs Allison Waters
Headteacher / Pennaeth**