

# Gelli Primary School

## Ysgol Gynradd Y Gelli

Mr. David Cynan Jones - Head teacher / Pennaeth

Mr. Marc H. J. Hughes – Deputy Head teacher / Dirprwy Brifathro



The Past We Inherit The Future We Shape – Etifeddwn Y Gorffennol, Lliniwn Ein Dyfodol

Ystrad Road, Ystradyfodwg, Pentre, CF41 7PX

01443 435311

admin.gellipri@rctednet.net

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From David Cynan Jones Head teacher / Pennaeth - [head.gellipri@rctednet.net](mailto:head.gellipri@rctednet.net)

### Newsletter 1 Summer Term

Date - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010

Dear Parents,

### Welcome back

May I begin by thanking parents for your patience during the past two weeks of the inclement weather. It was frustrating not to be able to open the school during the past fortnight, but as you were aware most schools in Wales were equally affected by the abnormal conditions.

### Communicating information regarding school closures

Much has been written in the press about our inability to cope with falls of snow and the disruption caused as a result. I am pleased that we managed to communicate information to most parents via the school website and the facebook page, although I appreciate that not everybody has internet access. The text to parents system was less reliable as the function to access the software remotely did not prove to be an adequate solution. I have contacted another company, who offer a similar service, which colleagues who use it reliably inform me is a far better option. I hope that if we are forced to close the school in similar circumstances in the future we can rely on this as an additional means of informing parents and that this can help those of you who rely upon messages by word of mouth.

Messages were sent to the Local Authority and information displayed on the RCTCBC website, while the BBC website did not always have up to date information about some schools although I had contacted the snow line to inform them of our school being closed. Red Dragon Radio's service was an answer machine and although I left daily messages they did not relay messages on the air. The most convenient way of knowing if the school is closed in these circumstances will be via the school website and follow the LATEST NEWS link. I am also able to post updates on the Blog and the facebook page from my mobile phone as I am making decisions after my site visits.

### Why we close the school on Health and Safety ground – answers to frequently asked questions.

There are a few misunderstandings regarding the criteria head teachers use to make decisions regarding school closures during inclement weather. I have to make the following considerations when making my risk assessment.

1. Are we able to bring the children safely into school?
2. Are we able to evacuate the school and get the children home safely?
3. Are we able to run a normal school timetable?
4. Am I able to safeguard the pupil staff ratio?
5. Are we able to make provision for school meals?
6. Are the school premises safe enough for children and staff to walk to and from the entrances? Are the school environs free from danger?
7. Have adequate arrangements been made to minimise risk of injury?
8. Is there any further snow forecasted that will make any of the above risks greater in the medium term?

If any of the above criteria are not able to be met then the Chair of Governors and I have a legal obligation under Health and Safety law to close the school.

Contrary to popular belief we do not close the school because we are unable to clear a path outside the school in case someone slipping may possibly take legal action against the school. This is covered by the CBC public liability insurance. Even though conditions on the Tuesday and Friday of last week were far from ideal, I would like to thank parents who made the effort to bring their children to school after we had worked so hard clear the school site of the snow that fell on Tuesday and Wednesday. As you were aware the staff and I were placed at points in and around the school entrance to offer help and supervise the safe entry of the children into school. By working together in this way we managed to avoid any unnecessary accidents.

Unfortunately, one parent was seen to park their vehicle outside the school gates on the Friday morning. When asked to move on by the crossing lady the driver refused and then proceeded to drive along the pavement. I have passed the registration number of this car on to the Highways Department who will make appropriate enquires into the incident.

### **Reporting to Parents**

We are holding reporting to parents' sessions during the week of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February. You will be invited to have a ten minute individual interview with you child's teacher to discuss their progress to date. This session has taken place in the Autumn term in previous years but we decided to reorganise our provision this year. Parents of Nursery and Reception, Class 3 (Mrs. Fraser) and Class 4 (Mrs. Dyer) are invited to make appointments to see them by filling in the chart outside the classrooms. Junior parents wishing to make a specific appointment should ring the secretary stating the day and time that you require. If this appointment has been filled an alternative can be made. Appointment lists will be distributed at the beginning of next week.

### **Parental Forecasts**

The staff have prepared a newsletter of events and information that your child will engage in over the forthcoming term. This document will come home via pupil post this week but is also available to download from the school website.

### **Data Collection Sheets**

Before the Christmas Break we circulated some data collection sheets for you to update. Due to the inclement weather we would like to remind all parents that these forms should be returned to school as soon as possible. Welsh Assembly Government would like us to update our data at least twice a year. If you have mislaid your copies would you please contact us for a replacement.

### **After school clubs**

Our after school clubs will commence next week. Please contact each individual teacher to clarify details.

### **Yellow Woods Challenge**

We're taking part in the Yellow Woods Challenge..... the environmental competition run by Yellow Pages, working with the Woodland Trust and our local council. The aim is to recycle the highest number of old Yellow Pages directories per pupil and win cash prizes for our school. And for every pound Yellow Pages awards to schools, they give a matching pound to the Woodland Trust. When your new Yellow Pages directory is delivered, please help our school and the environment by recycling your old one.

Collecting old Yellow Pages directories

Children should only collect old directories from home and from people they know, with your permission. Please ask your family, friends, work mates and community groups to help our school by donating their old directories, too.

We need to collect the old Yellow Pages directories as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the competition and our involvement, please ask at the school.

For detailed information about the Yellow Woods Challenge, take a look at the Parents' Pages on

<http://www.yellow-woods.co.uk/> or write to: Public Relations, Yell, Queens Walk, Oxford Road, Reading, RG1 7PT.

### **New Wet Weather Gear**

The new wet weather gear purchased from the proceeds of the Ugly Bug Ball has arrived in school. The children are really excited at the thought of donning their new kit and exploring outside. You can see a picture of children from Class 2 and 3 on the school blog. A big thank you to all who contributed to raising the funds to purchase these. Key Stage 2 teachers have decided to buy a set of mini video cameras so that the children can use them to record their work and put them on their blogs.

### **Breakfast Club**

The ladies from Breakfast Club have asked me to make a plea for any donations of games for the children to use during the mornings when the weather prevents them from going out.

### **Can you help us**

The staff have requested me to ask if any parents and grandparents are able to assist us with the following help –

**GARDENING CLUB** – Can we have anybody with green fingers to help with Mr Jones and Miss Mathias with their garden project. Garden Club is after school on Fridays.

**HISTORY ARTEFACTS** – Do you have any historical artefacts from the Celtic era, the Industrial Revolution particularly the mining era and the Second World War. If you are able to help, please will you contact Miss Mathias in Nursery our History Subject Leader.

**BOARD GAMES CLUB** – Mrs Fraser would like any donations of board games for her club. Please can they be intact, preferably with the instructions.

## Dates for the diary

I am in the process of updating the school calendar on the school Moodle site which is part of our school website. I will issue a list of dates in our next newsletter which will be distributed tomorrow. You should be able to access this site over the weekend as soon as it goes live.

Here are the holiday dates for the remainder of the year.

<b>Term</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Spring Term 2010	Monday 4th January 2010	Friday 12th February 2010
Half Term	Monday 15th February 2010	Friday 19th February 2010
Spring Term 2010	Monday 22nd February 2010	Friday 26th March 2010
Easter Break	Monday 29th March 2010	Friday 9th April 2010
Summer Term 2010	Monday 12th April 2010	Friday 28th May 2010
Half Term	Monday 31st May 2010	Friday 4th June 2010
Summer Term 2010	Monday 7th June 2010	Monday 19th July 2010

May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May 2010

With regard to term ending Monday 19 July 2010 this will be a designated INSET Day for ALL Local Authority maintained schools. The remaining four INSET days to be taken will be at the discretion of each individual school.

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## Term times 2010 – 2011

<b>Term</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Autumn Term 2010	Thursday 2nd September 2010	Friday 22nd October 2010
Half Term	Monday 25th October 2010	Friday 29th October 2010
Autumn Term 2010	Monday 1st November 2010	Friday 17th December 2010
Christmas break	Saturday 18th December 2010	Monday 3rd January 2011
Spring Term 2011	Tuesday 4th January 2011	Friday 18th February 2011
Half Term	Monday 21st February 2011	Friday 25th February 2011
Spring Term 2011	Monday 28th February 2011	Friday 15th April 2011
Easter Break	Monday 18th April 2011	Monday 2nd May 2011
Summer Term 2011	Tuesday 3rd May 2011	Friday 27th May 2011
Half Term	Monday 30th May 2011	Friday 3rd June 2011
Summer Term 2011	Monday 6th June 2011	Friday 22nd July 2011
May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 2nd May 2011		

Yours sincerely



David Cyman Jones  
Head teacher / Pennaeth



### **We're collecting for FREE cooking equipment!**

In 2008, Flora launched an exciting new project called Cooking with Schools with the aim of putting cooking and healthy eating at the heart of the classroom. The project allows primary schools in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, to collect tokens from special packs of Flora and exchange them for FREE cooking equipment! Flora Cooking with Schools has been a fantastic success and Flora is offering the same opportunity to primary schools for the last time in 2010.

### **We've registered our school and wanted to tell you all about it**

Our school is officially registered on the new Cooking with Schools website, and we need as many people as possible to support us in order to make our collection a success.

Tokens can be found on the coverleaf of special packs of Flora in stores from the January until the end of March 2010 (while stocks last). Just one large pack of Flora could give us £1/€1.50 to spend on the items of our choice, from cooking utensils to a portable oven.

### **It's easy to register your tokens for our school**

Simply go online to [www.cookingwithschools.com](http://www.cookingwithschools.com), find our school, register the token code against our school, and the value will go straight into our school's account. Any time you want to see how well our school is doing with the collection, you can look us up and use our school's Target Measure, to see how close we are to reaching our target.

### **More about Flora spreads**

Flora spreads can help keep your heart healthy as part of a balanced diet. They are lower in saturated fats than butter and are made from a blend of seed oils rich in Heart Healthy Omega 3.

### **Spread the word**

Remember, if friends, neighbours, work colleagues and family can help too, our funds would grow even more. If we collect the tokens, there's no limit to the amount of FREE cooking equipment we can claim for our school.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Any support you can give will help us to put healthy eating at the heart of the classroom.