

Mr Bates' Blog - May 2017

This is, remarkably, the anniversary of my first 'Blog' and, as such, my 12th attempt to inform and, hopefully, increasingly engage you as parents (no Blog in August). I have received some very positive feedback so far but I am not entirely sure how extensive my readership is! There is a facility to leave comments on the webpage should you choose to do so, so feel free to have your 'two-penneth'! Road safety has again featured over the past weeks and we have, thankfully, managed to get our Sports Days completed, especially given the Arctic / wet conditions of the past week or so!

Gist HGV

Many thanks to Paul Clough, father of Lily in 1P and Daisy in Nursery, for coming in with his truck! (the truck actually belongs to an organisation called Gist that deliver for M&S). It's not since my hitch-hiking days of 30 years ago that I've been in a HGV and the technology and home comforts have certainly come on!



The idea of the visit was, of course, not to entertain me (or Ms Griffiths who, it transpires, is a bit of a trucker!!) but to educate the children in road safety in and around lorries. It was amazing that sat in the driver's seat it was impossible to see anyone in a whole class of 30 pupils by the front bumper. These blind spots, along with stopping distances etc, featured in the tours / talks which were informative and very well received. Paul has promised to come back again as not all the children had the opportunity to benefit from the visit.

Thanks again!



Sports Days

....have come and gone before the end of May! Blue House won in both juniors and infants but, more importantly, I think that the days were enjoyed by the pupils and parents alike. Many schools have gone down the non-competitive route, but I hope that ours are a good balance of 'it's the taking part that counts' alongside some winners and losers in the House competitions and running races.



Safety issues on North Road

Despite our new banners and my own pleas through this blog and other avenues, we continue to have issues with a hard-core of parents who choose to put their convenience over the safety of the pupils. The cause has now been taken up by our new County Councillor, Jo Gauden, and she is due to meet the chair of governors Jonny Raine in the next week or so to take another look at this. In the meantime, please do the right thing! (although I am hazarding a guess that those of you that are part of my (unknown!) readership probably do the 'right' thing with your vehicles!)

School Improvement Plan / Self Evaluation

We are once again embarking on our annual period of self- evaluation (pupil data, attendance etc) and, as part of this I will shortly be circulating a questionnaire to you probably via Survey Monkey. As it stands, it looks like we will be working on reading, outdoor learning and provision and the Digital Competency Framework over the coming months but, as ever, always open to new ideas and smart thinking so drop me a line!

Rugby tour to Italy

Well done to Max, Madoc, Alex and Aneurin who all represented Pontypool District Under 11s in the tour to Venice. There were 2 teams involved and our boys came out on top! Perhaps the glory days of Pontypool (versus The All Blacks 1989) have returned!!



On a personal note...

I am in full training for the Velothon 2017 (Sunday 9th July) - I know that there is at least one 'roadie' amongst the parent group so I'm hoping to see you there and compare times online afterwards! Apologies in advance for the road closures, but it's a great showcase for South Wales and a fantastic event to be staging for riders from all over the world. My daughter Ellen has just completed the second of her 6 final A' level exams so the incentive to be out of the house and escape the revision stress and angst is high, so my time should be good!

Keep an eye out for pictures on our Twitter feed, news on the webpage, Croesy Newsflash (a bargain at 50p) and the June Blog!

All the best.

SB (12/06/2017)