

Mr Bates' Blog Oct 2018

The Summer holidays are a distant memory and the 8 week half-term is starting to take its toll on staff and pupils alike, not helped by the ever decreasing hours of daylight - I can't quite believe that Bonfire Night is just around the corner and I am telling stories of Guy Fawkes and warning of the dangers of sparklers again!

New staff

The new staff who started in September (Ms Furnival, Mrs Jones and Mr Williams) have all settled in fantastically.



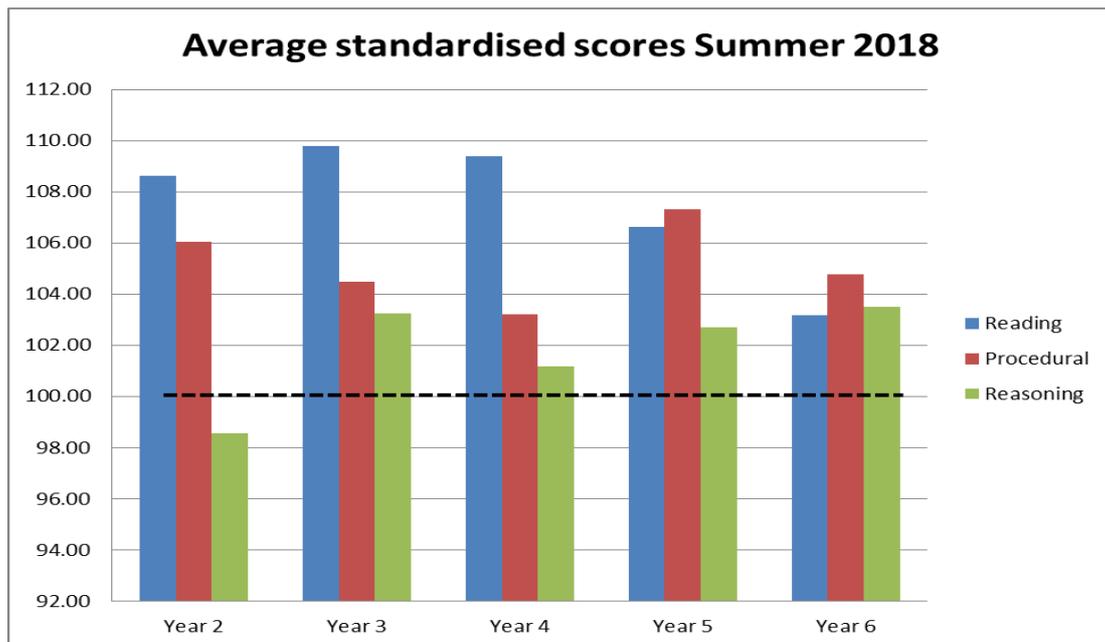
Crosy newbies!



We are now in the throes of appointing 3 more members of staff, two learning support assistants and 1 midday meals supervisor. If you're interested, details on Torfaen's webpage.

Welsh Government Tests

Once again, the school has performed fantastically well in the Welsh Government tests. The tests are standardised such that if all the results were added together and divided by the total number of pupils, the average would be 100. As such, anything above 100 is above expectation (and anything below beneath) on an overall scale of 60 - 140, with most pupils (68%) achieving between 85 and 115.



Anything over 102 or under 98 is regarded as being significant and, as you can see, we are well over that mark with nearly all year groups in nearly all tests. Reading is particularly strong, possibly helped by Accelerated Reader which most pupils feel has helped them:

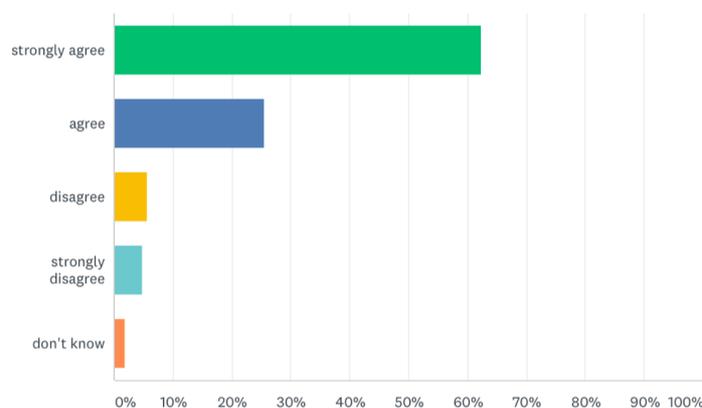
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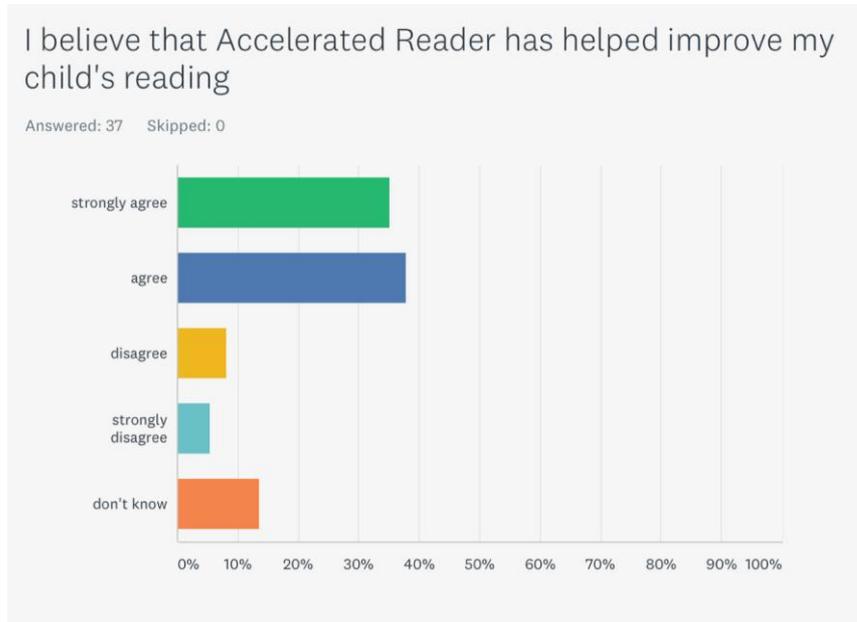
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I believe that Accelerated Reader has helped me with my reading

Answered: 106 Skipped: 1



Likewise, overall, you also have backed Accelerated Reader strongly through your SurveyMonkey responses:



Football Success for Croesyceiliog Primary

Well done to Dan, Macaulay, Corey, Ryan, Harrison, Tyler, Dan, Mckenzie and Kai on winning the EFL Club Finals. Their 'journey' (watching too much Strictly!) began at Cwmbran Stadium and, following success there, took them to the astro by the Velodrome in Newport for regional playoffs. Next stop Swindon and then, hopefully, Wembley awaits. Well done to the boys and to their coach / manager / physio / bus driver, Mr Miles!

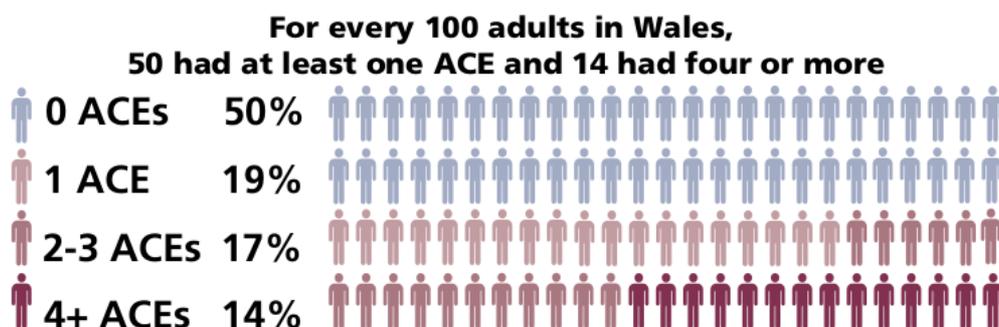
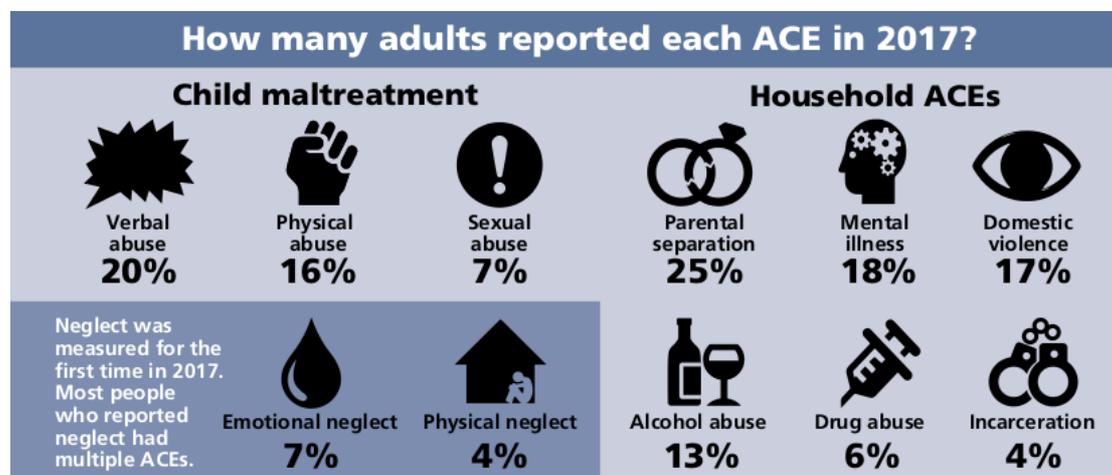


The team appear to have a highly enthusiastic (and somewhat over-excitable!) fan base!



Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

The whole staff have been undertaking training recently into ACEs through Public Health Wales recent initiative, which has been quite challenging for us. Examples of ACEs are a parental split, domestic abuse, a parent in prison, alcoholism, drug misuse and bereavement along with the usual (more obvious) child protection issues such as physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect. ACEs have a significant impact not only on childhood but can have serious lifelong consequences for physical and mental health and wellbeing. The figures for Wales are quite startling and if applied to our school quite worrying; 50% with 1 Ace or more (240 at our school), 17% with 2 or 3 ACEs (72 pupils) and 14% with 4 or more (67 children). These are, of course, estimates when applied to our school, but it is a lot of children any which way. Some of these children we know about and are, for example, in the care system or on the Child Protection Register. However, many we clearly do not know about and we are looking to support all of these children as we recognise that unless we address their emotional wellbeing issues, we will struggle to help them meet their academic potential. As such, if there are things that perhaps we would be better knowing in relation to your children, let us know. I understand that this is a difficult area, but we are simply trying to do the best by your children and will deal with issues as sensitively and supportively as we can.



Cluster anti-bullying project

Addison and Fearne (Y6 school councillors) attended Llantarnam Primary School on Monday, with Mrs Palmer, to meet with pupils from the other schools in the cluster to talk about bullying. Their aim is to create an anti-bullying cluster charter which will be shared and adopted by all the schools. The group discussion generated lots of ideas for anti-bullying week (wb 12.11.18) which included taking part in the cluster odd sock day on Monday 12th November, along with anti-bullying assemblies and activities.

On a personal note...



...and to continue an ongoing theme, my wife called me just before we broke up for Summer with news of a new, furry, arrival at our house! Rufus (I tried to change his name, but he wouldn't have it!) was an unwanted dog (of a family member of one of my wife's staff) so we are now up to 3! He's a cross between a Cavalier and a Bichon Frise, a year old and completely barking (literally!) mad.



And, on another (apologies) similar theme, I cannot let the fact that a Welshman has won the Tour de France go unmentioned in my humble blog!! Whilst I am something of an alien in these parts, my allegiance to Wales grows every year and, by far and away, my favourite pro rider is the man himself, Mr Geraint Thomas. I managed to catch this picture of the newly crowned Maillot Jeune in Usk recently whilst watching the Tour of Britain.

And finally, casting my mind back to the heady days of the spectacular Summer, during the first week of the holidays in a pub garden in Tintagel, a pint of Doom Bar in front of me, nothing on my feet and a 'festival hat' on my head, I spotted Max and Olivia on the next table with their parents - I'm not sure they recognised me at first but, rest assured, I'm back to the more sombre 'shirt and shoes' look that matches the ever decreasing hours of daylight. 60 days until Christmas!

All the best.

SB 24/10/2018

