

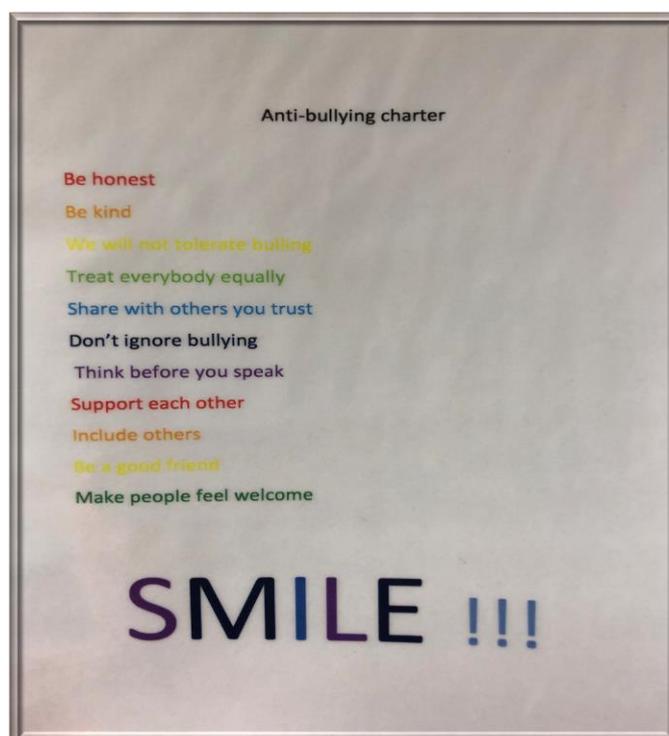
Mr Bates' Blog Dec 2018

As ever, the run up to Christmas has been ridiculously busy with the usual mix of performances, parties and pantos! As I write this blog (1:00p.m Thur afternoon) the Year 6s are putting the final touches to preparations for the Croesy 'Mimes'. This, I have learnt over (the 10!) years that I have been here, is an absolute institution, dating back to the misty beginnings of the school! Scrapping the houses (Armstrong etc) and getting rid of the wooden desks was one thing, but interfering with this tradition would lead to some form of civil unrest! (and possibly a P45) - I shall check in on the progress of the competition later and report back!

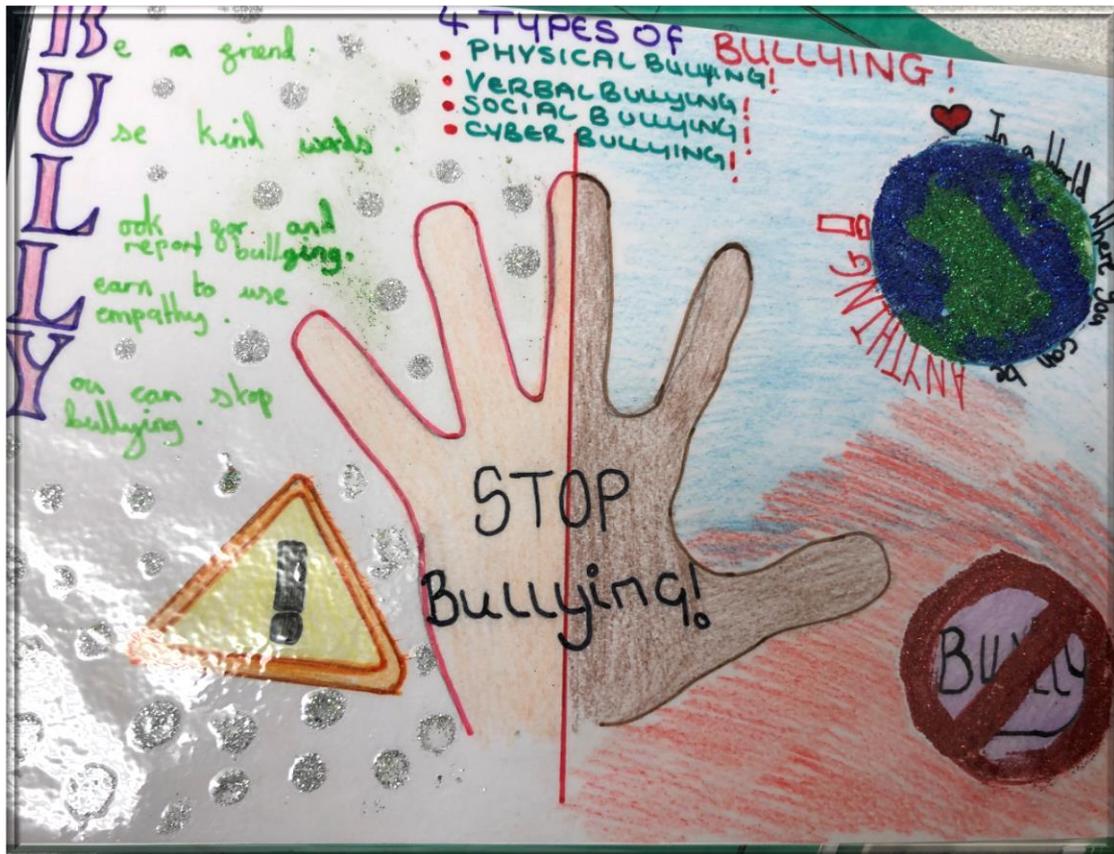
Anti-bullying week / day

Even though our annual anti-bullying survey figures are very encouraging compared to other schools in Torfaen, the school still wanted to further develop work focusing on this area. We asked the children which approach they thought would be best and they came up with the idea of a range of different activities for FP / KS2 pupils that ran throughout the day. This was a great success and all the children thoroughly enjoyed it! (the feedback has been very positive).

School Councillors have also run their own Focus Groups and have attended cluster meetings to discuss what other pupils in other schools are doing. They have created an Anti-Bullying charter that had input from children on the carousel day. This charter has been shared with children in assemblies and will be displayed in all classes.

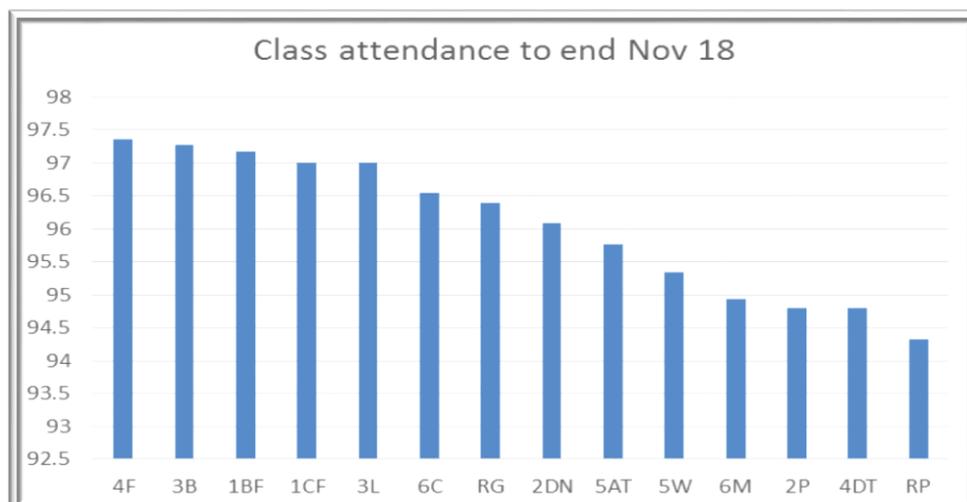


The councillors also ran an Anti - Bullying poster competition, which they judged in their meetings, and have had a part to play in assemblies where they created a drama piece to reinforce the messages of Anti bullying week.



Attendance

We are a whole percentage point up on this time last year, so thanks for your support in getting the children in. Top performing class in the school so far is, once again, Mr Freebury's class who are hoping to get the big prize (trip to the cinema) at the end of the year!

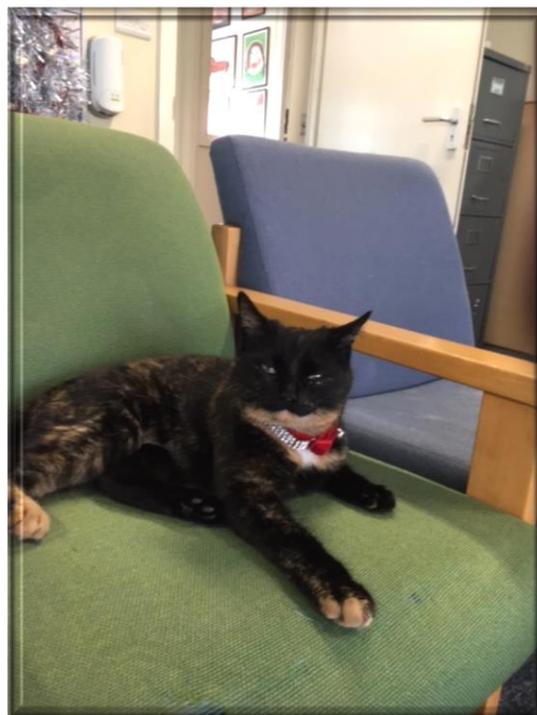


Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Following on from staff training around ACE's (adverse childhood experiences), I have been on training relating to the above issues and in line with the April 2015 UK legislation. To summarise, the evidence would suggest that a significant number of those reading this Blog are subject to the above abuses and that they (you?) don't do anything about this until the 5th offer of support from a professional. This could be me and, as many of you are aware, I am regularly involved in dealing with these types of issues. Feel free to speak to me in person (I'm no expert but can support you and point you in the direction of people that are) or call the 'Live Fear Free' helpline on 0808 80 10 800.

School cat!

This cat seems to have adopted us! She sat by me earlier eyeing up my sardine sandwiches! I think she is the cat of one of our local families and goes by the name of Daisy! (but seems to have moved in here!)



On a personal note...

I am looking forward to a quiet Christmas - whilst I do enjoy cooking (Roast Turkey definitely my department!) last year's 13 were a lot of mouths to feed; this year we are just 5 for Christmas Day. We are picking up our daughter from Bristol University later today and, sadly, I am looking forward to cruising through the empty toll booths on the way home!

...and on a Christmassy note...

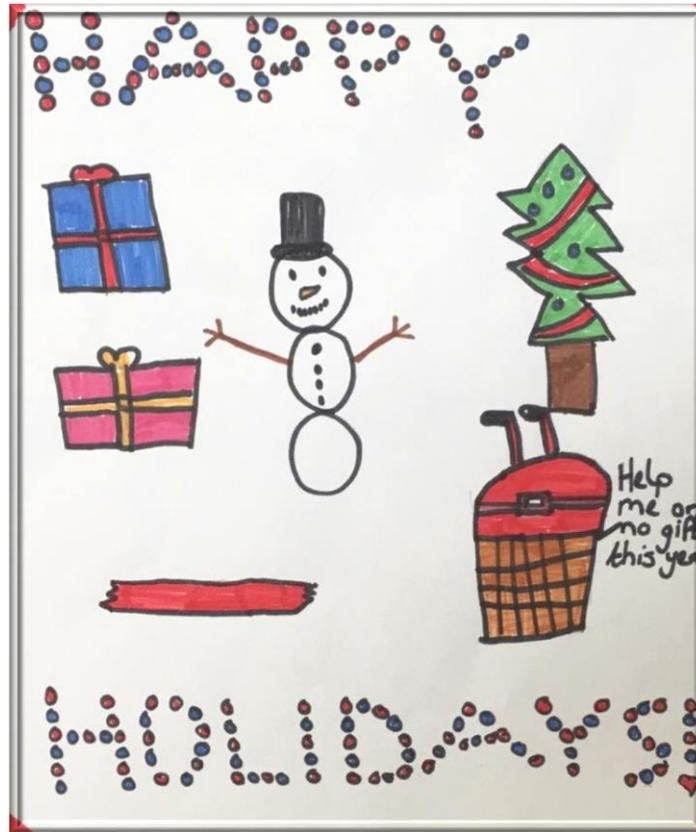
We had several star visitors to the staffroom!



Thanks to all those involved in inviting our guests!!



Also, Daisy in Year 5 won a Torfaen card competition and here is her winning entry:



Daisy is absolutely fab and star student - well done Daisy - we are very proud of you!

All the best. Have a great Christmas!

SB 20/11/2018

P.S.and the winners of the mimes are.....

Megan and Olivia for their performance of 'Just got paid' and, what can I say, a quite extraordinary performance from a group of the boys of 'I'm a Barbie Girl'!! It brought the house down! (they really were very good!) ☺



