

Mr Bates' Blog July 2019

Another year is almost through! I've just done my 11th farewell speech to the Year 6 pupils and parents after what was, to universal agreement, the best ever leavers' concert in my time here - some of the performances (Anton du Pantalon, the geriatric army officer and the French chef, to name but a few!) were absolutely fantastic (or perhaps 'simply marvellous darling' given the Strictly theme!).

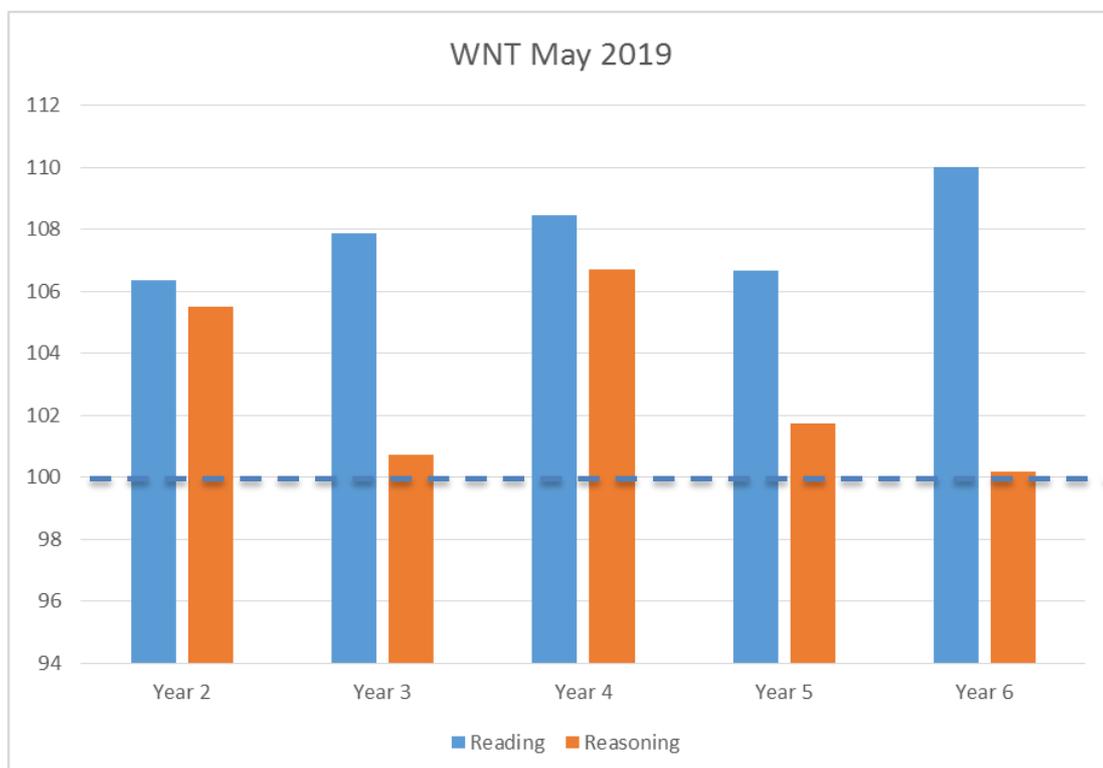
It's been another excellent year on several more fronts:

Academically

...we continue to deliver some amazing numbers. Expectation for these Welsh Government tests is 100 on a standardised scoring model, and we were above on all fronts:

WNT May 2019

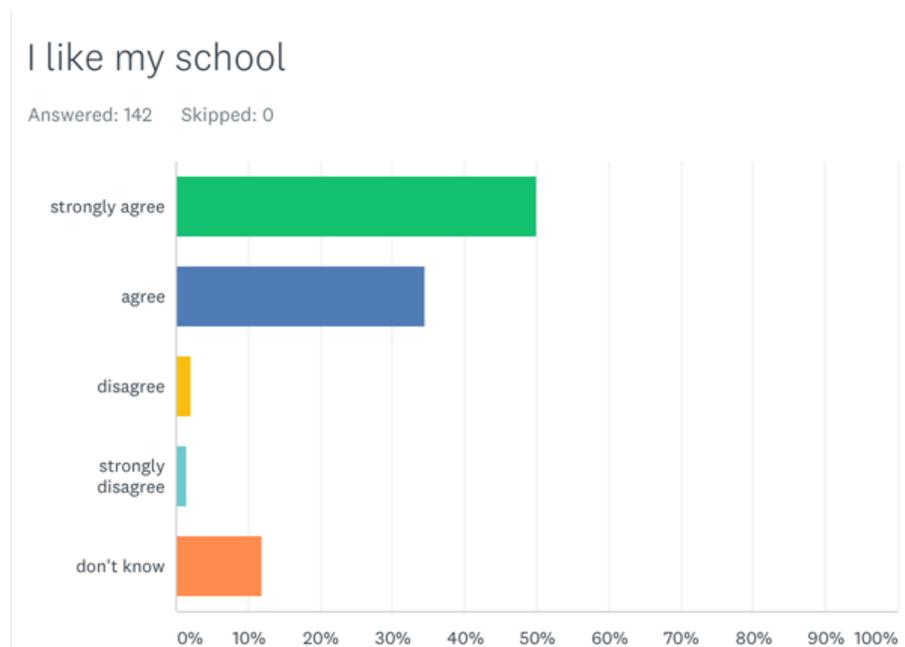
	Reading	Reasoning
Year 2	106.339	105.4912
Year 3	107.85	100.7333
Year 4	108.4407	106.7119
Year 5	106.6721	101.7333
Year 6	110.0169	100.1667
	107.8637	102.9673



All credit to the teaching and support staff and the children themselves - the reading results, in particular, are amazing across the school thanks to the successful implementation of various strategies such as specific intervention programmes, Read Write Inc, guided reading, Accelerated Reader and Giglets.

Wellbeing:

However, results such as these can only be generated by happy children and our recent analyses have highlighted some exceptional wellbeing at the school, such as through our Estyn style questionnaire:

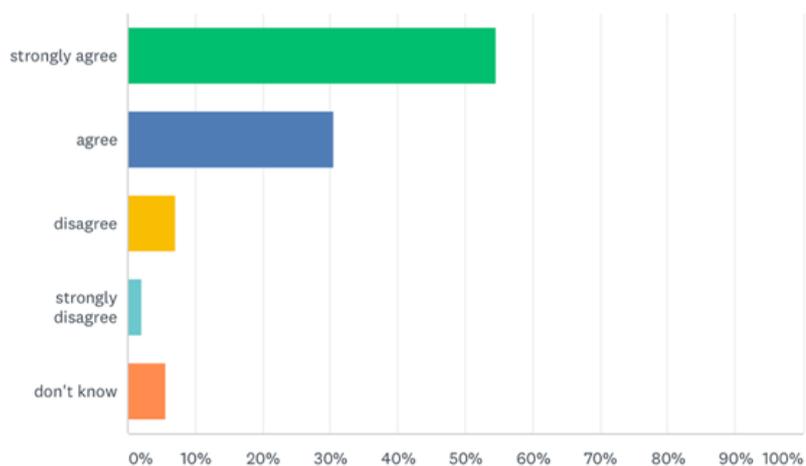


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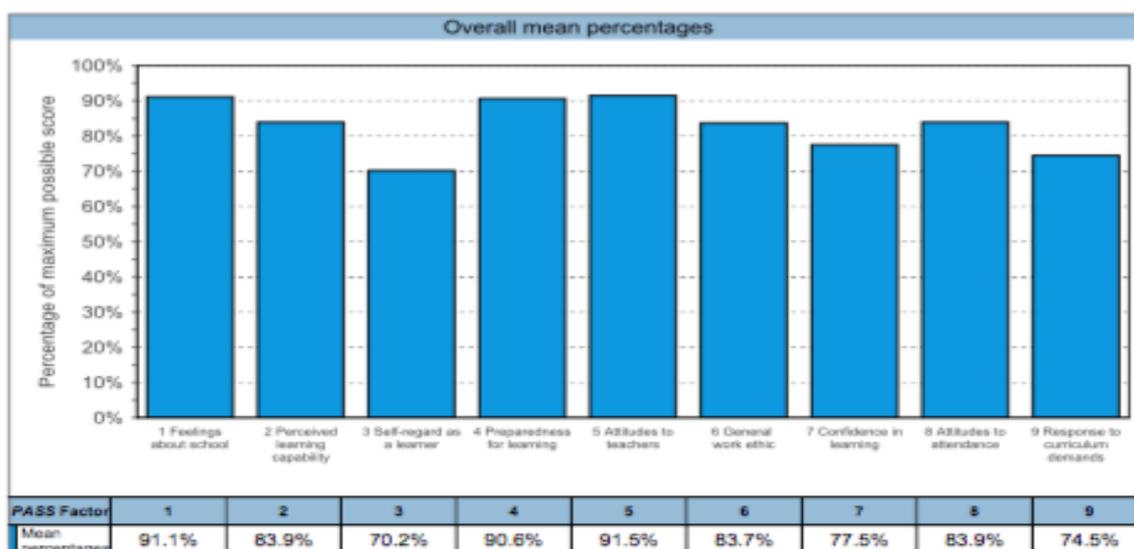
I feel safe in my school

Answered: 141 Skipped: 1



This year we have also undertaken a more specific wellbeing analysis called PASS (Pupils Attitudes to Self and School) which has generated some extremely positive outcomes when compared to all Welsh schools undertaking the analysis - we will run this every year to pick up on any trends and, hopefully, to monitor and maintain this performance (green is good and evident in all aspects!).

Level 1: Whole cohort profile



Overall percentiles

PASS Factor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Feelings about school	Perceived learning capability	Self-regard as a learner	Preparedness for learning	Attitudes to teachers	General work ethic	Confidence in learning	Attitudes to attendance	Response to curriculum demands
Percentile score	51.1	61.7	64.4	67.4	72.7	78.1	60.1	59.8	71.2

Digital Competency Network Lead School

More good news! The school has been identified as a leading school for digital competency and, as part of this, we will be shortly receiving a grant of £4500 to help share what we are doing with other schools in the region. This is, in particular, down to Mr Lowe who is (along with several of the children here!) something of an IT expert and the principal reason for securing this 'feather in our cap'. Well done Mr Lowe and all the pupils involved in putting together our bid.

Eaton

Mr Williams has been involved recently in some Science, Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) work with the Year 5s. This involves working in partnership

with a global engineering organisation (with offices in Cwmbran) called 'EATON'. They delivered four engaging and fun activities in school and through this broadened the Year 5's horizons and built an awareness of STEM and its role in society. I think it's fair to say that the children thrived and loved it! We've currently got a 3D printer in Mr Williams' class through this initiative so watch this space for more news on what we can 'print' with our new loaned toy!

Netball fixture

The annual kids Vs teachers netball match was once again a hotly contested match, with the teachers managing to just come out on top (largely thanks to the attacking prowess of the goal shooter (Mrs Barton) and goal attack (yours truly!!)).



Operation Encompass

We are now informed directly by the police where there has been a call out for a domestic incident that has been witnessed by one of our pupils - this has happened on several occasions since the rollout of this initiative several weeks ago. Gwent is one of the last police areas to implement 'Operation Encompass' and it has already proved to be an important extra avenue in information sharing to help keep our children safe and manage their wellbeing in school following such incidents. If this is an issue that affects you directly, I can point you in the direction of local support agencies, or you can call direct on 0808 80 10 800.

Staff news

We've got 2 new starters in September - Ms Norman will be taking a Year 5 class and Ms King a Year 1 class. More to follow once they've settled in a bit (and I find out a bit more!). I'm also delighted to be able to report that Mr

Williams has now become a permanent member of staff. Sadly, however, Mr Miles is moving on to pastures new and will be teaching in a Newport school next year (*Glan Llyn*). His contribution, not only to our academic performance, but to the wider life of the school (rugby football etc), has been outstanding - we wish him all the best! We also bid a fond farewell to Mrs Thomas - after many years of outstanding service at this school she has decided to finish - we wish her all the best for a happy and healthy retirement.

Crossing patrol

Good news! I'm sure that many of you will have noticed that we have a replacement for Jan. Louise (Lollipop Lou!!) has been with us for a few weeks now and seems to be a suitably cheerful and capable addition to the community - please help her out by avoiding the zig-zags!!



...and, if possible, please don't crush our new cones (this was day one of the cones - somebody parked not only on the zig-zags but, possibly symbolically (and definitely literally), on the cones!!)



On a personal note...

I have a rendezvous with my favourite cyclist (Geraint Thomas) at the top of the Col du Galibier (this year's high point on the Tour de France) next week so, if you're watching, keep an eye out for me on the TV with a Welsh flag! We are also taking the dogs on holiday with us this year to the continent for the first time - it's forecast 35C in the Alps and our new dog (Rufus) is getting ready for the heat...



Hope the sun shines for you - have a great Summer!

All the best!
SB 18/07/19