

Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday 11th September 2024

- 11th Sept - First Aid Training for staff
- 11th, 12th, 13th Sept - Year 6 Cycling Proficiency
- 13th Sept- - Roald Dahl Day
- 26th Sept - European day of languages
- 1st Oct - Year 6 CSI afternoon at Llantwit Comp
- Llantwit Comp open evening for year 6 parents (Time TBC)
- 2nd Oct - Cowbridge Comp Year 6 new intake evening (4-6pm)

- Advanced Notice - **Inset day: 11th Oct - Staff Training - school closed**
- TBC** - **Harvest assembly *please see below**
- 10th October - Wear yellow for Mental Awareness Day
- 18th October - Wear red show Racism Red Card
- 27th Jan - Monday

On Friday 13th October you will receive a questionnaire via mail. Can we please ask you to take a little time to complete, as your opinions really matter to us and we would like to know what we are doing well and how we can improve.

Important information

Woodland Wonders re- starts next week. Please could you ensure that your child brings fitting wellies to school and an appropriate coat.

Please could anyone interested in being a helper contact Mrs Nicholls.
Parent helps are an essential part of Woodland Wonders to ensure
smooth running and valuable opportunities.

Staff email addresses:

Nursery - awilliams@stathanps.co.uk

Reception - ckenefick@stathanps.co.uk

Yr1 - bmorris@stathanps.co.uk

Yr2 - ggoss@stathanps.co.uk

Yr3 - phughes@stathanps.co.uk

Yr4 - khickey@stathanps.co.uk

Yr5 - smcnicol@stathanps.co.uk

Yr6 - pbroomfield@stathanps.co.uk

Vision And Aims:



St. Athan Primary School

Vision and Aims

Our Mission Statement

Believe and Achieve

Credu i lwyddo

Our Vision Statement

Our school fosters a love of learning inspired by quality teaching which builds upon individual strengths and talents. Our school works in close partnership with the community to develop citizens who will lead happy and rewarding lives.

Our Aims

- **To provide pupils with a broad, varied and balanced curriculum, delivered by a highly motivated and skilled team of professionals, ensuring each child achieves their full potential.**
 - **To encourage independent learning through a wide variety of different approaches which meet children's individual needs and abilities.**
 - **To promote a high level of well-being and encourage social development so all children can acquire the necessary life skills and attributes to become enthusiastic, independent learners inside and outside of school.**
 - **To provide an environment accessible to all, that is safe, friendly, welcoming and stimulating, in which all children are able to contribute towards and share ownership of.**
 - **To value and develop partnerships in order to help our children and school become fully active within the heart of our community.**
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Rules:

Be safe

Be respectful

Be responsible

School Improvement Overview:

Every year we publish our School Improvement Plan, please see below. There are lots of areas we are looking to improve, but these are the areas we are focussing on this academic year.

School Improvement Plan

2024-2025 Overview

<u>Priority Number</u>	<u>Initiative Target</u>
1	To improve our approach to understanding and implementing anti-racism, to create a more inclusive environment and ethos, which values diversity.
2	To improve the provision and quality of reading in English and Welsh, to foster and promote a pleasure for reading. To improve opportunities to promote <u>oracy</u> skills in Welsh.
3	To improve opportunities for Problem Solving and Reasoning skills in Numeracy and across the curriculum
4	To improve the quality and provision of outdoor classrooms and the learning environment. To improve the quality, provision and consistency of play based learning.
5	To develop and improve the teaching and learning experiences for RSE within the school through a cluster framework, in line with Welsh Government expectations.
6	To improve the consistency in Learning and Teaching in line with the Curriculum for Wales

Clubs

Information to be given next week for clubs.

Letters will be sent out with consent forms.

Parking Reminder

We have had concerns raised regarding parking on the road leading up to our school. We are asking, for the safety of our children, that you park in an alternative place. This is solely for the safety of our community. The local PCSO has been informed.

Reception Home- School Task

Please see the Home-School Task for reception children below.

School gates

Please be advised we are further ensuring the safety of the school site by making sure the gates remain closed. If you are accessing the school site, please ensure you close the gates behind you. Thank you for your cooperation.

Snack

Please can children bring a piece of fruit for morning snack, as we are a Healthy School.
Many thanks.

Absences

Please email absences to the main school email address to enable registers to be updated with correct absence codes. This prevents the need for phone calls during the day.

Uniform Swap Shop

From next Monday our uniform swap shop will be held in the Community Room.

Please come along and support us with this valuable opportunity. A big thank you to those who have already popped along and those who have donated uniforms – thank you to those donating and making good use of this resource.

Reminder

Head Lice

The sun is out and the children are enjoying the lovely weather together. This time of year can be a time where head lice cases are on the increase. Please can we ask that you are extra vigilant when checking your child's hair. Thank you

Contact Details

Please ensure your contact details are up to date in the office including email addresses - many thanks

***Attendance** – *Miss School Miss Out!*

Last week's attendance was 91.5 % with year 5 having the best attendance
with 100 % - well done

***We are continuing to support the Local Authority with their initiative to exceed 90% attendance.**

For those pupils who are persistently below the recommended attendance threshold, referrals will be submitted and discussions around how to support their attendance will be arranged.

If you are experiencing any issues around your child's attendance and wish for support, please let us know and together we can help.

PE Days:

Nursery - Wednesday

Reception - Monday and Wednesday

Yr1 - Tuesday and Thursday

Yr2 - Tuesday and Thursday

Yr3 - Monday and Tuesday

Yr4 - Wednesday and Thursday

Yr5 - Wednesday and Thursday

Yr6 - Monday and Thursday

What's been happening this week in school

Nursery

Nursery have been busy this week. We are settling into our routines and it has been so lovely to see all of our classmates together. We have been painting our faces and writing our names, helping us to realise what makes us special.

We have also been focusing our colours and shapes. We have enjoyed singing the colours of the rainbow, and reading our book of the week 'Find Your Happy'.

Reminders for parents:

PE days are on Wednesday so can all children come to nursery come in in suitable clothing and footwear.

Book bags will be going home on Friday. Can these be returned every Thursday so we can change them for the following week.

Can everyone please bring in coats so we can access that outdoor area as we are going into winter months.



Reception

The children have been settling well into life at St Athan Primary School. We had our first PE lesson on Monday where we used spots to identify our own space and played a range of spatial awareness games.



Reminder - PE is on a Monday and Wednesday. The children are able to wear their PE kits to school on these days.

Reminder - Please ensure names are on all items belonging to the children and we would be grateful if you could provide a healthy snack (1 item) and a drink bottle every day.

Reception Home-School Task -My Special Box

We would really like your child to put together a 'Special Box' of things that are special to

them, which would help us to get know your child and find out about their favourite things. The box would need to be able to fit your child's favourite things in – but a SHOE BOX size would be perfect and probably big enough.

Ideas for the Special Box

- Photographs of their family and friends.
- A favourite book that they may like to share.
- A favourite toy (small ones that are not too precious).
- Any objects they have collected on outings e.g. shells, map,
- Any other items that your child would like to share.

It would be lovely if your child could decorate their box and put their names on the outside.

We hope you have lots of fun working together to create your box and we are really looking forward to seeing them all. Please could they be brought into school on Monday 23rd September 2024.

Thank you for your support,
The Reception Team

Every year we publish our School Improvement Plan. Please see below.

There are lots of other areas we are trying to improve but these are the areas we are focusing on this academic year.

Year 1

What a fantastic week we have had in Year 1! Learners have been busy completing their star challenges independently which has been lots of fun! Additionally, we have been talking about our favourite things in the whole wide world and writing a sentence about it in our books. We worked hard to sound words out independently even if it was a bit tricky. In PE the class focussed on travelling in different ways around the hall and played lots of games that involved this. Overall, we have had a brilliant week working on our independence skills, reading stories together and plenty of singing and dancing!

A few reminders:

- **Please can all year 1 pupils bring in wellies to keep in class for any outdoor activities as the weather gets wetter.**
- **PE days are Tuesday and Thursday - learners are to come into school wearing their PE kit.**
- **As we encourage learners to try new foods, to reduce food waste we are encouraging learners to eat what their parents/guardians have advised them to. For example, if they come into school with a pack lunch, we are encouraging them to eat their pack lunch rather than opting to try the hot meal as this is creating food waste. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or the school office.**

- Please ensure names are on all items belonging to the children and we would be grateful if you could provide a healthy snack (1 item) and a drink bottle every day.



Year 2

We have had a lovely week so far in year 2! Pupils have had the opportunity to lead their own maths sessions. We have been working on number bonds to 10 using top marks (hit the button).



We have also had our first PE session where we followed Joe Wicks and Cosmic Yoga to raise and lower our heart rate.



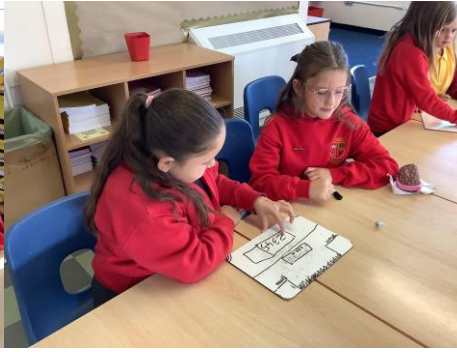
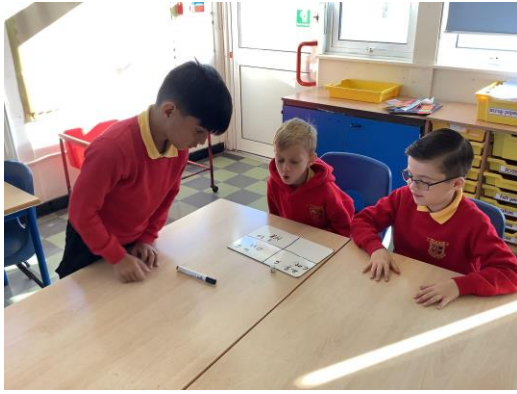
As a gentle reminder, please ensure names are on all items belonging to the children and check clothing for other students names as we have had some missing.

We would be grateful if you could provide a healthy snack (1 item) and a drink bottle every day.

Please can all year 2 pupils bring in wellies to keep in class for Woodland Wonders and any outdoor activities as the weather gets wetter.

Year 3

Shwmae! We are having a fun and busy week in Year 3. We have been completing lots of tricky challenges and playing lots of different games.



Please can all Year 3 pupils bring in wellies to keep in class for Woodland Wonders and any outdoor activities as the weather gets wetter.

Year 4



What words do you associate with diversity?

56 responses



Year 4 have worked hard this week, first we began our new topic which is called, 'Express Yourself.' We gathered all the words associated with diversity and created a word cloud. Next we started our new class novel in Literacy called, 'Mixed.' We looked closely at the front cover using inference skills and discussed what we could see, what we thought and what we wondered might happen in this story. In Art we mixed the primary colours to produce secondary colours.

Reminders

PE days- Wednesday and Thursday

Woodland Wonders- Friday

Please can all Year 4 pupils bring in wellies to keep in class for Woodland Wonders and any outdoor activities as the weather gets wetter.

Year 5

Year 5 has had a busy week, last friday we had Military college come into school and we are looking forward to the next five weeks! We have been talking a lot this week about what we think diversity is. The children have been looking at what makes people

different, focusing on lots of sports stars from all over the world and all with different abilities. We enjoyed playing games from around the world that other children play.



Year 6

Year 6 has had a busy but fun week. On Monday, we kick started our new diversity topic called 'We are Wales' by looking at the huge differences and inequalities in the world through the fascinating book called 'If the World were a village' which represents the world's 8 billion population as a village of 100 people. We represented the world's different religions, languages and sized populations in giant bar charts on the school playground.





We had a fun start to our morning yesterday when our chairs went on strike!!!! They weren't there when we went into class at the start of the day. BUT they had written us some letters to explain why they had disappeared. It was fun reading the letters and listening to what the chairs were feeling! This was a prompt to get us started talking about 'The Day the crayons quit' and how the problems experienced by the different colours, relates to diversity.



Reminders

P.E. days are Monday and Thursday

Return signed Llangrannog letters please.

Criw Cymraeg

With the start of the new year comes new members! We would like to welcome Jessica, Ella, Osian and Finley to the Criw. The whole gang were also handed our Criw Cymraeg badges during assembly time for us to wear proudly on our jumpers. We look forward to kick starting our termly focus with an assembly next week!



St. Athan Primary School is still part of the initiative to encourage more children and their families to walk to school. **WOW – the walk to school challenge is delivered by Living Streets, the UK charity** for everyday walking, to help as many children as possible experience the benefits of walking to school.

The pupil-led challenge enables children to self-report how they get to school every day. If they travel actively (walk/wheel, cycle, scoot or Park and Stride) at least once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It's that simple!

What are the benefits of walking to school?

- Children feel happier and healthier
- They arrive to school refreshed and ready to learn
- Helps reduce congestion and pollution at the school gates.

What if we can't walk to school?

If driving, 'Park and Stride' to help your child earn their WOW badges. Park *at least ten minutes away from the school* and walk the remaining journey.

There are 11 badges to be earned from September 2024 – July 2025.

Each badge has been designed by a pupil from across the UK as part of our annual WOW Badge Design Competition. A new badge can be earned every month if pupils' walk/wheel, cycle, scoot or Park and Stride at least 3 times a week.

The badges are made in Cornwall from material that was otherwise destined for landfill, including fridge trays, plastic plates and yoghurt pot off-cuts.

For more information, visit: livingstreets.org.uk/recycling In the UK, last year, around 2,300 schools and over 600,000 pupils enjoyed the benefits of walking to school with WOW. Will you join us?

Twitter / X

Please can I ask all parents to follow us. It is very easy to do and doesn't cost. This is a great way to see on a daily basis what your children are learning and how they are learning it. @StAthanPrimary

You simply ask to follow us and within 24 hours you will be given access. Give it a try!

Web site: www.stathanPrimaryschool.co.uk

Harvest

Last year local schools and churches in the Vale donated over 7000 kg of much needed food from Harvest Festival collections to support our work here in the Vale Foodbank. We are incredibly grateful for this wonderful support and would be delighted if you would consider donating food to our Harvest appeal this year.

Throughout last year, we were able to provide emergency food to 8400 people across the Vale, of whom 3232 of these were children under 16. Sadly, the demands on the Foodbank remain as strong as ever.

This year, we are continuing our Food Champions initiative asking schools to consider becoming 'champions' for a small number of much-needed items rather than the usual standard long list of items we need. This helps us target items that we are particularly short of, and we hope it will also make it easier for you in terms of collection and storage. If you would like to take part, we would be grateful if your school would become our Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Tomatoes and Jam Champions.