



Newsletter



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Spring Term - February 2nd, 2018

The new Dyffryn school

A few parents have asked about details of the new school opening in September and rumours that it wasn't on schedule to open in time. Firstly, I shall contact the new headteacher to gain more information and distribute as much information as I can gather. Secondly, I have had no information related to a delayed opening date. If I receive any information regarding this I will let you know.

Parent drop in sessions

These are now in place for parents of pupils who are worried about their child's learning. This was recognised as good practice by the inspectors this week as it provides parents with further information if they have any concerns or need further information about the levels and outcomes their child should be working at. Please come along.

Margam Park residential

I cannot thank Mrs Cole and Mr Cross enough! They gave up their own personal time to accompany the year 6 children at Margam residential last week. The children thoroughly enjoyed and it was a great experience for them. They were extremely well behaved and I am so proud of them all. Well done everyone. Teachers were exhausted coming back to school but they did a grand job and it was well worth it! THANK YOU BOTH!!

PTA meeting

You will have seen the PTA newsletter that came home to you recently. They have lots planned so please take note and come and help if you can. We had an excellent turn out at the last meeting even though it was very noisy! However, we are still learning and we won't do that again! Next meeting is a 2.30 one! Our next event is the school disco so just let us know if you can help.

Lots more

There is a great deal more to say but we have run out of room! Keep a look out for next week's newsletter.

Reminder - look out, there's headlice about! If you find them it's likely the whole family has them. Do a family check!

Space for a joke!

- What did zero say to eight?
- Nice belt.
- 😂
- 😂
- Sorry!

Inspection information

As you know we have had inspectors in this week. They scrutinised 5 areas which are called recommendations which came from the original inspections report back in February last year. The other 4 areas were inspected during their last visit in October. We have been given a verbal feedback of their report and we will receive a written report in about two weeks time. Our last report arrived very late and this is being addressed by Estyn. The draft report which was read to us on Wednesday is more than pleasing. The inspectors recognised that the school has come a long way in a very short space of time. It hasn't yet been a year since the original report was published. Everything is now in place and the school is making more than the expected progress. Inspectors are happy with what they have seen and have stated that we must keep doing what we are doing to make sure that the children benefit even more and that the practices are embedded securely. There are no concerns with safeguarding of pupils and the remaining recommendations are linked to raising standards further. So in a nut shell they have said keep up the good work and keep doing what you're doing! Ourselves and the LEA are absolutely delighted with the report. It's been a very tough year but it has all paid off!

We have been asked to share our practice with other schools and members of the LEA are now using Eastern as examples of good practice in certain areas. I assure you that this is growing! Just watch this space! Eastern is more than on the way up!

I have been asked about the school category that is published and why it is still red. This category is decided by the LEA in September of each academic year. The LEA use the inspection report to make their judgements as well as their own scrutiny of data. When we had our visit from the LEA we hadn't even had our first revisit from Estyn. Estyn first revisit was in October. Many people use this colour category as a judgment of how well a school is doing.

Our advice to all parents is that you make your own judgements on how well your child is performing in school, how much progress they are making, what support they receive, how the school helps you as a family and most importantly how happy your child is coming to school. The school colour banding provides a broad sense but much more detail is required. If you would like to know more about this please come and ask. I was headteacher at Groes and took the school from red to yellow and the prospects were green for the following September term before I was dangled the carrot of coming to Eastern! If the colour banding concerns you please take time to read the information regarding banding. If you are worried about your child please come and see me and I will take you through what they are receiving and their rate of progress. Estyn have recognised that many pupils here are making better than the expected progress.

So all in all the school is doing extremely well because of the hard work of staff, children, governors and supportive parents! So a massive thank you to everyone! You are all truly amazing! WELL DONE EVERYONE!

Diary Dates

Feb 7th	NSPCC fundraising day
Feb 9th	Year 5&6 peer support training day.
Feb 13th	Shrove Tuesday (pancake day) School disco
Feb 14th	Whole School council day. What the pupils say and want for the school.
Feb 19th	Half term week
March 1st	St David's day
March 11th	Mother's Day

