



Saundersfoot Community Primary School

Frances Lane, Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire

SA69 9HB

Tel: 01834 812819

e-mail: head.saunderfoot@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

admin.saunderfoot@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

www.saunderfoot.pembrokeshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr N. Allen

17th February 2023

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a term filled with illness but we have made it to half term – well done all.

St David's Day.

The first week back in school is set to be a busy one with St. David's Day (Wednesday) and World Book Day (Thursday).

As we celebrate and focus on the traditions of Wales, St. David and what it means to be Welsh, I would like the help of the pupils and yourselves. We are a small but very proud nation and I feel it very important that in this modern world we still focus on our Welshness and heritage, if we do not then it all becomes part of history. On St. David's day we are encouraging children to come to school dressed in traditional Welsh costumes, Welsh Icons or in red, white and green with or part of their school uniform.

We do not wish for parents and carers to purchase new or specific items for one day of the year, but combine and mix what you have with our school uniform. As we feel this will help to keep this day special and respectful, therefore not like another non-uniform day.

St David's Day menu.

As part of our St. David's Day celebration the menu choice for the day will be freshly made cawl with bread and cheese, followed by muffin or fruit wedges. Our school cook as always will offer jacket potato and cold options on this day also.

World Book day – Thursday 2nd March

We ask that pupils wear school uniform, the focus to be on Literacy and activities in class and across the school. We hope that Blue our reading dog joins us for the day also. School uniform and pupils to bring in their favourite book/comic.

Attendance.

Attendance as always is so important to our pupils education. Staff and Governors monitor attendance levels and we have always looked to communicate openly and honestly with parents. Over the winter period and particularly after the 'lockdowns' we fully understand winter illnesses spread and cause absence, however, when absence goes below 90% it begins to have an impact on learning. Any absence above 15% could require the school to make a referral to the Pembrokeshire County Council Education Department for investigation.

We know Saundersfoot is an area of significant employment for tourism and as a result term time holidays are expected. We understand this, however, not when children attendance is below 90%. Please make every effort to maintain good levels of attendance.

Thank you for understanding.

Punctuality

On a similar point, we understand that occasionally the complexities of family life result in us being late. Many of you all do an amazing job, getting the family ready for school and work. In a very few instances teachers experience the same pupils being late for school regularly. This can result in some issues from the point of view of the child and the teacher, by always being late to class children can miss out of the morning routine and explanations of what the day ahead will look like.

We ask that parents and carers do what they can to avoid regular lateness – this really helps the most important people in education - the pupil and the teacher.

Many thanks for supporting this.

Finance situation.

Sadly, the financial situation for education and schools looks bleak. The school has yet to see its final budget for the year 2023-24. What we do know is with increased utility costs, other inflationary rises and lower forecasted pupil numbers on roll, the current staffing situation is impossible to maintain. If we did the school would operate at a deficit – something not permitted by Pembrokeshire County Council. The school, its staff and Governing Body understand this situation are all working tremendously hard to generate a 'Business plans' to see a more positive budget in the future. The situation is a challenging one, with the average house price in our postcode being £636,400 and that 70% of the area population is 45 plus – Saundersfoot is a village that young families visit on holiday and rarely move into.

The Governors and myself will update you all as and when things are confirmed.

Striking action

You may be aware that the NEU are intending to strike again on Thursday March 2nd. The intended strike action by the NEU, **WILL NOT** affect any class in Saundersfoot, all class will remain open. During this worrying time for schools, the staff in Saundersfoot have focused upon the children and the possible impact on them.

We are lucky to have such dedicated and compassionate staff who aligned unions in Saundersfoot CP School.

Saundersfoot CP primary School raise money for Turkey

Saundersfoot school decided to raise money for Turkey due to the bad earthquake. The money will go for tents, clothes, food and transportation for the people suffering from the earthquake. We have raised a total of £180.33. Written by Dylan and Dirsuksha

Dates.

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| Wednesday 1 st March | St. David's Day. Pupils to dress in National costume or Red, White and Green clothing as part of school uniform. |
| Thursday 2 nd March | World book day. School uniform, focus to be on Literacy and activities in class. Pupils to bring in their favourite book |
| Friday 17 th March | Comic Relief – Details to be planned by Year 6. |

Your Sincerely

Mr. Nick Allen