

Friday/Dydd Gwener 15.9.23

Reminders

Back to school letter

If you missed it, please find important information and dates for the year ahead on our website.

Further dates for the term ahead

- 25th September – Staff twilight: No Clubs this evening
- 9th October – INSET day
- 25th October – Sponsored bounce (to be confirmed)
- 6th November – Donations of Christmas jumpers to be brought to school ready for Christmas jumper day
- 20th November – INSET day



Headteacher's update

I would like to say a huge thank you to the whole school community for making me feel so welcome over the past couple of weeks! From spending time with our children, meeting families on the playground and speaking with parents and carers, I have quickly learned what a caring and loving school Mary Immaculate is! I met with our Pupil Senedd this week to make arrangements for ensuring that they can continue to guide and drive the development of our school. I look forward to our weekly meetings!

Parent feedback

It has been wonderful to hear about all the things that our school community are proud of as well as those things that you would like us to work on. Please continue to catch myself, Mrs Priestley or any other member of our team and let us know if there is anything that we can do to support your child, your family or to improve our school for our pupils. It is clear to me already that we have a very committed school community, who are keen to become more involved in the life of the school. Please watch out for communication about volunteer opportunities in the coming weeks. Following feedback from parents, we will be making some small changes to arrangements for pick-up times. Please see below.

End of day pick-up

Both parents and staff have noted how busy the playground is at dismissal times. We are going to try lining classes up on the playground for dismissal from Monday. Please bear with us as we aim to cut down on congestion and support a quicker and safer dismissal.

Friday pick-up

Some families have enquired about collecting their child at 12.20pm (the end of the school day), rather than the after-lunch collection at 12.50pm. We will commence a before-lunch pick-up at 12.20pm from Friday 22nd September. Any full-time pupils leaving before lunch is served in the canteen will be provided with a 'takeaway' style lunch. Please note, for food hygiene reasons, bubble salmon will not be available to take-away. In order for the kitchen to plan for take-away lunches, families will need to let us know by Wednesday if they plan to collect their child at 12.20pm. Please use this [LINK](#) to let us know if you will be collecting your child from 12.20pm for future Fridays.

Your views are needed

We have previously posted weekly on our school X (twitter pages), sharing what is going on in our classes. We realise that this might not be everyone's preferred platform, so are seeking your views. Please answer this quick survey to help us understand how best to share the brilliant learning our children get up to.

<https://forms.office.com/e/2yvanRjVzD>

Pupil Updates!

'We went to showjumping. I was representing the school on Mac. I came first place, and qualified. I had a really good time and really enjoyed it.'

Written by Eleanor Hagger

Over the summer holidays I decided to do a sweet stall where all the money I made I donated to Cancer Research UK. My target was £150 but I ended up with a great total with £305. I was so pleased and grateful for all my support and the donations given to Taylor's sweet treats. If you would like to donate please click the link below 😊
<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/taylors-giving-page-2070>

Reported by Taylor Pemberthy.

Week beginning 18.09.2023

Dydd Llun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y6 safe cycling – all week • Whitesands and Abereddy swimming • Y3-4 Clwb Cymraeg 3.20-4.00pm (only booked pupils) • Y2 – Fun and fitness Club (only booked pupils)
Dydd Mawrth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Mass in School, 9.30am - families welcome
Dydd Mercher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swansea City Sessions • Y3-6 Cross Country club (only booked pupils) • Y2 Nature Nurturers (only booked pupils) • Healthy Minds Club Y5-6 (only booked pupils)
Dydd Iau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chatterbookss Club Y3-4 (only booked pupils) • Expressive Arts Club Y1 (only booked pupils) • Netball Y5-6 (only booked pupils) •
Dydd Gwener	

Merit Certificates



Congratulations to all our stars this week!



Dosbarth Amroth	<p>Osian Martin</p> <p>For settling in so well to his new school and for his effort during a full day of learning! Da iawn!</p>	Dosbarth Druidston	<p>Sophia Mayhew</p> <p>For her infectious enthusiasm and careful pronunciation when learning new vocabulary during our slot drilio sessions! Dal ati!</p>
Dosbarth Amroth	<p>Tommy Sinclair</p> <p>For settling in so well to his new school and for his effort during a full day of learning! Da iawn!</p>	Dosbarth Whitesands	<p>Connie Mae Bradley</p> <p>For being so invested in her learning and giving 100% in everything that she does. Da iawn!</p>
Dosbarth Little Haven	<p>Imogen Morris</p> <p>For being an excellent role model to everyone in the class and giving 100% to everything she does. Da iawn!</p>	Dosbarth Abereddy	<p>Lewis John</p> <p>For his strategic thinking and perseverance during our maths learning this week. Da iawn Lewis!</p>
Dosbarth Newgale	<p>Ella Jones</p> <p>For working hard in all areas of learning this week especially during a writing task in RE. Da iawn!</p>		

Attendance	
Dosbarth Amroth (R)	99.3%
Dosbarth Little Haven	93.5%
Dosbarth Newgale	91%
Dosbarth Druidston	93.1%
Dosbarth Whitesands	95.7%
Dosbarth Abereddy	98.6%
Whole school total	95.2%



The World's Happiest Country - Again!

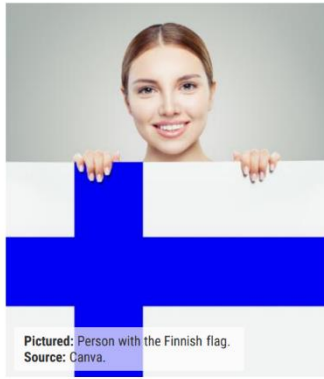
Finland has been declared the world's happiest country for the 6th year in a row! The 2023 World Happiness Report, which states it is the first report to rank countries by how their populations feel, compiled a list of 146 countries. To do this, data was used that had been gathered by the Gallup World Poll, which asked about 1,000 people from each country to evaluate various areas of their lives and grade them between 0 and 10 in terms of their happiness. A 0 score is the worst and a score of 10 is the best. Once all the results were in, Finland topped the table with an impressive score of 7.804!

'Happiness can change, and does change, according to the quality of the society in which people live,' said John F. Helliwell one of the chief editors of the World Happiness Report.

Do you think this is a good way to work out how happy nations are?



Pictured: Northern lights between pine trees in Finland. **Source:** Canva.



Pictured: Person with the Finnish flag. **Source:** Canva.

Spotless Giraffe

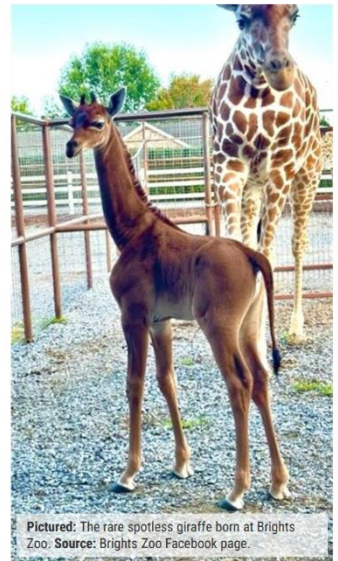
Brights Zoo in Tennessee, USA, has welcomed a very special rare spotless baby giraffe! The baby giraffe was born at the zoo on 31st July. Experts believe that she is the only solid-coloured reticulated giraffe on the planet today and the first to be born in more than 50 years.

Tony Bright, the founder of Brights Zoo, talked about the media interest said,

'The international coverage of our patternless baby giraffe has created a much-needed spotlight on giraffe conservation. Wild populations are silently slipping into extinction, with 40% of the wild giraffe population lost in just the last three decades.' Dr Fred Bercovitch, a giraffe expert, referred to her lack of spots saying, 'In biology there are always exceptions to the rule and when exceptions pop up it is really cool.'

The zoo launched a public vote to choose a meaningful name for the new baby giraffe.

The names (and definitions) that people could choose from were, Kipekee (unique), Firyali (unusual or extraordinary), Shakiri (she is most beautiful) and Jamella (one of great beauty).



Pictured: The rare spotless giraffe born at Brights Zoo. **Source:** Brights Zoo Facebook page.

Which name would you have voted for?

Why do you think this would be the best name for the spotless giraffe?

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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Wind Powered Cargo Ship

Pyxis Ocean is the world's first wind-powered cargo ship and it has just embarked on its maiden voyage. The freighter, which has been retrofitted with two sails (built from the same material as wind turbines) to help cut down emissions, is travelling from China to Brazil. The WindWings sails, developed by British company BAR Technologies, are designed to reduce fuel consumption and therefore the carbon footprint of shipping. The 37.5m tall wings (folded down when in port) are opened out when the ship is in open water. Experts say having the ability to power ships with wind, instead of relying entirely on engines, could reduce the lifetime emissions of a cargo ship by 30%.

Researchers believe that the six-week journey will help them work out how much of a reduction the large metal sails can have on the industry's estimated production of 837 million tonnes of CO2 each year. 'Wind power can make a big difference,' says Dr Simon Bullock, shipping researcher at the Tyndall Centre, at the University of Manchester.

'Ultimately, we do need zero-carbon fuels on all ships, but in the meantime, it is imperative to make every journey as efficient as possible. Slower speeds are also a critical part of the solution.'

What do you think of using this technology to help reduce the shipping industry's emissions?



Pictured: Pyxis Ocean. **Source:** Cargill Facebook page.

Last week's topic:

Can pets make good companions in schools?



I think it would be good because if someone gets stressed and you had a dog it could calm you down or cheer you up. You could play with it at break and lunch but I would only like it if you could bring your own pets.

Isla

Yes, they can but also sometimes people are allergic or scared of them, so we need to be careful and consider everyone before getting one.

Alexandra

I think that is a great idea for schools to have pets, as long as they are well looked after. A lady who works in our school office brings in her dog so we know that he is well cared for and happy.

Mario

Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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Look at the resource below, which shares some more information about lifejackets.

A lifejacket is something that you wear in case you enter the water when you are not expecting to. They are designed to keep you afloat. There are many different types of lifejacket but wearing one could save your life!



A lifejacket may have a whistle and a torch to help you attract attention and get help, should you fall into the water.



Look at the lifejackets these children are wearing. Discuss the similarities and differences between them. Is there one you think you would prefer to wear? Why?



Can you think of an example of when someone might wear a lifejacket?

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UN Rights of a Child



All adults should do what is best for children. An adult may give us rules to follow to help protect us or ask us to wear equipment, such as a lifejacket, to help keep us safe.



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TAKEHOME

11 - 17
Sept.



Should lifejackets be compulsory for all on open water?



In the news this week

In Canada, the government in the province of Ontario is set to pass a new law that will make it compulsory for children aged 12 and under to wear lifejackets on boats. Parents, guardians, or other adults supervising children could be subject to a fine of up to \$200 (£130) if they do not comply. In the UK, currently, there is no legal requirement for anyone using rivers and seas for leisure purposes to wear a lifejacket/personal flotation device (PFD).

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Share your experience of lifejackets. Have you ever been required to wear one? Where were you? Did everyone wear them?
- > Can you make a list of all the times you think lifejackets should be worn?
- > Do you feel there should be laws in place to ensure people wear lifejackets on boats at sea? If so, do you believe they should apply to everyone?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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