



FERN FEDERATION

AUTUMN TERM 2 – 2024-25



Dear Parents, guardians, and carers,

As we fast approach Christmas I am delighted to reflect with you on the wonderful Christmas term we have had here in the Fern Federation. It has been a term filled with joy, learning, and memorable experiences for both our pupils and staff.

Our pupils have had the opportunity to embark on several exciting trips that have enriched their learning and broadened their horizons. Visits to local museums have allowed them to delve into modern history and culture looking at the 'art of the selfie', which has sparked curiosity and inspired a love for art I hope you managed to see some of the pupil's beautiful artwork that they created this term. These trips have also provided our pupils with hands-on experiences that really bring their classroom lessons to life, making their education both engaging and fun.

In addition to our museum visits, we have also enjoyed the magic of the theatre and farms. Our trips to see the animals and a pantomime have been a highlight of the term, offering our pupils the chance to experience a live performances and the thrill of seeing Santa and the animals up close. The laughter and excitement shared during these outings have been truly heart-warming and have added a special touch to our festive celebrations.

This term, our curriculum has been focussed on the arts. The pupils have been learning about famous artists, exploring different styles and techniques, and even creating their own masterpieces. This creative journey has not only developed their artistic skills but also encouraged them to express themselves and appreciate the beauty of art.

As we look forward to the Christmas holidays, I want to thank you all for your continued support and involvement in our Federation community. Next half term will be a busy term with the start of the new school building getting underway, we will keep you updated of all changes and hope that you will come along to all parent meetings to see what exciting things await the pupils in the new school.

Just a reminder that we welcome any suggestions or ideas you may have on how we can continue to improve the learning and wellbeing experiences in our Federation. We have created this link for you to share any comments, views, feedback, or positive news you would like to share with us:

<https://forms.office.com/e/mus45JUcvj>

Wishing you all a joyous and restful Christmas break. Mrs Haggett



Parent/Teacher Meeting Feedback

Thank you to all parents, carers, guardians who responded to our survey regarding our parent teacher meetings in the Autumn 1 term.

We had a total of **45** responses out of a possible **289** a response rate of **15.5%** Of the respondents **30** parents, guardians, carers had a face-to-face meeting and **15** had telephone calls.

Overall satisfaction given about the meetings out of **5** was **4.9**.

Suggestions for improvement were: Increase the number of days parent meetings are held, increase the timings of the meetings, to see the pupils' books,

Other comments given: How well staff knew the children, glad phone calls are an option for parents who cannot make meetings, staff were accommodating to meetings, seeing the books.

Over the next 3 terms we will be trialling a new reporting system we would love to have your feedback about this new way of reporting back to you each term, further information found within this newsletter.



ATTENDANCE

As a School we are committed to helping ensure that all our pupils are in school nearly all the time. Our target each term across the school continues to be >95%. Attendance shown is for Autumn 2 Term Dates: 04.11.24-13.12.24

CRAIG YR HESG		CEFN	
Miss Wookey	85.8%	Miss Smith	88.43%
		Mrs Meazey	86.45%
Miss Dyer	94.68%	Miss Lane	98%
Mrs Davies	93.19%	Miss Osbournes	88.26%
Miss Najjan	94.01%	Miss Brown	89.82%
Miss Andrews	92.11%	Mrs Reynolds	91.15%
		Mrs Rosser	83.33%

These figures are based on Federation expectations

	95% and above (excellent)
	Between 90%- 94% (good)
	Between 85-89% (below average)
	Below 85% (unsatisfactory)

Focus CYH- Punctuality

Focus Cefn- Persistent Absenteeism

Just a reminder holidays will not be authorised by the school as agreed by the Fern Federation Governing body in Autumn Term.



What learning has been going on in the Fern Federation ?

This term the pupils in the Fern Federation have been given the opportunity to participate in lots of amazing learning experiences, from museum visits to family excursions, Christmas concerts and Family Crafts. Take a look at just a few wonderful examples of what the pupils have got up to during Autumn 2!



What learning has been going on in the Fern Federation?



What learning has been going on in the Fern Federation?



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY SPRING 1

DATES	Activity	What do I need to do?
Monday 6 th Jan	Pupils return to school after the Christmas break	£1 snack money for week & school uniform to be worn
Wednesday 15 th Jan	Year 5 Residential Parents meeting Cefn Primary 3:05pm school hall	Parents can choose to attend either meeting, if you are unable to attend, please let us know.
Thursday 16 th Jan	Year 5 Residential Parents meeting Craig Yr Hesg Primary 3:05 school hall	Parents can choose to attend either meeting, if you are unable to attend, please let us know.
Friday 24 th Jan	Violin concert for parents/guardians Cefn	9:05-9:35am – Miss Osbourne Class 9:45-10:15am- Mrs Brown Class 10:25-10:55- Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Rosser Class
Friday 24 th Jan	Violin concert for parents/guardians Craig Yr Hesg	11:15-11:45am- Mrs Davies class 11:50-12:20- Miss Najian class 1:00-1:30- Miss Andrews class
Monday 10 th February	Craig Yr Hesg Valentine disco	£2.50 tickets (snack, drink, face paint/tattoo) Non uniform
Tuesday 11 th - Wednesday 12 th Feb	Year 5 residential 1 night 2 days	Follow information pack, attend parents residential meeting.
Thursday 13 th Feb	Cefn Valentine disco	£2.50 tickets (snack, drink, face paint/tattoo) Non uniform
Friday 21 st February	Welsh tasks sent home for Eisteddfodd	Pupils to complete home tasks for Welsh Eisteddfodd.
Friday 21 st February	Pupils break up for half term.	No pupils to attend schools
Monday 3 rd March	Pupils return to school after the half term break	£1 snack money for week & school uniform to be worn.



NEW PUPIL REPORTS TO PARENTS



By now you should have received your child's report, we hope you are as thrilled as we are with our new report format. It has been designed to provide you with a comprehensive and insightful update on your child's progress each term. Our goal is to offer a clear and detailed overview of the learning journey your child is undertaking, highlighting their achievements, areas of growth, and the skills they are developing. We believe this new format will give you a better understanding of your child's academic and personal development.

Each term, you will receive a report that not only outlines your child's progress in various areas of learning but also includes reflections from older pupils on their learning experiences. These reflections are an important part of our approach, as they encourage pupils to think critically about their learning, set goals, and take ownership of their learning. We hope that by reading these reflections, you will gain deeper insights into your child's thought processes and the progress they are making.

We are confident that this new report format will enhance the communication between the school and home, providing you with valuable information to support your child's learning. We look forward to your feedback and hope that you find these new reports both informative and engaging.

MEET THE STAFF

As the new school is fast approaching, we have made the decision as a leadership team to work more fluidly across the two schools, so far you have read about Mrs Byers, Mrs Smith-Thomas, Miss Andrews, Mrs Reynolds, Miss Dyer and Miss Lane. This half term, get to know Miss Osbourne (Cefn) and Mrs Davies (CYH) a little better.



Miss Osbourne

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I became a teacher because I have a passion for working with children and helping them succeed and grow. Nearly 10 years ago, I began teaching dance and found immense joy in helping children learn new skills, build confidence, and experience the joy of overcoming challenges. This experience inspired me to pursue a career in teaching, leading me to complete my PGCE.

How long have you worked for the Federation?

I started my journey in the Fern Federation as a student teacher during my PGCE in 2022. I have been lucky enough to remain part of the Federation since, I am very thankful I have been able to join such an amazing team!

What are your hobbies?

As I mentioned above, I teach dance which has been a hobby of mine since I was 6! I still go to the studio and teach in the evenings and on the weekends which brings me lots of joy. I also love to spend time with my family and friends whenever I can, trying new things and seeing new places.

What are your favourite foods?

My favourite food is definitely mushrooms! I have them with everything!! However, my favourite meal would have to be a curry – this is always my favourite tea but not too spicy!

What is your favourite band or song?

I don't have a favourite song or band I listen to all different types of music. I love to sing out to anything on the radio in my car, but my favourite genre would have to be R&B.

What are you most looking forward to in the new school?

I am most looking forward to everyone being on the same site when we move to the new school. It will be lovely to watch all the new friendships blossom between the children and it will be fantastic for staff to all be together to give our children the best learning opportunities and experiences as a Federation together!



Mrs Davies

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I always wanted to be a PE teacher... not a primary teacher. But I fell in love with the children of Glyncoch over 15 years ago after leaving Uni and have never looked back. After being surrounded by so many amazing teachers and some not amazing teachers it led me to believe that you only get one shot at a good education and every child deserves that.

How long have you worked in the Federation?

Over 15 years now

What are your hobbies?

I love to be active, walking up mountains, playing cricket and going to the gym; I think I would explode if I didn't do these things. But my favourite hobby, one that I have played since the age of 7, is netball. My little family, who keep me especially busy from Morgan and his rugby and Mali with her dance and then there's Daf my husband!

What are your favourite foods?

I love all foods; I will eat anything!

What is your favourite band/song?

My favourite bands, Oasis, Foo Fighters, Gerry Cinnamon, Fall Out Boy...

What are you most looking forward to in the new school?

Having excellent PE facilities that will allow the children thrive! I am also excited to get all the staff under one roof, after leaving my colleagues in Cefn.



Parent Engagement

This term the Federation was successful in their bid to work with Pipyn to deliver fun and interactive sessions around healthy eating, increasing activity levels, aiding sleep, managing fussy eating, and reducing screen time. In Cefn we had no uptake and in CYH we had 4 families. As a Federation we work hard to get funding for these projects such as Wellies in the Wood, Playful Parenting and Social Interaction, unfortunately we were unable to run these sessions as there was not enough family uptake. We will be seeking your views again on what you would like us to deliver!

Pupil Voice

We received 248 pupil responses for 'our voice matters' survey. Results indicate that most pupils are very happy at school, at home and with friends. However, many children do not feel as safe out and about in the community.

We will be working with our local community members to try to find a solution to this, as we want to ensure that our pupils feel safe in their own communities. All pupils had aspirations for their future careers!

Football Tournament

On Friday 29th November the Fern Federation organised a mini football tournament against Blaengwawr and Coedpenmaen. Each school brought two teams and an excellent standard of football was demonstrated throughout the afternoon.

The Federation made it to the final against Blaengwawr it was a close game, however I am delighted to say that the Federation won! A huge thank you and shout out to Anthony and Katie who give up their own time each week to coach the football and organise these tournaments for the pupils.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents, Carers, and Guardians,

As we conclude the Autumn term, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and involvement in our Federation. Your dedication has been instrumental in making this term such a success.

We have shared many memorable moments together, from the delightful Family Christmas Craft Afternoon to the laughter-filled Christmas concerts. The pantomime and family trip to the farm was a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to create lasting memories, and the Christmas lunch was a joyous occasion that brought all the staff and pupils together in the spirit of the season, a huge thank you to Jan, Kath, Kinette and Michelle for cooking the most splendid lunch and to the staff for making this term so special for all our pupils.

Your participation and enthusiasm in these events have not only enriched our pupils' experiences but also strengthened our community. It is through your continued support that we can provide such enriching opportunities for our children.

As we look forward to the new year, we will see the start of the new school build, in January you will start to see the foundations being laid and by March 2025 the build will officially begin. This is an exciting time for everyone involved and I am looking forward to observing how this new school will bring us all together as an even stronger community. On behalf of the Fern Federation Governors, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Councillor D. Williams
Chair of Governors Fern Federation

