



## **Weekly Parent/Carer Communication 09.01.2026**

### **1. Key Information**

#### **Welcome Back**

Welcome back to all our families! Our pupils have had a fantastic first week back, settling well into their new inquiries and routines. We are really proud of them all! We'd like to offer a particularly warm welcome to our new nursery pupils who joined us this week; it has been wonderful to see them becoming part of our school community already. Also a big thank you for your continued support and understanding during the icy conditions this past week, we hope things will now be more settled as the weather improves.

**Flu catch up clinic:** Please find attached information from the School Nursing Immunisation Team.

#### **Attendance**

Unfortunately, the school community was impacted by the array of viruses and illnesses that swept through local communities before Christmas. This has left our attendance at **94.7%** which is well below our target of **96%**.

We want to reassure families that we are, and will always be, understanding when children are genuinely unwell. Children should not attend school if they are too ill to learn. However, we are seeing that a significant factor affecting our attendance figures is the continued number of **term-time holidays** being taken. While we appreciate the pressures families face, time away from school during term time has a substantial impact on learning and contributes directly to lower attendance rates.

Research consistently shows how important good attendance is:

- Pupils with attendance above 95% are far more likely to achieve expected outcomes in literacy and numeracy.
- Missing just 10 school days a year can significantly affect progress and confidence.
- Patterns of absence can quickly lead to gaps in learning that are difficult to close, particularly in the early years.

Improving attendance is about ensuring every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed. We are committed to working supportively with families, but we also have a responsibility to follow Welsh Government guidance and to closely monitor attendance, especially where persistent absence becomes a concern.

Please let us know if you have any concerns or worries about your child's attendance, we are always here to help and have a number of support systems available. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

### **2. Key Dates For Next Week:**

Not applicable for next week

### 3. Important Future Dates 2026:

Monday 19th January	Community Connector Coffee Morning. If you can attend, please complete the link so we catering accordingly: <a href="https://forms.gle/KZvT75g43gcpX89B7">https://forms.gle/KZvT75g43gcpX89B7</a>
Tuesday 27th January	Call of the Wild Meeting for Parents: from 3:45pm. This meeting is open to families that have signed up or are still undecided.
W/C 9th February	Parent Consultations
Friday 13th February	Last day of term
W/C 16th February	Half Term
Friday 27th February	Wear Red for Velindre
Tuesday 3rd March	Eisteddfod
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Monday 9th March	INSET Day (School closed to pupils)
Thursday 12th March	Year 6 Rugby Festival - Whitchurch High Transition
Friday 27th March	Last day of term
W/C 30th March	Easter Holidays
W/C 11th May	Call of the Wild Residential Week
Wednesday 20th May	SPORTS DAY - Nursery (Morning) & Reception am SPORTS DAY - Nursery (Afternoon) & Year 1 and Year 2 pm
Thursday 21st May	SPORTS DAY - Year 3 and Year 4 am SPORTS DAY - Year 5 and Year 6 pm
Friday 22nd May	INSET Day (School closed to pupils)
W/C 25th May	May half Term
W/C 1st June	STEM WEEK
W/C 8th June	Llangrannog Residential Week
Monday 20th July	INSET Day (School closed to pupils)

Inset days for the rest of this academic year:

Monday 9th March 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

We hope you have a lovely weekend,

The Whitchurch Team