

Parish News

Llanrhidian Primary School by D Caswell

As the gates open on that first day of the school year, anticipation fills the air. Pupils, parents, carers and staff swarm around with optimism and positivity. Music fills our yards, hands wave, feet run and skip and there are smiles, lots of smiles. Everyone loves a holiday, but there is something special about returning to school after the long summer break that brings comfort to us all.



Initially there is a strange feeling of loss, as a whole cohort of familiar faces have gone. However, there is also a sense of pride that we have prepared them for their next step for learning, and we are confident that they will have an amazing journey ahead of them. All the pupils settle quickly into their new year groups and soon it all seems quite normal once more with our new year six pupils at the helm.

Our first day back is always a launch day where our secret whole school topic is revealed to the pupils. The day promises fun, motivational activities and opportunities for pupils to share their thoughts and interests. It is a day where teachers listen to the pupils and exploit their amazing ideas to shape the content for the term ahead. Teachers deftly align skills and concepts needed to ensure our pupils make progress. However, by using pupils' as a starting point, we are able to plan units of learning that engages, motivates and inspires every learner.

September is a time to reflect on the past year and shape the hopes and expectations for the next. It is vital that build upon previous successes. Last year our community events were the best ever with our Christmas Shows, Marquee Markets, Sports Day and our Caffi Cynefin. The Llanrhidian "World of Work" gave more pupils opportunities to develop integral skills across a range of real work situations.

After more than 30 years as a teacher and a school leader it still inspires me to see the power of the "community collective". I truly believe that North Gower has an outstanding sense of "cynefin" that keeps our communities strong. Thank you for allowing me to be part of it.

A Very Proud Head Teacher.