



2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

## Newsletter

Dear Parents,

September has been a busy month and we have enjoyed seeing the children settle into their new routines happily. Last week I spent time in every class and really enjoyed this time with your children. They were engaged in their learning, happy and enjoying their time with their teachers and friends. I am a very lucky head teacher indeed.

### This week

#### Lunch Orders

Thank you all for trying to book your meals online! We are working through the glitches you are telling us about as we go along. As a reminder, if you go onto your Parent Pay app, the home screen will show the menu and you just click on the choices available. Those with special diets, agreed with MCC Catering, just need to click on the special diet option OR the jacket potato option. It looks as though nearly all families are accessing this now, so let me know if you still can't.

#### PTFA Calendar

Please remember that tomorrow, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October we have our PTFA calendar photograph day. Please see the information attached again to remind you of what your children need to wear. IF YOU HAVE ANY PROPS for any of the months eg. sweat bands, sun visors, white shorts, could you send some in please?

### Next week

#### Individual School Photographs

On Monday can ALL children attend school in uniform for their individual school photos please. Your teachers will do so directly if this affects Forest School or PE provision.



### September News

During the summer our lovely Miss Phillips became Mrs Weare. It was a wonderful day, Mrs Weare looked beautiful and the couple looked very happy. The weather was also very kind to them. The choir children added to the occasion by singing some of Mrs Weare's favourite songs. Diolch Miss John and of course Mrs Weare for





# Cross Ash Primary School

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Ysgol Gynradd Cross Ash

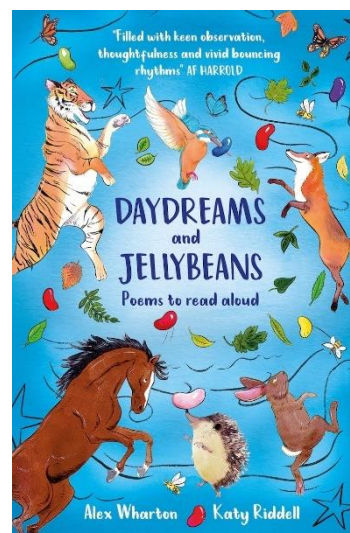
practising the songs with the choir. We wish you and Mr Weare good health and happiness always. Thank you for inviting us all to your special day.

## Alex Wharton – Children's Laureate for Wales

The new Children's Laureate for Wales kicked off his first year in the role with a special assembly and writing workshops for us.



Pontypool poet Alex Wharton, author of the 2022 Wales Book of The Year-shortlisted *Daydreams and Jellybeans*, was awarded the Laureateship by Literature Wales at this year's Hay Festival. At Cross Ash, he also performed his poems and songs for the children, who joined in with glee. The children wrote poetry with him and really loved every minute of his visit.



This was the first event of a new termly programme of author visits we are hoping to run.

Diolch Jude Rogers. We really appreciated you organising this. Thank you PTFA for paying for this lovely experience for our children and of course diolch Alex!

## Cross Country Competition

Children throughout the Junior classes took part in a cross-country event held at Monmouth Comprehensive last week. The children competed against all of the other schools in our cluster and did themselves proud. Diolch Mr and Mrs Collins for coming with us too.



## Family Learning

It has been great to see so many Reception parents taking part in our Family Learning Sessions on a Thursday morning. The focus of these are on literacy and numeracy skills. Parents also get the chance to make friendships too. The children work with their parents for a little while which is always fun. Thank you for coming all.





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## Castle Captains

September is all about Pupil Voice. The Year 6 children gave excellent Castle Captain speeches and the whole school took part in voting for the person they felt should represent their Castle. Da iawn to all of Year 6. You did amazing presentations and I think it was such a difficult task to choose one person! Good luck to the Captains, Vice-Captains and Prefects this year. We will be relying on you!



## School Councils

School Council representatives were announced yesterday. Again, such innovative and persuasive entries were received! Da iawn all. We look forward to your input into all aspects of school life. Your voices are important to us!



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## Achievements

We have taken part in both **Usk and Monmouth Shows** recently. Gardening Club won first prize! Thank you so much Mrs Jellard and Mrs Brunt for entering our produce.



We had quite a lot of success at Usk Show too. Diolch Mrs Weare (Miss Phillips) for taking our entries for us.





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Well done **Fred** for taking part in a local agricultural show. So many first prizes and I love the wellington design!



**Evan** has taken part in the World Championship competition for Taekwando at The Sky Dome Arena in Coventry. Countries from all around the world took part. Evan was in the lightweight blue belt category with 40 other competitors doing very well. In the sparring competition he came 4th! What an achievement. Well done Evan for representing Wales so well.

**Lyla** in Year 4's dance team 'The Sapphires' came 1st in the under 10s lyrical section at the National 'Dance Inspirations' competition in Surrey on Sunday. This means they have qualified to compete in the Blackpool finals later this year. She dances with Dance Attack Collection in Abergavenny. Da iawn Lyla!







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## Our Learning



I just loved Year 5's hook into learning with their Green Man tree sculptures. What a way to start your Festivals Topic!

## Dates for your Diary

5 <sup>th</sup> October	PTFA Calendar photographs
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual School Photographs
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Deadline for sponsorship for the school calendar
18 <sup>th</sup> October	PTFA Fancy Dress Disco
19 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30 am Harvest Festival -Skenfrith Church -all welcome!
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Flu Immunisations Y5 Playmaker Training in school -PE kit needed Parent Consultation Week Scholastic Bookfair
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Break up for Half Term
17 <sup>th</sup> November	PTFA Rags 2 Riches
5 <sup>th</sup> December	PTFA Wreath Making
7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> December	PTFA Piggy Bank Shopping



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13 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation Phase Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation Phase Christmas Play 1.30pm
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation Phase Christmas Play 1.30pm
16 <sup>th</sup> December	School choir Grosmont Church - tbc
18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> December	School Parties
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle Service, Grosmont Church 6pm
21 <sup>st</sup> December	Break up for Christmas
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	INSET Day -School Closed
<b>Inset Days</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2023
	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023
	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
	22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024
	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024

## Bank Holiday

# Term dates 2023/24

Article last updated: 16th May 2023

Term	Start	Half term start	Half term end	Term End
Autumn	01/09/2023	30/10/2023	03/11/2023	22/12/2023
Spring	08/01/2024	12/02/2024	16/02/2024	22/03/2024
Summer	08/04/2024	27/05/2024	31/05/2024	19/07/2024

**6<sup>th</sup> May 2024**



## PTFA News

# Cross Ash 2024 Calendar

## Calendar Photographs

It's that time of year again when we will be creating the fantastic  
Cross Ash Calendar!

Photographs for the calendar will be taken on Thursday 5th October 2023

Please come to school dressed in the theme of your birthday month:

<b>January</b> Party time!	<b>February</b> 6 Nations (Rugby)	<b>March</b> Wales (All things Welsh)
<b>April</b> Fairy tales	<b>May</b> Under the sea	<b>June</b> In the jungle
<b>July</b> Wimbledon	<b>August</b> Festival	<b>September</b> Famous people
<b>October</b> Harvest	<b>November</b> Remembrance Day (Poppies)	<b>December</b> Christmas (Christmas jumpers/tinsel)

Remember . . . the more fun and colourful the better!!

We don't want you to buy outfits or new clothes for this, if you don't have anything at home, let us know and we will do our best to help. We will bring as many props/spare outfits as we can for the photoshoot.

We will also need a lovely picture showing life at Cross Ash Primary School for the front of the 2024 school calendar.

This will be done at school for those who wish to participate and the winning picture will be chosen by Mrs Presdee-Salathiel.

If you have any props that we can use for the photo sessions please bring them along (in a bag with your child's name clearly labelled)

Diolch!

*Every month also needs a sponsor – if you or your business would like to sponsor the 2024 calendar, please see attached sponsorship form.*

