

Dear Parents / Carers,

What an interesting year!

The school had a very good year from September 2017 to July 2018 with lots to celebrate.

Our children's test results in Key Stage 2 demonstrated that all our children are succeeding with many making better than expected progress. The Foundation phase results showed that all children made good progress from the baseline entry assessments which were undertaken when the children started in nursery.

As governors we recognise the good work and effort of all staff in contributing to the schools continuing progress.

At Pontyclun Primary School leaders have children's safety, wellbeing and learning at the heart of all decision making. Each member of staff and each governor is a leader of at least one aspect of the school's life, working as a strong team to improve and raise standards.

The whole school community is part of the consultations and decision making process. We listen to the pupil voice within the school, consult with parents through the Parent council and have parent and community representatives on the governing body.

Governors and their role

The governors' role within the school is very important. Over the years, the role has increased and become more formalised so that the 2016 Estyn report of the school commented on the role of the governors and the need to develop our governance of the school.

We have 16 governors with a wide variety of skills and experience including parents, teachers, retired teachers, an accountant, an HR specialist, a senior Welsh Government Manager, an equalities expert, a facilities manager and an auditor.

As governors we are expected to be involved with the strategic direction of the school and to provide challenge as a critical friend. The role includes:

- Agreeing the aims and values of the school;
- Agreeing policies relating to the aims, purposes and practices of the school;
- Influencing and approving the School Improvement Plan;
- Approving and monitoring the allocation and expenditure of the budget of the school;
- Making sure the national curriculum is taught and there is sufficient staff to teach it;
- Monitoring and reviewing the school's progress;
- Ensuring individual pupils' needs are met, including additional needs;
- Selecting and recruiting staff;

- Producing the action plan for improvement following The Estyn school inspection;
- Providing parents' information about the school through this report.

Please see below a list of current governors (2018-2019) with some of their key responsibilities.

Name	Category of Governor	Appointed By	Retirement Date
Edwina Godwin Margaret Griffiths Rev. Sue Rees Millicent Phillips	Local Education Authority	Council Members	Jan 2020 Oct 2019 July 2018 July 2019
Ann Jackson	Minor Authority	Community Council	Mar 2018
Judith Lewis Rhian Jones John Hill-Tout Jackie Hardy	Community Governors	Governing Body	Mar 2018 May 2020 May 2020
Stacey Cowan Chloe George Steve Burrell Justin Sutherwood Lisa King	Parent	Parents	Oct 2016 April 2017 Mar 2018 Dec 2018
Sophie Hancock Lucy Thomas	Teacher	Teaching Staff	Mar 2018 Feb 2019
Sarah Davies	Staff	Non-Teaching Staff	Mar 2018
Hugh Roberts	Head teacher	Automatic	

Staff changes

We said goodbye after 18 years' service to Mr Williams, Key Stage 2 Leader in July 2018. Whilst this is sad for us, we wish Mr Williams well in his new role as Deputy Head teacher of another school in RCT. After national advert and a stringent interview process, I'm pleased to inform you that Ms Bethan Davies has been appointed as the new Key Stage 2 Leader.

Mr Tynan and Mr Burgess also left having worked at the school for the last 18 months. We wish them well for the future.

Buildings

During the summer holidays we again saw some long awaited building works undertaken. The Foundation Phase building has had some cladding repaired and the Junior building guttering and fascias were repaired and the rendering was finished and painted.

Financial Support

We are again very grateful to the PTA for their fundraising and providing all our children with better resources. The governing body could not afford these additional resources from the funding received from RCT County Council. Many thanks to those who work tirelessly to provide such resources.

Also many thanks to Pontyclun Community Shop for the money they have given us. These welcome additions to our funds have been well spent for the direct benefit of the children.

As a result of this additional funding the school has been able to refurbish 4 classrooms; purchase 15 laptop computers; fund a new website and purchase new literacy and numeracy resources.

Estyn Inspection Report

The school has continued to work hard on ensuring the standards and progress of the recommendations contained in the Estyn Inspection report of 2016 are being maintained. We were very pleased to be included in a recent Estyn case study for excellent communication with parents.

The governing body and school is working hard to achieve our aims of providing an excellent education for all our children. This we do as we strive to achieve our mission for every child "climb high, climb higher".

New Curriculum

Our children learn together and develop their skills together. In the next few years you will see a difference in the curriculum your children will be taught. No longer will it be science, technology, history, art, music and physical education, but a more holistic rounded curriculum. The staff and governing body have received training on this but this next year we will be holding meetings for you so we can explain the differences.

Education is a two way process and your involvement, encouragement and support will always be most welcome.

We would love to see as many of you as possible at the meetings so that we can all work together to provide your children with a relevant, exciting curriculum that encourages them to "climb high, climb higher". Lastly, I want to thank you, the parents and guardians, and the community for your ongoing support of your children and the school. We are very proud of the achievements of our school and we know that this is due to the enthusiasm and commitment of all.

Thank you.

Edwina Godwin, Chair of Governors.

Review of Year 2017-2018 from Hugh Roberts, Head teacher

This academic year has been as busy and packed as ever but we continue to go from strength to strength

Academically, our end of key stage results either maintained our high standards or improved upon them and the efforts of the pupils and the teachers involved should be applauded. This year a greater emphasis has been placed on pupils' progress, not just their end levels and we have compared very well to other schools in Wales. Indeed we score better than the local authority, the central south consortium average and the all Wales average.

Staffing has been fairly stable this year which is always a huge benefit to the pupils and it has allowed us to provide a wide range of exciting and challenging experiences for the pupils.

The recent school inspection highlighted the many fine qualities that the school has, such as good standards, good teaching and a wide and varied curriculum which pupils enjoy and are enthused by and we have continued to work on making these even better.

We continue to look forward to working with all stakeholders in the next academic year as we strive to meet our school motto of; 'Climb high, climb higher'.

School Performance at the end of the Foundation phase (Year 2) and Key Stage 2 (Year 6), July 2018

The school has been working very hard this year to raise standards in numeracy and science at KS2 and Numeracy and Personal and Social Development, Well Being and cultural Diversity (PSWCD) in the Foundation Phase. Level 4 is the expected level of pupils' achievement at the end of KS2. Through our focus on these areas our results were very high and especially in numeracy at KS2 were the highest they have ever been.

KS2 results - % of pupils achieving

	Level 3	Level 4+	Level 5
Literacy	2.53	97.47	69.62
Numeracy	1.27	98.73	73.42
Science	1.27	98.73	64.56

At the end of the Foundation Phase, outcome 5 is the expected level of pupils' achievement in Year.

Science is not a core subject in Foundation Phase but is taught through part of the curriculum called Knowledge and Understanding of the World. In Foundation Phase, the school is required to report on Personal & Social Development, Well-Being and Cultural Diversity (PSDW).

	outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5+	Outcome 6
Literacy		9.23	90.77	34.78
Numeracy		8.69	91.31	28.9
PSWCD		7.24	92.76	44.93

We have also been looking at the progress our pupils have made overall from when they started in nursery to how they have achieved in year 6 and in year 6. Both sets of data show excellent progress and we are very proud of what they have achieved.

Ensuring standards improve

The head teacher, teachers, teaching assistants, governors and Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC continue to work hard to improve standards within our school. We all recognise that children need to achieve their maximum potential and a good standard of education, get a good job and have a comfortable life style. That is what we all want for our children.

Many thanks go to all staff for their hard work and commitment to enable children to achieve their full potential. We would also like to give our thanks to you as their parents and carers for your support with listening to your children read, learn spellings and produce such wonderful homework.

School Improvement Plan

Governors with staff are responsible for drawing up the School Improvement Plan. The plan identifies the direction the school will take, over a three year period, in order to deliver the curriculum. The school uses a variety of teaching methods to engage the pupils and takes into account the variety of learning styles. We have a new curriculum which includes the progression of Literacy and Numeracy skills.

The School Improvement Plan for 2017/2018 was approved by Governors and implemented by the staff. The plan included short, medium and long-term targets which were regularly reviewed and revised, when necessary, at meetings of the governors. During the year, good progress was made towards meeting the targets.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

The aim of the school is to ensure that all children achieve their full potential. To achieve this, the head teacher and all staff are committed to the early identification of any additional learning needs a child may have and to work closely with the parents or guardians and the child to provide the additional resources required.

A parental ALN council was established to improve 2 way communication between home and school and to discuss new developments within the sphere of ALN. Two nurture classes were also established to provide children with additional emotional support, intervention programmes and breakout/ timeout space. This has proven to be a very positive and supportive approach to a number of pupils.

We also run a wide range of intervention and support programmes for children from nursery to year 6 to support and develop literacy and numeracy skills. These programmes have ensured that all pupils are being supported to make the best progress possible.

Children with physical disabilities

We have a few children in school who have some physical disabilities that limit their movement. The governing body is required to ensure that we consider the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 and The Special Needs and Disability Act (SENDA) 2005 in drawing up the School Improvement Plan, and the day to day operation of the whole site to enable all pupils to participate fully in the school curriculum and any activities such as after school clubs, leisure and sporting events and educational visits. Governors and staff are committed to this and all aspects of accessibility, including access to written information are included in the planning process.

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council has in place an Accessibility Strategy and in line with this strategy has audited the school site to identify any potential barriers that we can remedy to improve the access to the school and within the school.

Members of the governing body and staff undertake termly health and safety inspections and address any short comings as a matter of priority. Similarly, if it is brought to our attention that a pupil requires additional needs not previously identified, then the school works in partnership with the relevant agencies to address the pupil's needs.

At Pontyclun Primary School we have made a range of activities accessible to all children and 80% of our children participate in them.

The School Council/ Eco Council

It has been another busy year for the School Council and the Eco Council. This year we launched our 'We are not a rubbish school' project to try and eliminate as much rubbish waste as possible. The Council, assisted by Mrs Williams from Nursery, completed an environmental review and drew up an action plan to reduce and recycle as much waste as possible. Information assemblies were led by council members and recycling bins were placed around the school. The amount of rubbish being produced was monitored and the amount generated has reduced dramatically. We now only have one waste bin for collection every two weeks instead of the three we previously had.

Battery recycling, Christmas cards, Easter egg packaging and old clothes were all collected and sent off for recycling and as a result of this work, **we were granted the 'Green flag,' a national award for eco schools.**

Well done to all involved!

In addition to this the council ran a 'Children in Need' assembly and activities, the Santa appeal and Mary's meals.

Healthy Eating in School

Our school has been part of the Healthy Eating Schools scheme since 2003. Our school meals follow the Welsh Government guidelines and we have a breakfast club serving a healthy breakfast. We encourage all parents and carers to provide a healthy packed lunch. All children are able to bring a water bottle to school from which they can drink when necessary.

Our breakfast club continues to be very popular and we were pleased to be able to offer a service utilising both the Foundation and Key stage 2 halls. This has now meant that there is no longer a waiting list for this facility and all pupils can be catered for.

Increasing the use of Welsh

Teachers and children are communicating in both English and Welsh. Welsh is being used informally in the classroom and around the school as a way of developing children's understanding and use of Welsh.

Within the school we have Criw Cymraeg (Welsh Crew), a group of children chosen to help promote the use of the Welsh language and culture. The children learnt a variety of Welsh playground games which they taught to foundation phase children. Songs have been performed in assemblies and portfolios of our activities created to be used in external competitions.

The work of the school has been recognised in awarding us HWB status. This means we are now a training centre for other schools to help them develop their Welsh teaching and learning.

Pupils for whom English is a second language are catered for according to their needs with input from appropriate staff.

School Finance and how the School is funded?

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTCBC) provides every school with a budget for each financial year based on a number of factors. Seventy per cent of our budget is based on the school's pupil numbers. Thirty per cent of the budget is based on other factors including the number of children on the special needs register and floor space within the school.

The money received from RCTCBC is called the 'Delegated School Budget'. On receiving this budget, the Head and Governors decide how this money should be allocated and agree a budget for the financial year, April to March each year. The budget and how it is being spent is monitored by the Head, the Finance subcommittee and the Governing Body at regular meetings.

Delegated School Account Year ended 31st March 2018

Income for 2017 – 2018

	£
Delegated School Budget	1,385,444
Enhanced Learning Grant (EIG)	158,538
Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG)	35,930
Other income (incl. pta and music)	<u>101,701</u>
Total Income	<u>1,681,613</u>

Expenditure for 2017 – 2018

Teachers	885,853
Site Manager, Cleaners & Supervisory Assistants	96,211
School clerks and Teaching Assistants	<u>310,735</u>
Total Staff Costs	<u>1,292,799</u>

Expenditure for 2017 – 2018

Premises	110,546
Insurance Supply costs and hired staff	97,985
Capitation (incl. pta and music)	63,052
Information and Communication Technology	20,723
Transport	1,179
Other costs	34,218
RCTCBC education support services	<u>38,877</u>
Expenditure	<u>366,580</u>

Total Expenditure + Staff	<u>1,659,379</u>
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Income less Total Expenditure	<u>22,234</u>
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School Fund

The school also manages a school fund which is an account where all the money collected for trips, events, sale of uniforms, tickets etc is placed and from which the events are paid for.

Involvement in the National and Local Community

This year the children were once again involved in lots of activities. The choir took part in the Llantrisant Christmas Tree Festival and sang at Café 50 in the village. Many Christmas Carols and Songs were sung at the PTA Christmas Fayre, our KS2 Christmas Concert, and at the switching on of the lights in Pontyclun.

We regularly work with Cardiff City, who come to school and instruct pupils in football in most year groups – we are fortunate to benefit from their expertise.

Yr. 6 were involved in a Luna project and one of our pupils won a signed photo of an astronaut and some pieces of moon rock – out of this world!

One of the highlights of the year was the visit by the Royal Institute for Science. The workshops and the presentation to parents and the community, was of the highest standard and a great success. We will certainly endeavour to repeat events such as this!

Lunchtime and after school activities/clubs

The children are able to take part in many activities at lunchtime and after school. The governors wish to thank the staff for organising these opportunities that broaden our children's experiences. Activities include:

• Dance	• Rugby	• Chess Club
• Netball	• Games Club	• Cricket
• Art	• Welsh Dance	• Football
• Choir	• Tennis	• Athletics

Assemblies cover a wide range of topics

During the year, the school brought the children together in assemblies to ensure that the school met the statutory requirement of collective worship. The assemblies covered themes and topics to broaden children's thinking and experiences

Some of the assemblies have a special theme to coincide with national or world events and some are called to celebrate school successes. Some examples of assemblies include:

- Welsh focussed assemblies with Welsh songs and readings
- Rights Respecting Day

- World Children's Day

Trips far and wide

During the year, children of different ages were given the opportunity to take part in some very exciting trips. These included:

Llancaiaach Fawr

Lifeguards in Porthcawl

Cyfarthfa Castle

Visiting authors and Hay Festival

Renshaws engineering

Cardiff Castle and Tour

Lovely LLangrannog!

What a wonderful week we had! This is a trip we organise for our year 5 children preparing them for transition from primary to comprehensive school. The children took part in 11 exciting activities, ranging from the trampoline to go-karts. There was something for everyone!



We were very proud that all the children tried the activities, many overcoming fears they thought they had, such as heights. It was fantastic to see these children with a new level

of confidence and a willingness to challenge themselves. This is what Llangrannog is all about.

The children were fantastic. We were very proud of them all. Da iawn!!

Spectacular Skiing in the alps

Thirty four year 6 children travelled to Zell Am See in Austria. The children were away for five nights and six days and were well behaved throughout. All

children learned to ski and also enjoyed great nights out swimming, Austrian dancing and of course at the disco!

While Year 6 skiers were hitting the slopes of Zell Am See, the rest of Year 6 were involved in themed days. There was a languages day and a technology day – the children thoroughly enjoyed the topics covered.



Sport for All

In 2017/2018, the school rugby and football teams did well in all festivals attended – which included local, district and regional festivals. A huge well done to everyone involved.

The cricket team played two rounds to reach the All Wales finals just losing out in the quarter finals. They played extremely well and everyone was very proud!

There were also two Year 6 representatives in the Pontypridd Schools under 11 National Cup winning squad.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 swimming team achieved an incredible clean sweep at the annual Y Pant cluster swimming competition. The four separate girls and boys teams all came home with their year group cup which hasn't been achieved by any school for a long, long time. Well done swimmers!

We continue to support a number of pupils who represent their sports at district, county and national level. Sports such as cricket, football, rugby, swimming, gymnastics, dance, athletics, cycling to name a few are all represented and we are very proud of not only their achievements but their attitude and approach to these sports.



Well done to all the teachers and the children for giving up their own time to coach and represent the school this year. It is very much appreciated.

Pontyclun's Got Talent

By the time the children reach Year 6 they are excellent organisers. Once again year 6 organised the school annual event, Pontyclun's Got Talent. This was great fun and allowed children from all years to demonstrate their many and varied talents. This includes comedy, acting, dancing and musicianship.

Useful information

School Term dates for 2018 – 2019

Term	Term start	Half Term starts	Half Term ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Monday 3rd September 2018	Monday 29th October 2018	Friday 2nd November 2018	Friday 21st December 2018
Spring	Monday 7th January 2019	Monday 25th February 2019	Friday 1st March 2019	Fri 12th April 2019
Summer	Monday 29th April 2019	Monday 27th May 2019	Friday 31st May 2019	Monday 22nd July 2019

Hours of attendance

	Morning start time	Lunchtime	Afternoon finish time
Nursery	9:00 am	11:45 – 13:10	p/t 13:00 f/t 15:15
Reception	9:00am	11:50 – 13:10	15:20
Year 1 and 2	9:00 am	12:00 - 13:10	15:25
Key stage 2	9:00 am	12:00 - 13:00	15:30

The Clerk to the Governing Body is Ms. E. Thomas, Acting Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, RCT CBC, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Dates for the coming year 2018-2019

Dates for the year

4/9/18	Open for pupils
5/9/18	Informal meet the teacher 3.30pm-5.00pm
12/12/18	KS2 Christmas concerts
13/12/18	KS2 Christmas concerts
17/12/18	Foundation Phase Christmas concerts
18/12/18	Foundation Phase Christmas concerts
21/12/18	Inset Day closed for pupils
7/1/19	Inset Day closed for pupils
22/2/19	School Eisteddfod
17/5/19-19/5/19	Year 5 to Llangrannog
20/5/19	Key stage 2 sports day
21/5/19	Key stage 2 reserve sports day
22/5/19	Foundation Phase fun day
23/5/19	Foundation phase reserve fun day
24/5/19	Inset day closed for pupils
16/7/19	Year 6 leaver's assembly.
20/7/19	Last day of summer term.

Would parents / carers please be aware that dates may change due to circumstances beyond our control. Parents / Carers will be informed of additional dates throughout the academic year.

An additional Inset day for cluster school training has yet to be arranged.

Edwina Godwin

Chair of Governors

Mr H Roberts

Headteacher