

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GILFACH FARGOED PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS - SUMMER 1998

This report is a summary of steps taken by the Governing Body in discharge of its functions since the last Report to Parents in Summer Term 1997.

1. **MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

The Chairman of Governors is: Mr Harry Andrews
The Clerk of the Governors is: Mr Neil Harries - Director of Education
The Acting Clerk of the Governors is: Mrs Michelle Parfitt

Appendix 'A' provides the list of governors of the school, by whom appointed and date of cessation of term of office.

2. **SCOPE OF BUSINESS**

(a) Number of Pupils on Roll (*as at September 1997*)

Boys - 143
Girls - 130
Total - 273

Teaching Staff

Mr T J Cole	Headteacher	
Mrs E Perkins	Deputy Headteacher	Year 2
Mrs M Powell		Year 5
Mrs J Jones		Year 6
Mrs L Lloyd-Allen		Year 4
Mrs S Davies		Year 3
Mrs T James		Year 1/2
Mrs V Davies		Reception
Mrs J Rees		Reception/Year 1
Mrs P Jones		Nursery
Miss K Perez		Violin Tuition

(b) At the end of the Autumn Term Miss S Collier was successful in obtaining a post in another school. Mrs L Lloyd-Allen replaced her in Year 4 and was given a temporary contract.

(c) **Allocation of responsibility points**

Nil.

(d) **Non-Teaching Staff**

Mrs P Grant	Nursery Assistant
Mrs H James	Secretary
Mr A S Fishlock	Caretaker
Mrs L Williams	Cook
Mrs L Morgan	Assistant Cook
Mrs J Cleaton	Catering Assistant
Mrs N Evans	Catering Assistant
Mrs M Lewis	Catering Assistant
Mrs F Jones	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs L Thomas	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs P Williams	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs Morris	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs Poole	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs S Williams	Supervisory Assistant

(e) **Inset/Curriculum**

The professional development of all staff is of utmost importance in the school. Annually all staff are asked to identify their training needs and whole school needs. This information is used to assist with the planning of the year's training programme. The following list indicates the range of courses staff have been involved in during the year.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Early Years/Desirable Outcomes	J Rees
St Lucia - K.S.2.	T James or S Collier
Developing a Quality Early Years Curriculum	V Davies
Education through Play	V Davies
Welsh in the Early Years	V Davies
Education through Play - Outdoor and Block Play	S Williams
Education through Play - Imaginative play/Sounds	S Williams
Update of Staff Development Issues	T J Cole
Training Day - Focus on Teaching and Learning	All Staff
Headteachers' Seminar. Target Setting	T J Cole
SIMS Training	T J Cole
Visited Williamstown Primary. Numeracy	T J Cole/E M Perkins
Using CD Roms effectively	S Davies

Planning Seminar ICT Development	T J Cole
Oxford Reading Tree and Literacy: Trinant Infants	Infant Staff
Numeracy in K.S.2	S Davies/L L-Allen
Numeracy in K.S.2	J Jones/M Powell
Numeracy in K.S.1	J Rees/V Davies
Numeracy in K.S.1	E Perkins/T James
Primary English Conference	M Powell
Conference for Deputy Heads	E Perkins

(f) **Curriculum**

Children are taught a broad curriculum through the study of English, Welsh, mathematics, science, design technology, information technology, history, geography, art, music, physical education and religious education. Health education is provided mainly in the context of the science programmes of study which enable children to acquire the knowledge and understanding that is essential for healthy living. Environmental education is mostly developed through the geography programmes of study. As part of their work, pupils have several opportunities to engage in work that involves making visits within and beyond the local community. On occasions, learning activities such as working with the police and with environmental schemes led by Caerphilly Groundwork Trust, provide purposeful links with industry and the community.

Progression within subjects and across year groups is secured through schemes of work. These are working documents designed to provide practical support for teaching and learning. The schemes provide the basis for planning learning activities that are matched to pupils' different abilities, and they also indicate links with other subjects and highlight the resources needed to support teaching and learning.

All children are given opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of Wales. Welsh is taught every week and used incidentally throughout the day. An act of worship conducted in Welsh is held every week. Children also participate in Welsh folk dancing.

The school Development Plan has provided a framework from which to target certain aspects of school and curriculum development.

(g) **Special Educational Needs**

Many children have special educational needs at some time during their schooling. Some have special needs because they find learning difficult, some because of specific difficulties or impairments and others because they have high ability. The school meets the needs of these groups sometimes through the provision of additional support, through careful planning and by the teacher's support to individual or group needs. In the case of children who have difficulties, the provision is mainly made through individual action plans (IEP's) that specify learning activities which help the child to progress in small, achievable steps. Provision for children whose needs have been identified as requiring additional support will be met through the Authority.

(h) **Extra-Curricular Activities (including Educational Visits)**

A range of extra-curricular activities have taken place during the year. These have included:

Drawing Club
Craft Club
Rugby
Football
Cross Country Running
Netball
Choir
Library
Recorder Club
K.S.1 Games

Pupils have also been involved in visits to places with curriculum links and a number of presentations from outside agencies have taken place.

Year 6 have once again subscribed to the 'Reading Passport' initiative organised by the South Wales Echo. The project involves pupils in a range of cross-curricular activities such as mathematical problems, work on symmetry, writing, spelling, speaking, listening, temperature reading and weather forecasting.

Mrs J Rees spent a very worthwhile day in St Fagans in preparation for a visit by all of K.S.1 pupils who will take part in a range of curriculum activities including story telling and looking at artefacts. The preparation and discussions involved for such a visit to take place embraces the learning of several age groups, creates a sense of uniformity and a wider awareness of the work of colleagues.

As part of a study on Merthyr Tydfil Mrs M Powell took her class to Cyfarthfa Castle, Ynysfach Engine House and Vaynor Church. Mrs Perkins recently arranged a visit to Techniquet, Miss S Collier visited the local church and Mrs J Jones engaged Year 6 in a visit to the Imperial War Museum, London as part of her study of the Second World War.

I am pleased to report that we were successful in last year's National Welsh Heritage History Competition. The competition was open to all schools in Wales and we were judged as being one of the worthy winners. The entry was a study based on the arrival of evacuees to the South Wales valley. Posters based on contemporary designs were drawn by the pupils and displayed locally to appeal for information. The project stimulated much interest from local residents who responded by supplying a very good range of evidence including many fascinating stories of the time.

Mr Marshall, our local baker, worked with the pupils in Mrs James' class making a blackberry pie.

Mr John Morris, a local fireman, talked to Year 2 pupils and demonstrated the use of a Thermal Image Camera. This was linked to their Science work on 'Light'.

- 27.02.98 - St Margaret's Church Peace Service
- 02.03.98 - Netball Tournament
- 05.03.98 - 50 pupils took part in Schools Prom - St David's Hall
- 18.03.98 - Cross Country Event at new Tredegar Sports Centre
- 23.03.98 - Road Safety presentation 'Safe and Secure' P C Thomas and Robert Anderton.
- 27.03.98 - WRU Coaching Session - Bargoed Park
- 01.04.98 - Netball Tournament Team 'A'
- 02.04.98 - Visiting Speaker - Barnardo's : Year 4
- 01.05.98 - Rugby 7's : 'A' Team
- 08.05.98 - Rugby 7's : 'B' Team
- 13.05.98 - Visit to St Fagans - T James' class
- 13.05.98 - Visit to Cwmbran Farm - Nursery Class
- 18.05.98 - Visit to Welsh Hawking Centre - Year 4

Additional activities have included Craft Club, Library, Choir, Netball, Cross Country, Rugby and K.S.1 Games.

(i) **Links with Industry**

During the early part of the Spring Term the link-kit garden was installed in the playground. This followed a great deal of classroom work involving Year 3 pupils who were responsible for the designing of the installation.

3. **SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

As a school we aim

- to provide as wide a range of sporting activities as possible and to encourage the pupils to participate in an enthusiastic and sometimes competitive manner.
- to provide sport in such a way that the physical activities pupils take part in help them to develop an understanding of the importance of exercise in maintaining a healthy life.

On 26th September, twenty pupils took part in a Welsh Rugby Union coaching session. This was an intensive two hour session involving the pupils in a range of activities such as ball handling, passing, tackling, supporting and positioning.

Pupils have also been involved in Netball matches with local teams.

Dean Higgs has played for the Rhymney Valley District side and Geraint Webb has been selected as part of the squad.

Once again 50 pupils took part in the Rhymney Valley Cross Country Run in New Tredegar.

4. **COMMUNITY LINKS**

- A theatre based learning experience to raise the awareness of the harmful effects of drugs and substance misuse - attended by Year 6 at Blackwood Miners Institute.
- Health Promotion Wales - Dental Hygiene.
- P C Thomas - project related work.
- P C Thomas/Road Safety Officer 'Safe and Secure'
- An exhibition for pupils organised by the local authority and the Police about environmental changes (Crucial Crew).

5. **PARENTS' MEETINGS OF EVENTS**

- November 10th - Parents Evening to discuss pupils' progress
 April 28th - Information on K.S.1 SATS
 April 29th - Information on K.S.2 SATS
 June 3rd - Parents of new nursery children to start in September
 June 22nd - Parents Evening to discuss Annual Pupil Report
 June 23rd - Parents Evening to discuss Annual Pupil Report
 July 16th - Open Evening for parents and members of the community
 July 20th - End of term Musical Evening

6. **GIFTS RECEIVED**

Once again the Friends Association have financed the purchase of books, the carpeting of a classroom area and additional resources.

We are always very grateful to all those who work hard to raise funds for the school.

7. **USE OF PREMISES BY ORGANISATIONS**

Nil

8. **ILLEGAL ENTRIES/VANDALISM**

There were no illegal entries during the year. However, on several occasions roof tiles were removed from the infant building causing substantial damage and 10 windows have been broken.

9. **PROGRESS ON SCHOOL ACTION PLAN**

Following a very successful inspection in January a school action plan was produced and submitted to OHMCI on May 15th, 1998. Progress made on the Action Plan will be reported in next year's annual report.

10. **SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS**

Security arrangements continue to be monitored carefully and every effort is being made to provide a safe and secure environment for pupils and staff.

11. **PROGRESS IN SETTING AND MEETING TARGETS UNDER THE 'BRIGHT FUTURE' PROGRAMME**

The school is making progress in meeting annual targets. 77% of K.S.1 pupils sitting the 1997 SATS were successful in achieving level 2.

In K.S.2 54.3% achieved level 4 in Maths, English and Science in combination. This improved on the Welsh average of 52.4%.

12. **SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 1998/99**

Term	Begins	Half Term	Ends	No of School Days
Autumn	Tuesday 01.09.98	October 26th - 30th	Tuesday 22.12.98	76
Spring	Tuesday 05.01.99	February 15th - 19th	Thursday 01.04.99	58
Summer	Monday 19.04.99	May 31st - June 4th	Wednesday 21.07.99	62
				196

12. **PERCENTAGE OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES**

YEAR GROUP	SUMMER TERM 1997	AUTUMN TERM 1997	SPRING TERM 1998
Reception	0	0	0
Year 1	0	0	0.07
Year 2	0	0.11	0.08
Year 3	0.69	0.08	0.62
Year 4	0.26	0	0.16
Year 5	0.37	0.37	0.05
Year 6	0	0	0

13. **GRANT MAINTAINED STATUS - OPTING OUT**

As required by law, Governors considered this issue at their Spring Term Meeting and RESOLVED not to ballot parents on the question of seeking Grant Maintained Status for the school for the following reasons:

- the interest of the pupils are best served by remaining with the LEA
- we would be unable, as a Governing Body to furnish the expertise required if the school became Grant Maintained.
- the support services currently provided by the LEA would no longer be available to the school.

APPENDIX 'A'

The Governing Body of Gilfach Fargoed Primary School

APPENDIX 'B'

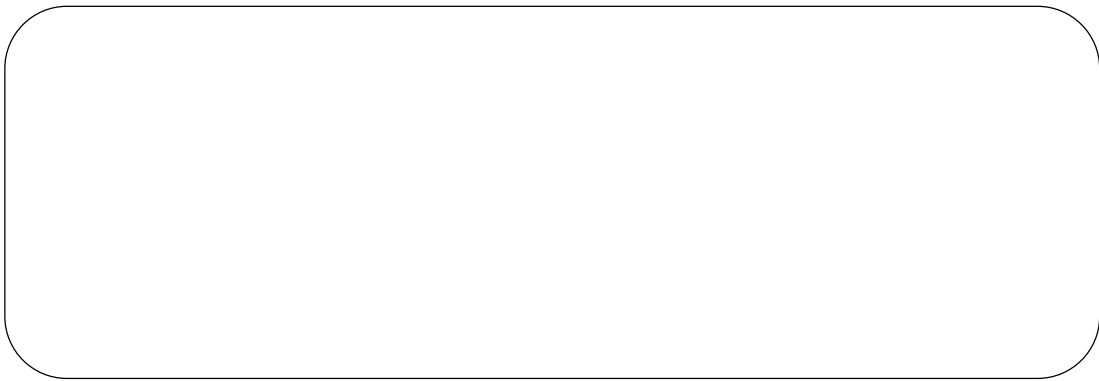
The Financial Statement for Gilfach Fargoed Primary School

APPENDIX 'C'

National Curriculum Assessment Results K.S.1 and K.S.2

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

1997-98



Chairman of Governors : Councillor H Andrews
Head Teacher : Mr T J Cole