

February 2019

Welcome to the February edition of our Magor Messenger.

### Exciting Times in Magor Primary School

School has been able to reflect with pride on the dedication of the school community and celebrate its pupils' achievements through the Autumn Term. The appointment of a new Headteacher, Mrs Suzanne Hamer, has brought excitement to the school community. The positive feedback from Estyn's recent visit in December 2018 has been welcomed by all. We are thrilled that they have recognised that the school has made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the most recent core inspection in May 2017.

**"The school's provision for the teaching of ICT has improved significantly"**

**"The school has strengthened its communication with parents"**

**The Senior Leadership Team "provide the school with strong leadership, focused appropriately on addressing (school) priorities"**

**Children "use mature and imaginative language to add sparkle, and to engage the reader effectively."**

**"Throughout the school, staff promote the Welsh language successfully"**

(Estyn, January 2019)

Further to this, during our recent School Categorisation Review, we moved from a 'Red' level of support from the Local Authority up to 'Amber'. This review recognised that school follow a clear vision which has a strong impact on the school community.

### New Faces in Magor Nursery

A huge welcome to our new afternoon nursery children and their families! We hope you have enjoyed your first half term in Magor Nursery and have settled in well, making lots of new friends.



In Nursery, the children have enjoyed exploring their winter topic; having great fun getting familiar with the outdoor environment by going on a bird hunt.

Meanwhile, they have been learning about the job of a vet and have been looking after the animals in the Magor Nursery Vets Role Play.



### Reception are Lost in Space!

Reception have really enjoyed their Space topic. Their activities have included taking photos using a Green Screen, experimenting to release their alien trapped inside an ice cube, making lists of items to take on a journey to the moon and collecting Space information in Tally charts.



### Year 1 and Year 2 have been Celebrating in Style!

Year 1 and 2 have really enjoyed their topic 'Celebrations' this term. They have become party planners and used their literacy and numeracy skills to organise a special event. The children have learned about St. Dwynwen, St Valentine and the New Year celebrations around the world. Their favourite day was our Chinese New Year wow day where they dressed up in brightly coloured clothes, made sandwiches, Chinese masks and lanterns and danced in a parade with their fantastic dragon!



### A 'Sense-sational' Time in Year 3 and Year 4

Year 3 and 4 have been learning about senses this half term. Using their homework task (to create a touchy feely box) the whole year group shared their creations with their friends. They spent an afternoon going around each classroom and asking each other to use their senses to guess "What was in the box".



### A Watery World in Y5 and 6

Years 5 & 6 have been busy enjoying exploring our watery world this half term. The children have spent the last few weeks studying the local rivers and reens and were able to take advantage of a sunny afternoon to explore our local area.

The children have written some fabulous watery suspense stories; interrogated databases about ocean areas and depths; created databases on sea creature statistics; found out about the journey of a river and the processes in the water cycle. We really enjoyed finding out about different famous boats and created some great presentations about them. The children have particularly enjoyed reading *The Candleman* by Catherine Fisher, which is set in and around the Gwent Levels.



Phew! That's just this half term ... there is so much more to come!

### South Wales Argus School of the Week

Look out for Magor Primary School featuring as 'School of the Week' in the South Wales Argus on 21st February 2019.

### Parent Information Sessions

Thank you to all who were able to attend our School Progress Update meeting for parents on 6th February. This was a really uplifting meeting, reflecting the huge progress achieved by our entire school community. We appreciate not all parents were able to attend at that time so you can find a copy of the presentation on the school website.

### Christian Values

The value that we will be focussing on in worship and in RE lessons for next half term is 'Perseverance'.

### Our 3rd Platinum Eco Flag Award!

We are delighted to announce that Keep Wales Tidy have informed us that we have been awarded our 3rd Platinum Eco Flag Renewal! This is a testament to all our hard working Eco Committee members, both past and present. Well done to them for all their hard work and organising. Thank you to all staff, pupils and parents for supporting our various events. We couldn't do it without you!

### Attendance and Punctuality

Our current school target for attendance is 96.6%. Our actual attendance until 14<sup>th</sup> February is 95.4%. This has been affected by family holidays and illness over the course of the term. We appreciate your continued support towards reaching this target which will be reflected in future Estyn inspections under pupil Well Being.

### Mrs Allen 'Kindness' Award

We are pleased to announce that the winner of our 'Mrs Allen Kindness Award' for this half term goes to Ava in Foundation Phase and Aled in KS2. A wonderful achievement!



## Our Fantastic PTFA!

The PTFA would like to thank all parents/carers for their generous donations that have enabled the installation of new equipment and activity benches on the playgrounds. We hope your children enjoy them and look forward to fundraising for more improvements in the future. The staff and children would also like to thank the PTFA for their fundraising efforts; we really appreciate the equipment and experiences this support provides for our school.

To find out more about our events please follow the Magor PTFA on:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/magorprimaryschoolptfa/about/>

@MagorSchoolPTFA or email [magorschoolptfa@gmail.com](mailto:magorschoolptfa@gmail.com)

## Netball/Football tournaments

Congratulations to the netball and football teams who took part in the Round Robin competition on Thursday 21st February. The netball team are through to the next round. All pupils displayed excellent sportsmanship and were a credit to our school. Huge thanks to Mrs Johnson and Mr Macey for their work with our sports teams.

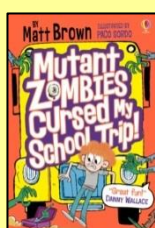
## World Book Day 2019

We look forward to celebrating World Book Day 2019 on March 7<sup>th</sup>. This is always an exciting day in school and we love seeing the children dressed as characters from their favourite books. Please help us encourage 'reading for pleasure' by sending your child to school in costume along with the book they represent (if you have a copy). Look out for news of a new pupil led book club beginning in the Summer Term! We are keen to encourage children to share their favourite books. Your child will receive a £1 book token to bring home on World Book Day. Please visit the World Book Day website for more details.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

## Matt Brown - Author Visit

The bestselling children's author Matt Brown will be visiting our school on Thursday 14th March to talk about his latest books "Aliens Invade My Talent Show" and



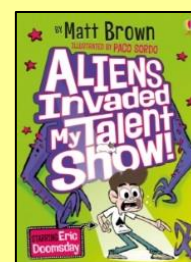
"Mutant Zombies Cursed my School Trip."

For more information on Matt visit his website

[www.mattbrownwriter.com](http://www.mattbrownwriter.com) or

follow him on twitter

@mattbrownauthor



## BBC Radio 2 500 Words Competition

The BBC Radio 2 500 Words Competition is a story writing competition for children aged between 5 and 13 years old.



To enter you need to write an original story that is no more than 500 words long. We are thrilled to hear that lots of children from school are already writing their '500 Words' story. Mrs Gordon is excited to be judging some of the entries from other schools across the U.K. Once you've written your story, you can enter it into the competition using the entry form on the following website (with an adult's permission): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/59TKqgqLp3LTpRVfPlsKtx9/submit-a-story>

Please let your child's class teacher know if they have any problems submitting their story and we can help them do this in school. The closing date is Friday 8th March. Good luck to all who enter!

## Past Pupils

Huge congratulations to a former Magor pupil, Dylan Duffield, as he has recently been accepted into the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts, London. Dylan's love for performing began in a Magor School production of 'Fame'. We are all so proud of you Dylan. Good luck!



[www.magorcwprimary.co.uk](http://www.magorcwprimary.co.uk)



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## Confirmed dates for Spring and Summer Term:

### Spring Term:

4th March – Eisteddfod - children dress in Welsh related costume  
5th March – Gilwern Information Evening for Y5 Parents, 5pm, School Hall  
7th March – World Book Day – children can dress as a character from their favourite book  
7th and 8th March – Y6 Safe Cycling  
14th March – Author Visit, Y2-Y6  
15th March – Comic Relief Day – Children can wear something red and make a donation to Comic Relief  
28th March – Y1P Class Assembly for parents/carers, 9.15am, School Hall  
1st April – Nursery and Reception – Mothering Sunday Service, 2.15pm, St Mary’s Church, parents welcome  
2nd, 3rd and 4th April – Parent’s Evening, 3.30-5.30pm, more information to follow  
4th April – 5G Magor Marsh visit  
9th April – Year 4T and Y4 from Y3/4C Class Assembly  
10th April – Magor Marsh visit, 6Ja  
Magor Marsh visit, 5/6Jo (Date TBC)  
11<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Church Services:  
9.30am – Rec/Y1  
10.15am – Year 2, 3 and 4  
2pm – Year 5 and 6 (Eucharist Service)  
12th April – End of Term

### Summer Term:

29th April – Start of the Summer Term  
30th April – Fire Safety Talk WITH Caldicot Fire Station, Y2 and Y5  
6th May – May Day Bank Holiday  
7-17th May – National Test Period, Y2-Y6  
13th May – Magor Marsh visit, 1P and 1MS  
15<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 group photo  
15th, 16th and 17th May – Gilwern Residential Trip, Y5  
16th May – 1MS Class Assembly for parents/carers, 9.15am, School Hall  
4th June – Magor Marsh Visit, 2J  
5th June – Sports Day (weather permitting):  
KS2 – 9.15am  
Foundation Phase – 1.15pm  
7th June – Y3M and Y3 from 3/4C Class Assembly for parents/carers, 9.15am, School Hall  
10th June – Magor Marsh visit, Y4T and Y3M  
12th June – Magor Marsh visit – RJ AND RWK  
13<sup>th</sup> June – Class photos  
14th June – Y5G and Y5 from Y5/6Jo Class Assembly for parents/carers, 9.15am, School Hall  
18th June – Magor Marsh visit, Nursery  
25th June – 2J Class Assembly for parents/carers, 9.15am, School Hall  
27th June – RJ Class Assembly for parents/carers, 9.15am, School Hall  
28<sup>th</sup> June – RWK Class Assembly for parents/carers, 9.15am, School Hall  
1st, 2nd and 3rd July – Llangrannog Residential, Y6  
2nd July – Y3 and Y4 Class Trip, Caerleon (Provisional)  
16<sup>th</sup> July – Y6 Leaver’s Concert  
19th July – End of Term  
22nd July – INSET Day

