



FERN FEDERATION

SPRING TERM 1 - 2025

Dear Parents, guardians, and carers,

We are thrilled to share that this term has been an incredible journey of learning and fun for our pupils across the Federation! Our main focus this term has been on science and technology, and the pupils have fully embraced this topic with great enthusiasm and enquiring minds. From exciting experiments in the classroom to exploring the latest tech innovations, their curiosity and creativity have truly shone.

In addition to our academic pursuits, the term has been packed with a variety of enriching activities. Our play sports sessions have been a hit, encouraging teamwork and physical fitness. The melodious sounds of violins have filled our halls, showcasing the musical talents of our budding musicians, we even had a visiting harpist who performed to Miss Osbourne and Miss Dyers classes. The football tournament was exhilarating, with pupils displaying impressive skills and sportsmanship, even winning the tournament. A highlight for our Year 5 pupils was the residential trip to the Summit centre, where they enjoyed outdoor adventures and built lasting memories with their peers across the Federation.

On other news we would like to thank one of our parents **Kristofer Bowers** and his colleague **Polina Polozva from Service Design Solutions (SDS)** who donated a set of high-quality STEM books for our pupils across the Federation. We are incredibly grateful to receive such a donation as this will help us to continue to provide high quality STEM experiences for pupils all across the Federation.

We are proud of all our pupils' achievements this term and look forward to more exciting experiences in Spring 2.

Thank you for your continued support in continuing to make our Federation thrive.

Mrs Haggett.



STAFFING

Just before the end of this half term Miss Wookey left us to start her maternity leave.

We are delighted to inform you that Miss Rogers will be joining us after the half term to take over the teaching of the reception class.

Miss Rogers covered Miss Wookey whilst she was off on her Welsh sabbatical, so we know that the class is in good hands.

Talking of good news, we are delighted to announce that Mrs Evans will be back after half term to resume teaching the nursery class, after her bereavement leave.



FOOTBALL



On Thursday 20th February on a wet and windy day in Tonyrefail, the Fern Federation took two Year 6 teams to participate in the RCTFSA Football 5's tournament.

The two teams played amazingly well and were a credit to the Federation.

The children demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and were competitive right up until the last game.

I am delighted to say that one of our teams, (the purple's) topped the table and are now through to the RCT finals on Friday 4th April. Further details to follow.



What learning has been going on in the Fern Federation?

This term the pupils in the Fern Federation have been given the opportunity to participate in lots of amazing learning experiences, from violin lessons to residential. Take a look at just a few examples of what the pupils have got up to!



What learning has been going on in the Fern Federation?



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATES	Activity	What do I need to do?
Monday 3 rd March	Pupils Eisteddfod	Return the home school tasks sent before the half term for Eisteddfod assembly. Pupils can wear red, white, green or any Welsh football kits.
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day.	Dress up as your favourite book character or normal clothes £1 donation
Thursday 6 th March	Year 6 parents residential meeting 3:15pm Cefn school hall	Parents of Cefn and Craig Yr Hesg can attend either meeting
Friday 7 th March	Year 6 parents residential meeting 3:15pm Craig Yr Hesg school hall	Parents of Craig Yr Hesg and Cefn can attend either meeting.
Thursday 13 th March	Year 6 Rugby Tournament Sardis Road	Agree Permission, provide packed lunch and drinks.
Friday 14 th March	Red Nose Day	Wacky hair day, Pyjamas, £1 donation
Wednesday 26 th -Friday 28 th	Year 6 Residential	Pay for residential, pack essentials given on list, any concerns please speak to class teacher or Mrs Haggett
Friday 4 th April	Year 6 Football Finals Day 5's.	Agree Permission, provide packed lunch and drinks.
Friday 11 th	Pupil spring Reports out	
Friday 11 th April	Easter Egg and Bonnet competition plus Easter Parade	Decorate a bonnet and or Egg.
Monday 14 th April	Break up for Easter	
Monday 28 th May	Return after Easter holidays	All pupils return to school. School uniform and £ 1 for healthy snacks
Monday 5 th May	BANK HOLIDAY	
Tuesday 6 th May	INSET DAY	
Wednesday 7 th May	Pupils return to school	All pupils return to school.

PARENT FEEDBACK

This term we have sought your views as parents and guardians on a number of initiatives that we have been focussing on as a Federation. First, we asked for your feedback on was the new pupil report format.

39 parents responded across the Federation out of 300 which gives us a 13% response rate. Of these parents 95% of parents/guardians indicated that they liked and preferred the new pupil report format, 95% of parents/guardians found the reports useful and 95% of parents/guardians indicated that the reports accurately represented their child and their abilities. Of those who did not they would have preferred a more formal report.

At the end of Spring Term 2 you will be sent home an update to your Autumn report this will include information on your child's literacy, numeracy, DCF and wellbeing as well as a general comment from your child's class teacher, their AOLE journey and a QR code of your child reflecting on their learning during the Spring Term.

As part of our new school plans the Local Authority and Welsh Government have asked our pupils to encourage as many people as possible to walk or catch public transport to school. A survey was sent out by the Eco council, and they found out that most pupils across the Federation travel to school by car. Graphs were sent out to all parents and guardians to show them the results and the Eco council will be in touch soon to seek your views about transportation and the new school.

MEET THE STAFF

As the new school is fast approaching, we have made the decision as a leadership team to work more fluidly across the two schools, so far you have read about Mrs Byers, Mrs Smith-Thomas, Miss Andrews, and Mrs Reynolds, Miss Lane, Miss Dyer, Mrs Davies and Miss Osbourne now get to know Miss Najian and Miss Brown.



Miss Brown

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I remember wanting to become a teacher from a very early age. I remember my experiences from my own primary school and some of the influential teachers that I had, which then drove me to pursue a career in teaching. I have been fortunate enough to work in a variety of schools and settings from when I completed my degree. I believe every child is a 'one chance' child and has the right to be given the belief, opportunities, care, support, chance, and love to achieve their full potential. I love working with children, especially ours in the Federation and hopefully I will make a difference in each of the children's lives I have the pleasure to teach.

How long have you worked for the Federation?

I started working in the Federation almost 15 years ago in Cefn Primary school, that started out as just a maternity cover and have been here ever since. I have been part of the Federation ever since and have had the privilege of working with some amazing staff (past and present) and children across both schools.

What are your hobbies?

I am a keen gym member and enjoy lifting weights and working out on a regular basis. I enjoy swimming and walking and have recently started running. I enjoy spending time with family, friends and my 10-year-old daughter keeps me very busy.

What are your favourite foods?

My biggest downfall – CRISPS!! I do enjoy eating healthy but if there is crisps or a Chinese takeaway on offer, I don't think I would be able to resist. I do also enjoy Jan's in the kitchen's pasta every now and then.

What is your favourite band or song?

I enjoy all sorts of music however, people say I was born in the wrong decade as I love songs from the 60's, 70's and 80's. My partner is a big rock fan so in the coming year I have gigs booked to see the blackout and the offspring. Maybe my taste in music may change???

What are you most looking forward to in the new school?

I am really looking forward to a brand-new building and facilities, which I think our children, staff and the community thoroughly deserve. I am looking forward to all the children coming together and getting to know some new faces and new friendships being built. I have the pleasure of working with amazing staff in both schools and I think for our children all these incredible people coming together will continue to make an incredible impact on the children's education, lives and futures.



Miss Najian

Why did you want to become a teacher?

I've always been passionate about helping others, and becoming a teacher felt like the perfect way to make a meaningful impact. I love the idea of guiding students through their learning journeys, watching them grow, and being a part of their development. Education has the power to inspire, empower, and open doors, and I want to be there to nurture that spark in others. I find great fulfilment in seeing pupils overcome challenges, and I believe that as a teacher, I can create an environment where they feel valued, supported, and motivated to reach their full potential. Believe it or not, I faced many challenges in school, often struggling to keep up with the pace and feeling discouraged at times. However, those experiences taught me resilience and empathy, and now, as a teacher, I strive to help students overcome their own obstacles and find success in ways I once struggled to do.

How long have you worked for the Federation?

I have worked for the Fern Federation for nearly 10 years. I first joined Craig-yr-Hesg in 2015 when I finished my Early Years Degree. I started as a TA and moved to various classrooms throughout the years. I have now been a teacher for the past two years at Craig yr Hesg after completing a work based PGCE where I was mentored by all the wonderful teachers, I have thoroughly enjoyed both my roles at the Fern Fed and I am very grateful that I am still a part of this wonderful Federation as a teacher.

What are your hobbies?

For the past 6 months I have taken on a new boxing class that I absolutely love. However, the thing I love the most is spending time with my family and friends. Although, most of my time is spent on a side of a rugby and football pitch watching my son or taking my daughter swimming and dancing. I do love to go for a coffee too mind.

What are your favourite foods?

I would have to say Italian is my most favourite food – I love pasta and pizzas.

What is your favourite band or song?

Well this is a hard one to answer..... I love a variety of music. I love R n B, songs from the 90's and pop music. I love Beyonce, Coldplay, Adele and just too many to mention.

What are you most looking forward to in the new school?

I'm really looking forward to all the staff and children coming together as one. I have made some lovely friends across the Federation by working together, so it will be lovely for the children to do exactly the same. I feel the new school will offer lots of learning opportunities and it will be lovely to see the children of Glyncoch experience such an amazing school!

SPORTS CLUBS

Sports Clubs next half term will be as follows:

SPORTS CLUBS	
Monday	Year 5 & 6 Football Cefn pupils to walk to CYH with staff.
Tuesday	Cefn Year 3,4,5,6 Netball
Wednesday	CYH Year 3,4,5,6 Netball
Thursday	Year 3 & 4 Football Cefn pupils to walk to CYH with staff

Please ensure you have signed your child up via parent hub for all clubs.

If you have not signed up your child will not be able to attend. If your child fails to attend for 2 weeks on a row (other than illness or has been agreed by the school) your child will lose their place and will be given to a child on the reserve list

ATTENDANCE

As a Federation we are committed to helping ensure that all our pupils are in school nearly all the time. Our target each term across the school continues to be >95%. Attendance shown is for Autumn 1 Term Dates: Jan 6th-14th Feb.

CRAIG YR HESG		CEFN	
Mrs Evans	83.4%	Miss Smith	84.21%
Miss Wookey		Mrs Meazey	92.15%
Miss Dyer	90%	Miss Lane	96%
Mrs Davies	89.64%	Miss Osbournes	88.81%
Miss Najian	91.43%	Miss Brown	90%
Miss Andrews	89.10%	Mrs Reynolds	85.26%
		Mrs Rosser	79.45%

These figures are based on Federation expectations

	95% and above	(excellent)
	Between 90%- 94%	(good)
	Between 85-89%	(below average)
	Below 85%	(unsatisfactory)

We will be focussing on punctuality this term in CYH and in Cefn persistent absenteeism. Just a reminder holidays will not be authorised by the school as agreed by the Fern Federation Governing body in Autumn Term.

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

THE Prince and Princess of Wales will visit Pontypridd next week ahead of St David's Day.

Princess Kate, who is continuing with her gradual return to public duties since completing her cancer treatment, will join Prince William on the visit next Wednesday, February 26.

The couple will meet people affected by the flooding caused by Storm Bert and Storm Darragh late last year. They will also visit Pontypridd Market, which has been at the heart of the community since 1805, and tour the food hall and help prepare and bake traditional Welsh cakes.



Dear Parents, guardians, carers,

What a fantastic Spring term 1 the pupils have had across the Federation; I have been fortunate enough to see first-hand some of the exciting learning opportunities to the pupils have been afforded from violin lessons to exciting science workshops.

As a Governing Body we have welcomed some new governors to support us on our journey to amalgamation, and they bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge that I know will make us even stronger as a team.

Our new governors are Mr Peter Evans, parent governor in CYH, Mr Bryn Reynolds parent governor CYH, Mrs Michaela Rohmann parent governor CYH and finally we welcome back Mr David Davies the ex headteacher of Cefn Primary School who probably taught many of you as our Community Governors. We are delighted they have chosen to join the Federation team and I am sure you will be seeing a lot more of them over the next few years.

On behalf of the Governing Body have a lovely half term and we will see you on your return.

Warm regards,

