



‘Nurturing Hearts, Growing Minds, Opening Eyes, Imagining Futures’

Friday 3rd October/Dydd Gwener 3 Hydref 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am happy to share a few updates as the term progresses.

School Development Plan

The month of September is always a busy one for the school as we review all aspects of school life whilst completing the school's self-evaluation report. As part of this process, we review the progress made against last year's school priorities and develop our school development priorities for the coming year.

Last year the school had three main priorities. These were:

Priority 1- Meet the needs and raise the aspirations of all pupils, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to enable them to improve their educational outcomes and achieve their full potential.

Priority 2- To construct a curriculum which incorporates opportunities for the development of mandatory curriculum elements, including 'Religion, Values and Ethics' and 'Relationships and Sexuality Education' and which celebrates and promotes an awareness of diversity, with a focus on anti-racism.

Priority 3- Ensure there is a robust system in place for reviewing school policies.

We were delighted to be deemed as having made strong progress across each of these priorities.

The school has now identified three main priorities for the coming year. These are:

Priority 1- Embed the Welsh language across the curriculum by applying vocabulary and structures learned in Welsh lessons to other areas of learning and contexts.

Priority 2- Further improve pupil writing outcomes by providing opportunities for pupils to apply and refine sentence and word level skills across the curriculum.

Priority 3- Refine teaching and learning processes to build on pupils' existing knowledge, ensuring all learners, including those with ALN or disadvantages, are appropriately challenged and supported to achieve their full potential.

As a staff we have met and discussed these three priorities. We have recorded the rationale behind each priority, have developed a success criterion to judge our progress against them, we have listed milestones to keep us on target and have considered how to monitor our progress and involve the whole-school community. We have also met with the school council pupils who have added their thoughts and ideas on how these three priorities can be achieved. We would now like to hear from you as parents/carers on what you think we could do to achieve these priority areas. We urge you to take a few minutes to complete the survey on the link below. This survey will close on Monday 20th October.

<https://forms.office.com/e/1zKQwQeK8c>

Safeguarding

The school takes the safeguarding of its pupils very seriously. The school has completed its safeguarding audit this September and has identified any actions that need to be taken. In addition, a safeguarding review has been undertaken with the governor responsible for safeguarding. We continue to carefully monitor the safety of pupils during picking up time when cars enter the school grounds. As nights get darker and weather worsens, we remind everyone entering the school site with a vehicle to support us in leaving the yellow pathway clear for pupils and parents to walk along and when parking, to do so as safely as possible. The school is currently undergoing works to its roof and guttering. The school is taking all possible measures to ensure pupil, staff and visitor safety during this time.

Attendance

Our school still aims for excellent attendance as it has been proven that attendance directly impacts on learning and progression. This term, we have set a new attendance target of 95%.

Attendance	Outcome and Impact
95 – 100%	Best chance of success. Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity.
90 - 95%	At least <u>2 weeks</u> of learning missed. Satisfactory. Your child may have to spend time catching up with work.
85 – 90%	At least <u>4 weeks</u> of learning missed. Your child may be at risk of underachieving and may need extra support from you to catch up with work.
80 – 85%	At least <u>5 ½ weeks</u> of learning missed. Your child's poor attendance has a significant impact on learning.
Below 80% attendance	At least <u>7 ½ weeks</u> of learning missed. Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education.

Harvest

Our harvest festival will take place at 2.45pm on Wednesday 15th October, at the Presbyterian Church in Caersws. All families and community members are welcome to join us to hear the pupils sing. We ask that all pupils are collected at 3.30pm from the door at the rear of the Church on this day, as pupils will not return to school. Please let a staff member know if you wish your child to be released to walk home alone on this day.

In order to practice, pupils in Years 1 – 6 will be visiting the Church on the afternoon of Friday 10th October. However, they will be returning to school on this afternoon, so usual pick-up routines will be in place.

Scholastic Bookfair

The school has booked to host the Scholastic Book Fair this term. Books will be delivered on Thursday 9th October and will be available in the school hall each day between 3.30 and 4pm, should parents or pupils want to view or purchase any. The last day these will be available to purchase will be Tuesday 14th October.

Newtown Food Surplus

Over the past 12 months the school has provided surplus food, courtesy of Newtown Food Surplus, one day a week. This has been free for any parents to make use of. Due to our impending roof works, we will no longer be hosting the food share at school. However, the local Church is looking at sharing from their Church room on a Wednesday afternoon. We will let you know once this is up and running.

Residential Trip

Every year the school organises a residential trip for pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6. This year, we have managed to book a space at the Urdd Llangrannog site. The dates for this trip will be Monday 2nd March to Wednesday 4th March 2026. Activities may include skiing, tobogganing, swimming, climbing, rope challenges, go-karting, horse riding, quad bikes, archery, walking or adventure courses. We fully appreciate that residential trips are incredibly costly, and this one is no different. The cost of this trip is £165. Parents can pay this amount in full or can pay using a payment plan. We are happy to answer any questions or enquiries about this trip and will of course provide additional information during the Spring term.

To ensure we reserve enough spaces for our pupils, we need an idea of pupil numbers attending and a small deposit of £20 paid as soon as possible, ideally by Thursday 9th October. We appreciate this is incredibly soon, but unless spaces are confirmed now, we will not be able to add additional pupils at a later stage. Mrs Canning has this afternoon added information to the ParentPay site. By paying the deposit you are confirming your child's place for this trip next year.

Halloween Disco

Our amazing Friends of the School have been very busy organising a Halloween Disco for Thursday 23rd October. They have made some changes this year, these include separating into two events. Younger pupils (Cwts, reception and Year 1) will enjoy a disco as part of the school afternoon, then Years 2 – 6 will have their disco after school. We hope this will make the event more manageable. Friends of the School will be sending out information about this event soon.

Grandparent's Lunch

We are thrilled to invite up to 20 grandparents to join us on Thursday 23rd October for a grandparent's lunch. This will be limited to Class 1 grandparents on this occasion, with further lunches held for class 2 and 3 in the coming school year. Lunch this day will be a pork roast dinner with flapjack as desert. The cost per attendee will be £4. Grandparents will arrive at 12.15pm and will be able to sit with their grandchildren (Class 1) to enjoy a school lunch.

Please email the office to book a place.

Other messages-

Fundraising- Many thanks to those who attended our Macmillan coffee morning- we raised over £116!

Friends of the School- Their next meeting is on Monday 6th October at 3.30pm in Class 1. All parents are welcome to join.

Newtown Cross country- There is a cross-country event happening on Saturday 29th November for pupils in Years 3 – 6. If this is something you'd be interested in taking your child to, please let us know so that we can register them in advance. Registration closes on the 19th November.

Breakfast Club- Many thanks for booking breakfast club in advance. This really helps the smooth running of the club. A reminder, pupils must arrive between 8 and 8.30am to receive a breakfast.

Dates for the diary-

Monday 6 th October	Roof works are due to begin.
Wednesday 8 th October	Cogurdd Competition.
Thursday 9 th October	Scholastic Book Fair (arrives for the week).
Thursday 9 th October	Nasal Flu.
Friday 10 th October	Harvest practice at the Church. Collect from school as normal.
Monday 13 th October	Music Monday event in school.
Tuesday 14 th October	Hockey- Selected Year 5 and 6 pupils.
Wednesday 15 th October	Harvest Festival 2.45pm. Collect from the Church at 3.30pm.
Thursday 16 th October	Urdd Football- Selected Year 5 and 6.
Friday 17 th October	Show Racism the Red Card
Thursday 23 rd October	Grandparents Tea- Class 1 only.
Thursday 23 rd October	Halloween Disco.
Thursday 23 rd October	Handwashing Talk- Class 2 and 3.
Friday 24 th October	School breaks up for half term

Monday 3 rd November	Return to school
Wednesday 5 th November	Parent's Evening. Appointments will be sent out nearer the time.
Thursday 6 th November	Parent's Evening. Appointments will be sent out nearer the time.
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need
Friday 21 st November	Christmas Fair pm. More details to follow.
Monday 1 st December	LHS Science & Technology Transition Day- Year 6
Monday 8 th December	Caersws Community Carols- Village hall at 2pm.
Tuesday 9 th December	Christmas Performance. Details to follow.
Wednesday 10 th December	Christmas Performance. Details to follow.
Thursday 11 th December	Save the Children Christmas jumper day
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Party pm.
Thursday 18 th December	School breaks up.

This list will be added to as the term progresses, and more details will be provided for upcoming events.

Finally, this term can be very tiring and can take its toll on the children. If you have any concerns or worries, please get in touch with us and we will do our utmost to support and help. We are here for all parents, families and children!

With kindest regards,



Sarah Corbett- Headteacher