



'Nurturing Hearts, Growing Minds, Opening Eyes, Imagining Futures'

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September/Dydd Gwener 4 Medi 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you've all had an enjoyable summer with your children and have enjoyed all the beautiful weather we have had. We are thrilled to have welcomed all pupils back to school for the start of this new school term and new school year! It has been a lovely week back with pupils adjusting to the school routine and exploring and familiarising themselves with their new classrooms, teachers and classmates.

We have nine new reception pupils who are settling very well into Class 1. In addition, we have welcomed new pupils to all other classes, taking our overall numbers to 96 currently. The children will spend these first few weeks settling into their new classrooms, before diving straight into all their exciting learning opportunities. As a school and staff, we are committed to realising our vision of 'Nurturing hearts, growing minds, opening eyes and imagining futures'.

We will endeavour to update parents, families and friends on all learning, events and aspects of school life through our newsletters, our text to parents' system and our Facebook page, it is also worth checking our school website as this is regularly updated and has all sorts of relevant and interesting information. We have already sent out a few useful documents as seen below.

| Area                  | Expected Costs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Support the school offers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| School Uniform        | Uniform and shoes<br>A PE kit<br>A swimming kit<br>Wellies (younger pupils)                                                                                                                                                                                                               | School uniform is in an easily accessible colour and logo branded uniform is not required. FOS frequently have uniform sales and a uniform grant is available for FSM pupils. The school has a sports kit for sporting events and has waterproof clothing and spare wellies available for younger children. Year 6 leavers hoodies are optional.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| School Meals          | Daily snack (fruit only)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Every child is now entitled to a uFSM, this includes a packed lunch when children are attending trips off site and can be requested in advance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Materials / Equipment | Water bottle                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Whilst most children choose to bring a pencil case to school, the school provides all materials needed to access learning. We have an abundance of reading books and book bags are gifted to those starting in reception. The school is well resourced digitally and has some old laptops for loan on request. Period products are available for girls as needed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Transport             | Swimming bus<br>Sporting events                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | The school has reduced our swimming offer to 10 weeks to reduce the cost of transport. We always consider the cost of attendance at trips and events; we share transport, transport pupils in staff cars or subsidise costs where possible.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Wrap Around Care      | Breakfast club                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | The school keeps breakfast club daily costs to a minimum (£1.20 a day) and is free to FSM pupils. We aim to provide free lunch and after school clubs where possible. Fees will only be requested when the club is run by an outside provider e.g. Cook with Church or Matthew Savage's Sports Club.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| School Trips          | Day visits<br>Residential trips                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | The school aims to keep costs at a minimum. We carefully consider locations and utilise school grants and FOS support where possible. We will never ask for over £15 in contribution for day trips and whilst residential costs can cost up to £250, we will support parents where we can and will always create a payment plan over time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Extra Curricular      | Music tuition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | The school places no cost on parents for any core learning activities. Our FOS kindly pay for all pupils to join the Ludi organisation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Donations             | Comic Relief: £1<br>Children in Need: £1<br>Remembrance Day: £1<br>MacMillan- Donations.<br>Sponsored activity.                                                                                                                                                                           | The school tries to limit the charitable donations it requests, and tries to spread them out at intervals throughout the year. These donations are always optional. The school aims to raise money through a sponsored event every two years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Other                 | Virgin £5 Challenge<br>Christmas Fair<br>Summer Fete<br>FOS events and raffles<br>School Photos<br>Christmas Play Tickets<br>Christmas Cards<br>Sports Day refreshments<br>Pop-up shops<br>Halloween Disco<br>Christmas Jumpers<br>Christmas Costumes<br>Book Fair<br>Grandparent's Lunch | We appreciate that there are many other hidden costs associated with the school's calendar as listed. Many of these are optional and there is no pressure on parents to put these on or pay for these areas. The school will always try to support parents and pupils in participating in all events e.g. by sourcing costumes for performances where possible, or selling 2nd hand Christmas jumpers. In enterprise tasks the school tries to teach the pupils about profit and loss and aims to avoid burdening parents with costs e.g. by providing £5 per child to start them off in the Virgin £5 challenge. |

## Meet the Teachers

At the start of each new term, we invite parents into school to 'Meet the Teachers'. This is especially important this term as we have two new members of teaching staff joining the Caersws team, Mrs Brown in Class 2 and Mr Brown in Class 3. These provide parents with the opportunity to meet the teachers and hear a little about what your child's class will be learning this term. We appreciate many parents may struggle to attend these sessions, so 1-page overviews will be sent home following these meetings. There is no need to inform us if you are attending, just come to the main entrance door at 3pm on the chosen class day. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. These are as follows-

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September**  
Class 1 (Reception & Year 1) – Mrs Davies

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**  
Class 4 (Year 5 & 6) – Miss Corbett / Mrs Wynne

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**  
Class 2 (Year 2 & 3) – Mrs Brown

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September**  
Class 3 (Year 4) – Mr Brown

## Class 1 Parental Workshops

Previously, we ran a series of successful parental workshops, where Class 1 parents were welcomed into school to learn all about school life and to see how and what their children learn. We would love to offer similar sessions to our reception and Year 1 parents this year and have set aside three mornings (as listed below). These sessions will be planned and led by Mrs Nia Davies. They will give a small group of parents the opportunity to spend 3 mornings in school, working alongside their child on a range of activities, from cooking together, getting creative and even using the outdoors e.g., forest school. These sessions will be held away from the classroom and will give parents the chance to see what their children do in school and to see how we use ICT, Welsh, literacy and numeracy as a part of normal activities, all whilst promoting independence skills and good behaviour choices. These sessions will not cost anything, and all resources / equipment will be funded by the school.

We can confirm the dates and times of these sessions will be:

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 9.30 – 11am

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 9.30 – 11am

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 9.30 – 11am

If this is something you'd be interested in attending, please let either Mrs Davies or the school office know by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September. It is important that we have enough numbers attending to proceed with these sessions.

## ALN

Mrs Davies continues in her role as ALNCO. All staff will meet to discuss and review which pupils need additional ALN support and which interventions will be the most effective over the coming weeks. If you have any concerns over your child or the support they receive, please get in touch with either Mrs Davies or Miss Corbett.

## Getting in Touch With Us...

Class teachers are always available for a quick chat at the start and end of the school day, but please be aware that mornings can be quite busy as they welcome and settle children in. As headteacher, I am available on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays to speak with parents should they so wish and although I have a teaching commitment at the start of the week, I will always try to make myself available either before or after school on these days. Mrs Canning (school secretary) is available in the office on the following days:

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Monday   | All day   |
| Tuesday  | Afternoon |
| Thursday | All day   |
| Friday   | Afternoon |

During times when Mrs Canning and I are not available, the school answerphone will always be on, and messages are picked up and responded to throughout the day. Emails to [office@caersws.powys.sch.uk](mailto:office@caersws.powys.sch.uk) are picked up and responded to regularly too. In addition, please be aware that you can approach any member of school staff with an enquiry or concern; they will always aim to help and support you.

## A Few Reminders...

### **Dropping off and collecting-**

Dropping off and collecting time can become quite congested around the school site.

In the mornings we ask that you 'Stop and Drop' whenever possible, especially with older pupils, to keep the flow of the one-way system working.

In the afternoons, we ask that wherever possible those collecting by car, park on the rear playground or away from the school site. We now have two school buses which will park in this area too. There are two disabled parking spaces to the front of the school, and these are desperately needed, so please avoid parking in them without need.

The wellbeing and safety of our pupils remain incredibly important. Therefore, we would remind all parents to join us in encouraging pupils to use the yellow walkway on the main playground to access cars, and the zebra crossing at the front of the school when walking to and from school. Building these routines and processes now will hopefully help keep everyone safe when the dark nights and bad weather draw in. We are exploring opening the side gates and pathway to help those walking to school via the park and our traffic management plan has been updated and shared to parents.

### **Safeguarding-**

Parents have been emailed a 1-page guide to safeguarding; we ask that all parents take the time to read this through.

### **Attendance-**

We want to ensure pupils attendance remains high and that children arrive on time for the school day. Pupils should arrive at school between 8.50 and 9am. If your child has any lates recorded on our register, parents will receive a text on a Friday morning alerting them to this. We have had no late arrivals during this first week back- this is great and very much appreciated as it helps set up all classes ready for a day of learning.

### **Breakfast Club-**

Breakfast club is still available between 8am and 8.50am at a charge of £1.20 a day. Our breakfast club is very popular, so it is essential that this is booked in advance for the week ahead. We ask that bookings are completed by a Sunday evening (whenever possible). If you would like your child to be set up for breakfast club bookings, please contact Mrs Canning, school secretary.

### **HWB-**

All children in school have their own Hwb username and password, pupils will be bringing home a 'Guide to Hwb', alongside their login details in the coming weeks.

### **Personal details-**

We ask that parents ensure we have the most up-to-date personal details for all children. This includes contact numbers, home addresses, email addresses, photo permissions and medical details / information. Please let us know if any of these have changed.

### **Curriculum-**

The school is busy preparing for the school year ahead, organising our committee groups and their targets to be achieved, and in developing our School Development Priorities. We aim to update parents on these in the coming weeks. The whole school topic this term is 'I Wonder Why', however, each class will interpret this in their own way.

### **Whole-school target-**

Our whole school target this term is 'Cultural Awareness'. This includes pupils being aware of their own culture as residents of Wales and showing interest and respect for other cultures in the world. As parents, we urge you to join us in encouraging and developing this awareness.

### **Matthews club-**

Matthew Savage will continue to run his popular Sports Club; however, this will be on Monday afternoons going forward. The cost of attending is £4.50 per child, with bookings and payment made directly to Matthew.

### **Music tuition-**

Please contact the school if you are interested in your child starting private music lessons. We will aim to provide parents with contact details of local teachers.

### **PE Kit-**

We suggest that children bring a PE kit into school and leave this in school until the end of the half term, as this can also be easily forgotten on days needed. Your support in this is appreciated.

## Friends of School

We have our first meeting of the year next Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 3.30pm in school. All parents are urged and welcomed to attend and join this hugely important committee. As parents of older pupils who have or are due to leave the school step down, we desperately need a new intake of members. Our Friends of the School committee are a lovely group who always get along well and work closely with staff in school to raise much needed funds for the school. Please consider coming along to this meeting to share your ideas and opinions.



## Dates for the Diary

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September     | <b>Swimming</b> (weekly- whole term)-<br>Swimming lessons will resume for pupils in Class 2 (Mrs Brown) and Class 4 (Miss Corbett). Details of swimming sessions and costs have been added to ParentPay this week. We try to encourage the children to take responsibility for their belongings, this includes remembering their swimming kit on a Monday. No classes swim in the spring term and Class 1 and Class 3 swim in the summer term. Pupils are transported at the start of the afternoon session and return to school by 3pm. |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September     | <b>Meet the Teachers</b> Event- Class 1- 3pm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September     | <b>School Photos</b><br>Individual and sibling school photos are scheduled for this Monday morning. Should parents wish for younger siblings to attend and be included in sibling photos, we ask that they attend school from 8.15am, where they will be photographed first.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September    | <b>Meet the Teachers</b> Event- Class 4- 3pm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September  | <b>Meet the Teachers</b> Event- Class 2- 3pm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September  | <b>Meet the Teachers</b> Event- Class 3- 3pm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September  | <b>Library Summer Reading Challenge-</b><br>Pupils have till this date to complete the challenge.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September | <b>Owain Glyndwr Day</b><br>Pupils will be completing a range of activities in school, but are also invited to dress in red, green and white or dress up dragon themed. We may even have prizes for the most imaginatively dressed!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September  | <b>FOS meeting 3.30pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September  | Llanidloes High School Open Evening for Year 6 pupils                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September  | <b>Nasal Flu-</b><br>Information about this and permissions will be provided in the coming weeks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September    | <b>McMillan Coffee Afternoon-</b><br>This will be from 2.30pm with older pupils serving tea and cakes. All cake donations welcome. Please come along and enjoy!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September   | <b>Opera Workshop-</b> Part 1 – Class 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September   | <b>Parental workshop-</b> Class 1 am<br>Please ensure you book attendance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October      | <b>Parental workshop-</b> Class 1 am<br>Please ensure you book attendance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October    | <b>LHS Team Building Transition Day-</b> Year 6<br>Please let us know if you intend your child to attend another secondary school so that we can arrange transition visits.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> October     | <b>Open football-</b><br>This is provisionally booked for Year 5&6 pupils.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> October     | <b>Scholastic Book Fair</b> (arrives for the week).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October     | <b>Parental workshop-</b> Class 1 am<br>Please ensure you book attendance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October   | <b>Parent's Evening.</b><br>Appointments will be sent out nearer the time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October    | <b>Parent's Evening.</b><br>Appointments will be sent out nearer the time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October      | <b>Show Racism the Red Card</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October      | <b>Harvest Festival Practice-</b><br>Pupils will be walking to the Presbyterian Church for a practice during the morning.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October   | <b>Parent's Evening.</b><br>Appointments will be sent out nearer the time.<br>We have added an additional evening this year to support staff wellbeing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October    | <b>Harvest Festival 2.45pm.</b><br>This will be at the Presbyterian Church, and all are welcome to attend.<br>We ask that parents collect from the Church on this day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October | <b>School breaks up for half term</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| End of October                  | <b>High School Admissions-</b><br>It always seems to come around so quickly but high school admissions for pupils in Year 6 are now open and will remain open until the 30 <sup>th</sup> October. Information on how to apply has been sent out to parents, if any parents would like support in completing this application, please contact Mrs Canning in the school office. |

|                                     |                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November     | <b>Return to school</b>                                                                                                            |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November   | <b>Girls Football</b><br>This is provisionally booked for Year 5&6 pupils.                                                         |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November    | <b>Children in Need</b><br>More details to follow.                                                                                 |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November | <b>LHS Transition Day- Year 6</b>                                                                                                  |
| Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December    | <b>Opera Workshop- Part 2 – Class 4</b>                                                                                            |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December    | <b>Christmas Performance-</b> afternoon. Details to follow.                                                                        |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December  | <b>Christmas Performance-</b> evening. Details to follow.                                                                          |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December  | <b>Save the Children Christmas jumper day</b>                                                                                      |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December  | <b>Christmas Party pm.</b>                                                                                                         |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December    | <b>School breaks up for pupils.</b><br>Please note- Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> are inset days for staff. |

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

## Finally

We ask that as the weather worsens, all pupils have a coat in school should it be needed and remember to bring a water bottle to school (still water only please).

Also, as a healthy school we ask that morning snack is fruit based and ask that parents remember we no longer share birthday cakes in school or give out sweets after a holiday. Whilst treats are absolutely a part of a balanced diet, we know providing these items can incur a cost for parents and at times, we find ourselves inundated with cakes (I think our record was three cakes in the same class on the same day!). We hope parents understand why this decision is made.

Finally, the Autumn term is always a long one and is incredibly busy with Harvest and Christmas celebrations taking place. Whilst it is incredibly enjoyable and we look forward to welcoming families and the community to celebrate with us; it 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

