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Caersws Primary School  
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SY17 5HG

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

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February/Dydd Mercher 1 Chwefror**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a successful three weeks back in school with all children contributing to deciding what they would like to learn about under our topic, ‘What a wonderful world’. Class 3 decided they would like to focus on under the sea and whilst they started looking at life under the sea, this quickly moved on to them undertaking an enquiry regarding the Titanic. Class 2 went for a similar theme and have so far enjoyed learning about a range of sea creatures, whilst Class 1 have focussed more on minibeasts and on celebrations like Chinese New Year. Our next topic (following the half term holiday) will be ‘I wonder why...’. We look forward to hearing from the children what they wonder about!

#### **Swimming-**

This term Class 3 have been swimming on a Monday afternoon, unfortunately they have missed two sessions, once due to transport issues and once due to the temperature of the pool. Both of these cancellations were beyond the schools’ control, but we do apologise for any inconvenience caused to parents. Following the half term holiday, Class 2 will resume swimming lessons.

#### **Student teacher-**

Caersws school has always welcomed student teachers and successfully supported Miss Morris and Miss O’Brien in the Autumn term. We currently have Mr Coulston joining us in Class 3 for a period of 4 weeks and we hope as a trainee secondary teacher, he will benefit from seeing how a primary school functions.

#### **Attendance-**

The school has an attendance target of 95.5% but unfortunately, we are struggling to achieve this target currently. Whilst we understand that children get ill and do at times need to be absent from school, we urge parents to avoid children having unnecessary time off school, as it has been proven that poor attendance can have a detrimental effect on the progress a child makes. We are getting the children involved by sharing our weekly attendance figures during Friday assemblies and I will continue to message the weekly percentages of each class with their corresponding colour to parents.

#### **Play and Chat-**

We have recently managed to re-start play and chat sessions on a Wednesday morning in the school hall. Mrs Vicky Turner is running these. If you know of any parents with babies or toddlers who would benefit from attending, please pass them our details.

#### **SDP- Welsh development**

The whole school has been working incredibly hard to increase the use of the Welsh language throughout school and to further develop positive attitudes and a strong Welsh ethos. All pupils experienced a prynhawn Cymraeg last week and it was great to see so many family members join us. We are now busy preparing for our school Eisteddfod celebration on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, which parents will of course be invited to join.

### Dates for the diary:

Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February- Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Children's mental health week.
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Netball (Year 5 & 6) YDT.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	National Eisteddfod 2024 Fundraiser. Pupils are invited to wear red, white and green and celebrate the Eisteddfod coming to our area next year. We kindly ask for £1 donations.
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February- Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term holidays.
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Urdd football (Year 5 & 6 Girls).
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	School Eisteddfod. Parents are welcome to join us for our celebration from 9.15am.
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day. The children can come dressed as their favourite book characters and will take part in a range of activities throughout the day.
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Cross Country on school grounds.
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 transition day to Llanidloes high school.
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 & 6 visit to Aberystwyth Science Fair.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day. Mother's Day Tea 2pm.

As you will see from the list above there are several events scheduled for Years 5 & 6. Wherever possible we will try to accommodate children attending these competitions/events, however we are very aware of the financial implications of attending such events as transport costs have recently risen. We are very conscious of not overloading parents by asking for donations towards transport costs, but equally the school cannot afford to subsidize these trips due to budgetary constraints. We therefore often find ourselves asking our Friends of the school association for help towards these costs. We ask that parents support 'Friends of the School' and their fundraising efforts wherever possible as the money raised truly does make a difference to the children's experiences in school and ask that if donations requested by the school ever become too much or too frequent, that you get in touch and share your concerns with us. It would also be useful to have a bank of parent volunteers who would be willing to transport pupils' short distances when needed. If this is something you could help with, please let us know.

The 'Friends of the School' have lots of lovely events planned out across the year and welcome any parent joining them for their meetings to share and discuss ideas. Their next meeting is on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.

### Parent's Evening-

We hope to schedule parent's evening appointments on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February. These appointments will be in person (unless a Teams call is requested). We would like to trial a new format this term and ask that the child attends alongside the parent wherever possible, so that they are fully involved in the conversation regarding their progress.

### Finally-

Can we kindly ask that all children have items needed in school e.g., a PE kit, a water bottle, and wellies for class 1. Can we also ask that parents remind children to read at home and complete homework. Thanks.

With kindest regards,



Sarah Corbett- Headteacher