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Caersws Primary School
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SY17 5HG

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

Friday 19th July/Dydd Gwener 19 Gorfennaf

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thanks-

As we reach the end of another busy school year, I wanted to communicate with you to say a huge thank you for your continued support. It has been a successful year, and I can confidently say the school is growing and thriving, and this is due to the whole school community, with your children at the heart of it. Your children have continued to show what happy, healthy and well-balanced children they are; they truly are a credit to the school and you as parents.

This year we bid farewell to eight year 6 pupils. They are all heading to Llanidloes high school this year and I know all the staff and pupils will miss them terribly! We are so proud of the amazing young people they have become. We wish them all the very best for the future and hope they will keep in touch and let us know how they are getting on. On our return in September, we will welcome 10 new reception pupils to the school; we can't wait to welcome them to the Caersws family.

I would like to thank the staff of Caersws School. They work so effectively as a team and always work so hard for the benefit of the children. They are a fabulous group of people who together genuinely create a wonderful school ethos and atmosphere. I feel so lucky to call them colleagues and friends. There are a few staffing changes for the upcoming year. Miss Jill Donaldson, who has supported in our youngest class leaves us at the end of this term and we welcome a new TA, Faye Jones, to our Caersws team in September. Most importantly, I am thrilled to announce that Mrs Nia Davies will be taking up our newly appointed acting deputy headteacher post. I am thrilled that she is getting the recognition for her work and contribution to the school and look forward to continuing to work with her in the autumn term.

I would also like to thank our 'Friends of the School' committee who have continued to raise money for the benefit of the children; we so appreciate their amazing support and tireless hard work. There are a few members of the committee who are sadly stepping down as we move into the new school year, due to their children getting older and starting their high school transition journeys. We can't express the gratitude we have for their many years of support to the school. They have truly made such a massive difference to the lives of the children. Unfortunately, due to accepting an increase in her hours as a learning support assistant, Miss Vicky Turner, has also chosen to step down as chair. We thank Vicky for all her fantastic organisational skills and are pleased we still get to benefit from these! The next meeting of FOS will be on Tuesday 10th September at 3.30pm in the school. We urge as many parents as possible to join us, we would love to see some new members, possibly even some dads! All new faces would be truly welcomed.

I would also like to thank the school's governing body, who regularly visit the school and share their knowledge, support and advice. As a headteacher, I feel very thankful to have their backing and their challenge.

September-

School restarts on Tuesday 3rd September. On returning in September, we want to make sure we start the year as we mean to go on, so can I politely remind all children to arrive promptly at school (between 8.50 and 9.00am unless attending breakfast club). We will be introducing a new signing in form for those arriving late at the start of the school day.

Parents will need to ensure children are wearing correct school uniform, including plain black shoes/trainers, that snacks brought into school are of a healthy nature, and that children have a water bottle containing only water. Your support and cooperation in these areas is much appreciated. Breakfast club will continue to be in operation, but children must be booked in advance using the parentpay app.

FSM-

Free school meals will continue to be provided for all pupils daily and when pupils are on trips/sports events, a basic packed lunch can be provided if booked in advance. Whilst all pupils are entitled to a universal free-school meal, it is incredibly important that parents still apply for their child to be registered as FSM if eligible, as this can mean additional funding for the school and for you as parents to spend on uniform, shoes and equipment. If you want to check your eligibility, please use the link provided.

[Free school meals - Powys County Council](#)

Swimming-

In the Autumn term we will be continuing swimming lessons on a Monday afternoon but have made a few changes to the Year groups attending to ensure we are maximising the space available in the pool. Therefore, in the Autumn term Year 6, Year 5, Year 3 and Year 1 will swim. Whilst in the Summer term, Year 6, Year 4, Year 2 and reception will swim. There will be no swimming during the Spring term. This means that all pupils across the school will receive a block of swimming lessons with only Year 6 swimming both terms. We have carefully looked at staffing to ensure that there are plenty of adults to support younger children. Mrs Canning will be adding the dates to parentpay in time for the first swim session in September.

Newtown Food Surplus-

As a school we have been working with Newtown Food Surplus over the last few weeks to provide an outlet for surplus food in the hope of saving it from going to waste and in the hope that it goes some way in supporting families with the cost of living. I know the children have delighted in choosing items to take home especially when they are sweet treats. We hope to continue this scheme in the autumn term but would love some feedback from parents about this scheme. Please feel free to contact the school with your thoughts.

Summer Reading Scheme-

The children were recently visited by Trish from Newtown library. She told the children all about the Summer Reading Challenge. All they need to do is borrow and read 6 books throughout the summer holidays and in return they will receive stickers, a certificate, a medal and a free family swim pass for any Powys leisure centre. Not only this but it is completely free and helps our pupils keep up those essential reading skills they work so hard to develop.

Play and Chat-

We are excited to be re-starting 'Play and Chat' sessions in the Autumn term. This is a fantastic opportunity for parents of younger pre-school children to get together. We will be sharing details in the new school year.

I will aim to update parents early in the Autumn term. Should parents need to get in touch with school over the summer break we would appreciate that all communication is through the office email rather than staff emails, as we want to ensure staff get the holiday break they so deserve. Messages to the office email will be picked up throughout the holidays and responded to in due course. It is important to us that parents are always able to get hold of us, however, on our return in the autumn term I would ask that emails are scheduled to be sent for 8am the following morning, rather than directly during the evenings to support staff in maintaining healthy work-home balances. Your support in this would be much appreciated.

Once again, can I say a huge thank you for all your support this year and wish you all a great summer holiday with your children. Let's hope the sun shines!

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Corbett". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett- Headteacher