



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

Friday 6th October/Dydd Gwener 6 Hydref 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a lovely few weeks back in school and I am so pleased to share that all pupils have settled into their new classes well, with our new and youngest learners having settled super well into their new school routine. Our pupils are behaving well, working hard and are already making some good progress in their learning.

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 priorities and develop our school development priorities for the coming year.

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

- Priority 1-** Address the health and safety issues raised during our Estyn inspection.
- Priority 2-** Provide more purposeful opportunities for pupils to lead their own learning.
- Priority 3-** Provide purposeful opportunities for all pupils to develop their Welsh skills, especially in the older year groups.

We were delighted to be deemed as having made strong progress across each of these priorities. For priority 1, the school had extensive changes made to its grounds to ensure pupil safety during the school day. For priority 2, the school reflected on its curriculum provision and ensured there were opportunities provided for pupils to lead their own learning, whilst for priority 3, Criw Cymraeg led the school in developing our Welsh language skills. Pupils and staff became immersed in a Welsh ethos and all opportunities were taken to promote the Welsh culture.

Whilst there are still some outstanding jobs regarding health and safety (namely, a new walkway being marked on the main playground and a new fence and gate along the top of the Cwtsh ramp), and we are yet to have our final assessment against the criteria to achieve the silver charter award, we are thrilled to have made so much progress in these areas.

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

- Priority 1-** Develop pupils' digital skills with a focus on coding.
- Priority 2-** Review our marking policy in line with the principles of progression.
- Priority 3-** Further develop our curriculum design with a focus on assessment and progression.

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 23rd October.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k-wViDmav1HnbDRuakCU55UQIEzNDBHOEJKS0swQThBTUsxR1ZEU0hINy4u

Safeguarding

The school has also completed its safeguarding audit this September and has identified any actions that need to be taken. The school takes safeguarding of its pupils very seriously and has included a focus on digital safety as part of its school development. We hope to gain parent thoughts on this important area later this term.

Committees

All pupils belong to either our Healthy Schools committee, our Eco committee or our Criw Cymraeg. Our pupils have successfully met in their first committee groups of the year and have set out their plans and targets for the year.

- Healthy Schools would like to focus on healthy eating and promoting physical health.
- Eco Committee would like to continue to develop the school gardens.
- Criw Cymraeg would like to achieve the Silver Charter Award and would like to continue to encourage the use of Welsh both indoors and outdoors.

Our older pupils also form the school council, which oversees all other school committees and contributes to the strategic direction of the school. They also take up other areas of responsibility e.g., Young Bronze Sports Ambassadors and Super Ambassadors. Their targets for the year include, choosing a charity to support with a sponsored event, planning and leading a whole-school event and planning and leading a community event.

Attendance

Our school still aims for excellent attendance as it has been proven that attendance directly impacts on learning and progression. As a school we carefully monitor all attendance figures and should an individual pupils' attendance figure drop below an acceptable level, I will communicate this to parents and support them in helping raise this figure.

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. You are at risk of prosecution.

Other messages

Fundraising- Many thanks to those who attended our Macmillan coffee afternoon- we raised £70!

Breakfast club- Can I urge all parents to make sure children are booked into breakfast club in advance. This is essential to ensure a smooth running.

Arrival at school- Can we remind all parents that pupils should arrive at school between 8.50 and 9am. We are finding increasing numbers of children arriving earlier, and unfortunately there are no staff outside prior to 8.50 to supervise. We are also increasingly seeing more children arrive after 9am, it is important that children arrive and settle in school in time for registration, your support in this matter is appreciated.

Dates for the diary-

Monday 9 th October	Class 2 and 3 visit to St Gwynog's Church, Llanwnog. The children will be taking part in a range of activities during the morning.
Tuesday 10 th October	Urdd girl's football- Year 5 and 6 Unfortunately, this event has been postponed.
Wednesday 11 th October	Visit to Presbyterian Church, Caersws We will be walking all pupils to the church during the morning for a Harvest practice. Please ensure children have an appropriate coat in school.

Friday 13 th October	Harvest Festival 2.45pm Prebyterian Church, Caersws All parents and friends welcome to join us. We will be walking to the church so, please ensure children have an appropriate coat in school. We ask that all parents collect their children at 3.30pm from the back of the church, not at school.
Friday 13 th October	Urdd Day (across Powys). We invite children to dress in red, white and green to school to raise awareness of this day.
Wednesday 18 th October	Parent's Evening Appointments have been sent out.
Thursday 19 th October	Parent's Evening Appointments have been sent out.
Friday 20 th October	Show Racism the Red Card Day Pupils are invited to wear red to school to raise awareness of this day.
Thursday 26 th October	Individual and family photos
Thursday 26 th October	Halloween Disco 3.30- 5pm (FOS event in the school hall) Tickets available to purchase.
Monday 30 th October	Half term week
Monday 6 th November	Return to school
Monday 6 th November	Class 2 starts swimming
Friday 10 th November	Class 3 assembly 2.50pm Parents welcome to see their children. Class 1 and 2 assembly dates to follow.
Tuesday 14 th November	Friends of the School meeting 7.30pm Teams. All welcome to join.
Wednesday 15 th November	Urdd rugby <i>Details to follow.</i>
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need <i>Details to follow.</i>
Tuesday 21 st November	Transition Day- Year 6 <i>Year 6 will be attending Llanidloes high school for a science and technology day.</i>
Friday 24 th November	Christmas Fair 3.30- 5pm, School Hall
Tuesday 5 th December	DVLA event- Year 6 to attend.
Thursday 7 th December	Save the Children jumper day
Tuesday 12 th December	Christmas Performance- Afternoon Times to be confirmed.
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Performance- Evening Times to be confirmed.
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Party.
Wednesday 20 th December	Whole School Trip- Panto <i>Jack and the Beanstalk- Shrewsbury</i>
Thursday 21 st December	School breaks up for Christmas holiday

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