



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

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October/Dydd Gwener 4 Hydref 2024

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-** 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.

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-** 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.

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 21<sup>st</sup> October.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4\\_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k-wVjDmavl1HnbDRuakCU55UMkILTDhSQ1k1VzVHT01LRzJURFhQTDJZOS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ug4_TzS3ZEGUCRtgHRR5k-wVjDmavl1HnbDRuakCU55UMkILTDhSQ1k1VzVHT01LRzJURFhQTDJZOS4u)

### 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 will undertake a safeguarding review with its safeguarding governor over the coming weeks. We also 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 parking as safely as possible.

### 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%. As the term progresses, we will be writing a new attendance policy alongside our cluster schools. This will be shared with parents once completed and should be read alongside the letter previously sent regarding fixed penalty notices. This letter was issued by Powys County Council and has gone out to all schools across Powys.

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.

### Whole-school target-

We have been working on our first whole-school target, ‘Caring for others’. This involved pupils understanding how their words, tone and actions could affect others and becoming self-aware and adapting their behaviour, so others are relaxed in their company.

We have now introduced our next target, ‘Listening & Responding’. This involves showing good listening skills e.g., looking at the person speaking, not interrupting and waiting you turn to speak. It also involves supporting pupils in showing interest in what others say, and becoming active listeners who consider others’ viewpoints before responding respectfully. As parents, you play a crucial part in helping to develop these skills and we hope you can support us in this target.

### Other messages-

Fundraising- Many thanks to those who attended our Macmillan coffee morning- we raised £104.50!

Newtown Food Surplus- We hope parents are finding this partnership useful. We have started to put produce out prior to the school day in the hope that it might save a trip to the shops for parents. Please do let us know if you think it would be better at the end of the day.

Play & Chat- We have restarted our Play & Chat group for pre-school children and parents. This will be between 9.15 and 10.45am in the school hall every Tuesday morning (term time only). The donation per week is £2 per child. Please share this opportunity with any parents of young children in the village or surrounding area. We would love to build up a support network for parents of younger children.

Friends of the School- We are desperate for some new parents to join this organisation. Please consider attending the next meeting and sharing your ideas and thoughts. Everyone welcome!

### Dates for the diary-

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Llanidloes Cluster Inset day- School Closed to pupils
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Llanidloes Cluster Inset day- School Closed to pupils
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Newtown High School Transition Day <i>For Year 6 pupils attending NHS in September 25.</i>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Scholastic Book Fair (arrives for the week) <i>Books will be on sale in the school hall immediately after school each day. Parents are welcome to come in and browse. A quarter of books available are less than £5 and there will be books priced from £1.99. Should you wish to purchase any books for your child, payment can be made via a QR code available.</i>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Hockey Festival- Year 5 & 6
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival Practice <i>Children will be walking to the Church during the morning to practice their Harvest pieces and will return for lunchtime.</i>
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Urdd Cookery Competition- Round 1
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Urdd Football Competition- Year 3 and 4
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival 2.30pm <i>Parents, family and community members are welcome to join us in the Presbyterian Church from 2.30pm. Please can all children be collected from the Church at 3.30pm, instead of from school. If you are happy for your child to walk home alone from the Church, please let the class teacher know. Thanks.</i>
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Halloween disco <i>Tickets available to purchase.</i>
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	School breaks up for half term

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Return to school
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent's Evening <i>Appointments to be shared.</i>
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent's Evening <i>Appointments to be shared.</i>
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Estyn Thematic Review <i>Estyn will be visiting the school for one day to discuss the teaching and learning of Maths &amp; Numeracy. This is not an inspection; it is a thematic review to identify good practice.</i>
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	High School Application closing date
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	FOS meeting
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Llanidloes High School transition day
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Christmas Fair 3.30- 5pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Performance- Afternoon
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Performance- Evening
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper day
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Panto Trip 'Sleeping Beauty'
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	School breaks up for Christmas holiday

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