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Caersws Primary School
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‘Nurturing Hearts, Growing Minds, Opening Eyes, Imagining Futures’

Friday 1st September/Dydd Gwener 1 Medi 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Whilst we hope you’ve all had an enjoyable summer with your children; we are thrilled to welcome them back into school for the start of a new school term and new school year! We have had a lovely (if slightly too hot) few days back in school and it has been a joy catching up with the children and hearing all their news. It has been equally lovely to meet our new pupils. We have nine new reception aged pupils who have settled very well into class 1 and have welcomed four new girls to class 2 and 3, taking our overall numbers up to 72. The children will spend these first few weeks settling into their new classrooms and re-establishing their school routines, before diving straight into all their exciting learning opportunities. As a school and staff, we are still committed to realising our vision of ‘Nurturing hearts, growing minds, opening eyes and imagining futures’.

I hope to be able to update parents on our new school development priorities 23-24 in the coming weeks, but a large focus will undoubtedly be to continue the improvements we have made to our Welsh provision and steps made towards gaining the Silver Charter Award. We will also continue to develop our provision of the Curriculum for Wales.

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. I had hoped that I would be able to send out this newsletter in time for the first day of term, however, I wanted to ensure I could provide you with as many dates for the term ahead as possible and have needed these few days back in school to confirm these.

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. 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. 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 are picked up and responded to regularly too.

Mrs Nia Davies continues in her role as ALNCO and all relevant 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.

Over the summer break, there has been a significant amount of work completed on the school site, the long-awaited cladding on the back exterior wall has now been replaced but the most significant change has been to our fire measures. The school has been fitted with a brand-new fire alarm, fire detection and emergency lighting system. We are so pleased to see our school being updated and taken care of. We still await a few other adaptations; these include the fitting of a fence along the top of the new Cwtsh ramp and new markings on our playground to create a safe walkway for children and parents when collecting children at the end of the day. Whilst we still urge parents to walk pupils to and from school (where able), we do ask that when collecting at the end of the school day, parents enter the school playground to park (via the access road) as this helps prevent a build up of traffic at the front of the school. A process is in place where we ask that parents exit their cars to meet their children from staff. This is to ensure their safety, especially as darker nights and worsening weather set in. Once completed, the addition of the marked walkway will help prevent any accidents occurring.

We have made one change to our dropping off and collecting processes. This is a change concerning class 2. Miss Pritchard has asked that her class enter the school through her classroom outside door, this will be opened from 8.50am. The children will then be released to parents at 3.30pm through this same door. We urge all parents to help their child/children arrive on time to school. Gates are closed and locked promptly at 9am to create a secure site, any children arriving after this time should ring the doorbell at the main entrance.

Whilst the rollout of free school meals has continued for many younger school children, it is important for those years still paying for their school lunches, that money is added to the system in advance. Your co-operation in this is appreciated. We urge those entitled, to take up this amazing offer of free school lunches, however, should you choose for your child to bring in a packed lunch instead, this is allowed, as we appreciate not all children will eat a hot lunch.

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

We run several clubs throughout the course of the school year but have a regular after-school sports club run by Mr Matthew Savage each Tuesday after school. It runs from immediately after school until 4.30pm. The cost of this club is £4.00 per child per session. If you would like your child to have a place, please contact the school office. Payments for the sports club are paid directly to Matthew.

Swimming lessons will resume for all pupils in Class 3 from Monday 11th September (6 weeks). Following the October half-term, Class 2 will attend swimming lessons from Monday 6th November (6 weeks). Pupils will be accompanied by either Miss Corbett or Miss Pritchard and Mrs M Davies. Mrs Canning will provide details of swimming sessions and costs this week. We encourage the children to take responsibility for their belongings, this includes remembering their swimming kit when needed on a Monday. Remembering to bring their kit avoids school having to phone and disturb parents on a Monday morning to ask for kits to be dropped off. 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.

Whilst we are desperately trying to improve attendance rates for all children, as good attendance is the key to good progress and achievement, we are keen to remind parents that children must be kept away from school for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Unfortunately, in a school setting any illnesses/sicky bugs spread quickly amongst the children and staff. We are incredibly keen as we enter this autumn term to achieve good attendance (meaning children who can be in school, should be) whilst avoiding the spread of these bugs! If individual pupils' attendance drops below an acceptable level, I will communicate this to parents and support them in helping raise this figure.

Dates for the diary-

Monday 11 th September	Swimming starts for Class 3
Tuesday 12 th September	Friends of the School meeting. <i>This is held through Teams at 7.30pm. All parents are welcome to join this meeting and share their ideas and thoughts, you don't even need to leave your home! Please let us know if you'd like to attend and we can ensure an invite is shared to you.</i>
Friday 15 th September	Gardening afternoon- Class 2 and 3 <i>This is weather permitting. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear.</i>
Friday 15 th September	Cure DM day <i>We would like to raise awareness of this condition with the pupils in school and ask that they wear green clothing to school.</i>
Monday 18 th September	Walk and Wheel to school day.
Thursday 21 st September	Llanidloes High School Open Evening 6-7.30pm <i>Year 6 pupils and their parents are welcome to attend to meet the staff and tour the school.</i>
Monday 25 th September	Llanidloes Cluster Inset Day <i>Please be aware school will be closed to all children on this day.</i>
Tuesday 26 th September	Llanidloes Cluster Inset Day <i>Please be aware school will be closed to all children on this day.</i>
Thursday 28 th September	Transition Day- Year 6 <i>Year 6 will be attending Llanidloes high school for a team building day.</i>
Friday 29 th September	McMillan Coffee Event <i>Join us for tea and cakes and give a donation. This is open to all. Oldest pupils will be serving. Time to be confirmed.</i>
Tuesday 3 rd October	Colour of my skin workshops- Class 2 and 3
Tuesday 10 th October	Urdd Netball- Year 5 and 6 <i>Details to follow.</i>

Friday 13 th October	Harvest Festival <i>This will be during the afternoon- venue to be confirmed.</i>
Wednesday 18 th October	Parent's Evening
Thursday 19 th October	Parent's Evening
Thursday 26 th October	Halloween Disco 3.30- 5pm (FOS event)
Monday 30 th October	Half term week
Monday 6 th November	Class 2 starts swimming
Friday 10 th November	Class 3 assembly 2.50pm <i>Parents welcome to see their children. Class 1 and 2 assembly dates to follow.</i>
Tuesday 14 th November	Friends of the School meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday 15 th November	Urdd rugby <i>Details to follow.</i>
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need
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
Tuesday 5 th December	DVLA event- Year 6
Thursday 7 th December	Save the Children jumper day
Tuesday 12 th December	Christmas Performance- Afternoon
Wednesday 13 th September	Christmas Performance- Evening
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

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

Mrs Canning will soon be sharing a form with you that allows you to update your child's personal details. It is incredibly important that we have your most recent contact details should your child be taken ill in school. Please take the time to update these details and return them to us.

Finally, the Autumn term is always a really 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