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Caersws Primary School  
Maesawelon  
Caersws  
Powys  
SY17 5HG

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

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September/Dydd Llun 2 Medi 2024**

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 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 ten new reception aged pupils who are settling very well into class 1 and have welcomed a new pupil to both class 1 and class 3, taking our overall numbers to 80. 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’.

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. 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](mailto:office@caersws.powys.sch.uk) are picked up and responded to regularly too.

We have two new members of staff who have joined the Caersws team, Miss Faye Jones has joined us as a TA in Class 1 and Mrs Laura Cooper has joined us as a MDS 3 days a week. Mrs Nia Davies has started in her new appointment as acting deputy head teacher and continues in her role as ALNCO. 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.

The wellbeing and safety of our pupils remains incredibly important. Therefore, we would remind all parents to join us in encouraging pupils to use the yellow walkway on the main playground to access cars, and the zebra crossing at the front of the school when walking to and from school. Building these routines and processes now will hopefully help keep everyone safe when the dark nights and bad weather draw in. Parents will be emailed a 1-page guide to safeguarding; we ask that all parents take the time to read this through. We want to ensure pupils attendance remains high and that children arrive on time for the school day. To aid us in achieving this, we have introduced a late register that we ask parents to complete when arriving after 9am.

The school is busy preparing for the school year ahead, organising our committee groups and their targets to be achieved, and in developing our School Development Priorities. We aim to update parents on these in the coming weeks. Whilst each class will have its own areas of learning (topics) this term, we will all be working hard to maintain the excellent progress made in Welsh and ICT skills over the past year.

All children in school have their own Hwb username and password, younger children will be bringing home a ‘Guide to Hwb’, alongside their login details in the coming weeks. Whilst older pupils usually know their logins, we can provide these on request.

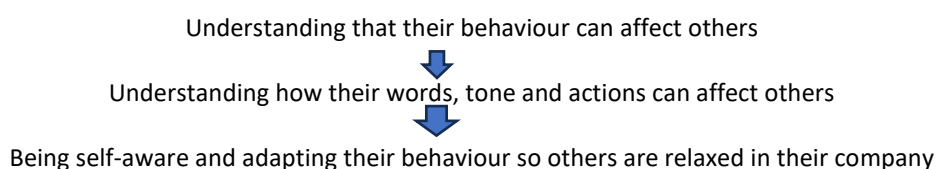
Breakfast club is still available between 8am and 8.50am at a charge of £1.20 a day. Our breakfast club is very popular, and so it is essential that this is booked in advance for the week ahead. We are aware that there have been some issues with the booking system this week, but once rectified we ask that 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.

Swimming lessons will resume next Monday for pupils in Years 6, 5, 3 and 1. Details of swimming sessions and costs will be added to parentpay this week. We try to encourage the children to take responsibility for their belongings, this includes remembering their swimming kit when needed on a Monday. In addition, 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. Pupils, particularly in older year groups, will be given weekly homework that we ask is completed and returned to school and we ask that all children bring in a water bottle for daily use. Please note this should contain water only.

We ask that parents ensure we have the most up-to-date personal details for all children. This includes contact numbers, home addresses, email addresses and medical details and information. Please let us know if any of these have changed.

### Whole-school target-

This year, we are introducing new whole school targets. These are based on learning behaviours. All staff will be promoting these targets throughout the school day, and we ask that parents support us in promoting these at home. I will update parents when we change to the next target but our first of the year is, 'Caring for others'. This starts with:



### Newtown Food Surplus-

We hope parents found this partnership useful in the last half term. We are keen to re-establish it this year and will welcome a delivery of produce which is free to those who can make use of it from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

### 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. Next week will be Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September and following this Play and Chat will always be on a Tuesday morning. The donation per week is £2 per child. Please share this opportunity with any parents of young children in the village or surrounding area.

### Friends of the School-

We have our first meeting of the year next Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm in school. There will be childcare available for all children. We kindly request that parents come along and attend, we need lots of new parents to support us in keeping this essential committee going. We are a lovely group who raise much needed funds for the school.

### Dates for the diary-

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Swimming starts (weekly)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Friends of the School meeting 3.30pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Play & Chat (last Wednesday)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Play & Chat (weekly on Tuesdays)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Llanidloes High School Open Evening
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Library Summer Reading Challenge Ends
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	LHS Transition Day- Year 6
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	McMillan Coffee Event
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Individual Photos 9am
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Grandparents Tea
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Llanidloes Inset day
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Llanidloes Inset day
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Scholastic Book Fair (arrives for the week)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival pm
Date to be confirmed	Halloween disco
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
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent's Evening

Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
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 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, 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