



'Nurturing Hearts, Growing Minds, Opening Eyes, Imagining Futures'

Friday 1st December/Dydd Gwener Rhagfyr 1af

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we now enter what is usually the most exciting but also most tiring time of year for our pupils, I wanted to send you some information regarding the coming weeks. We have so many lovely Christmas celebrations planned and look forward to celebrating this festive season with the children.

Tuesday 5 th December	DVLA event- Year 6 pupils. <i>Parents have been emailed details.</i>
Tuesday 5 th December	Messy Play morning. <i>Please see Vicky Turner to book a place.</i>
Thursday 7 th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. <i>We invite children to wear their Christmas Jumpers and donate £1 to charity.</i>
Thursday 7 th December	Visit by Urdd Organisers to record the Urdd song. <i>We request that all permission slips to take part are returned prior to this date.</i>
Monday 11 th December	Dress rehearsal- Christmas Play 9.30am. <i>We request that pre-school children are brought to this performance rather than the afternoon or evening performance. This is to ensure there is no distraction for the pupils.</i>
Monday 11 th December	Community Carols 2.00pm at the village hall. <i>All parents/carers welcome to attend this event. There will be time set aside at the end to enjoy a hot drink and mince pie. All pupils should be collected from the village hall by 3.30pm. PLEASE NOTE- CHILDREN WILL NOT BE RETURNING TO SCHOOL.</i>
Tuesday 12 th December	Afternoon Performance- Christmas Play 2pm. <i>Tickets available from the school office.</i>
Wednesday 13 th December	Evening Performance- Christmas Play 6pm. <i>We request that all children be returned to school via the back playground door by 5.30pm, parents will then be able to make their way around to the main entrance door to take their seats.</i>
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Dinner.
Friday 15 th December	Raffle tickets (sold or unsold) returned.
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Party. <i>We kindly ask for a donation of 50p per pupil towards party food.</i>
Wednesday 20 th December	Panto 'Jack and the Beanstalk'- Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury. <i>Whole school trip. We ask that all pupils arrive in school for 8.30am to ensure we get away on time. The children will need a packed lunch this day, which they will eat on their return to school. Breakfast club will run this day; however, NO BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED.</i>
Thursday 21 st December	Last day of term.

Attendance

Sickness bugs and the usual Winter illnesses have certainly been circulating this half term and they have made a significant impact on attendance. The school's attendance target is 95.5%, but unfortunately is currently only 92.75%. All parents will receive their child/children's attendance figure for the Autumn term in the coming weeks. We ask that any attendance figure below 90% be improved to provide pupils with the best educational opportunities.

90% attendance	Equivalent of ½ a day off school every week since the start of term
80% attendance	Equivalent of 1 day off school every week since the start of term
70% attendance	Equivalent of 1 ½ days off school every week since the start of term
60% attendance	Equivalent of 2 days off school every week since the start of term

Wellbeing

Recently, our older pupils completed the Happen wellbeing survey and a bullying survey. These allowed them the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings regarding their health and happiness. The school has analysed the results and created an action plan to focus on in school.

Happen Wellbeing-

Some of the positives reported include:

- 96% want to take part in and feel-good taking part in lots of different physical activity.
- 100% feel motivated to learn and improve their skills.
- 83% feel they are good at lots of things and 96% feel they have a choice over things that are important to them.
- 96% feel happy at home with their family.
- 100% are happy with their local area.

The targets/areas identified as needing attention include:

- To encourage more pupils to eat their '5' fruit or vegetables a day.
Only 35% eat 5 or more fruit and vegetables each day.
- To encourage pupils to brush their teeth twice or more a day.
Only 65% of pupils clean their teeth at least twice a day.
- To help pupils feel happy in their friendships in school.
Only 74% of pupils said they are always happy in school with 23% having some issues with friendships. To achieve this target, we will be continuing to make sure pupils know who to speak to if they are having friendship issues and will be working on ensuring all children feel an important part of our school community.

Bullying-

- Nearly all pupils always feel safe in school.
- Around half of pupils had experienced a little bullying either a little or long while ago. However, pupils reported that whilst some of this has happened in Caersws school, most had happened either in previous schools, online, or out of school.
- The main type of bullying that pupils have experienced whilst in school has been name-calling or being left out. This has happened whilst on the playground.
- Most pupils told someone when it happened and in nearly all cases the bullying stopped.
- Every child said that the school actively tries to stop bullying with every child stating that the measures taken are working. All pupils could name things the school does to prevent bullying, including assemblies, playground buddies, whole-school buddies, our curriculum work, helping children, making sure everyone is treated fairly and making sure no-one is left out.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the action taken to promote the wellbeing of children at risk from abuse, neglect and other kinds of harm, including health and development. The school takes all safeguarding matters seriously. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all, and anyone (parent, visitor or staff member) who has a concern about a child should either report this to the Powys Front Door service themselves or speak to the school's designated safeguarding officer, Miss Corbett.

A Message from Criw Cymraeg

We have been working hard to improve our use of the Welsh language in school; we have been developing our use of Welsh within other subjects and have been focussing on guided reading. We have been trying to meet the criteria to achieve the Silver Charter Award and are happy to have a date booked in for our assessment in the spring term. After Christmas we will be completing an exciting project called 'Cynefin'.

Friends of the School

Our Friends of the School association continue to work hard to benefit the pupils in school. Recently they organised and ran the Halloween Disco and the Christmas Fair (raising £500). We really appreciate all their efforts and can vouch for the difference this money makes to the children in the school. Prior to Christmas all pupils will enjoy a visit to the pantomime in Shrewsbury to watch 'Jack and the Beanstalk', this has mostly been paid for by FOS, with only a small donation towards costs being requested from parents. They are always looking for new parents to join this group and want to remind that all are welcome to attend. They are currently selling tickets for the Christmas raffle and look forward to further fundraising events in the new year.

Thanks

The school wishes to express its thanks to the Community Council who have supported the school by paying for a local tree surgeon to complete works around the school site. An enormous difference has been made!

We would also like to thank 'Caersws Cytun' a Churches together in Wales group who have kindly donated money for the school to purchase a mobile Smartboard and have presented us with a bench to place at the front of school for parents to sit on when waiting for pupils at the end of the school day.

We would also like to thank Pedro Jones for donating his recent birthday money to the Friends of the School. This amounted to a whopping £520.

Reminder

Can we please ask that pupils have an appropriate PE kit in school and that they have water only in their water bottles.

Finally-

We are so excited to celebrate Christmas with the children, their families, and members of the local community. 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