

Ysgol y Llan  
 Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April  
 2021

*Growing & Learning Together Through Faith, Friends and Fun  
 Tyfu a Dysgu Gyda'n Gilydd trwy Ffydd, Ffrindiau a Hwyl*

# Newyddion Ysgol



## Feeling Thankful

I wanted to start this newsletter on a positive note. We always try to make our newsletters positive, but today, I'm feeling that little bit more thankful.



As I sit here writing this newsletter after reading some of your positive comments about our school communication, the sun is shining through the office window and the birds are singing ... but most of all, I can hear children's voices and laughter coming from the nearby play areas. It is so nice to have all of our children back in school and to see just how resilient they are, bouncing back to normality at a phenomenal rate.

It means the world to me to see them back in their classroom, learning once again, to see them exploring the outdoors, to listen to their conversations around school and to always be greeted pleasantly by them as they pass me in the corridor.

I've always been proud of our school, the children who learn here and the staff who support, care for and teach them. I have been fortunate enough to have visited lots of other schools in the past (pre-Covid of course! 😊) and although I may be a little biased, we have an amazing school here in Whitford.

So, if you're reading this, just let them know, from me personally, that I'm proud of each and every one of them.

Thank you! Mr. G. 😊

## Polling Station

A quick reminder that school is CLOSED next Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May to pupils due to the Polling Station.



Work will be set for the children on that day and staff will be on site should you need us. 😊

## Sports Day

We have had a number of enquiries about sports day already. Although we would like to be completely back to normal sooner rather than later, it is safe to say that we are not quite there yet.

As such, we are still limiting visitors to the school and following Welsh Government guidelines in terms of school opening.

We will, of course, be running some sort of sports day for the children within the safety of our own class bubbles and this will more than likely be shared with you via SeeSaw.



### Reminders/Requests

- Check PE kits (size etc.) & return to school.
- HEALTHY fruit and vegetables for snack only.
- All children can bring in refillable clear bottles for water throughout the day.
- Please REMEMBER to book onto After School Club (Clwb Ddraig) & Breakfast Club in ADVANCE.
- After School Club (Clwb Ddraig) – as per policy, you will be charged if less than 24 hours notice of cancellation is given.
- Children may continue to wear school coloured joggers and hoodies on PE days.

### Welcome back!

We look forward to welcoming back Mrs Duffy from her maternity leave next month.

Her first day back will be Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May for our INSET Day. Mrs Duffy will then be back in Class 1 from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June, working part time every Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Hughes will revert back to her contracted hours from 28<sup>th</sup> May, working Monday to Wednesday.



### What's New?

Over the next couple of pages we will have a sneak peak at what has been going on in the different classes! 😊



### Nursery and Reception September 2021

Reception places were allocated on 16<sup>th</sup> April and Nursery parents will be informed on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Unfortunately, we will, once again, not be able to hold the usual Induction Evening. However, parents will be invited to make an after-school-hours appointment during the week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> June to have a tour of the school, meet the class teachers and visit Class 1.

### Transition & Moving Up Day

After discussing the situation with class teachers, we do not want the children to miss out on visiting their new classes before September 2021.

Therefore, on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, children will be moving to their September classrooms. This will of course mean that bubbles will mix on that one day.

All usual Covid precautionary measures of wiping down high touch areas, washing hands etc. will continue to take place and we will continue to encourage anyone showing any signs of Covid to remain off school.

If you have any concerns about this arrangement or if you would prefer to keep your child off on this day, please contact me personally. All children will then have the weekend before returning back to their normal class bubbles.

Unfortunately, we are yet to hear about any transition arrangement with the high schools.

### Class 1



Class 1 exploring the outdoors and continuous provision areas.

### Class 2



Class 2 taking part in a Welsh session supported by KS2 children in Class 4 by the power of technology!



And enjoying getting outside with Wrexham FC in the community, whilst developing their numeracy and literacy skills.



### Class 3

Class 3 have signed up for the RSPB Wild Challenge and are completing tasks to get their Bronze award. They learned about log piles and rock piles and worked in small groups to build some around our school field for small animals and insects to use.



Class 3 have also taken part in 3 online STEM sessions to learn about machines and their uses, algorithms and why we use them, and how to programme using Scratch.



### Class 4

Class 4 continue to enjoy their work with our Lead Creative agents.



Congratulations also to Freya from Class 4 on placing as a finalist in a national writing competition for the Royal Mint Museum. 'The secret diary of a machine' was a fantastic read. What a great achievement! 😊



## Get Outdoors - Cricket

To promote health and wellbeing, on our return to school and following on from a survey with our Key Stage Two children and parents, we have been trying to get outdoors more often.

When Alun Davies, husband of a previous member of staff, and member of the Carmel Cricket Club offered us free taster sessions for the children, we jumped at the chance. Classes 2, 3 & 4 have each enjoyed Covid safe sessions outdoors with Mr Davies and a junior coach over recent weeks.



## Stay Active - ActivALL Boards

And to keep the children active, we have a small treat for them ready for the summer term.

We are in the process of having some ActivALL boards installed externally so that classes, groups and individuals can test their spider senses, pace and stamina against the sequence of lights on these activity boards. Let the games begin!

Next, we want to organise a sponsored event so that we can raise vital funds to help us replace our outdoor trim trail with a new and modern adventure trail. More exciting times ahead! 😊



## POSITIVE FEEDBACK – School Communication

I would like to thank you for your feedback about school communication. I had intended on this month's newsletter being quite short, however, after discovering that you do actually read the newsletters and that they are worthwhile, I've added a few extra pages! 😊

We do listen to our parents and we want to offer the best that we possibly can. So thank you once again for your input. Here are some of the comments received about the newsletters and communication in general:

It's a lovely way to understand what is happening in school, not just in my child's class.

They are wonderful. Jam packed with info and positivity. Lovely to read and share with our children and handy to fit in all the dates etc. in one place. A great way of keeping in touch with what's happening at school.

Very informative and handy to look back at for dates. Lovely to see the photos and what has been happening in school.

Very interesting with great info about the school and the Church and what is happening in the community. I like seeing and reading the newsletter as it's very interesting. Thank you.

10 out of 10 full of information from the latest to upcoming events and dates to look out for.

I like the newsletters as I don't always look at Twitter, so it's good to see things the school has been involved in which I wouldn't have known about otherwise. It is also a good reminder of upcoming events.

Good overview of what's been going on and what's coming up.

I love the fact the school communication is 90% paper free (apart from raffles etc.), good for the environment and a letter can't be lost or found at the bottom of a bag two weeks late.

General school communication is good and seesaw is great for seeing what the children are working on in school.

Keep up the good work it is much valued. Thank you!

I really enjoy reading the school newsletters.

Overall, we have scored very well on our communication. Parents enjoy the newsletters and access current communication easily.



4.63 Average Rating

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| ● Emails                       | 36 |
| ● Text messages                | 25 |
| ● SchoolComms App (push mes... | 15 |
| ● OurSchoolsApp                | 24 |
| ● SeeSaw                       | 36 |
| ● Twitter                      | 10 |

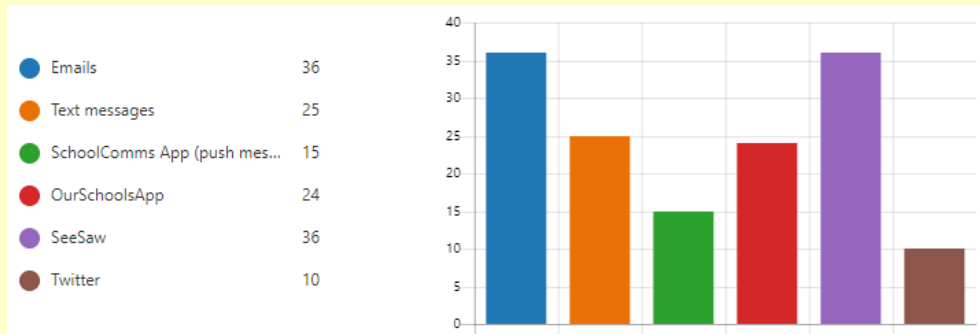
Although positive feedback (see table on the right) was gained about OurSchoolsApp, only 18 parents said that they use the app regularly. A further 11 use the app sometimes.

As this app costs in excess of £300 per year, we may have to consider whether or not we continue to use this in the future, especially as the majority of parents rely on emails as a means of communication.

SchoolComms - only 27 parents that completed the survey have this app. We would encourage all parents to download this app, in order to conveniently book clubs (Breakfast Club, After School Club) BUT to also save the school money. Parents with the app will receive 'push messages' on the app rather than text messages

|  |
|--|
| I can check on dates for up & coming events  |
| I only use it as told to download it by school.  |
| Easy to access on phone on the go  |
| Easy and quick to use.   |
| Easy to use and view relevant information  |
| Keeps us updated on everything   |
| Helpful to have all the relevant information relating to school in one place, the calendar, school gateway to pay for clubs etc and link to the schools website and newsletters. |
| All the information is in one place  |
| Easy to book breakfast/ afterschool club   |

Although not used regularly, the school website is used mainly to check up on past information and newsletters. Twitter is also not used that regularly, but, as it promotes our school, we would like you to like and share our tweets if you come across them!



The parental preference for communication is SeeSaw, SchoolsComms, Text messages, Emails, OurSchoolsApp and then Twitter (not related to the information on the left).

## Volunteer work

In our last newsletter, we gave thanks one of our parents for building our brilliant FP hut for Class 2.

Today, we want to say thank you to another parent for giving up her time to weather proof this same hut and also develop our outdoor area.

If you want to help in any way, please contact the school office.



## Church News & Christian Values

### St Mary's and St Bueno's Church

◦ The next Church service is on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and every first Sunday of the month afterwards. Everyone welcome!

### School

◦ Our Christian Value this half term is 'Friendship'. Children will be exploring this value during class collective worship and daily school life.

### The Diocese of St. Asaph

◦ Please follow the link to Bishop Gregory's Pastoral letters.

<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/bishopgregory/bishops-guidance-and-pastoral-support/>

### Prayers

◦ We ask you all to keep in your thoughts and prayers the family of Vicky Johnson, may she rest in peace, and particularly Annie, her daughter.



## Upcoming Events

*Please note – dates may be subject to change*

### Bank Holiday (school closed)

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

### Polling Station (school closed)

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May

### Parents' Evening Phone Calls (more information to follow from teachers)

Week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May

### Diocesan Translators' Service

Week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May

### Water Assembly (online)

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May

### Sports Day Week (class bubbles)

Week beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May

### Last day of term

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May

### Shared Consortium INSET day (Curriculum for Wales)

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May

### First day of term

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June

### Full Governors Meeting

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

### Pizza Pals Big Lunch (more information to follow)

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June

### Nursery/Reception Induction Tours

Week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June

### Amazing Workshop (information to follow)

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June

### Moving Up Day - Transition

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

### Year 6 Leavers' Event

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July (back up 15/7/21)

### Year 6 Leavers' Party

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July

### Last day of term

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July

## Christian Value - Friendship

**FAMILY FOCUS**  
Friends of the Family

This term's family challenge is to make a card or present for someone who is a **friend** to your whole family. You could add a gift tag saying...

Our family has been thinking about friendship. This is a thank you gift for being a special friend to all of us.

## Contact or Follow us!

Headteacher - [Whhead@hwbcymru.net](mailto:Whhead@hwbcymru.net)

School Office - [Whmail@hwbcymru.net](mailto:Whmail@hwbcymru.net)

01745 560431

<http://www.ysgolyllan.co.uk>

<https://twitter.com/YsgolyLlan>

*Thank you for your continued support! Diolch yn fawr iawn!*  
*Mr. Griffiths*