

Ysgol y Llan Whitford
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Growing & Learning Together through Faith, Friends and Fun

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Head Teacher's Response to Questionnaire

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

Thank you to all of you who returned the completed annual questionnaire (Reception – Year 6). Your comments are valued and were shared with staff during our January INSET day. They will help guide areas of school development during the academic year.

Attached are the findings from the questionnaire. Overall, we are pleased to say that there has been an improvement since last year in nearly all of the areas. As you will see, while it appears that we please most of you most of the time, it is virtually impossible to please all of you all of the time. We will however, do our utmost to try to improve in everything we do.

The positive comments were in abundance and again these were shared with the staff. We really appreciate these positive comments that let staff know that they are doing a good job. Any personal comments about staff have also been shared, so thank you!

In addressing some of your comments and the key findings, the school's initial responses are as follows:






Smaller Classes

In an ideal world, many schools would like to have smaller classes. Our school is a very popular and over subscribed school. We have an admission number that we do not exceed (only in exceptional circumstances as stated in the Admissions Policy) and our Foundation Phase classes do not exceed 30. Where classes are larger, learning support staff are employed to ensure that we meet staff to pupil ratios.

After school clubs

As stated in what our school does well, many of you appreciated how much time the hard working staff of Ysgol y Llan give up to run extra-curricular clubs throughout the year. However, this has come up as something you want more of. We will review what we currently offer, although we do ask you to understand that we are a small staff at Ysgol y Llan and we try to offer as much as we can, which is more than some larger schools offer. Space is also a huge problem and we have to consider available inside space for those occasions when the weather conspires against us. However, there is a possibility that you could help! Teachers are always looking for additional support in or outside of the classroom environment and no matter what you feel able to offer, I would ask that you come in and talk to us. If any parents feel that they have something that they could offer as an after school club, please come and talk to us. Examples of the ways in which parents and other adults may support us are; Arts & Crafts, Choir, Sewing & Knitting, Forest Schools, Reading, ICT & digital learning, Gardening, Sports Clubs etc. The list is quite extensive and can always be added to. If you would prefer to help in other ways, then the Friends of the school would welcome your help and support.

This term, the following ASC will take place:

After School / Extra Curricular Clubs Spring Term					
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
After school	TBC *	Football  Yrs 1-6	Urdd  Yrs 2-6	Sewing & Knitting  Yrs 3-6	
Lunch/school time	Chess  Yrs 3-6	Swimming  Yrs 3-6		Dragon Sports Rec - Yr 2	

* Please note that Netball will resume after the Spring half term.

Homework

Homework is probably one of the hardest things of all for schools to get right. Some households value homework highly and have the time and resources to support it, while we understand that others do not. Many of our children also have busy lives outside of school engaged in a myriad of sports, clubs and family activities. Getting the tone of homework just right for everyone is almost impossible so please talk to your child's teacher if you have problems or concerns. We would urge however, that you read regularly with your children regardless of their age and stage of reading development – do not concentrate on scheme books but take them to the library and introduce them to the world of literature (Neil Griffiths was keen to share that this does not just mean books, but magazines, newspapers, comics, recipe books etc). Any type of Maths outside of school will help your child – regular practice is key! Don't forget that timetables are also a must for the juniors! Classes intend on sending out regular termly newsletters to help you understand what they will be covering in class over the term so that you have an idea of their topic and how you could help at home. Again, if in doubt, ask the class teacher. Please remember that children have been working hard all day in school, so any practice at home should be short, snappy and FUN!

Personal Belongings

We agree that teaching children how important it is to keep their belongings together is very important. We do remind children about looking after their belongings and are always encouraging independence skills in school from a very early age. However, this is again something that parents can help with at home and I am sure many do. If a child is used to not putting away their own clothes at home, getting their things ready for school or simply tidying away their belongings, then it becomes difficult for them to carry out such independent skills in school. We need to ensure that we give consistent messages to children both at home and in school regarding their own belongings. Please also ensure that all items of clothing are labelled and that you frequently check these labels as there are many unlabelled items in the lost property box.

Church Activities

We recognise the importance of establishing excellent, meaningful links with the Church and feel that we do this. We will however continue in our efforts to improve our links where possible. We are a Church in Wales School and highly value Christian teachings and the Christian Ethos. We have introduced a new scheme for Collective Worship this year and have purchased resources for reflective areas in each classroom. Once we have our new Minister, we can discuss how to move forward.

Parking

This is an ongoing issue that we can only remind parents about in our newsletters. We have been in touch with the local police and we listen to our neighbours. It is important that everyone receives the message about parking sensibly, being considerate towards neighbouring property, safeguarding children and being more aware when parking or driving away.

Feedback on Progress

Teachers spend a huge amount of time monitoring the progress and attainment of individual children and the school is required to keep records. Currently we feed back to parents via termly parents' meetings and an annual report in the summer term. If your child does not make at least the expected progress from their individual starting point or gives us cause for concern at any point in the school year, your child's class teacher will inform you and encourage you to work with us to develop intervention strategies to support their specific needs. In addition, we do have an open door policy and are always here to help - if you notice anything about your child's progress or if you yourself are concerned at any point, please be aware that you can call into school and make arrangements to discuss this with the class teacher. Even if you simply want to ask if your child is progressing well, you can write in your child's home-school diary or simply ask the class teacher at the end of a school day. We will review the way in which we report to parents to see if it can be improved in any way.

Electronic Payment

We did look into this with Flintshire County Council along with a number of other Flintshire schools. As it stands, there is something out there that Flintshire had made us aware of. It would allow parents to pay online for school meals, school trips etc as well as offering text and email services. However, schools would currently have to pay the transaction fees for every single transaction. This is a major concern for many schools due to tight budgets and this therefore was not pursued. We hope that this can be addressed in the future as it is something that the school is keen to introduce.

Communication

General messages concerning your child can always be left at the school office to be passed on to teachers. If you have a question or concern, the best time to talk to your child's teacher is at the end of the school day. For lengthier discussions however, it will be necessary to arrange an appointment via the school office. If you are unable to get into school at home time, feel free to either write in your child's home-school diary or email any questions FAO your class teacher to the school office Whitford.VA@flintshire.gov.uk and we will ensure that the message is passed on.

58% of responses appreciated the regular tweets yet a minority of you still do not use Twitter. Although you may be unfamiliar with Twitter, we do urge you to give it a go as many parents do welcome the regular feedback. We are here to help if you want any advice on using it. Facebook was suggested as another option although it does take time to manage all and any means of communication, and therefore it is just a thought for the time being. From those parents who enjoy receiving information via Twitter, 42% would welcome Class Twitter feeds specific to their child's class. Therefore, Class Twitter feeds have now been set up, and you can follow them on

@ysgolyllan_cl1

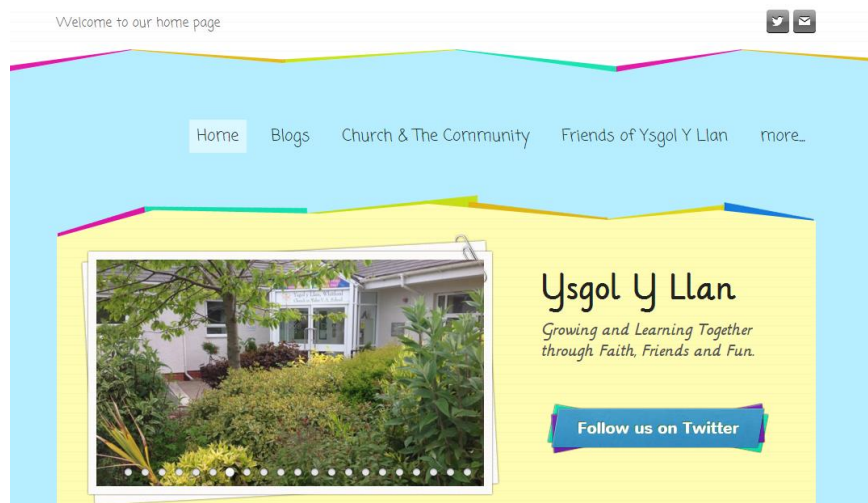
@ysgolyllan_cl2

@ysgolyllan_cl3

@ysgolyllan_cl4



63% of you would welcome a NEW website and we agree. Unfortunately, the old websites were out of date and had issues. I have set up a new basic website that will hopefully meet your needs and in time, have everything on there that you should need. Although the website can be viewed on mobile devices, it is much clearer on a desktop view. The website has been designed to be easy to access and easy to manage. If you have any ideas on items to include on the website, please let us know and we will certainly consider them if they are manageable. Be assured that we will do our best with the time that we are able to allocate to the website. Enjoy www.ysgolyllan.co.uk and watch it grow!



School Uniform

There have been a number of issues with our current uniform supplier Brodwaith. We have therefore approached Forrester Sports and you will now be able to order directly from them (free home delivery when ordered online) or collect from their store in Mold. Forrester Sports are a very reputable company used by many Flintshire schools and I am sure that you will find their service of a good quality. The link for their website is

<http://www.forrestersports.co.uk/acatalog/Ysgol-Y-Llan-Whitford.html>

Thank you once again for contributing to the questionnaire this year. We had 33 responses (although some of these had more than one child in the school) and we hope that we have listened to each and every one of you. Next year, we hope that more of you take the opportunity to provide your thoughts even if you are happy with everything the school does.

Many thanks for your continued support

Mr Griffiths



Ysgol y Llan, Whitford

Parental Questionnaire - 2015 Analysis (33 returned)

Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
Overall, I am satisfied with the school.	55%	45%			
My child is happy at school.	55%	42%	3%		
My child was helped to settle in well when he or she started at the school.	70%	30%			
My child makes good progress at school.	42%	52%	3%		3%
The school has a calm, happy atmosphere.	52%	48%			
The school promotes good behaviour.	52%	48%			
The teaching is good.	39%	58%			3%
The staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best.	52%	46%			3%
The homework that is given builds well on what my child learn in school.	30%	55%	9%		6%
Staff treat all children fairly and with respect.	49%	45%	3%		3%
My child feels safe and secure at school.	55%	45%			
My child receives appropriate additional support in relation to any particular individual needs.	30%	49%	3%		18%
I am kept well informed about my child's progress.	21%	64%	6%	3%	6%
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions, suggestions or a problem.	49%	51%			
I understand the school's procedure for dealing with complaints.	49%	48%	3%		
The school provides a good range of extra-curricular activities.	42%	55%	3%		
The school provides a range of well organised and well managed educational visits.	27%	67%	6%		
Parents are encouraged to play an active part in school life.	45%	52%	3%		
The school communicates well with parents.	21%	79%			
The school supports children and their families.	24%	73%			3%
The school is well led and managed.	49%	51%			
I would happily recommend this school to another parent.	61%	39%			