

Ysgol y Llan  
 Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September  
 2020

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

# Newyddion Ysgol



## It's GOOD to be back! 😊

It has been truly wonderful having the children back in school over the last few weeks. They have been an absolute credit to their families in how they have adapted to school and the new arrangements in place.

I am super proud of them all and it has been a godsend to see the smiles on their faces and to hear their laughter on a daily basis ... truly heart-warming!

Thank you to you all as parents and grandparents for being so supportive towards our arrangements and working with us at every opportunity.

Times are strange but we will get through them together!



## FANTASTIC News!

If you can remember, the pupils of Dosbarth 3 took part in and won the Llaeth y Llan 'Recycle Your Pots' competition last year.

Their winning design was a bug hotel using the recycled yogurt pots for the 'rooms'. Each child designed a 'room' and they then created the hotel using natural materials found around the school grounds. Dosbarth 3 named their bug hotel 'Gwesty Malwen'.

A couple of weeks ago, we received the winning cheque of £1000.

In consultation with staff and pupils, Miss Roberts has earmarked the winnings on improving our ICT and to date has purchased the following items with £400 left to spare.

- 16 BBC micro-bits
- 3 Osmo sets (to use with iPad) to develop coding and problem-solving skills
- Coding Jam (to create music)
- Electric circuits



I'm sure the children are going to enjoy and benefit from the new resources.

Diolch to Miss Roberts, Dosbarth 3 and all involved.





# Class 1



# Class 2



## Class 3



## Class 4

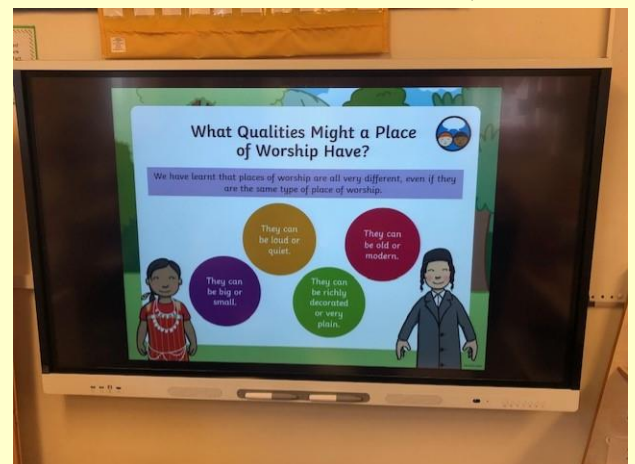


## ICT Funding

We have been developing our ICT provision over the last few years using funding from our Friends of the School (PTA), delegated budget and Welsh Government funding through the Diocesan.

Each class benefits from a good number of personal devices such as iPads and/or laptops. In addition to this, we have a set of 16 iPads and 16 Chromebooks for shared use. Recently, each class has had two new desktop computers to replace outdated hardware. Over the last two years, we have utilised available grants to replace 3 out of the 4 Active Whiteboards with hi-tech Smartboards (pictured below). Class 1 are next to have a Smartboard installed.

With the New Curriculum on the horizon, we have been fortunate enough to have access to Welsh Government funding. This year we had our internal server upgraded, and 7 new laptops. Next year, our wi-fi throughout the school is being upgraded and we have ordered 10 new Chromebooks for Key Stage Two and 8 iPads & 2 laptops for Foundation Phase. We will continue to invest in online provision such as Purple Mash and My Maths.



## POSITIVE FEEDBACK – Dropping Off & Collection Procedures

We want to thank you once again for your feedback to our questionnaire sent out on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. We referred to some points to consider in a previous email and really hope that you can support us in alleviating some of those issues raised.

Over the next two pages, we would like to celebrate and share the wonderful positive praise which we received in relation to the current procedures. We couldn't fit all comments on, but here's just a few:

Easy flow and maintains social distancing.

Easier to adhere to social distancing.

No congestion of cars. A lot safer with the traffic through the village.

Feel safer with less congregating. Especially when grandparents pick up. Very organised and speedy. Compared to many other schools, I feel Ysgol y Llan have got it right. Very organised and orderly. Thank you!

Able to drop children off at the same time and not be in two places at once.

Feel that it runs smoothly and is a very good way to keep children and staff safe without adults congregating around each other.

Quick, easy and hassle free!

No issues with finding somewhere to park. Process is quicker.

Safer for children and easier for grandparents.

Safe & convenient.

Very efficient. My children love that their teachers greet them in the mornings.



Good to do the children's temperatures before parents drive away. A very well thought through and executed system. The arrangement is far better than other local schools.

Much safer for the children in general. Far better for the village with previous parking problems. Is run very smoothly and efficiently so no hold ups. I think it has been a fantastic idea. Teachers are doing a fab job and making the process as easy going for the children as it can be at the moment.

Safety has increased and the risk of a child being involved in an accident has significantly reduced.

Great not having to park your car. Less contact and safer for everyone.

No children crossing the road or running out.

Keep up the good work Ysgol y Llan!

Thank you for keeping our children happy and safe.

Less waiting, easy to understand the rules and feels safe.

Thank you for the extra effort involved. It is greatly appreciated.

All the staff are doing a great job. I feel like my child is safe from the time you check their temperature until home time. Thank you!

Very efficient. My children love that their teachers greet them in the mornings.

Thank you for doing everything possible to ensure the safety of both pupils and staff and for keeping all children in school.

A great way of dropping off and picking up. Wish we had a permanent arrangement with a drop off bay and safe footpath to school. Appreciate that you as staff are having to stand to greet and test temperatures but my thanks goes out to you for doing this as it provides us as parents the safety and security we crave and it is truly priceless. Thankyou also on the return after lockdown and in September, it was so lovely to see the smiling faces of the SLT at the school gates ... just what the children needed ... that extra encouragement x.

Thank you! It's a fantastic system.

Really impressed with all the arrangements that Ysgol y Llan have put in place during this time.

In the stressful situation we are all going through, I honestly believe that as a whole school you should be extremely proud of how you have made the process as normal as you can for the children, as easy as you can for the parents and have achieved all this with a smile on all the teacher's faces first thing in the morning and still at pick up in the afternoon. You've done more for these children than you realise. Can't thank you all enough!

## Reminders

- Drop off times: FP at 8.45am, KS2 at 9.00am.
- Collection times: FP at 3.00pm, KS2 at 3.15pm.
- KS2 parents/grandparents, please avoid arriving and parking during FP time slots.
- If you have children in DIFFERENT phases (e.g. one child in FP/infants & one child in KS2/juniors), you are welcome to drop them off together at the earlier time of 8.45am. These siblings will now be sent up to wait in Breakfast Club. If they are in the same phase (FP/infants or KS2/juniors), please stick to the allocated time.
- If you have children in DIFFERENT phases (e.g. one child in FP/infants & one child in KS2/juniors), you are welcome to collect them together at the later time of 3.15pm. We will keep hold of the younger children until you arrive. If they are in the same phase (FP/infants or KS2/juniors), please stick to the allocated time.
- Breakfast Club - this remains open for childcare between 8.00am & 8.30am (booked online at a £2 charge). Free Breakfast Club will be available between 8.30am & 8.40am. Although this is only a small window, we hope that it will help some parents who are trying to get to work. All children must be brought up to the hall doors (keeping a social distance at all times).
- Walking to school - depending on the direction you walk from school, we are happy for you to wait either across the road from the school gates (as previously requested) OR alongside the hedgerow/pathway leading down to the school. We want our families to be as safe as possible when dropping off or collecting children.
- Wet weather procedure for dropping off - if the weather is not being kind, we do not want children lining up on the driveway. Therefore Classes 1 & 4 will enter Breakfast Club and wait in their contact groups within the hall, supervised by the Breakfast Club staff. Classes 2 & 3 will enter school through the main entrance and go to their own classrooms where they will be supervised by a member of staff.
- Clwb Ddraig (ASC) is open Monday - Thursday 3.15pm - 5.00pm. All bookings for clubs should be made online. If plans change and you need to book on to Clwb Ddraig, please contact the office ASAP.
- PE days - we are recommending that you send children to school in their PE kits. This will give some parents a chance to wash the school uniform. Due to our lovely British weather, you may like to send children in Navy coloured joggers, leggings and hoodies/jumpers.
  - Class 1 (Reception & Nursery) - Friday
  - Class 2 (Years 1 & 2) - Monday
  - Class 3 (Years 3 & 4) - Wednesday
  - Class 4 (Years 5 & 6) - Tuesday
- FSM entitlement - you may be eligible for free school meals. Please ask the office or enquire online  
<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Education-Benefits.aspx>

# Stay in the loop, keep in touch!

## Seesaw



Please ask your class teacher for an invitation if you do not already have the app. Seesaw allows teachers and pupils to share their work more conveniently and privately with parents, providing you with a 'fly on the wall' experience.

It is vital that everyone signs up as this will be the main form of class communication during any future lockdowns. It's also the most convenient way to get in touch with your class teacher.

## Twitter



Although not a main source of communication, we quite often share school success and important messages on our Twitter platform.

Please follow our Twitter feed [here](#).

## Friends of the School

The Friends of the School always work tirelessly for the good of our school. I know that they have met recently and will be in touch about future events (those that can be considered under current restrictions).

Last year was cut short but they still committed to supporting us in purchasing £1700 worth of new computers for the classrooms. Without your fund raising and support, this simply would not be possible.

If you would like to know more about the 'Friends of the School' PTA or would like to be involved, please contact the school office and we will signpost you in the right direction.

## OurSchoolsApp

Please remember to download OurSchoolsApp. This app lets you keep up to date with all school news via an app on your phone including messages home and a calendar of events.



## Online Payments



Dinner payments and other payments must be made online. Please ensure all payments are up to date.

[You can download an app or access it via the web or 'Our Schools App'.](#)

Please ensure that all payments are made in advance of dinners, breakfast club etc.



## Reception & Nursery Applications

Admissions to Nursery and Reception are now available (from 28/9/20) online.

Reception applications close 20/11/20.

Nursery applications close 19/2/21.

If you or anyone else would like an informal tour around the school (out of school hours), please contact the school office to arrange this appointment with Mr. Griffiths.



## Church News & Christian Values

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

◦ Whitford Church Services are currently only taking place at 11.00am on the fourth Sunday of every month. Everyone welcome!

### School

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

◦ Church visits – the school will not be attending Church weekly for the foreseeable future. However, discussions are in place for Reverend Kathryn to lead class collective worship in school where possible.



### Messy Church

◦ Messy Church remains on hold until further notice.

### Prayer

◦ We pray for all of our new starters and hope that they experience a warm welcome to our community.

◦ We pray for all those suffering due to our current crisis and we offer our support to those that we are able to.

## Home-school Challenge

**HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE**

**The Generositree**

The fruit of the generositree are blessings.

Think of something **generous** that you could do that would bless someone and make them happy. Then do it.

Design and make a colourful exotic looking fruit to represent the blessing and take it to school to hang on the Generositree.

## 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>  
<https://www.ourschoolsapp.com>

## Upcoming Events

*Please note – dates may be subject to change  
 Those dates highlighted below have changed*

### Full Governing Body Meeting

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

### Police Liaison Visit – PC Barker in FP

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September

### Police Liaison Visit – PC Barker in KS2

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October

### Last day of term

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

### First day of term

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

### Full Governing Body Meeting

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November

### Nasal Flu Vaccinations (Rec – Year 6)

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November

### Closing date for Reception applications

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November

### Last day of term

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December



## Autumn Dates/Events

**It is not a pleasant sight to see our 'Upcoming Events' so limited. As per previous communication, all usual autumn term events have been postponed until further notice due to the current pandemic.**

◦ Parents' Evening – although this is unlikely to be in the usual face-face format, an alternative arrangement will be made e.g. phone call. Dates and arrangements will be made closer to the time.

◦ Christmas Productions – we will endeavour to look at alternative arrangements so that our children and families do not miss out completely on these special occasions.



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