



# Ysgol y Llan

Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School  
Cylchlythyr – Newsletter



**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
**Dydd Gwener 19fed Rhagfyr 2025**



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



Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we have reached the end of term! We have fully enjoyed our festive period and we are all looking forward to the Christmas break! As we reach the end of the term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff and pupils for their dedication and hard work throughout what has been a very busy Autumn term.

We can celebrate many positives, including a **glowing Estyn report (see highlights on the next page)**, and on reflection, a wonderful range of experiences for our pupils during December – carol singing and services, the pantomime, Christmas concerts, the Christmas Fair, Christmas dinner, parties and reward days.

Our recent **Estyn report is now live and we are very proud to share it with you!**

**Estyn:** <https://estyn.gov.wales/education-providers/ysgol-y-llan-whitford-v-p/>

I am extremely proud to be Headteacher of Ysgol y Llan and to have led the school through this inspection. Staff have worked tirelessly, and continue to provide the very best experiences and education for our pupils. The report truly reflects the high-quality work that takes place across the school every day. Above all, it was our pupils who truly showcased the school at its best. They were exceptional throughout the inspection, and the inspectors were extremely impressed by their manners, attitudes and conduct. Our governing body, parents, carers, and wider community have been incredibly supportive, and this means a great deal to our whole school family.

I have been blown away by the exceptionally high standard of acting and singing this year. We have seen outstanding performances from both our junior production, *Bah Humbug*, and our infant production, *Hey Ewe*. Our pupils and staff have worked tirelessly to bring these productions together. With your continued support, we were able to raise **£1,090**, which will directly benefit our pupils. Thank you for your generosity and encouragement.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has supported the school this year – through donations, volunteering, supporting charities and helping in so many other ways. **There are far too many to name individually, but your support is truly valued.**

As we close for Christmas, the staff and myself would like to thank you all for the generosity shown through cards, gifts and positive comments this term. We would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Please stay safe and enjoy spending time with loved ones. **NADOLIG LLAWEN!**

**Mr Williams**  
Pennaeth / Headteacher

# Uchafbwyntiau Estyn

## Estyn Highlights

Estyn: <https://estyn.gov.wales/education-providers/ysgol-y-llan-whitford-v-p/>

Our Estyn report is now live, and we are extremely pleased with the outcome. The new Estyn format includes a shorter main report and an even more concise parents' report.

All schools receive strengths and areas for development. We are proud to have many key strengths highlighted, including a **Spotlight** for our **curriculum**, which is a tremendous recognition of the quality of teaching and learning across the school. I am incredibly proud and grateful to the staff for their commitment and professionalism.

We received one recommendation, focusing on ensuring pupils have more opportunities to choose how they learn. This is an area we are already working on and will continue to develop.

### Key points

*"A caring school where children feel safe, confident and inspired to learn."*

*"High expectations, engaging learning and strong community values."*

*"Where every child is known, supported and encouraged to succeed."*

*"An inclusive school with excellent teaching, strong wellbeing and inspiring outdoor learning."*

### **Spotlight: Engaging pupils in highly stimulating learning opportunities**

Teachers work together effectively to identify engaging themes and plan a wide range of purposeful activities that challenge, captivate and excite pupils. Staff invest considerable effort in preparing high-quality resources and provide meaningful opportunities for pupils to influence the direction of their learning and develop a strong sense of ownership of their work. This supports pupils to develop highly positive attitudes to learning and engage enthusiastically in the experiences provided



Dros ddysgwyr, dros Gymru  
For learners, for Wales

# Uchafbwyntiau Estyn / Estyn Highlights

## Key Strengths from Our Recent Estyn Inspection (October 2025)

### A Safe, Caring and Nurturing School

- Estyn confirms that Ysgol y Llan provides a **secure, caring and nurturing environment** where pupils feel **safe, valued and happy**.
- Strong emphasis on **wellbeing**, ensuring pupils are confident, settled and ready to learn.
- Pupils demonstrate **excellent behaviour**, positive attitudes and genuine enthusiasm for school life.

### Strong Community and Family Partnerships

- Estyn highlights **strong partnerships with parents, the local church and community groups**.
- Pupils develop a strong **sense of belonging** and actively engage with the local community.
- The school is recognised as an **inclusive learning community** that supports all pupils, including those who may be vulnerable.

### High-Quality Teaching and Learning

- Teachers set **high expectations** and provide **engaging, appropriately challenging lessons**.
- Staff are described as **strong language role models**, using effective questioning and feedback to deepen learning.
- Learning is well paced, purposeful and responsive, helping pupils make **steady and secure progress**.

### Engaging Curriculum that Inspires Learners

- Estyn praised the school for offering **highly stimulating learning experiences** that excite and motivate pupils.
- Staff collaborate extremely well to plan **creative, thematic learning** that meaningfully incorporates pupils' ideas.
- Pupils develop **high levels of engagement, ownership and enjoyment** in their learning.

### Outstanding Learning Environments - Indoors and Outdoors

- Learning environments are described as **stimulating and curiosity-driven**.
- The **outdoor learning area is a particular strength**, supporting independence, exploration and learning in a natural environment.
- High-quality resources enhance learning across the school.

### Strong Literacy, Language and Communication

- Pupils develop **strong oracy skills** and communicate confidently from a young age.
- Reading, writing and phonics are taught effectively, with pupils making good progress in **fluency, comprehension and expression**.
- Welsh language development is well supported, with pupils confidently using a range of sentence patterns and vocabulary.

### Secure Progress in Numeracy and Digital Skills

- Numeracy skills are developed progressively, with pupils applying them confidently in meaningful contexts.
- **Digital competence is a clear strength**, with pupils using technology creatively, responsibly and safely across the curriculum.
- Nearly all pupils demonstrate a **secure understanding of online safety**.

### Strong Pupil Voice and Leadership

- Pupil leadership groups play a **meaningful and influential role** in shaping school life.
- Pupils develop confidence, responsibility and leadership skills through a wide range of roles.
- Digital Champions were highlighted for their **exceptional contribution** to learning and online safety.

### Excellent Support for Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

- Staff know pupils extremely well and **identify additional learning needs quickly and accurately**.
- Targeted interventions and a **dedicated ALN support space** provide calm, purposeful environments for learning and emotional regulation.
- Strong collaboration with external agencies ensures pupils receive the **right support at the right time**.

### Strong Leadership, Governance and Continuous Improvement

- Estyn praised the school's **robust self-evaluation and improvement processes**.
- Governors are highly effective, knowledgeable and provide **appropriate challenge and support**.
- Professional learning is purposeful, well-aligned to school priorities and directly improves outcomes for pupils.



Dros ddysgwyr, dros Gymru  
For learners, for Wales



# Dyddiadau pwysig Important dates



## BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA HAPPY NEW YEAR

- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - Back to school for pupils and Nursery
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - Swimming begins for Year 2-6 children at Holywell
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 - Santes Dwynwen event at Ysgol y Llan- 2pm-3pm
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Year 4-6 Ysgol Bro Carmel for a Music Project.
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> - Y4-6 Drama and Dance workshop
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February - Dodgeball Event at Ysgol y Llan Dosbarth 3 - 1pm-2:30pm
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - Children's Mental Health Week
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - Safer Internet Day
  
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Last day of half term**
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Nursery admissions closing date.
- **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026- Pupils back in school**
  
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> -Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February Nant BH for Dosbarth 3.
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - School Eisteddfod
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - 9-12pm - Music Workshop Dosbarth 3.
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Tag Rugby event
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - World Book Day
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March - Urdd Eisteddfod at Ysgol y Gwynedd
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Science Week
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - Governors meeting
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - Family Celebration event at school 2-3:15pm**
- W/C 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Assessment Week
- W/B Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - Parents' Evening - Classes will have different times - TBC
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March - Tag Rugby at Ysgol Mornant - Dosbarth 3.
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March - Urdd Eisteddfod next round
- **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - Easter Bingo - 5-6:30pm PTA**
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> - Year 4-6 Music Project at Bro Carmel.
  
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - School breaks up for half term**

## Ysgol y Llan VA Primary School

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



# Playgroup Wrap Around Hub

## After-School Club and Wrap-Around Hub

From **Wednesday 7th January**, the After-School Club will be run by **Whitford Playgroup**. There will be no immediate changes for families — timings and prices will remain the same until the new financial year. The only change will be that Playgroup staff will be delivering the provision.

The reason for the change is so we are able to provide additional wrap-around hours in future. We have been working towards these changes for some time.

I would like to sincerely thank **Mrs Jones, Miss Davies and Mrs Julia** for all their hard work in running the After-School Club over the last year. On behalf of the committee and as Headteacher, I am extremely grateful for everything they have done to ensure the provision has run smoothly. Their hard work has allowed us to keep the provision running! I can't thank them enough! All staff will continue to work in school and Mrs Jones will continue to monitor school bookings via SchoolComms. If your child attends school, bookings are to be made via SchoolComms. Playgroup pupils can book through Playgroup. A new tab titled **Whitford Playgroup & Wrap-Around Hub** will appear on SchoolComms and will go live from **7th January 2026**.

## Holiday Club

We are pleased to share that we will be launching a Holiday Club, starting from February half term. Based on the questionnaire shared with families in September, interest is high and places are likely to fill quickly.

Due to it's early stages, we are currently unable to confirm provision for each holiday period for the full week, however, we are able to open for a couple of days. If we have a higher demand, we will then open for longer periods. Our longer-term goal is to open during all school holidays for 5 days a week to support childcare needs. Prices for half-day and full-day sessions will be shared in the new year. I will share another questionnaire with parents in January 2026 and from this, you will then be able to make bookings based on the days we can offer.

**Please note that Holiday Club will only run if we have sufficient interest and are able to cover staffing costs.** Holiday Club places will be offered to our school community first, and then opened to the wider community (**ages 2-11**). Numbers will be capped in line with staffing ratios and age requirements, so it is important that families register interest for **February half** term as soon as possible in January 2026.

To close, I'd like to thank the **Whitford Playgroup staff** — **Mrs Groom, Miss Harwood and Miss Jones** — for their continued hard work in providing high-quality provision. We are delighted to see numbers growing and hope to expand afternoon sessions in the New Year as more children turn two. **Please help spread the word!**

My thanks also go to **Mr Parry**, who serves as treasurer for the After-School Club and Playgroup. Mr Parry volunteers his time and supports the school throughout the year — we are extremely grateful and could not do this without him.



As headteacher I would like to thank the PTA for all their hard work this term. **Mr Boag** has done an excellent job as Chair, alongside **Miss Parry-Gibbins** in her role as Treasurer. The wider PTA team have been a huge support too— selling raffle tickets, gathering prizes and helping with teas and coffees at our events. On the next page you will see a thank you and overview from Mr Boag.

The Year 6 pupils are very grateful for their gifts.



Our pupils have created thank you cards for the PTA



I really hope you all enjoyed the PTA Christmas Fayre last week. It was a great afternoon, and it was clear that everyone had lots of fun. I am delighted to share that, through your kindness and generosity, we raised an incredible £1,100 from the Fayre to add to the school PTA fund. On behalf of myself and the rest of the PTA team, I would like to say thank you for your attendance, tombola prize donations, and contributions to the stalls on the day.

The PTA have purchased and funded personalised Christmas decorations for our Year 6 leavers (pictured below). We believe it is a lovely tradition for Year 6 pupils to have this keepsake during their final Christmas at Ysgol y Llan, and we plan to continue this each year going forward. The PTA also fund the Father Christmas grotto gifts for the children, as well as food and drinks for the school Christmas Party each year.

I would like to thank all of the PTA members and other helpers who very kindly gave their time to set up the Fayre and run the stalls on the day. Your support is truly appreciated by myself and other parents, as without it, the children would not have the opportunity to enjoy events such as this. If you are interested in helping at future events, even if it is just with setting up on the day, please do get in touch and I can add you to our PTA chat group.

Lastly, I would like to recognise and thank the local businesses and organisations below who were so kind in donating prizes for our raffle:

- The Druid Inn
- The Tea Rooms
- Dave Williams Photography
- Banana Ben's
- Infinity
- Merlin Cinema
- Holywell Leisure Centre
- Xplore Science Discovery Centre
- Manorafon Farm Park
- Delyn Gymnastics Club
- Ice Cream Farm
- Zsazsa Fitness
- The Ysgol y Llan Governors



### **A message from Mr Boag**

Please remember, if you are visiting Holywell or Flint Tesco, to collect a handful of blue tokens and place them in the Ysgol y Llan collection. We are keen to win this campaign, having come so far, and to secure the maximum donation from Tesco for the school. We would really appreciate your help in these final weeks to get us over the line with the most tokens.

In the New Year, I will be working with Mr Williams and the PTA members to plan how we further allocate and spend PTA funds for the benefit of the school. We look forward to sharing our ideas with you and welcoming your input to help guide these decisions.

In the meantime, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

# Parcio/ Parking



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are the pupils of Ysgol y Llan, and we have been helping to keep everyone safe by watching how cars park at pick-up and home time. We have noticed a big improvement with the parking over the month! Thank you so much for listening to us.

We have however noticed cars reversing onto the road, which is unsafe. We have also received several complaints from local residents and parents regarding parking along the fence and at the end of the parking areas (see photos attached).

We appreciate that parking can be challenging at Ysgol y Llan; however, these areas must be kept clear as they provide access to nearby driveways and allow vehicles to exit the car park safely and promptly. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe —

we really appreciate it!

From the pupils at Ysgol y Llan



# Presenoldeb /Attendance

100%  
attendance  
this term



A message from  
Mr Williams

Whilst attendance remains one of our school additional priorities for 2025, can I thank all of you who continue to arrive on time at **8:55am** each morning. Punctuality is so important and it helps our day run smoothly. A number of you requested holidays last term. As stated, holidays in term time will be recorded as unauthorised. As headteacher, it is my job to monitor attendance. Frequent absences will have a negative affect on your child's overall attendance and development. Again, if attendance percentages are frequently low, then I will need to discuss this with you and/ or the Attendance Officers at Flintshire.

If you do decide to go ahead with your arrangements please complete the form below for the Headteacher at least four weeks before your intended holiday. Once you have completed the form, please send a message to the school office or to [whhead@hwbcymru](mailto:whhead@hwbcymru) to alert us that your request is waiting for approval.

Current whole school attendance	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
This week	100%	98.1%	99.6%
December	97.3%	98.3%	97.6%
Whole School attendance for September-November	<b>94.7%</b>		
<b>Our school target is 95%</b>			

Attendance certificates have been shared with pupils at the end of term. Attendance did dip slightly in September and October due to holidays being taken, but averages have steadily improved. Our overall school attendance from September to December currently stands at 94.7%. Please continue to work with us to improve this further and help us move back above 95%.

Ysgol y Llan - Application Form for  
Pupil Term Time Leave of Absence  
(2025 - 2026)



*Leave of Absence Form*

<https://forms.office.com/e/TCya4Rb4xL>

# December Highlights

## Uchafbwyntiau Rhagfyr



We started the month reflecting and thinking about Advent in Church. Our pupils lit the candle and started the countdown.

We were invited to sing carols at Plas Derwen in Penyffordd. It was a lovely way to end the term. We can't wait to come back next year! Thank you for the warm welcome and treats!



# December Highlights

## Uchafbwyntiau Rhagfyr



During the term, we held an own-clothes day and cake sale in support of **Alder Hey Children's Hospital**, raising **£200** for this special cause. Earlier in the term, Billie's brother and sister suffered burns, and Alder Hey Hospital provided exceptional care. Billie kindly asked if the school could help raise funds as a way of giving something back, and we were very proud to support her request.

In addition, we raised **£35** for **St Kentigern's Hospice**, with kind support from the **Rotary Club**.

# December Highlights

## Uchafbwyntiau Rhagfyr



Newydd Catering also donated cakes to school for our Estyn Celebrations!  
Diolch yn fawr



*Diolch to Newydd Catering and Mrs Cook for helping to prepare and serve our Christmas dinners. They were very tasty and the children enjoyed themselves very much whilst listening and singing to music.*

# Theatr Clwyd

*We visited Theatr Clwyd to watch the Pantomime. This year's show was 'Cinderella Rock and Roll' and once again, they didn't disappoint. A fantastic performance. The whole school thoroughly enjoyed the show*



*Every year, our pupils take part in the Bishop's Christmas Card Competition. Unfortunately we didn't win this year however, here are our 'highly commended' entries. We have some very talented and creative artists.*



**Congratulations to Whitford Playgroup on achieving a 5-star Food Hygiene Rating. A special well done to Mrs Groom, Supervisor, and the whole team for their excellent work.**





NADOLIG  
LLAWEN  
a blwyddyn  
NEWYDD  
dda



*Our PTA Christmas Fayre was a huge success!*

