



Nadolig Llawen

As we rapidly approach the end of a very busy term at Ysgol Derwen, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

It is lovely to write a festive end of year letter that is not dominated by Covid 19 mitigation and risk assessments or the threat of schools closing early and moving to online learning again!! However, that is not to say that we do not continue to face many educational challenges as a result of the pandemic.

It was fantastic to see so many of you over the past week as the children took to the stage and performed their Christmas Concerts from Monday to Wednesday. The choir also visited the church to sing to the OAP Lunch Club on Wednesday and we all enjoyed a Christmas Dinner on Thursday. This week the children are enjoying the run up to Christmas with discos, parties and hopefully a visit from Santa! Such a contrast to the past two years.

I would like to remind you that school will be closing for the Christmas break on Thursday December 22nd and will reopen for all pupils on Monday January 9th.

I hope that you have a wonderful Christmas break with your families and loved ones and I look forward to seeing you all in 2023!

Raffle

Thank you so much to everyone who bought a raffle ticket over the past two weeks. Thank you also to Mrs Hughes (Teaching Assistant in Year 2) who single-handedly managed to source all the lovely prizes from local businesses, designed and purchased the raffle tickets, wrapped every prize, and helped conduct the draw. Her efforts along with your fabulous support helped raise £803 towards much needed school funds and initiatives.

Change to Year 1 and 2 Pick Up Arrangements from January

Due to the area between the main school and the mobiles now being used daily for outdoor learning for the Lower Foundation, we will be changing the pick-up arrangement for our Year 1 and 2 Classes from Monday January 9th 2023. Throughout this term items left in the outdoor learning area have either gone missing or have been moved/broken during drop off and pick up time. The area is also now full of tripping hazards etc for both parents and children during these very busy periods.

From January, all pupils in Year 1 and 2 will be picked up from the main school yard. This will allow the outdoor learning environment to be used throughout the day and activities and equipment will not need to be moved and put away every afternoon.

The staff will hand the children over to parents in exactly the same manner as they do now. Staff will be on hand on the first day of the new term to direct you and help with the new pick-up arrangements. The side gate onto the main yard will be opened just before 3pm daily.

Children in Years 1 and 2 will still be dropped off at the usual door from January. The side gate will be opened at 8.45am daily.