



**Governors' Annual Report to Parents 2021-2022**

**Adroddiad Blynnyddol y Llywodraethwyr 2021-2022**

Dear Parents / Annwyl Rieni

On behalf of the Governors of Ysgol Derwen it gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the year 2021-22. After the disruptions of the previous 2 years due to Covid it was good to see children get back to full time education and return to some semblance of normality

The school year began with 202 pupils on roll, this is 3 pupils more than at the beginning of the previous school year and 22 pupils below the capacity of the school

Three long standing and much loved Teaching Assistants left the team at Ysgol Derwen during the summer term. Mrs Sally Thomas served the school for over 20 years as a Nursery Nurse and more latterly as a Teaching Assistant in the Lower Foundation. Mrs Mandy Collings had been part of the school for 27 years and left her role as Teaching Assistant in Reception. Mrs Meyrick had been at Ysgol Derwen for over 14 years, initially as a Catering Assistant before transitioning to the role of Teaching Assistant in the Upper foundation department. All three will be deeply missed by the school and all wish them every success, health and happiness in the future, we hope they will keep in touch with the school

This year we welcomed Natalie Russel-Blackburn Perkins to the Governing Body as a parent Governor. We also thanked David Tonks, leaving us after 4 years serving on the Governing Body, again as a Parent Governor

After much disruption and a few project management headaches for Mr Jones the school was able to finish the new building project and complete the move for Little Acorns to take over the facility. As the project drew to an end the school also took the opportunity to develop new wellbeing areas for the children to use as well as providing separate new learning environments for each of the Lower and Upper Foundations. The end results are very impressive and seem to be much appreciated by the children & everyone at the school

Although delayed due to the continuing influence of covid at the start of the school year, sporting activities, after school clubs and extra-curricular activities made a welcome return throughout the year. The Governors would like to thank both staff and parents who give of their time to support the pupils and the school in so many ways. Without your dedication it would be impossible to give the children such a wide range of opportunities and challenges. Thank you all, your help and support is very much appreciated.

Our thanks also go to a small team of volunteers who come into school on a regular basis to give of their time and expertise to help both pupils and staff as well as the continuing support of FODS. Thank you all for your continued support.

The report is full and comprehensive and listed below are some of the highlights.

The Governors look forward to continuing their work with all members of the school community to enable pupils to achieve their full potential in a happy and secure environment at Ysgol Derwen.

Yours sincerely

Chris Turner. Chair of Governors

The following report is full and comprehensive.



**YSGOL SEFYDLEDIG DERWEN**  
**DERWEN FOUNDATION SCHOOL**

*"Happy Together, Learning Forever,  
 Succeeding Wherever  
 we may be"*

**School Governors Annual Report (Wales) Regulations 2021/22**

**GOVERNOR MEMBERS DETAILS**

<u>Chair of Governors</u>	<u>Clerk to Governors</u>
<p><b><u>Mr Chris Turner</u></b>            c/o Ysgol Derwen,            Main Road,            Higher Kinnerton,            Flintshire.            CH4 9AJ            Tel: 01244 660291</p>	<p><b><u>Mrs Alison Petty</u></b>            c/o Ysgol Derwen,            Main Road,            Higher Kinnerton,            Flintshire.            CH4 9AJ            Tel: 01244 660291</p>

**SCHOOL GOVERNORS 2021/2022**

Name	Appointed by	Appointed/Elected	Expiry Date
Mr C. Turner (Chair)	Parent Governor	Elected	25/5/26
Mrs H. Francis (Vice Chair)	Partnership Governor	Appointed	23.3.23
Mr M. Neilson	Partnership Governor	Appointed	28.11.22
Mr R. Jones	Headteacher	Appointed	Ex-officio
Mr M Alport	Partnership Governor	Appointed	10.02.25
Mrs C. Leonard	Partnership Governor	Appointed	21.5.23
Mr M King	Partnership Governor	Appointed	10.02.25
Mrs N Russel - Blackburn Perkins	Parent Governor	Elected	25/5/26
Angela Cottam	Parent Governor	Elected	25.11.24
Marianne Evans	Parent Governor	Elected	25.11.24
Mr M Rishworth	Parent Governor	Elected	25.11.24
Mrs C Atkins	Staff Governor	Elected	25.11.24
Mrs S. King	Teacher Governor	Elected	25.11.24
Mrs A Petty	Clerk To The Governors	Appointed	28.11.22

**SCHOOL STAFF 2021/2022**

Headteacher	Mr R.K. Jones
Deputy Head	Mrs S. King (Year 6)
Teacher	Mrs C Last (Nursery)
Teacher	Mrs K Mathieson (Reception)
Teacher	Miss B Lee (Year 1)
Teacher	Mrs S Taylor (Year 2)
Teacher	Mr L Coppack (Year 3 - 0.6)
Teacher	Mrs J Cartwright (Year 3 - 0.4)
Teacher	Mr L Coppack (PPA - 0.4)
Teacher	Miss H Ellingham (Year 4 )
Teacher	Mrs. R Payne (Year 5)

**Teaching Assistants**

Teaching Assistant	Mrs M Collings (Reception)
Teaching Assistant	Mrs S Thomas (Nursery)
Teaching Assistant	Mrs J Cleave (Year 1)
Teaching Assistant	Mrs C. Atkins (Years 3 &4)
Teaching Assistant	Mrs K Hughes (Year 2)
Teaching Assistant	Mrs C Meyrick
Teaching Assistant	Mrs T. Reynolds (Year 5 & 6)
Teaching Assistant	Miss E Reynolds (1:1 Year 5 )
Teaching Assistant	Mrs L Critchley ( 1:1 Reception)
Midday Supervisory Assistants	Mrs J Cleave/ Mrs K Hughes /Mrs T Reynolds/ Mrs C Atkins/ Mrs Collings

**Administrative Staff**

Secretary/Finance Officer	Mrs A. Edwards
Administrative Assistant	Mrs V. Rowlands
Caretaker	Mr T Bell
Cleaner	Mrs J Challinor

**Kitchen Staff**

Cook	Mrs N Chilton
Kitchen Assistant	Mrs S Haddock
Kitchen Assistant	Mrs N Robinson

<b>IT Technician</b>	Mrs S Dodd
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**Peripatetic Music Staff**

Violin	Mrs J Sammons
Piano	Mr A Griffiths
Singing	Miss R Kirkby
Guitar	Mr T Joy

**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**

We had three longstanding and much-loved Teaching Assistants leaving our team at Ysgol Derwen this year.

Mrs Sally Thomas had been a Nursery Nurse and more recently a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant in our Lower Foundation for 20 years. Mrs Thomas decided that the time was now right for her to retire and spend quality time with her family and grandchildren. We hope that Mrs Thomas will be returning to Ysgol Derwen on a regular basis during her retirement to help with reading groups in the Upper Foundation.

Mrs Mandy Collings also made the decision to leave her post as Teaching Assistant in our Reception Class and also as the Senior Mid-Day supervisor. Mrs Collings started her career at Ysgol Derwen as a 1:1 support before becoming a teaching assistant and has been a constant part of the school for 27 years, mainly working with our Reception children. Unfortunately, after contracting Covid earlier this year, Mrs Collings had to be admitted to hospital with pneumonia. This very distressing event has led Mrs Collings to make the decision that her health is far more important than any job.

Mrs Meyrick also decided that the time was right for her to reassess her life and look for other challenges and spend more time with her family. Mrs Meyrick started working at Ysgol Derwen as a Catering Assistant in the school kitchen before making the transition to Teaching Assistant. She has been employed at Ysgol Derwen for 14 years and for the past few years she has been a very creative influence within the Upper Foundation department.

Everyone associated with Ysgol Derwen will greatly miss all three, but we wish them every success, health and happiness in the years ahead and look forward to hearing about their new exciting futures.

## **FUNDING**

### **Revenue**

We seem to state the following every year but yet again Flintshire primary schools remain one of the poorest funded Authorities with Ysgol Derwen also then coming low down the list when compared to the other schools in Flintshire. Ysgol Derwen has a funding per pupil of approx £3000 (Highest per pupil share in Flintshire = approx. £5000).

Many schools in other areas of Wales fund their pupils at a much higher rate per head than those in Flintshire. This puts considerable strain on those of us who strive to deliver high standards on a decreasing budget but we continue to do so. Despite the desperately poor funding levels we have managed our budget very carefully and have continued to prioritise staffing, but this continues to lead to considerable pressure on the budget. Last year we continued to spend a significant amount per pupil on resources, mainly due to the Covid related grants allocated to the school. It is envisaged that this situation will be even more challenging in the coming years due to further cuts to school budgets.

Due to the geographical location of Ysgol Derwen in a relatively affluent area the school also receives a very small budget allocation for free school meals and deprivation.

(See Appendix 1)

### **Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG)**

The purpose of the Pupil Development Grant is to improve the educational attainment and achievements of pupils who are entitled to free school meals (FSM).

Welsh Government Definition (WG) 2018 - The PDG should be used to support the needs of all children who are or have been eligible for FSM in the previous two years or are looked after. The PDG is intended to provide support to disadvantaged learners to overcome the additional barriers that prevent those from disadvantaged backgrounds achieving their full potential.'

As a school, we will implement the PDG to:

- Develop early literacy and numeracy approaches
- Support all eligible learners, including those who are MAT.
- Track pupils, identify underachievement and use robust intervention strategies.
- Place a high priority on teaching and learning, quality feedback and metacognition.
- Ensure support staff are highly trained and clearly identify the provision they are leading on.
- Develop effective systems and processes for tracking pupil's progress.
- Ensure that all PDG statements are published (school website or forwarded to GwE).

In addition to the above we have used the PDG funding to:

- Purchased Plus 1 and Power of 2 Resources
- Funding for a Teaching Assistant support two afternoons a week for targeted support for groups of children
- Catch Up to help with language and maths.
- RM Maths to help develop maths skills and confidence in maths.
- Toe By Toe - to help with reading and language.
- Taith 360 to help track pupil progress

In 2021-22 Ysgol Derwen were allocated a total Pupil Development Grant of £13,800 (which includes EYPDG). Although this is much lower than most schools in Flintshire, it is significantly higher than in previous years reflecting the social changes taking place in the locally. Ysgol Derwen has reference to PDG in the annual SDP as a vehicle for planning or a comprehensive plan, agreed and monitored by GwE and Flintshire Local Authority. *It is not appropriate for the school to publish a detailed plan as it could identify individual pupils.*

### **Outcomes of the PDG Plan**

In 2021 / 22 the outcomes of the pupils eligible for the PDG were:-

Children who received these interventions have made good progress as shown in :

- Teacher assessment
- National test scores
- Incerts tracking
- Target setting

**Accelerated Learning Grant****Covid Hardship Grant - £5372**

The Welsh Government have provided schools with additional funding to help with the pupil "recovery" process after two years of disruption through Covid and enforced lockdowns. Ysgol Derwen decided to use the additional funds in 21/22 to continue to provide additional support in for our pupils with insecure basic skills.

Additional funding was used to:

- Provide two morning sessions every week with a qualified teacher to provide targeted support to pupils in KS2 .
- Help maintain Teaching Assistant support in KS2 (each class had a 0.5 TA)
- Provide additional (0.2) TA time to help support target groups in Years 1 and 2.
- This has been a huge help especially in the Juniors where pre-Covid we had one Teaching Assistant shared between four classes.

**PUPIL INFORMATION**

Number of pupils on roll at the end of the school year were:-

Year Groups	Age	Number
Nursery	3 - 4 year olds	20 +4 Early Entitlement
Reception	4 - 5 year olds	17
Year 1	5 - 6 year olds	28
Year 2	6 - 7 year olds	18
Year 3	7 - 8 year olds	29
Year 4	8 - 9 year olds	30
Year 5	9 - 10 year olds	29
Year 6	10 - 11 year olds	26
		Full-time - 177 Part-time - 20 +4 Total - 197 (201)

**FOUNDATION PHASE TEACHER ASSESSMENTS RESULTS AND KS 2 TEACHER ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

(see Appendix 2)

Not recorded this year due to Covid 19

**SCHOOL EVENTS & CLASS VISITS (see Appendix 3)****SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES & SESSION TIMES FOR 2022/2023 (see Appendix 4)****ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOL**

As a foundation school, Ysgol Derwen is its own admissions authority. The objective of the Governing Body is to achieve class sizes no larger than the national target of 30. This has proved to be a very challenging objective in previous years with some classes which had resulted in some year groups being taught in mixed age classes and some classes being over capacity. The situation was better last year with three classes being oversubscribed (but below 30 pupils) and all eight classes being taught as single year groups.

The School continues to be very popular, and numbers remain high in certain classes once again. The Governing Body is constantly aware of the potential for over-subscription and monitors the situation carefully year on year by reviewing the school Admissions Policy in line with any WG recommendations.

The school's admissions policy for admission in September 2023 was again reviewed and revised and adopted by the full Governing Body in February 2022.

The school will continue to accommodate pupils in those classes that are, as yet, under capacity and whose parents have expressed a desire for them to be educated here.

The school's admission number for pupils entering the school from Reception age is set at a number of 28.

Pupil numbers do continue to fluctuate with some intakes being oversubscribed and others being low. The school plans to establish a new playgroup through Little Acorns to help attract pupils to Ysgol Derwen and to help plan for future admissions.

**ATTENDANCE INFORMATION****Pupil Attendance****Attendance Figures 2021/2022 (September - July)**

Nursery	84.73%
Reception	93.51%
Year 1	91.38%
Year 2	94.01%
Year 3	93.13%
Year 4	90.40%
Year 5	92.66%
Year 6	92.75%
Whole School	91.57%
School Year 1-Year 6	92.39%

**School Attendance Figures for 2015/2022**

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>96.5%</u>	<u>96.61%</u>	<u>95.9%</u>	<u>95.1%</u>	<u>95.88%</u>	<u>NA*</u>	<u>NA*</u>	<u>92.39%</u>

\* Due to the Covid pandemic, attendance figures were not recorded for the year 2019/20 nor 2020/21.

- Attendance figures for the Autumn term were severely impacted by the Covid outbreak (October 4 to 22). Covid continued to impact attendance throughout the remainder of the year. Certain classes attendance was also heavily impacted by chicken pox and scarlet fever. Holiday requests during term time remain high.
- \* School target for attendance would usually be 95%+. Considering the disruption caused this year due to Covid and other illnesses, attendance at Ysgol Derwen was good = 92.39%

Although the school does notify parents about the negative impact taking children out of school during term time may have on their education, there was a rising trend in the number of parents taking pupils out of school for holidays during the last term of the academic year which was understandable as many families had not been on holiday for two years due to Covid restrictions.

We are pleased with the way most parents responded with regards to requesting holiday leave during term time. However unauthorised absences due to parents taking their children away on frequent holidays during term time or the school not receiving any notification for a child's absence from school does have an impact on the child's education and on school data. In line with Welsh Assembly Government policy we strongly discourage parents from applying for holiday leave at any time when the school is open. Indeed, there is increasing evidence to confirm that the implications for pupil learning are real and adverse, especially for younger pupils. When children are absent from school on holiday during term time it can cause problems such as:

- Your child's education suffers
- Lessons and extra-curricular activities are missed
- Continuity of project work is lost
- The class is generally disrupted, and other pupils may suffer as a result

The trend for taking pupils out of school for holidays continues to increase which impacts upon continuity of learning for all children, not just those who are absent. Under the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations 1995 parents must apply to the Headteacher for permission to remove their children from school during term time. It is not possible for the school to provide useful, alternative curriculum experiences while children are away from school and we would therefore ask all parents to consider this issue carefully.

The Governing Body fully supports the Headteacher in his efforts to improve pupil attendance and agreed that a maximum of 10 days non-medical absence will be authorised at the Headteacher's discretion unless there are, in the Headteacher's judgement, exceptional circumstances.

The Attendance Policy is reviewed and if needed, updated annually.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Due to the Covid pandemic, school closures and restrictions on gatherings etc. the usual programme of events provided by the school was greatly restricted. Each class performed a Christmas Concert which was shared with parents via a video.

Year 2 end of Foundation Phase and Year 6 Leavers assemblies were possible for the first time since Covid restrictions were introduced in March 2020. Both classes performed in the main school hall to an audience made up of parents and family members.

In July the Ysgol Derwen Drama Group staged a fantastic performance of "The Bee Musical" in the school hall to an audience of parents and family members.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS**

Due to Covid restrictions Ysgol Derwen did not participate in many inter school events etc due to the events not taking place.

- Ysgol Derwen did however participate in organised hockey and tennis competitions in the summer term and the pupils involved performed to a very high standard.
- Year 6 participated in a very enjoyable triathlon event held at Mold Alun school. The whole class took part and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to try a different sport.
- The annual whole school sports day took place for the first-time in three years with many families joining the children on the school field for a throughout enjoyable day.
- Year 6 enjoyed a fun filled day on their "leavers" activity day canoeing down the Menai Straits.

## **School Organisation**

Ysgol Derwen is an English Medium School where Welsh is taught as a second language and incidental Welsh is used daily in a number of situations throughout the school. Derwen Primary School is open to girls and boys aged 3+ to 11 years. Children are arranged in classes according to age, from Nursery to Year 6. Each teacher is responsible for teaching all subjects to one class but also takes responsibility for the development of one or more curriculum areas, giving guidance to colleagues and organizing resources throughout the school.

Classes are grouped according to age in all classes and additional teaching assistants have been employed to support pressure points in pupil numbers. Our Nursery / Reception and Years 1 / 2 classes share resources and areas of learning and are called Lower and Upper Foundation respectively.

Occasionally teachers may exchange classes in order to give specialist tuition. Children are taught as a class, in groups, in mixed ability classes and are also encouraged individually to progress to the limit of their capabilities. Thus, one can find pupils working at different levels of attainment all within one group.

Ysgol Derwen has very strong links with Castell Alun High School and works closely with the High School and all consortium primary schools to aid transition and to raise standards in Maths, English, Welsh and Science. The school has also over the past year started working on joint initiatives with schools from other local authorities.

Additional Needs are the responsibility of each class teacher in liaison with the school's AN Co-Ordinator. Children with additional needs follow individual plans. More Able and Talented (MAT) pupils are dealt with in a similar manner.

Each class has designated PE or Games sessions timetabled during the school day. These lessons can take place in the school hall or outside on the school yard and field. The school also offers a wide variety of after school clubs in various sports and occasionally use the expertise of external sports coaches.

Pastoral care and safeguarding is the responsibility of all staff under the overall supervision of the Headteacher.

## **Additional Needs**

The system for supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disability in Wales is changing. From September 2021, the Welsh Government introduces a new, simpler and more responsive system of meeting the needs of children with special educational needs or disabilities. The new system puts the learner at the heart of everything that happens. It will be brought in gradually over the next few years (2021 -2024). The school is currently working very closely with Castell Alun and the cluster primary schools on a joint project to further improve provision for our most able pupils and to prepare for the new AN Code.

The school's aim is to allow all pupils, where possible, to study the Curriculum for Wales and to be included in all activities. Pupils who are identified as having additional learning provision will have their need met through differentiated work within the classroom. Children with complex additional learning needs may require an Individual Development Plan to help them achieve their potential.

The school makes a significant contribution from its budget to support ALN. A small amount of additional resources, which are over and above the school's own provision, are met by Flintshire L.A.

Pupils with physical disabilities have full access to all buildings and their resources.

### **School organisation with regards to Additional Learning Needs (ALN)**

Children with ALN are supported mostly by the class teacher either through differentiated work during class lessons or during additional withdrawal sessions.

Children with additional needs may also be given additional support during a withdrawal session with a teacher or Teaching Assistant who work closely under the guidance of the class teachers and the ALNCO (Additional Needs Coordinator).

For pupils with more complex needs, Individual Development Plans (IDPs) are drawn up by the class teacher, ANCO, support staff, pupil, parents and any outside agencies involved with the child. These IDP's are reviewed annually and new targets set.

Children who are identified as having insecure basic skills through the school's tracking system may also receive support through the Catch Up programme or RM Maths.

Children with physical disabilities who live within the village have priority for admittance in the Schools Admissions Policy as long as the school can fully cater for the child's disabilities. Pupils with physical disabilities have full access to all resources and buildings which are on one level.

Our Governor with responsibility for Additional Needs and Looked After Children (LAC) is Mrs A Cottam.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

The school has been very busy with regards to improving the health and fitness of the children and currently hold Phase 5 of the Healthy Schools Scheme and is awaiting confirmation on achieving Phase 6. Help from parents in aiding to achieve these awards is always welcome.

The Healthy Schools Council had been working hard on their action plan aiming to achieve the next Phase of the Healthy Schools Scheme and help encourage and promote healthy eating across the school. The daily snack in the Foundation Phase comprises of fruit and vegetables along with a drink of water or milk. The aim is to instil this further to all children in KS2. Our catering team continue to produce excellent nutritionally balanced meals every lunch time with a very high percentage of pupil's choosing to have paid school dinners.

Ysgol Derwen has also continued to invest in developing the school grounds Forest School area. This area of the grounds had become very overgrown due to the new build and the school not having access to the school field for most of the year. Contractors were used to make the site safe in readiness for the children to start using again at the end of the summer term.

All pupils are encouraged to participate in the daily mile initiative at the end of each lunch time.

### **Healthy Eating at Ysgol Derwen**

Children are encouraged to take healthy snacks in the Foundation Phase and KS2 pupils are encouraged to bring in healthy snacks. The importance of healthy eating is regularly discussed in science and PSE lessons. It is also discussed during school council and healthy council meetings.

The school sends home the daily lunch menus and the choices are also online for parents' information.

### **School Security**

The presence of all visitors to the school is recorded on a 24-hour basis. Our CCTV system means that we have one of the safest schools in the area and have managed to create a very secure environment whilst not detracting from the welcoming atmosphere that we wish to foster. Our CCTV Policy is annually reviewed and updated if necessary.

### **School Policies and Curriculum**

School policies are reviewed and amended on a rolling programme by the staff and the Committees of the Governing Body. In view of the new curriculum changes, new policies were drafted in readiness for the introduction of the New Curriculum for Wales. New draft policies were adopted for the six areas of learning.

A new curriculum vision policy was drawn up utilising the views of staff, pupils, parents and governors. As a result of this process the school adopted a new mission statement and developed a new curriculum in incorporating new school values.

Ysgol Derwen School Mission Statement - *"Happy Together, Learning Forever, Succeeding Wherever we may be"*



**School Values:**

- Happy and Friendly
- Kind and Caring
- Respectful and Empathetic
- Resilient and Determined
- Inclusive and Unique
- Positive Mindset
- Community Focused

**School Environment**

Some noticeable additions to the school environment this year include:

- Classes continue to be painted as part of the regular upkeep of the school building.
- Pupil cloakrooms were painted.
- More laptops were purchased to help deliver the curriculum.
- Six new interactive flat screens were installed into the Year 1 to Year 6 classrooms.

As outdoor learning is an essential part of the new curriculum it is very important that the school ensures it provides high quality outdoor provision on the school grounds. Much work was undertaken to enhance the outdoor learning environment. Using funds from Welsh Government grants and school reserves.

**Lower Foundation Learning Environment**

Located in the same place as the previous provision between the two mobiles. This project included a new all-weather surface, new storage, a shelter for sand and water activities and a play tunnel. The gazebo was already in place from the current provision.

**Upper Foundation Learning Environment**

Located behind the new build. This was a much bigger project as the plans replaced the old outside learning environment which was destroyed when the new build was located over it.

A natural mound has been used to mark the boundary between the upper Foundation outside environment and the school field. This mound was constructed with waste soil from the new build and has an opening to allow direct access onto the school field. This project had a very natural feel by retaining most of the trees from the existing orchard. It features a large outside working shelter, a construction zone, planters, mud kitchen, bug hotel and child friendly storage.

**Wellbeing Area on Yard**

Following discussions with the pupil leadership group, they demonstrated a desire to have a quiet area on the yard for children who don't want to run around or play physical games. They also wanted more places for children to sit down during play times. The headteacher shared the children's ideas with the company who are due to install the Foundation Phase outdoor areas at the school and these ideas were converted into a visual plan which was shared with the children. The plans were accepted by the children and the area was installed in April.

It included:

- Astroturf for all weather usage
- Bench tables with game boards incorporated
- Sensory planters to attract nature
- Storage for quiet activities e.g. cards, board games, dolls, toy cars etc
- Seating benches

**School Toilets**

There are three toilet blocks within the school which are used by Foundation Phase and KS2 pupils. They are maintained and cleaned daily by the qualified caretaking and cleaning staff employed by the school. New energy efficient hand dryers have been installed in every toilet block which should help cut down on a lot of non-recyclable paper waste the school was producing. The school follows the national policy on care and maintenance of the school toilets (Bog Standard Policy).

**Governing Body Expenses**

The Governing Body did not use any of its allocated expenses for the academic year 2020/2021. The clerk did receive payments for her role in line with national policy.

**Governing Body Targets**

The 2020/21 targets were partly achieved but as they are of paramount importance to the future success of the school, some will again feature largely in the targets for 2021/2022

**2021/2022**

1. To assist in maintaining a sustainable financial position.
2. To strengthen curriculum links between the teaching staff and the governors by having regular learning walks (to include looking at books and talking to learners) in order to familiarise themselves with the learning environment, the teaching of the new curriculum and progression of skills across the school
3. To monitor the wellbeing of staff and pupils in the school.

**Key Stage 2 Curriculum Targets and Outcomes for 2020 / 2021**

	Target	Actual
English (Level 4 or above)	NA*	NA*
Maths (Level 4 or above)	NA*	NA*
Science (Level 4 or above)	NA*	NA*
Core Subject Indicator (L4 in all 3 subjects)	NA*	NA*

\*Due to Covid restrictions and lockdown no measures were recorded for the year 2020/2021

**LINKS WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY**

All links with the wider community were severely impacted by Covid regulations and guidance. It is hoped that Ysgol Derwen will be able to re-establish these links in the 22/23 academic year.

**Liaison With The High School**

Relationships between our school and Castell Alun High School have continued to flourish despite Covid restrictions with the cluster meeting regularly on Teams. Pupils who transfer to high schools are able to integrate quickly and comfortably. The Castell Alun Consortium of Schools (comprising the high school and seven primary schools) has met regularly to foster curriculum and administrative links between the schools and to work towards agreed targets as set out in the Transition Plan.

We are very fortunate at Ysgol Derwen to have very strong representation from the school for the four Castell Alun Curriculum working groups. All participating members of staff give up much of their own time in addition to their school duties to help ensure that all the children in the Castell Alun consortium have common assessment tasks which are moderated by all schools. This also helps ensure that the children in Year 6 have a smooth transition to High school.

**Professional Links**

The Headteacher is currently Chair of the Castell Alun Consortium Headteachers Group which meets regularly to ensure that the schools in the consortium work very closely together in trying to raise standards across all schools, share good practice and also plans all transition work and activities.

The Headteacher also represents the Castell Alun Consortium on Flintshire County Councils Headteachers Federation and is currently the chair. In addition to this the Headteacher sits on the County Admissions and Finance Forums.

These links provide useful and significant additional information and insight into local and national education scenes which greatly benefit Ysgol Derwen.

**School to School Collaboration**

Planned projects with other schools outside the Cluster had to be delayed due to Covid regulations.

**Castell Alun Collaborative Working**

There are a number of well-established working groups which work incredibly hard to improve standards across the consortium and in the individual schools. The focus for the groups is decided by the heads annually following a review of standards across the consortium and with particular regards to the Year 7 intake each year. Common areas for development are discussed and these can then become the focus for each of the working groups.

Unfortunately, collaborative working in the following areas had<sup>11</sup> to be suspended for the 21/22 year.

- Castell Alun Maths Group
- Castell Alun English
- Castell Alun Science Group
- Castell Alun Welsh Group
- Castell Alun MAT

**Castell Alun Additional Needs Reform** - This group was established to try and ensure a common approach across the cluster to the new Additional Needs code which will be implemented from September 2021. This group continued to meet throughout the year and the cluster is in a good position to successfully incorporate the new code into current practice.

### **New Curriculum For Wales Working Group**

Much work has been undertaken this term to try and ensure the successful introduction of the New Curriculum in September 2022.

This included:

- Staff have attended training both cluster lead and through GwE.
- Staff training on SeeSaw . The school incorporated Seesaw into it recording processes which should further improve links between teachers and parents.
- A new planning templates were devised
- Monitoring of the curriculum took place throughout the year.
- Work took place to highlight the importance of the Four Core purposes with a child's design to be chosen as a symbol to be used in whole school planning.
- Cluster deputies met regularly to continue a common approach to the new curriculum .
- Cluster Welsh training took place.
- Taith 360 training was undertaken ahead of it being used as an assessment tool for the school.
- Training sessions took place throughout the year to audit individual Areas of Learning (AOL). These sessions gave staff the opportunity to discuss planning for each AOL along with devising AOL policies.
- The New Curriculum was made visible to all pupils through new display boards and class based sessions.
- Parents, Governors, Pupils and Staff were consulted on what values were most important to the community of Higher Kinnerton in designing the new curriculum for Ysgol Derwen. Staff met to collate all available information in order to help plan for and deliver a new and exciting curriculum to our pupils. This process was very beneficial as it made the whole school think about what we offer and what we can do to improve future provision. It also gave us the opportunity to reflect on the current school mission statement and the school vision and values and to make a change which better reflects the school, the community and the new curriculum in 2022.
- All teachers worked together to design the new curriculum and to write policies, plan, resource etc.
- Ysgol Derwen is currently delivering a curriculum which is very much in line with the demands and expectations of the new curriculum.
- The New Curriculum for Wales is due to be implemented in September 2022.

### **Pre-School provision**

Unfortunately, the Under-Fives group has ceased so there is currently no per-school provision in the village. Sadly this has had a negative effect on pupil numbers and the transition of pupils entering the nursery class.

Ysgol Derwen has however extended our provision for our nursery pupils with the opening of Little Acorns which provided wrap around care for our Nursery children from 11.30am to 3pm daily. The school is planning on providing full wrap around care to include Early Entitlement, Pre School provision and holiday clubs for the pupils of Ysgol Derwen.

The school submitted a bid to Welsh Government during the Autumn Term 2019 for funding to help provide full wrap around care for the pupils and families in Higher Kinnerton. The School was overjoyed to discover that the bid had been successful, and the school had been awarded significant funds towards a new build/extension to provide full wrap around care for the village.

Work on the new build finally started in September 2021. The work associated with the new build created many H&S issues throughout the year with the keys finally being handed over in April and Little Acorns moving into their new home in June. Even when the keys were handed over there remained many H&S issues resulting for the work which prevented the school using the top yard and the school field until the end of the academic year.

Throughout this period the site needed to be monitored on a daily basis depending on the work taking place and site traffic. The lack of outdoor space for children has created many organisational issues to the usual school day e.g. staggered playtimes and lunchtimes, separate lunch sittings in hall for Foundation Phase and KS2, Outdoor PE Lessons. The Upper Foundation had no access to the outdoor areas designated for them and there was no access to the school field until July. PE lessons in the Hall were also restricted as the furniture to be used in the new build has already been delivered and was stored on one side of the hall with tables, resources etc for breakfast and after school club stored on the other side. This has also restricted the space available for tables during lunch time. While the building work was taking place, the use of the school hall for any other activities or events is not possible. The new build has been very time consuming for the headteacher.

Little Acorns now has a new base and aim for full wrap around care at Ysgol Derwen which will include:

- Breakfast Club (7.45 am to 8.55am)
- After School Club (End of the school day until 6pm)
- Nursery Plus (11.30am to 3pm)
- Early Entitlement (10 hours a week)
- Pre School Provision
- Holiday Clubs

#### Friends of Derwen School (FODS)

Due to Covid restrictions, FODS have not been able to hold any large events for the full year. It is hoped that the committee will start planning to raise much needed funds in the coming year as long as the Covid situation improves.

#### Parent Helpers

We would like to thank all those parents and other adults who have supported the school so willingly and ably over the last twelve months. Unfortunately, opportunities to support the school were limited due to Covid.

#### Other Organisations

The school has links to support and work alongside the following organisations but again very few opportunities were available during the 21/22 school year:

- Higher Kinnerton Community Council
- Higher Kinnerton Church
- Higher Kinnerton Senior Citizens by providing a monthly meal at the village church
- Other local village groups
- Kinnerton Oaks Football Club who play some of their home matches on the school field
- Castell Alun High School
- Neighbouring Primary Schools
- Mold and Buckley Sports Association
- Wrexham Football Club
- Dragon Sports
- Community Police
- North Wales Fire Service
- Glyndwr University, Bangor University, Deeside College and Chester College.
- Tesco
- TATA Steel

#### THE SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

Some revisions and additions to the content of the school prospectus have been made and the new prospectus is available to anyone requiring a hard copy from the school office.

The new prospectus is also available to all on the schools new website under the downloads section.

#### APPENDIX 1

##### School Budget Financial Year 2021 / 2022

<b>Income</b>	<b>Financial Year End 2022</b>
<b>Delegated Budget</b>	<b>£706493</b>
<b>Other LEA Grants</b>	<b>£94668- Total</b> <b>(Includes Foundation Phase Grant Pupil Deprivation Grant and School Effectiveness Grant)</b> <b>£52374 - Foundation</b> <b>£42294 - EIG/PDG</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>£61575</b>

	(Professional Learning Grant/Reimbursement for supply insurance/LAC funding/Cymraeg Campus Fund/Cluster Funding/NQT Funding/ GwE Funding/Bank Interest/rates/Revenue Maintenance Grant / Covid Response Grant / Recovery Grant / Early Entitlement / Winter Grant / ALN Grant)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£862736</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>Staff Costs</b>	<b>£782921</b>
<b>Premises</b>	<b>£26540</b>
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>	<b>£77956</b>
<b>Travelling expenses for Governing Body</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£887417</b>
<b>Excess of Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>-£24681</b>

#### APPENDIX 2

##### Foundation Phase Teacher Assessments for 2021 / 2022

An average Yr 2 pupil will be expected to achieve Outcome 5.

Outcome 6 is an exceptionally good result in the Foundation Phase.

- ◆ At any one time pupils are likely to reach a higher level in some subjects than in others.
- ◆ TA means Teacher Assessment.
- ◆ FPI means Foundation Phase Indicator (Percentage of pupils who achieve Outcome 5 or above in all three areas of learning in the Foundation Phase).

End of Year assessments and the awarding of Outcomes did not take place in 2020/21 due to Covid 19 restrictions.

#### APPENDIX 2 (Continued)

##### Ysgol Derwen / Derwen Foundation School

##### Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessments for 2021/ 2022

An average Yr 6 pupil would be expected to achieve Level 4.

- ◆ Level 5 is an excellent result at KS2.
- ◆ Level 6 is achieving at KS3 standards i.e. exceptionally good
- ◆ At any one time pupils are likely to reach a higher level in some subjects than in others.
- ◆ TA means Teacher Assessment.
- ◆ CSI means Core Subject Indicator (Percentage of pupils who achieve level 4 or above in all three subjects in KS2).

End of Year assessments and the awarding of Levels did not take place in 2020/21 due to Covid 19 restrictions.

#### APPENDIX 3

##### School Events and Class Visits 2021/2022

It's been a long time since we could share exciting events taking place at school due to Covid restrictions.

##### **September to December**

- Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup> - School open for pupils
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October- Parents Evening on School Cloud
- Friday November 5<sup>th</sup> - Year 5&6 Theatre Workshop - Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and The Tempest.

- Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup> - Upper Foundation Visit <sup>14</sup>to Chester Zoo
- Monday November 22<sup>nd</sup> - PC Stu visited Years 2, 4 and 6
- Thursday November 25<sup>th</sup> - Pupils in reception to Year 6 had flu vaccinations
- Wednesday December 8<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Dinner
- Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Party
- Tuesday December 21<sup>st</sup> - School closes for Christmas

#### January to April

- January 6 & 7 - Planning and Preparation Days allocated by the Welsh Government to help schools ahead of another Covid impacted term.
- January 10<sup>th</sup> - School open to all pupils
- February 18<sup>th</sup> - School closed for half term (School was actually closed on this day due to a national decision to close all educational establishments due to a severe weather warning for wind)
- February 28<sup>th</sup> - Years 5 & 6 held a World War II theme day. Children dressed up as evacuees and had a day of activities planned which included talks by an evacuee and a war historian.
- March 1<sup>st</sup> - School celebrated St David's Day
- March 11<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day event
- March 15<sup>th</sup> - PC Stu visited Years 2, 4 & 6
- March 18<sup>th</sup> - School participating in Red Nose Day fundraiser
- March 21<sup>st</sup> - Year 5 & 6 Educational visit to Xplore Science - Wrexham
- April 6<sup>th</sup> - Year 4 Educational Visit to Manchester Airport
- April 8<sup>th</sup> - School Closes for Easter

#### May to July

- Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup> - May day
- Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Year 5/6 Hockey Tournament
- May 3,4 & 5 - Parents Evenings (Held in person at the school for the first time in two years)
- Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> - Whole school performance of Sword in The Stone
- Monday May 8<sup>th</sup> - Year 5 & 6 visit to Blue Planet Aquarium
- Monday May 16<sup>th</sup> - Start of Wellbeing Fortnight \*
- Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup> - Platinum Jubilee Party
- Friday May 27<sup>th</sup> - School Closes for Half Term
- Monday June 6<sup>th</sup> - School Open
- Monday June 6<sup>th</sup> - Start of Ysgol Derwen Business Project \*\*
- Friday June 10<sup>th</sup> - Guardians of The Forest Workshop for Year 4
- Week Beginning Monday June 13<sup>th</sup> - Welsh National Tests (Years 2 to 6)
- Monday June 13<sup>th</sup> -PC Stu visited Years 2, 4 and 6.
- Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup> - Tennis Festival @ Penyffordd
- Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> - Business Week Stall Presentations and sale of goods
- Monday June 20<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 participating in a triathlon
- Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup> - Zoolab visited Ysgol Derwen to work with Year 4
- Wednesday June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sports Day
- Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 Swimming Party Treat
- Week Beginning June 27<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 Bikeability course
- Monday June 27<sup>th</sup> - Year 1 and 2 Visit to Manchester Airport
- Tuesday June 28<sup>th</sup> - Some Year 5 & 6 pupils took part in a child's voice / wellbeing day at Erddig
- Tuesday July 5<sup>th</sup> - Castell Alun Year 6 parents meeting at Castell Alun @7pm
- Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup> - Nursery Class stayed for lunch with parents
- Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 Transition Day to Castell Alun
- Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> - Transition morning for classes Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5.
- Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> - Year 3 Visit to International Eisteddfod in Llangollen
- Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> - Performance of "The Bee Musical" in the school hall @ 5.30pm (Ysgol Derwen Drama Group)
- Friday July 8<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 canoeing trip on the Menai Straits
- Monday July 11<sup>th</sup> - Year 2 End Of Foundation Phase Service @ 2pm
- Monday July 11<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 Leavers Service @ 5.30pm in the school hall
- Wednesday July 13<sup>th</sup> - School finished for pupils for the Summer break

\*Wellbeing Fortnight - The whole school undertook in many events to help with physical and mental wellbeing provided by both school staff and external agencies.

**\*\* Business Fortnight**

The whole school took part in a very successful and enjoyable Business Fortnight. Children had to choose products they wanted to sell during our business project market which took place between 3.05pm and 4.15pm on Thursday June 16 on the school yard. Classes had to cost materials to make their products, plan how to make them and decide how much they were going to sell their goods for. Some fantastic cross curricular activities took place across all classes throughout the project and the enthusiasm, enjoyment and knowledge of the children was outstanding. Any profits made during the market sale went directly back to the class and the children will be able to decide how to spend the funds.

**APPENDIX 4****Our daily timetabled teaching time is:-**

Nursery - 9am to 11.30am

Foundation - 8.55am to 11.55am and 12.55pm to 3.05pm.  
Infants have breaks amounting 90 minutes per day.

Juniors - 8.55am to 11.55am and 12.55pm to 3.20pm  
Juniors have breaks which amount to 83 minutes per day

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2022-2023****AUTUMN TERM 2022**

<b>Staff Training Day</b>	<b>Thursday 1 September</b>
<b>Staff Training Day</b>	<b>Friday 2 September</b>
Autumn Term Opens	Monday 5 September
Half Term Closes	Thursday 27 October
<b>Staff Training Day</b>	<b>Friday 28 October</b>
<b>Staff Training Day</b>	Monday 7 November
Half Term Opens	Tuesday 8 November
Term Closes	Thursday 22 December
<b>Staff Training Day</b>	<b>Friday 23 December</b>

**SPRING TERM 2023**

Spring Term Opens	Monday 9 January
Half Term Closes	Friday 17 February
Half Term Opens	Monday 27 February
Term Closes	Friday 31 March

**SUMMER TERM 2023**

Term Opens	Monday 17 April
<b>May Day Bank Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 1 May</b>
<b>Half Term Closes</b>	Friday 26 May
Half Term Opens	Monday 5 June
Term Closes	Wednesday 19 July
<b>Staff Training Day</b>	<b>Thursday 20 July</b>