

Derwen News April 20

Welcome Back!

It has been lovely to welcome all the children back to Ysgol Derwen after the Easter break and I hope you all had a restful time with your families.

Health and Wellbeing

The health and wellbeing of all staff and children is a very important aspect of school life at Ysgol Derwen. Over the past couple of years, the school has invested in enhancing the outdoor learning environment at school by:

- Remodelling the Lower Foundation outdoor learning environment**
- Establishing a brand-new outdoor environment for Upper Foundation**
- Installed a new wellbeing area on the school yard for children to play quiet games**
- Installed benches for children to sit and chat during play times**
- Redesigned and enhanced the quiet corner on the school yard to help promote wellbeing**
- Purchased additional games for children to use during play times**

The first two projects helped the school deliver the curriculum in an outdoor environment.

All the other above projects took place following suggestions from pupils at school who wanted more areas to use at play times away from the physical games that take place on the yard. It is lovely to see these areas being used daily and we will be continuing to try and enhance them by planting wild flowers and plants to help encourage nature and create sensory zones.

The next project the children are now working on is to create a new wellbeing / sensory area on the school field. This area will be situated between the trim trail and the forest school site. The Eco Council have been working with Angela Done to draw up plans and

have decided that they would like to create the new area using community support and by using predominately recycled materials.

To help achieve their goal of having the area installed and in use as soon as possible, the Eco Council has put together a short video outlining what they would like from the local community. If you feel you can support the Eco Council with this project, please let me know so we can arrange delivery and safe storage of materials while the project is taking place.

Later in the term the Eco Council will be asking for some support to help install the area i.e. parent muscle power!

Please use the link below to see a short video from the Eco Council:

<https://vimeo.com/818692991/5dd56b3e51>

Any support with this project would be much appreciated.

Can you help?

We are working on a Mindfulness Garden project with our children. We are always looking to source some materials/resources if anybody can ever help with anything unwanted/spare? We can make use of mostly anything and it is magical to see the children come up with ideas and use their pupil voice. See the suggested list below and contact myself/school if you can assist.



Planting Seeds

The Community Council has provided packs of seeds for the children to take home to encourage bees and butterflies. Each family should receive a pack of either giant sunflower seeds or wild flower seeds to plant at home.

Instructions for planting will appear in the April edition of the village newsletter.

If families are successful in growing either the sunflower or the pollinator seeds they are welcome to enter the village competitions but there is no requirement for them to do so. Details of how to

enter the sunflower competition should be contained within the individual envelopes with the seeds.

If you wish to enter the pollinator garden competition parents just need to send their name, address and contact number via email to seeds@higherkinnerton.org.uk

There is great info on growing sunflower seeds on the Gardener's World site, including growing them with small children:

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/how-to-grow-sunflowers/>

Thank you for your continued support

R Jones