

Derwen News – September 26

FODS Re Launch

I am very pleased to inform you that following the FODS relaunch meeting last week, a new committee was formed to help lead Ysgol Derwen raise much needed funds and organise events for the school and community. The committee of four will be seeking the help of as many parents as possible to help organise and run events so please support the new FODS in any way you can.

They have already started planning for a school disco and a Christmas Fair this term and further details and dates will be shared with you soon.

MacMillan Coffee and Cake - Friday 6th October.

You are all welcome to join us on Friday October 6th as we hold our annual MacMillan Coffee and Cake Fundraiser.

We would be very grateful for any donations of cakes that we can sell during the day (homemade or shop bought). If you can help support this event by donating some cakes, please drop them off at school from Thursday October 5th (shop bought) and Friday morning October 6th for homemade.

Please also help us by environmentally friendly by bringing along your own reusable coffee mugs if you have them. We will have some cups for those who do not have one!

The coffee sessions will take place in the school hall and your child can be released from class to join you .

Foundation Phase - 9.15am to 10.45am

Key Stage 2 - 1.30pm - 3pm

If you have a child in both key stages, then you may attend at the most convenient time for you.

If you are unable to attend either session then please send your child with a donation and we will give them a cake, subject to availability at the end of the sessions.

However, if your child has a food allergy, please could you send them with their own cake as we cannot take responsibility for cakes that are made outside of school.

We are looking forward to welcoming you into the school and for helping us raise some much-needed funds for a fantastic cause.

Harvest Appeal

We will be again supporting the Flintshire Foodbank for our Harvest Appeal this year. With the cost-of-living crisis worsening with each week, there is an expectancy that the Flintshire Foodbank will be supporting far more families than usual in the coming months.

Any donations of food or UHT milk will be collected up until Thursday October 26th when the school closes for half term. Please send any donations to school from next Monday, October 9th.

Parents Evening

Our Autumn term parents' evenings have been planned for:

- **Tuesday October 10**
- and
- **Wednesday October 11.**

Both sessions will take place in the school between 3.30pm and 6pm and the appointments booking system will be open in the coming days. I will email you to notify you when the system is live along with instructions on how to book a slot to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher.

If you would prefer a video meeting with the class teacher, please contact them directly once the booking system is live and they will do their best to accommodate you.

If you have changed your email or telephone number recently please ensure that you inform the school office of those changes as soon as possible so we can update our system.

Digital Café Session 2

In order to try and reach out into the community, Miss Ellingham and our Pupil Digital Leads will be holding their first half termly Digital Café of the school year on Wednesday October 25th in the school.

The digital leaders will be using the skills they developed in the digital hero training to help members of the community increase their confidence with using different types of technology. These sessions were very well supported by the community last year and it was fantastic to see our pupils supporting senior citizens with any IT issues.

The session will run from 3.30 – 4.30pm.

The aim of the sessions will be to help any senior citizens within the village, or grandparents of our pupils, who would like some support with digital technology. Pupils will be able to help demonstrate common tasks such as writing and sending emails, how to take part in video calls/ meetings, working with Word/ Excel or any other issues they may need support with.

Please help us make this initiative a success by sharing this information with any senior citizen who may need some technical support. The sessions are also planned as social / wellbeing events.

Pupil Voice

Chess Club

Following on from the success of the pupil led card exchange club which frequently attracts up to 40 pupils every Friday lunchtime, a group of children from the school would now like to start a lunchtime Chess Club.

The club will take place on Wednesday lunchtimes initially for pupils in Years 5 & 6. Once the club becomes established it is hoped that we can invite senior citizens from the village to come into school to play chess against our pupils.

We currently have 7 chess sets so if your child in Years 5 & 6 would like to bring in their own set for the sessions we are happy for them to do so.

Healthy Snack

Children from the School Council were active last term in trying to help make Ysgol Derwen an even healthier school by encouraging the children to have healthy snacks at play times.

Most children in the Foundation Phase already eat a healthy snack through school and have a drink of milk.

Many children in the juniors were eating snacks with a lot of sugar or salt in them. The School Council started an initiative after the May half term to encourage the junior children to eat a healthy snack during morning break every Monday to Thursday.

As a treat the children had a treat day every Friday if children want to.

Suggestions for a healthy snack:

- Ø Fruit sliced**
- Ø Fruit pots**
- Ø Certain cereal bars**
- Ø Vegetable sticks**
- Ø Yoghurts**
- Ø Water**

The initiative was very successful last term and the School Council are hoping that we can all help them continue this initiative into the new school year.

Dates For The Term

September

- Tuesday 26 – PC Stu (Years 2,4 & 6) AM**
- Wednesday 27 - Year 3 and 4 visit to Liverpool Museum**
- Thursday 28 - Year 1 and 2 Visit to Bickley Farm**

October

- **Monday 2 - Start of Estyn Inspection**
- **Tuesday 3- Xplore Lego Workshop – Year 5**
- **Thursday 5 – Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 6)**
- **Friday 6 – McMillan Coffee Fundraiser**
- **Monday 9 - Principality Savings Workshop - Year 1 to 4**
- **Tuesday 10 – Parents Evening 3.30-6pm (More details to follow)**
- **Wednesday 10 – Parents Evening 3.30-6pm**

- **Wednesday 10 - Spectrum - Year 5 and 6 - Healthy Relationships (all day)**

- **October 16/17/18 - PGL - Year 5 and 6**
- **Thursday 19 - Spectrum - Year 6 - Appropriate/inappropriate images**
- **Monday 23 - Year 1 and 2 visit to Dangerpoint**
- **Tuesday 24 – PC Stu Assembly (Halloween/Fireworks)**
- **Wednesday 25 - Spectrum Year 6 - Gender stereotypes**

- **Wednesday 25 - Digital Café Session 1**

- **Thursday 26 – School closes for pupils**
- **Friday 27 – Training day**

November

December

- **Friday 1 – CA Football & Netball Tournament PM**
- **Friday 8 – Christmas Concert for senior citizens PM**
- **Monday 11 – Christmas Concert – Year 5 & 6 @ 2pm & 5.30pm**

- **Tuesday 12 - Christmas Concert – Reception & Nursery @ 10am**
- **Tuesday 12 - Christmas Concert – Year 3 & 4 @ 2pm & 5.30pm**
- **Wednesday 13 - Christmas Concert – Year 1 & 2 @ 2pm & 5.30pm**
- **Thursday 14 – Christmas Dinner**
- **Thursday 21 – School closes for Christmas**
- **Friday 22 – Training day**

Thank you for your continued support

R Jones