

Derwen News May 24

Have a great half term

Best Wishes for the Half Term Break. Everyone at Ysgol Derwen would like to wish you and your family a safe and relaxing half-term break and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 3rd June.

National Numeracy Day

The children and staff had a hugely enjoyable day on Wednesday May 22 when the whole school celebrated National Numeracy day.

Our Junior pupils spent the day in mixed classes with children from Year 3 to Year 6 working together on a set of fun and sometimes quite challenging numeracy activities.

Thank you also for the outstanding effort made for some of the costumes worn on the day.

Drama Performance

I had the pleasure of watching the school Drama Club's performance *Mystery at Magpie Manor* over the past two days. The children were absolutely fantastic and were a real credit to both the school and their families. The drama group performed for parents and family members on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and also did a special performance for the village senior citizens. The shows were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The children have been practicing since September, with many of them also performing in the school choir earlier in the year, and the commitment and dedication they have put into their roles and the final production has been amazing.

A huge thanks also to Mrs Cartwright and Mrs King who have spent hours helping the children achieve their goals.

I am so proud of all the children who took part.



FODS Update – May 2024

Dear Parents,

The FODS Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful supporters. Your generosity has been overwhelming, and it's thanks to you that we've been able to provide so much for our school. Here are some of the fantastic contributions your donations have made possible:

- **Book bags for the reception class**
- **Stationery supplies such as card**
- **School class Christmas parties**
- **Classroom supplies**

Upcoming Fundraising Events

Our efforts continue with some exciting events lined up:

- **Refreshment Stand at Sports Day: Join us on June 10th (or 12th) for a refreshing treat and help raise funds while cheering on our young athletes.**
- **Summer Fair: Mark your calendars for June 20th! This is always a highlight of the school year, and we have lots of fun activities planned.**

Future Contributions

We are also planning to support the children further with contributions to:

- **Year 6 School Trip**
- **Year 6 Leavers Hoodies**
- **Subscription to a numeracy & literacy program**
- **Adapting a space for a nurture room within the school**

Your continued support is invaluable, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Together, we can make a real difference for our children.

Thank you once again for your incredible support!

Warm regards,

The FODS Committee

Sports Day – Monday June 10th

The children have been practicing hard for the annual sports day and are now looking forward to having their families join them on Monday June 10th for the actual event. Hopefully the weather will be fine for the sports day!

The Foundation Sports Day (Nursery to Year 2) will begin at 9.30am and the Junior Sports Day (Years 3 to 6) will start at 1.15pm.

Both events will take place on the school field and the bottom school yard.

We have reserved Wednesday June 12th as an alternative date if the weather is poor. Full details of the event will be shared after the half term break and any last-minute changes will be communicated to you via email.

Meet The Teacher

We will be holding our annual Meet The Teacher session on Monday June 24 between 3.30pm and 4pm. This session is for parents to meet their child’s new teacher for September.

Transition Day

All high schools in Flintshire will be holding their transition day for current Year 6 pupils on Thursday June 27. On this day, our Year 6 pupils will spend the day in their new high schools and all other classes will spend the morning with their new teacher for September.

Message from FCC Regarding School Transport and School Essential Grants

School Transport September 2024

Over the last couple of years, we have changed the way in which parents apply for school transport, the process has worked extremely well and we have therefore continued with the same process for a number of years.

For information, I have included a copy of the timetable below, please note all parents need to complete the application form for school transport online (I have attached the link to the online form and process below)

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Transport-Application.aspx>

School Transport Timetable 2024/2025

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Admission Year	Application Forms Available	Closing Date for Completed Forms	Applications Assessed	Notification of Eligibility	Notification of Transport Arrangements
Secondary (Year 7 & Sixth Form)	01/03/2024	31/05/2024	31/05/2024 - 30/06/2024	By 30/06/2024	19/07/2024

The above timetable shows a closing date for parents to complete applications by the 31st May 2024, and whilst we have received a number of application forms to date, I would be grateful if you could please encourage parents of Year 6 pupils to apply for transport to secondary school for September 2024 as soon as possible.

Please note: - providing that a pupil's home address / school attended have not changed, there is no need for parents to re-apply for school transport every year.

School Essential Grants – Academic Year beginning September 2024

Last year we changed the process for claiming a School Essentials Grant (formerly Uniform Grant). The change was introduced to reduce the need for form filling, and speed up the process of issuing the payments, therefore enabling the majority of parents and guardians to receive the payment before the end of July. The change was a success and we issued over 3800 payments before the school holidays began, enabling parents plenty of time to order school uniforms.

That change in process will continue this year but to ensure its success, it is important that only people who need to apply, submit an application form. We are required to manually process every application form received, therefore any form submitted unnecessarily will delay the process for parents and guardians who have never claimed before and genuinely need to submit a new form.

Before you submit an application for a School Essential Grants – Academic Year 24/25, please read the guidance below as you may not need to reapply this year.

These payments will be issued in respect of children where the parent or guardian is able to answer YES to ALL of following questions;

- Are your children in receipt of eFSM?**
- Are your children in Year 1 or above for the 24/25 academic school year? (02/09/24 – 21/07/25)**
- Did you receive a School Essentials Grant (formerly known as Uniform Grant) between 1st July 2023 and 31st May 2024?**

If you answer YES to ALL of the questions above, then you do not need to apply for a School Essential Grant this year, as the payments will be issued automatically by 30th July 2024. If you have not received the payment by 30th July 2024, please email freeschoolmeals@flintshire.gov.uk to advise the payment has not been received.

If your child is entering reception, is moving from a school outside of Flintshire, or your circumstances have changed meaning you are now eligible for Free School Meals and a School Essential Grant, you will need to complete an application. This form can be found on Flintshire's website by searching for 'Free School Meals' or by typing in the short URL www.flintshire.gov.uk/FSM.

**Thank you
Kind regards
Flintshire CC**

DATES

May

24th – School Closes For Half Term

June

3rd – School Open To All Pupils

3rd to 14th – National Tests (Years 2 to 6)

5th - Year 1 and 2 Visit to Runway Visitor Park

10th – Sports Day Foundation Classes @ 9.30am and Junior Classes @ 1. 15pm (More details to follow)

12th – Sports Day Reserve Date

12th – Year 4 Technocamps Workshop (Micro:bit Climate Controller)

13th – Year 3 Technocamps Workshop (Micro:bit Helping Animals)

18th - Tennis Festival @ Mold Tennis Club - Year 3 and 4

19th - Tennis Festival @ Mold Tennis Club - Year 5 and 6

20th – Cross Country Tournament

20th – FODS Summer Fete – More Details To Follow

21st – Year 6 STEM Transition Event at Castell Alun

24th to 28th – Year 6 Cycling Proficiency Training

24th - Meet The Teacher

25th - Flintshire Rounders Festival

26th – New Parents Induction Morning

27th – Transition Day – Year 6 pupils will go to their new high schools and all other classes will spend the morning with their new teacher for September.

July

5th – Castell Alun Cricket Tournament

8th & 9th – Year 2 and 6 Spectrum Workshops (Personal and Social Education)

9th – FODS Summer Disco

12th – Year 6 Leavers Trip

15th – End of Year Reports out to Parents

15th – Year 6 Leavers Service @ 5.30pm

18th – School Closes For The Summer Break

19th – Staff Training Day