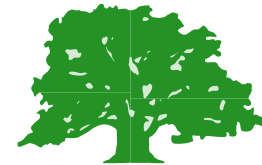


Ysgol Derwen

Derwen Foundation School

Parent Newsletter



Chwefror / February 2019
email: Kimail@hwbcymru.net

Website: <http://www.derwenprimaryschool.com>

Dates For Your Diary

22 February - Break for Half Term

4 March - School Open
4 March - School Eisteddfod
4 March - PC Stu in for Years 2, 4, and 6 - Drugs
5 March - Castell Alun Year 6 Boys Social Day
6 March - Year 6 Forest Project
7 March - World Book Day
14 March - Tag Rugby Tournament
1st April - Parents Evening
4th April - Parents Evening
10 April - All Pupils and Staff training on using the defibrillator.
11 April - Image Theatre production of Pinocchio - Whole School
12 April - Break up for Easter



29 April - School open
6 May - School closed - May Day
7 May - Start of National Test Week
13 May - Start of Healthy / Sport Fortnight
21 May - Sports Day (22 May - Sports Day reserve)
24 May - Cross Country Tournament
24 May - School closed for half term

3 June - School Open
17 June - District Sports - Athletics
THURSDAY 18 July - Finish for Summer

Wrap Around Care Update

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of a small group of parents, governors and Kinnerton kids Club staff, the school is getting closer to its aim of being able to offer full wrap around care for our pupils. There is still work to be done but Ysgol Derwen is planning to open a Nursery plus facility on the site in readiness for September 2019.

This would cater for our Nursery pupils between 11.30am and the end of the school day, adding to the already existing breakfast and after school clubs. More information will be shared in the near future.

Early Entitlement

Ysgol Derwen is now also able to offer places to early entitlement pupils. This allows the school to accept children into the Nursery Class for ten hours a week the TERM after their third birthday. A child who therefore turns three during the autumn term is eligible for early entitlement in January, and a child who has their birthday during the spring term is eligible to start in the school for the summer term. If you think you have a child who is eligible for early entitlement please feel free to contact the school for further information.

Brilliant News

The school submitted a bid to Welsh Government during the Autumn Term for funding to help provide full wrap around care for the pupils and families in Higher Kinnerton. The bid included plans to:

- Open a pre school /playgroup at the school (something the village has missed since the closure of Kinnerton Under 5s)
- Increase capacity for the current breakfast and after school clubs
- Cater for Nursery plus provision.
- Provide a holiday club at the school

I was overjoyed last week to discover that the bid has been successful and the school has been awarded £450,000 towards a new build/extension to provide full wrap around care for the village. There will obviously be a lot of work involved before we achieve our goal, but the grant funding will hopefully help the school achieve the provision we have been working towards for a number of years. I will keep you informed of any developments in due course.

Welsh Celebration Non Uniform Day Monday March 4th

Throughout this week the children at Ysgol Derwen have been working hard on a number of activities with a Welsh theme to help celebrate Wales, Welsh culture and St David. With St David's day falling during the half term holiday we will be holding a celebration assembly on Monday March 4 to share the Welsh themed work we have been undertaking in school.



On this day the children can come to school in clothes which represent Wales if they wish e.g football/ruby tops, clothes which are red/white/ green, or wear a Welsh emblem (daffodil/leek/dragon).

Lunch Money for next half term

4/3/19 -12/4/19

£66

World Book Day

World Book Day will be celebrated in school on Friday March 8th this year. We will be undertaking activities during the day to help promote a love for reading. To help celebrate World Book Day we would like the children to come to school dressed as a character from a book if they wish. We would also like the children to bring their favourite book into school on the day and share with the other children in the class why they like the book so much.

Defibrillator Update

The defibrillator is now installed and fully operational and located on the front of the school building.

Nursery and Reception Intake 2019 Nursery applications for September 2019 are still available from the school office.

If you know of someone who is looking for a school for their child please ask them to contact the school for further information.

Applications for admission to our Reception and Nursery Classes for September 2019 has now officially ended but the school will still accept late applications.

National Literacy and Numeracy Tests

The National Literacy and Numeracy Tests for all children in Years 2 to 6 will be taking place between

Tuesday May 7th and Tuesday May 14 2019

Please try to ensure that your child is present in school for these dates and if you are thinking of taking your child out for a term time holiday, you try to avoid these dates.

Governors' Annual Report 2017 - 2018
Adroddiad Blynyddol Y Llywodraethwyr 2017 - 2018
Full Report Is On The School Website

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 2017 - 18. It demonstrates yet again the excellent achievements and efforts of pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff and parents.

Pupil numbers remained constant rising to a total of 216 which included the part time Nursery Pupils. Our attendance figures were again good at 95.1% but for the second successive year the school failed to reach its attendance target owing mainly to parents taking children out of school during term time. This does have a negative impact on your child's education so please be aware of this when making your decisions.

The school was again placed in the Green Band, the first category according to the National Categorisation of Schools for the fifth year running. This is a tremendous achievement and our thanks must go to Mr Richard Jones and all the staff for their tremendously hard work in making this possible yet again.

The year proved a challenging one due to quite a few factors. Mr Jones was absent from school for a term due to ill health. We were very pleased to welcome him back after the Easter holiday. During this time, the school was very capably led by Mrs Suzanne King, the deputy headteacher, and our sincere thanks go out to her for her work during this time. Shortage in funding is also a very worrying and constant issue but all parents and carers can rest assured that whatever the circumstances, the high standards expected from all pupils have been achieved as can be seen in the report.

Once again, there was a wide range of sporting activities and clubs held 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.

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. It was also really heartening to note that a small band of parents have formed a new FODS committee to help raise much needed funds to help purchase resources for the school. Thank you all for your continued support.

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

- Very high achievement of pupils
- Maintaining Green School status
- Links with the wider community

The Governors look forward to continue working with all members of the school community to enable pupils to achieve their full potential in a happy and secure environment.

Yours sincerely

Helen Francis
Chair of Governors.

Parking at the Village Hall

I have been asked by the Village Hall Committee to make all parents aware that the area of the Car Park between the Main Road Hedge and the White line / Northern End of the Main Hall

is hired by Jazz Publishing from 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday.

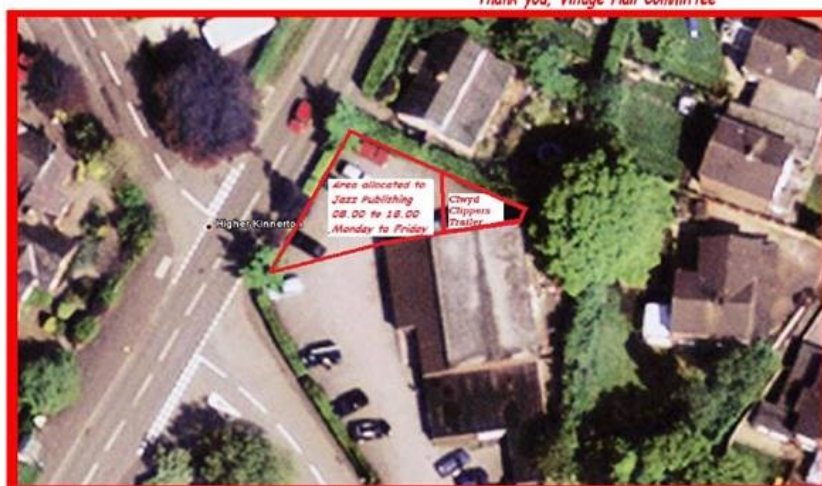
Parents are welcome to use the Village Hall Car Park for the school run but please do not to park in this area.

This area is for the exclusive use of Jazz Publishing employees form 08:00 to 18:00.

Many thanks

The Area of the Car Park shown below is hired by Jazz Publishing between the hours of 08.00 to 18.00 Monday to Friday. Please do not park in this area during these hours?

Thank you, Village Hall Committee



During these hours, apart from ensuring that the emergency exit route from the rear of the Main Hall is not obstructed, the number of vehicles and mode & manner of parking within the designated area are matters for Jazz Publishing.