

Newsletter January 2022

It has been a real pleasure to be able to welcome our pupils back to Ysgol Derwen this term and we are looking forward to an exciting term ahead. This term promises to be very busy and hopefully we may get through it without too much disruption!

Covid Cases

Since the start of term, we have had a few isolated cases of Covid across the school which have had no impact on the running of the school. We currently have one teacher self-isolating for the week following a positive test (Reception Class). We will continue to closely monitor the effect of Covid within the school and will make any necessary adjustments to our risk assessments to minimise any impact on pupils and staff. Covid is still here and is still causing major issues in schools across Wales, especially in terms of finding supply cover for staff who are isolating.

Keeping safe and changes to isolation period

The best way to protect Ysgol Derwen is to prevent Covid being brought into school. If your child has any coronavirus symptoms you should get them tested and if positive, they should self-isolate at home. Recent guidance states that the 10-day self-isolation period has been reduced to 7 days, in most circumstances. Individuals may now take a LFT on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation (24 hours apart). Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete the full 10 days of self-isolation.

Close Contacts - All children aged 5 to 17 years old (as well as vaccinated adults) identified as a close contact of a positive case should take a LFD test every day for 7 days. This is known as 'Daily Contact Testing'. These tests should be taken before they arrive at school each day. These individuals do not need to self-isolate unless they have a positive lateral flow test or develop symptoms. If you have any difficulty getting a supply of LFT please let the school know as we have some for pupils to use.

New build

The new build is now almost complete and we hope to have the keys in the next few weeks. It has been fantastic to regain our bottom yard for the children to have more space to play and as the outside work is completed by the contractors, we will soon gain access to more of our school grounds. There is still work to do however in order to complete the project e.g. installing fences, gates, hand rails etc. Everyone associated with Little Acorns can't wait to take possession of the new building and start using it as the base for all our wrap around care for years to come.





New outdoor learning areas

As we gain access to our grounds again after what could be a term and a half, we have the exciting prospect of developing other areas of our outdoor learning environment. The new build has been built on the site of our old Upper Foundation outdoor learning environment and the pupils in Year 1 and 2 have had to do all their outdoor work in a very small space outside their classrooms since September. It is a priority for me and the school now to install a new area for these children to work in. The ground work is currently taking place to level the ground and we hope to start developing the site in the coming weeks in the hope that the children can start using it around Easter. The Lower Foundation outdoor learning environment will also be having some work undertaken over the coming weeks to make it more relevant for the new curriculum. We will keep you updated on the progress of these projects later in the term.

Wellbeing Areas

I am also hoping to develop areas of the school grounds as wellbeing areas for the children. Due to years of poor grounds maintenance from LA contractors, the area to the front of the school has become quite an eyesore in recent years. While the contractors are on site I am hoping they will clear this area, along with the bushes outside the Year 6 Class, which will allow me to develop them into wellbeing areas which can be used daily. I would also like to develop part of the cleared site to the front of the building into a bike/scooter store. I hope the children will have a part in designing these areas and I will keep you updated on any developments.

Pick up

Hand and Respiratory Hygiene is still essential in keeping the school safe and I would like to thank you all for wearing a mask while on the school site and for socially distancing on the yard when picking your child up. Can I also please ask that all parents remain on the school yard while waiting for the end of the school day and to not wait outside the classroom doors to the rear of the school.

Lunch Theme Day

Newydd Catering will be holding a theme day on Tuesday February 1st to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Please see the attached menu for more details. Normal school meal prices apply.