



Ysgol Derwen
Derwen Foundation School
Parent Newsletter
October / Hydref 2020



As we approach the half term break I would like to thank everyone associated with Ysgol Derwen for their support during these very challenging times. The children have been back in school for five weeks and have adapted brilliantly to all the changes imposed on them at school. Thanks to the way the children have behaved and adhered to the new way of learning, we have been able to run the school in a way that is following National Covid 19 Guidance but still retains the warm nurturing environment the children are used to.

Please be aware that Covid 19 is again on the rise in our area and as a result Flintshire is under stricter measures to help stop the spread of the virus. It is very important that we all follow the advice about not attending school if your child has any of the following symptoms:

- A new persistent cough
- A high temperature of 37.8 degrees or more
- A loss of taste or smell

If your child displays any of the three identified symptoms of COVID-19, please arrange for them to have a Covid 19 test and inform the school straight away whether the test was positive or negative.

Blended Learning

You will have seen in the news that many schools have had to close part (or in some cases the whole) of the school due to confirmed cases of Covid 19 over the past few weeks. This is likely to become a more frequent occurrence over the coming months, either with confirmed cases in the schools, or staff shortages due to waiting for test results etc. We have tried to plan for this occurrence so that if this happens at Ysgol Derwen, the children will move smoothly into blended / home learning. All children should by now have their Hwb logins enabling them to access Google Classroom.

In KS2 work is already being uploaded daily to Google Classroom. This will be available for those pupils who are working from home to access in the event of them having to isolate or await test results.

The work will be set to upload at 9am each day. Please bear in mind that when the pupils are in school a big part of the learning we do is through paired work, group activities, discussion and feedback. Much of this type of lesson activity is not suitable for home schooling, however we will do our best to make any worksheets, textbook work or PowerPoint

presentations available online for pupils to access as well as giving suggestions for other things you could do at home instead.

In the Foundation Phase the staff have prepared stand-alone activities for the pupils to undertake at home for up to 14 days. If your child has to stay off from school for Covid 19 reasons but they are well enough to do some work, please notify their teacher and they will arrange for the work to be released.

If a group, bubble or whole school needs to move to blended learning for a two-week period or longer, work will be available daily through Google Classroom.

If your child is off school because they are unwell then please do not feel that they need to do their school work on these days.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2020-2021

AUTUMN TERM 2020

<i>Staff Training Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 1 September</i>
<i>Staff Training Day</i>	<i>Wednesday 2 September</i>
<i>Autumn Term Opens</i>	<i>Thursday 3 September</i>
<i>Half Term Closes</i>	<i>Friday 23 October</i>
<i>Half Term Opens</i>	<i>Monday 2 November</i>
<i>Term Closes</i>	<i>Friday 18 December</i>

SPRING TERM 2021

<i>Staff Training Day</i>	<i>Monday 4 January</i>
<i>Spring Term Opens</i>	<i>Tuesday 5 January</i>
<i>Half Term Closes</i>	<i>Friday 12 February</i>
<i>Half Term Opens</i>	<i>Monday 22 February</i>
<i>Term Closes</i>	<i>Friday 26 March</i>

SUMMER TERM 2021

<i>Term Opens</i>	<i>Monday 12 April</i>
<i>May Day Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 3 May</i>
<i>Half Term Closes</i>	<i>Friday 28 May</i>
<i>Half Term Opens</i>	<i>Monday 7 June</i>
<i>Term Closes</i>	<i>Friday 16 July</i>
<i>Staff Training Day</i>	<i>Monday 19 July</i>
<i>Staff Training Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 20 July</i>

PLEASE NOTE: There could be at least one additional training date added to the calendar. If this happens we will notify you straightaway.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Vacancies for three parent governors have become available at Ysgol Derwen to serve for a period of four years.

Due to a recent change in the Law, Governors will now be elected on the skills, knowledge and expertise they can bring to the Governing Body.

We are seeking parents who have skills in one or more of the following areas to join our team;

- ICT/Data Protection

- Building and Premises
- Health and Safety
- Additional Needs

If you have skills which you feel would be useful to the School, together with time to attend meetings both during the school day and in the evenings, then nomination forms are available at the School Office. These should be completed and returned to school by 12 noon on Friday 23 October.

If more than three nominations are received, then an election will need to be held.

Year 6 Parents - High School Applications

The application process for High School is now open with the relevant forms available on Flintshire CC Website.

Please ensure you complete your application by November 6th to avoid any disappointment associated with late applications.

Pupils from Ysgol Derwen have been refused entry into Castell Alun having attended our school and living within the village due to late applications in the past. Castell Alun is annually over subscribed, and the appeal process is very stressful!

Ysgol Derwen Nursery / Reception Intake 2021

We are currently accepting applications for our Nursery and Reception Classes for September 2021.

If you know anyone who is looking for a place for their child at Ysgol Derwen please ask them to contact the school office for more information and an application form.

The closing date for applications is

Reception— November 20 2020

Nursery— February 19 2021

Flu Immunisation

All children in our Reception to Year 6 Classes have the opportunity to have Flu immunisation with a nasal spray on November 4th.

Tempest Photography

All children present in school on Monday September 28 had an individual photograph taken by Tempest Photography. The proofs should be in school soon and we will send them home with your child when we receive them.

School Dinners / Snack Money

Cost of school meals for next half term

2/11/20 - 18/12/20

- £2.25per meal
- £11.25 per week
- £78.75 for the half term

Your account must be in credit for your child to receive a school dinner.

Foundation Phase Snack

2/11/20 - 18/12/20 = £8.75*

*If you have paid for annual snack please disregard this.

PARKING

I have been made aware by local residents on a number of occasions this term of issues related to parking and aggressive drivers in the streets near to the school. Main Road, Higher Kinnerton can become extremely congested at the beginning and end of the school day.

As a school we are increasingly worried about the danger to children and adults caused by irresponsible parking at school start and finish times.

Please note that parking is illegal on zebra crossing zigzags, pavements, across property entrances, at or near a road junction, across dropped kerbs and other places denoted in the Highway Code. Can I please ask you to be considerate of the needs of local residents when parking.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.