



*'Planting the seeds for a lifetime of growth'
'Plannu hadau i dyfu am oes'*

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Article 28 - 'A right to an education' Article 29 – 'A right to be the best that we can be'

Dear Parents and Carers / Annwyl Rhieni a Gofalwyr,

It is nice to write a letter on our return to school where we have had a lovely sunny Summer. I hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday. We have enjoyed welcoming back the children and getting to know them in their new classes. They are settling in well and we are looking forward to seeing what they can achieve this year. The new class photographs can be seen on 'x'.



Communication

The school continues to use ipay, X (known previously as twitter), Schoop and the school website to keep you informed about school life. If you have not joined our school communication system Schoop and X please do so, as it gives examples of the learning experiences your child has within their class. Newsletters are sent via Schoop but are also put on the school website and in the main school foyer. Can I remind you that if your child is absent, please use the school absence line to inform us before 9.30 am. When using the line please state your child's name, class and reason for absence. The school also has a 'You tube' channel where useful videos and videos of school events can be seen. If you wish to contact us, we can be contacted via phone 01792 882553 or via email pontlliw.primary.school@swansea-edunet.gov.uk

Pupil Information

At the beginning of a new school year, we would like to ensure that the information held in school is relevant and correct. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the various ways in which they can help with the smooth day-to-day running of the school to ensure the happiness, safety and progress of your child whilst they are with us. If your child has asthma you will need to complete a short medical form in the school office. Please ring the school office and request one. If you have not already done so. If your phone numbers or addresses change, please make sure that you inform the school office in case we need to contact you in an emergency; it is very important that this information is kept up to date. If your child has a medical condition that may affect them during their time in school, it is important that you also share this information with us. Please contact the school office. We have a child with a severe Banana allergy therefore we do not allow bananas on the school premises to ensure the pupils safety. We thank you for your co-operation with this.



Pupil Voice groups

Every child and member of staff in the school from Reception to Year 6 is in a pupil voice group. The children decide which pupil voice group they would like to join at the start of every year. The groups are:

- Eco Warriors
- Healthy Heroes
- Safety Soldiers
- Diversity Developers
- Digital Wizards
- Criw Cymraeg

They meet every fortnight on a Thursday morning, and the children enjoy meeting others from different year groups and going to the different classrooms. The children nominate chairs and vice chairs. They create and work on action plans they have created to help to improve the school. These groups help us to work towards the four purposes, integral skills of the new curriculum and improving the school.



Assemblies

The school has a variety of assemblies throughout the week which all pupils participate in. The assemblies look at the school values, topical assemblies and topics the children would like to discuss. This term the school value is respect - parch. The children decide on rules that the whole school community needs to adhere to. These are simple and involve things like being kind, listening when others are speaking and looking after the equipment. On Fridays, we have our celebration assembly where we have our 'Seren yr Wythnos' Star of the Week from every class and encourage the children to bring their outside of school achievements into the assembly so we can celebrate these as well. Stars of the week can be seen on X. If your child has achieved something special, please send it in on a Friday so we can share their achievement with everyone.

Events and Visitors

Since returning to school, we have already had a few visitors and events. The staff participated in mathematical training on INSET day and are looking forward to using the teaching techniques with the pupils. The peripatetic music teachers have returned, and the music class and individual lessons have commenced. It is lovely to hear the children playing the instruments. Year 5 are involved in a 'Shakespeare in Schools Project' and will be performing in November in the Gwyn Hall.

They have been fantastic so far and are excited to perform. Bumbles of Honeywood have visited Year 2 and talked to them about developing their entrepreneurial skills. Nursery have had a teddy bears picnic and they enjoyed bringing their teddies into school. We also had a Year 1 class full of superheroes who attended assembly!



Parents Evening

Year 6 – Monday 13th October, Tuesday 14th October
Reception to Year 5 - Tuesday 21st Wednesday 22nd October

PTA (Parents Teachers Association)

Thank you to all parents and teachers who are involved with the PTA. The first meeting of the year was held on Wednesday 17th September at 3.30pm in the school. It is where the nominations for the chair, vice chair and secretary were made. The PTA is very active and has worked hard for the school. They have created a Facebook page, What's App group for members and have raised much needed funds for the school. They are always looking for new members and have become increasingly important over the years, as school budgets have received cuts. Please can you support this group in any way you can. Even the smallest of contributions of time, help or resources make a difference. PTA events can be seen on the PTA's Facebook page or through the school's communication system Schoop.

Curriculum

There have been many changes in Education in Wales over the last few years and as a school we are always reviewing our curriculum. The new big questions overviews have been created with the pupils and can be viewed on the school website. The school produces a School Development Plan based on all the self-evaluation it has participated in all year. The information gathered is used to inform the School Development Plan which was created to ensure the school continues its cycle of improvement. The development priorities for this year will be displayed on the school website and updates are sent to parents through the parental newsletter. This year the school and cluster schools are involved in a Welsh Government Mathematical project and information regarding this will be shared with you. We are also continuing to look at the Estyn recommendation of 'Independence'.



Playground Buddies

The playground buddies (red caps) are our Year 6 pupils who support our younger classes by playing in the school yard with them. Every class nominates two children in their class to become playground buddies. The buddies are identified by other pupils by the wearing of badges, and their photographs are displayed within the classroom on the playground buddy sheet. The pupils are proud to be chosen as playground buddies and take their duties very seriously. There is a list of their duties displayed in every classroom. This system has been put in place to ensure everyone has someone to play with at playtime and to resolve any issues or conflicts that may occur. It has worked well, and all children enjoy this.



Staffing

This term we are welcoming a new member of staff Miss Morris and a change of name for another member of staff from Miss Jones to Mrs Price. Mrs Hills and Ms Price are currently on maternity leave and enjoying their time with their new additions.

Health and Safety

The Flu Nasal Vaccine will be completed this term, Thursday October 2nd for all pupils who attend Reception – Year 6 the school. The school start time is 8.50am and the gates will be closed at this time. If you are late and the gate is closed, please report to the main entrance and sign your child in to ensure pupils' safety. This will ensure the school is aware of everyone who is on the school premises, which is important for fire safety and other safety measures.

Parking



Now that the new term has started, we're reminded that inconsiderate parking outside schools is irresponsible and can create visibility issues for people crossing the roads.

🕒 Please allow yourself plenty of time for picking up and dropping off and do not park on yellow zigzag lines. Areas opposite the lines should also be avoided.

🚗 If you decide to park further away, be mindful of residents and avoid parking across driveways or access points.

👉 Remember: zigzags indicate the part of the road where motorists should not wait, stop, or park a vehicle.



Complaints Policy

Parents who wish to make a complaint can contact the school and make an appointment/request a phone call to share their concerns, in accordance with the school's open-door policy. If parents do not feel satisfied following this appointment/phone call, they can request, in writing, for the matter to be investigated. During the investigation all details are recorded and the people involved interviewed. Following this, a decision regarding the complaint is made and the complainant notified of the decision. If the complaint is not upheld, and parents are unhappy with any decisions, then this progresses to the governing body, in accordance with the procedure.

Child Protection

The child protection officer for the school is Mrs Alison Norman, the Headteacher and in her absence the Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Kirsty Cusack. The Governor with responsibility for child protection is Mr Ian Humphreys, the Chair of Governors. In the event of child protection issues the school must follow procedures and report this to social services. There may also be a need to share information with other agencies.

Dates

Friday 10 th October	INSET day (school closed for pupils)
Friday 24 th October	Pupils finish for half term
Monday 3 rd November	Pupils finish school for Christmas
Friday 19 th December	Term finishes for Christmas
Monday 5 th January	INSET day (school closed for pupils)
Tuesday 6 th January	Pupils return to school



Please note that if you, or someone accompanying you, to the school has a disability you are welcome to park in the staff car park and use the main school entrance to access the building. If you require assistance to enter the building or additional consideration during events, please let us know and we will make arrangements to enable your safe and comfortable access, time in the building and exit.

Thank you for your continued support
Alison Norman
Headteacher