



'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 / Annywl Rhieni a Gofalwyr

We hope you are enjoying the spell of sunny weather. The pupils' and school have been busy with a variety of activities and the curriculum. Below is some of the things we have been doing and important information we need to share with you. We hope you received the dates that are coming up this term but I have shared them below again in this newsletter in case you have missed them.

School Improvement Priorities 2022-2023

Priority Area / Aligned Sub-committee	Headline School Priorities 2022-2023	
Learning and Teaching (L) IA1	Literacy (English)	Implement spelling strategies to improve knowledge of spelling patterns and application within independent writing. Further develop reading skills to find information and ideas to support their independent work.
	Numeracy	Further develop strategies for data analysis and interpretation in real life contexts.
	Technology	Development of computational thinking across all progression steps.
Learning and Teaching IA3	Teaching	Continue to develop choice and challenge to develop appropriate self-directed learning.
	Experiences	Continue to develop range of activities and learning experiences that reflect the new curriculum and 4 purposes.
	Cluster working	Further develop a shared understanding of progression, within each AoLe, across the cluster.
Well-being, Care Support and Guidance IA2	Cross cutting element	Improve the diversity of the curriculum, to ensure it reflects black, Asian and minority ethnic perspectives.
	Attitudes to learning	Revisit assessment for learning techniques to ensure pupils are evaluating their learning accurately.
Well-being, Care support, Guidance IA4	Environment	Further improve pupil co-operation during self-directed time through the use of pupil systems and improved provision.
	ALN	Further develop assessment tools and recording of information of pupils with ALN needs.
Leadership and Management IA5	Personal Development	Further develop and support pupils and staff emotional and mental well-being.
	Stakeholder engagement	Strengthen and continue to develop links with the school community.
	Self-evaluation	Refine and restyle the school's self-evaluation cycle to further reflect the new curriculum.

School Improvement Plan

The school improvement targets are set at the start of every year. The targets are at the top of the newsletter for you to see. They are included in the school improvement plan in child friendly language and shared with all stakeholders so the whole school community understands what the school is working towards within the year. Progress towards the targets are regularly reviewed by all staff, pupils within the pupil voice groups and with governors in regular meetings. The progress that has been made towards these targets will be shared with parents in the next newsletter.



Curriculum for Wales

The school is continuing to work on their curriculum and progression with the cluster schools. We are in the process of producing progression models for each of the AoLes to ensure that all children within the cluster enter Year 7 with the same skills sets. The schools within our cluster and Partnarnieath were recognised for the work they are doing and asked to attend an Education Strategy Board to discuss it with Swansea councils. The schools received phone calls and letters of thanks for all the work they have completed on the new curriculum and were invited to share their good practice. The new spring term 'Big Questions' with the pupil led learning are available to see on the school website :

www.pontlliwprimary.co.uk



Attendance

We would like to politely remind you about the importance of punctuality and attendance. The school places a high importance on punctuality and late arrivals can often put children on a 'back foot' for the rest of the day. Being late is unsettling for that child, and disruptive for the class. The school gates are locked promptly at 8.51 am to enable staff at the gates to get back to class, and we need the school grounds secure so our outdoor learning can take place and staff can work with children in the classrooms.

We ask that medical/dental appointments are arranged, where possible, out of school hours. If this cannot be avoided, we will then ask for proof of the appointment to be provided.

We take attendance very seriously and request parents/carers make every effort to ensure their children attend school whenever possible. **If your child is unwell, please contact the school office and leave a message on the school absence line before 9.30 am.**

We have had many holiday requests last term and appreciate the last few years have not been typical and we have been mindful of this. However, going forward, we actively encourage parents not to take children out of school during term time. Our attendance target is 96% and to achieve this it is difficult if holidays are taken during term time. The school's current attendance is **91%** which is significantly lower than the required 96%.

Your child's attendance	National Guidelines
95-100%	Optimum chance to achieve well. Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity.
90-95%	Satisfactory. Your child may have to spend time catching up with work.
85-90%	Cause for concern. Your child may be at risk of underachieving.
80-85%	Cause for concern. Your child may need extra support from you to catch up with work.
Below 80%	Your child may be missing out on a broad and balanced education.

Digital Dragons

This year, Safer Internet Day was celebrated on Tuesday 7th February! The Digital Dragons did a brilliant job at delivering an assembly to the whole school based on this year's theme 'Want to talk about it?' During this assembly, the Digital Dragons gave lots of practical advice on the ways we can stay safe when using devices connected to the internet. They also discussed the importance of ensuring that we all share our online experiences with people that we trust. The Digital Dragons have also been busy updating our 'Keeping Safe Online' Page on our school website. Here

you can find resources and information linked to Online Safety-
<http://www.pontlliwprimary.co.uk/home/information/keeping-safe-online/>



Staff Training

Staff have received a variety of training. We have been offered free CPR online training through the British Heart Foundation and all staff will complete this, this term. All staff have also received epi-pen training, child protection and safeguarding training and health and safety training. One member of staff is completing a diploma in trauma informed schools which will help to support pupils within our school. Other members of staff have completed training in Metacognition, Assessment, RVE (religion, values and ethics), RSE (Relationships, Sexuality and Education), Additional Learning Needs, explicit vocabulary instruction, Anti-racism, Think equal, PBuzz musical instruments and Welsh. As you can see the staff have been busy further developing their skills and knowledge to ensure the pupils have the best curriculum experiences possible.

Sports

Congratulations to all the pupils who have participated in the football festivals over the past few weeks. They have shown great sportsmanship and team work. The way they behaved throughout the festivals was a credit to them and was commented on by many people who ran the festivals or were there to support. We look forward to taking the children to more festivals and future sporting events to represent our school. Llongyfarchiadau i bawb! - Congratulations all.

Siarter Arian

As a school, we were really proud to achieve our Siarter iaith. We are now working on the next siarter, Siarter Arian. Our Criw Cymraeg have been working really hard to help us achieve the 100 targets required. There is a video on our 'You Tube' site and our website to show you all the progress we have made and the future targets we will be working on. There are now 'Tric a Clic' resources available to parents which are suitable for Reception to Year 3 that parents can access to support their child with their Welsh learning on our school website too. The Criw cymraeg have developed a new school Welsh mascot which was created by Grace Thomas it is a lovely dragon and they are now running a competition to produce a Welsh banner. The Siarter Arian will be assessed in March.



Projects

The Think Equal programme is underway in Dosbarth Ash (Reception). The Early Years programme is based on narrative (stories) to help bring a positive change in our children's thinking. The children have already been able to reflect on their own culture, experiences and the lives of others. In our book 'Marvellous Me' the children looked at themselves and reflected on the similarities and the differences between them and their classmates. It challenged the children to look at how everyone can make an impact on our World, and that being different is a wonderful thing! The children have produced some lovely pictures and realised that we are ALL wonderful!

Dosbarth Ash has also looked at their feelings and how these impact on others. The children discussed what they feel and that all feelings are important. It is good to feel sad or mad and for them to show it and identify it. We began to give reasons for our feelings and give suggestions for what we can do to help change our feelings inside. We now have our Daily Mood Monitor which the children change each day, and we encourage them to talk about why they have that feeling inside... we also have our Weather and promise charts, each looking at how we can calm our 'Weather inside' as well as maintaining our promises to each other that we will do our very best to listen and support each other.

The Decolonising the Curriculum project is about enriching our Curriculum within school. We have been invited to take part in a Literacy focussed project. The books are written by a range of authors from ethnically diverse backgrounds, opening a new perspective on the children's learning. The children will read a novel and then have the chance to reflect and make connections with what they already know and perhaps challenge what they already believe. This project will be introduced by Julian Nicholds from Partnerieath and then the children will complete the novel with the class teacher. At the end of the project, we will be measuring the impact the books have had on the children and working with Julian on the feedback we give.



Complaints Policy

Parents who wish to make a complaint can contact the school and make an appointment to share their concerns, in accordance with the school's open door policy. If parents do not feel satisfied following this meeting, they can request, in writing, for the matter to be investigated. During investigation all details are recorded and 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.

Children's Mental Health Week

It is children's mental health week this week and the theme this year was 'let's connect'. The children decided that we needed to make connections with the community and every class has been given a task. Year 4 shared positive messages with visitors through and in our village on the crossroads which were received very positively with lots of waving and tooting of car horns. We hope we shared some positive thoughts and smiles with those of you who saw us. Year 6 visited Llys Nini and took some warm blankets for the cats and dogs. Lee Trundle was there to surprise them and they were given a guided tour of what Llys Nini do for all the animals they help and support. Year 3 are

visiting our local playgroup Ti a Fi and taking some cakes and biscuits for the children and parents to enjoy. Year 5 visited the Friends of Pontlliw Park to see the work they have completed on the warm hub and the park. They also thanked them for their help with the Queen's jubilee mosaic that was created by the school and the Friends of the park which has now been put up on the side of the pavilion. Year 1 and 2 have posted acts of kindness around the village to connect with the people who live there. They have enjoyed making the cards and we hope that you enjoy them too. Reception and Nursery will be completing a litter pick around the school and area to ensure that we help to care for our community, as these are two of the school values. If you see us please say hello!



Dates for this term:

Monday 13th February - Welsh week

Tuesday 14th February - Safer internet day

Thursday 16th February – PTA Valentines Disco

Friday 17th February - Half term begins

Monday 27th February - Pupils return to school

Wednesday 1st March - Eisteddfod

Thursday 2nd March - World book day will now be celebrated on 27th February due to possible strike action on this day.

Friday 3rd March – Fire Safety talks Y2 and Y5

Friday 10th March - Year 5/6 girls football tournament

Monday 13th March - PSO Y6 Who to talk to - Griff's story

Tuesday 14th March - Reception height, weight and vision school nurse checks

Tuesday 14th March - Parents evening New dates due to proposed strike action – Parents evening is now the 21st and 22nd March

Friday 17th March - Red nose day

Friday 17th March - Football tournament boys Year 5/6

Tuesday 27th March – Year 2 St Fagan's trip

Friday 31st March – Autism Awareness day (as it is Sunday 2nd April)

Friday 31st March - Finish for Easter

Monday 17th April - Pupils return to school

Diolch yn fawr

Thank you for your continued support

Alison Norman

Headteacher