

YSGOL Y WAUN

AUTUMN TERM INFORMATION BULLETIN 2017

Welcome

What a busy start we have had to the new school year and so many new faces. I would like to welcome Alfie, Pippa B, Isla, Hollie, Pippa R, Jackson, India, Sienna, Bella, Ava and Pheobie to Nursery. They have all settled very quickly and are always busy when I go into class.

Consent Forms

Your child(ren) will be bringing home our 'Code of Conduct for Responsible Use of the Internet', a copy of the 'Home School Agreement' and the 'Data Collection Sheet'. Please sign and return the forms to the school office as soon as possible.

Communications

Should you require to contact the school, the office is only manned in the mornings. An answer phone is available if you call from 12.30pm and this is checked at the end of the school day. If leaving a message please can you leave the time you called as well as your message.

Last year we started a system of emailing letters and reminders to parents. This was positively received by those who signed up to it. You may also choose a grandparent to receive newsletters if they take a role in school runs, so that they are kept informed of activities/visits/non-uniform days etc. If you would like to sign up to this we ask that you email the school with your name, child's name and class. We will then reply to you to confirm receipt. If you have not received a reply within a couple of days it is likely the Flintshire system has not allowed your email through. In this instance, please send a letter to school with your email address and we will send an email to you.

The email address is ywmail@hwbcymru.net Please DO NOT send any incoming correspondence to the 'ywhead' email address.

Unless we hear from you all addresses used last year will continue to be used this year.

School Attendance

Each year we set ourselves a school target for attendance. Our attendance has always been very good and in the top quartile in Wales. Over the next few weeks I will be sending home individual targets for attendance. While I do not want children to attend school if they are poorly, I would like to see a reduction in some of the absences. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they are to remain at home for 24 hours following the last episode. This is to ensure they are fully better and that the bug is not passed onto other pupils or staff. If children arrive after registration has closed (9.20am) this is unauthorised unless a reason is given, also, arrival after 8.50am is recorded as late.

Holidays during term time can be requested. I can authorise a maximum of ten school days per academic year per child, however this is not the norm. If you take above this, the absence is recorded as unauthorised and monitored by the authority. Please can I ask you to try not to take your children out of school as this does disrupt their learning? If you choose take your child out of school for holidays, staff will not send work home for them to complete.

Fundraising

Previously we have held various fairs, discos, bingos to raise much needed funds for school to purchase items such as electric tablets, lap tops. This year I hope to purchase new resources for both Foundation Phase and Key Stage Two to use outdoors at break and lunchtimes. The school staff plan to hold a film night just before October half term and a Christmas bingo towards the end of November. For the last two years school staff have also organised the winter wonderland during the school day. As the PTA did not hold a summer fair this year I hope that there will be a group of parents willing to help organise a traditional Christmas fair again this year. We have lost a few members of our small PTA due to their children moving onto secondary school so I am in need of some new recruits! I have already had a volunteer to organise the grotto but really need a group of parents to help organise the event. I know time is precious for us all, however, starting early I feel is the best way. I am also in need of some parents to take the photographs and organise the annual PTA calendar which is sold in December so please contact me if you are able to help with this, or know of someone with IT skills who can help! Please contact me if you are able to attend a meeting at the Crown on Monday 25th September starting at 7pm to discuss future events/activities – I will confirm the meeting once I know people are able to attend.

Class Information – Autumn Term

Nursery and Reception – Miss H Docking (mornings) Mrs R Chesters (afternoons)

Firstly we must say how impressed I am with how well the children have settled – we are very pleased with how few tears we have had and the excellent manners the children show. Our topic will start with Autumn and harvest, looking at animals, hibernation and changes. In Maths, Nursery will learn to form their numbers using Number zoo and Reception will be counting and ordering numbers. Each Monday the children will be talking about their weekend news, drawing a picture and starting to write about it so please talk to your child about the things they can share with us – they always seem to forget the exciting things you do at home and say ‘they played’! Show and Tell will take place on a Tuesday, and staff will let you know when it is your week to bring something in which the child will talk to the class about. PE takes place on a Tuesday morning/afternoon, if possible, please start encouraging your child to dress/undress themselves as this is a tricky skill which takes time to master. Reading books will be sent out to Reception during the term, along with the Jolly Phonic sound of the week. Nursery are focusing on learning to read and write their names and Reception will be learning the sounds s a t p i n c k e h r m and d. If you have a pair of spare wellingtons please send them in, both named, as there will be opportunities during the week for outdoor play and wellingtons are easier for us all.

Class 2 – Miss H Smith (Monday – Wednesday) and Mrs Chesters (Thursday morning) Mrs L Ankers (Thursday afternoon - Friday)

Miss Jones is our teaching assistant in the mornings and Mrs Jones is in the afternoons. Our topic for the full term is ‘All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small’ and during the week we will be covering a range of numeracy, literacy, creative and scientific activities based on this. Children will have the opportunity to go outdoors for gardening/forest school style activities however, this will be on a rota and you will receive a note as to when wellingtons and warmer clothes are needed.

PE will take place on a Wednesday afternoon and full PE kits and pumps are required (you may choose to send trainers for outdoor sessions). Homework will be given on a Wednesday and is to be returned to the box in class by the following Monday. From our new timetable we are going to trial hearing all readers on a Monday, so please ensure that book bags and reading books are sent into school each Monday. There may be

other days your child will also read so please try to remember them each day. Spellings will start towards half term.

All Foundation Phase

Water bottles can be brought to school each day with your child's name on and stored in the tray near the sink in class, allowing your child to access throughout the day. Milk and fresh fruit is given at morning break, snack is £1 per week and must be in an envelope separate from lunch money and placed in the snack box in class. We encourage independence, even at this early stage so please allow your child to carry their own letters and books into class as they all know where everything goes. If you require any further information then please do not hesitate to speak to the teacher on duty in the morning and a suitable appointment will be made, if the matter requires a certain amount of time to be dealt with.

Class 3 – Mr J Williams

In English, the class will be looking at stories with familiar settings along with poetry and recount writing. During the week there are opportunities for children to read both individually and in Guided Reading sessions. Please encourage children to read at home and we appreciate comments in their reading diaries. For Maths, our initial focus will be place value, addition, subtraction and multiplication. Homework will be set on a Friday for return by the following Tuesday, unless otherwise stated. Spelling lists will be distributed on a Friday for a test the following Friday. Finally, PE will take place on a Monday (indoor) and Friday (outdoor). Please ensure your child has the appropriate kit and footwear on these days.

Class 4 – Mr R Lloyd

In English, the class will be studying recounts and reading 'The wreck of the Zanzibar' by Michael Morpurgo. Later in the term the focus will be play scripts and instructions. During the week there are opportunities for children to read both individually and in Guided Reading sessions. Our Maths programme of study will include place value, mental and written strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and data handling. Our topic this term is Ancient Greece. PE lessons are Monday (indoor) and Friday (outdoor). Please ensure appropriate kit and footwear are available. Homework will be set on a Friday for return the following Tuesday, unless otherwise stated. Spelling tests will take place on a Friday and new spelling lists will be distributed following the test. Children are expected to take their reading books home during the week.

Safeguarding / Child Protection

All Parents/carers should be aware the school has a responsibility to ensure the well-being of all pupils. This responsibility means that Ysgol Y Waun must adhere to the following:-

1. Have a child protection policy and procedure;
2. Make parents/carers aware of its child protection policy through the school prospectus. The policy requires that a child be referred to the statutory child welfare agencies if the school believes or suspects that a child or other children may be at risk of significant harm;
3. Endeavour to work with parents/carers regarding the welfare of their child and remain impartial if their child is being, or has been referred;
4. Help parents/carers understand that if a referral is made to social services or the police, it has been made in the best interest of the child and that the school will be involved in any child protection enquiry or police investigation in relation to their child's welfare and educational progress;

5. Keep the parents/carers informed of the welfare and educational progress of the child.

You may find the following helpful:-

1. familiarise yourself with your child's friends and routine;
2. be sensitive to changes in behaviour;
3. teach your child to feel confident to refuse to do anything they feel is wrong;
4. be aware of your child's use of the internet and mobile phone to ensure they don't place themselves at risk.

Mrs Ankers, Mr Williams and Mrs Davies-Cooke are all trained to Level 3 Child Protection and all other staff are trained to Level 1.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Medical forms

If your child requires medicine at all during the school day our First Aider, Mrs Hayes will administer this once a medical form has been completed. These are available from the office.

Concerns/Complaints Procedure

Should you have any concerns about the welfare of your child in school please do not hesitate to contact us – as we explain to the children if we do not know about things, we cannot make them better. The procedure for raising concerns is that you firstly approach the class teacher, this can either be done by sending a note in requesting a call or appointment or telephoning the office. We do find that on occasions children come home and retell an upsetting event from the day, if you contact us straight away we can usually put your mind at ease and resolve the situation. If you feel the situation has not been resolved, then please contact myself who will investigate further.

General Information

Following County and WG safeguarding procedures the school gates are closed between the hours of 9.00am and 4.30pm daily.

When bringing children to school in the mornings please can I ask that parents are not to turn left as they enter the gates with their cars – they are to use the bottom visitors car park. At home time please can I ask you to consider the residents of Y Waen when parking your car and ensure you park correctly and not blocking driveways.

Please can I remind all children to bring a water bottle to school daily, this can be filled from our water cooler. Children are reminded to take their bottles home each night to ensure they are emptied and cleaned for the following day. Please can you also remind children to take them home. While I appreciate it is not always 'cool' to wear a coat, or if you come to school in the car you may not need one, when the children are outside for any length of time it is cold. If it is damp or raining during a break, without a coat they may not be able to go out. KS2 pupils are allowed to bring trainers to be changed into for lunch break – all pupils should wear black school shoes when in the building – not trainers.

Extra Curricular Activities

This term we are offering:

Monday – Drama with Mrs Jane Meakin (3.15 – 4.45) from Year 2 at a cost of £3.50 payable directly to Jane

Monday – Lego with Mrs Johnson (Ellis and Gabriel's mum) (3.15 – 4.00 for Year 2 and 3 only)

Tuesday – Netball (3.15 – 4.15) Miss Smith
Wednesday – Football (3.15 – 4.15) Mr Lloyd and Mr Williams
Thursday – Table top games (3.15 – 4.15) Mrs Ankers (no club on 21st September)

Netball and Football will require tracksuits and trainers/football boots. It is important that you attend clubs every week as when skills are developed and work is built on, missing weeks makes it difficult for continuity. You must let the member of staff know if you are unable to attend for any reason.

Breakfast Club

This club is partly funded by a grant from the WG to Flintshire Council. We have two members of staff who work in the hall and one in the kitchen preparing food. Children are invited to attend from 7.40am until 8.25am. All children require an adult to sign them in at the door with the exception of Year 6 pupils who can sign themselves and a KS2 sibling in. Children are supervised until the start of the school day when teaching staff are on duty. Due to WG funds, as of April 1st 2016, only 30 minutes per day are funded, therefore, children arriving before 8.10am will be charged £2 for the first child and £1 for siblings, this provision is 'Early Risers'. Children arriving between 8.10am and 8.25am will access the WG 'Free Breakfast Club'. Cheques are to be made payable to Flintshire County Council or cash can be paid via a clearly labelled envelope to Sheila or Linda in the mornings.

School dinners

All meals are £2.15 per day £10.75 per week. The menu is displayed in the school porch. Please ensure that payment for school meals is made promptly. Money is to be sent to school in a labelled envelope including your child's name, amount enclosed and what the money is for (eg 5 dinners) – Cheques are to be made payable to Flintshire County Council and cash is to be sent in for the correct amount. Mrs Jones is happy for people to pay for meals in advance and she will inform you when your last meal is taken.

After School Club

Sheila Davies runs the school after school club from Monday to Friday 3pm – 5.30pm in the community centre for all full time children. Registration forms will be sent home shortly. Please can we remind you that children must be booked into the club either by speaking to Sheila or sending a text to 07931107503. (The phone is turned on at 2.30pm) Also if you have booked your child in and no longer need the place please can you let Sheila know as someone else may want the place.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 25th September - Individual school photographs

Monday 18th Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th September – Individual Parents evening appointments to discuss pupil targets

A little request.... If anyone has any 'U' DVDs which are no longer used and looking for a good home please send them to school for our 'wet break time' box – thank you!

L.K Ankers
Headteacher