



Parent Information Sheet – Thursday 7th September 2023

Welcome Back – Croeso Nol

It's been a privilege to welcome everyone for the start of the new academic year. The children and staff have settled quickly and have already begun to work hard to further improve their standards. There are a number of exciting topics planned to inspire the pupils this academic year.

Our Caretaker, Mr Gibbs-Bowen and team of cleaners worked hard to ensure that our school was ready for the pupils' return. My thanks to them. I am also grateful to the staff who gave up part of their holiday to ensure that the school was ready for the pupils.

Over the summer holidays we have made further improvements to the school environment. As a result of a pupil survey, a number of Key Stage 2 classrooms have been redecorated. In addition, the school kitchen has been extended and upgraded.

With children moving to new departments, I thought it timely to remind parents of the details of our senior leadership team, SLT.

SLT

Mr George	Headteacher
Mr Smith	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Robins	ALNCo
Mrs Arnold	Lower School Lead (N – Y2)
Mrs Boyland	Upper School Lead (Y3 – Y6)
Mr White	Curriculum Lead

Staffing Update

As we begin a new school year we say farewell to Mr Gilmour. Mr Gilmour worked at Rhiw Syr Dafydd for a number of years and has supported many children over this time. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his work over the years and to wish him well in his new ventures.

Pupil Information

Your child should have brought home a Data Collection sheet, which outlines the information we hold on our system. It is imperative that this information is kept up to date and we would be grateful if you could please check the sheet carefully, making any amendments necessary, sign, and return it to school as soon as possible. Please return the sheet whether there are amendments or not.

We have also sent home a 'taste testing' letter, a 'walk to the village' letter and a 'photo permission' slip. We would be grateful if you could please sign all slips, ensuring you fill out the slips in full, and return them to school at your earliest convenience. Having these permissions on file reduces the amount of paperwork we need to send home, and avoids the difficulty of forgotten permission slips, which can result in pupils not being able to take part.

Brodies Garden

I met with Brodies Mum at the end of the summer term to discuss the development of Brodies Garden. We are now in a position where we would like to start to work on the area. The first job will be to dig out the area to make as much space as possible. If anyone has access to a mini digger and is able to help with this we would be extremely grateful. If you are able to help, please contact the school office. We will be seeking more volunteers over the coming weeks. Thank you all for your anticipated support.

School Dinners

All school dinners are now free to Primary School children in Caerphilly. However, please check the lunch menu with your child to ensure they like the choices that are on offer. Next week we will be on week 2 of the menu: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/services/schools-and-learning/school-dinners-and-breakfast-clubs/schedule-and-prices/week2>

After School Clubs

Our after-school club provision will start the week beginning Monday 25th September. A list of after school clubs will be sent out to parents next week.

Our after-school club provision for the autumn term is as follows:

Club	Day	Year Group
Rugby	Monday 3:15 – 4:30pm	Year 5 & 6
Well-being	Monday 3:00 – 4:05pm	Year 2
Netball	Monday 3:15 – 4:30pm	Year 3 & 4
Welsh	Monday 3:15 – 4:00pm	Years 3 – 6 Criw Cymraeg
Minecraft	Monday 3:15 – 4:00pm	Year 3
Girls Football	Tuesday 3:15 – 4:30pm	Year 5 & 6
Netball	Tuesday 3:15 – 4:30pm	Year 5 & 6
Spanish	Tuesday 3:15 – 4:15pm	Year 4 & 5
Art Club	Thursday 3:15 – 4:00pm	Year 2
Football	Thursday 3:15 – 4:30pm	Year 5 & 6
Drama	Thursday 3:15- 4:30pm	Year 5 & 6

Islwyn District Trials

There will be an open training session on Tuesday 12th September at Newbridge RFC starting promptly at 5:45pm. All children attending will require rugby boots, water and anything else they normally use for rugby such as a gumshield and scrum cap. The trials are for pupils in Year 5 and 6.

Seesaw

A reminder that we have been using the Seesaw app as an excellent way to show work that is being undertaken by pupils in school. If you haven't already signed up for this free app, I would certainly encourage you to do so. I have attached a copy of our Seesaw messaging principles to ensure we all understand the expectations around the use of Seesaw. Please do not report any urgent messages via Seesaw. These should be reported to the main school office.

School Photographs

The original date for the school photographer has changed. The photographer will now be in school on Monday 23rd October. Further information will be sent home closer to the time.

Asthma Forms

If your child is asthmatic and has a pump in school you should have received a new form to complete. If you haven't received a form, please contact the school office.

Road Safety

I have done all that I can to significantly improve safety for pupils at the start of each school day.

- Pupils for Breakfast Club should arrive between 7:50am and 8:20am.
- The first part of our car park has been opened to allow parents to safely 'drop off' their children.
- Myself or another member of the senior leadership team are on the playground from **8:20am** each morning so that pupils can be dropped off and not kept waiting in the street until 8:35am. On a wet day, a member of staff is in the large hall and supervises the pupils there.
- From **8.35am** staff are on the playground to supervise pupils. On a wet day the staff are in their classrooms.

It is important that once parents drop their child at school, they clear both the parking spaces and the entrance to the school. If parents stand in front of the gate, pupils need to push between adults unknown to them to get into school. Worse, on occasions they need to walk onto the road to gain access to the entrance. By working together, we can ensure the safety of our pupils. I look forward to your support with this.

Mr C George
Headteacher

Mr G Jones
Chair of School Governors



Seesaw

Messaging Principles



Key Principle 1:

You're in control of how often you're notified about new information in Seesaw. Notifications can be **turned off**, so that Seesaw doesn't disturb you. You would then have to choose to check Seesaw at a time convenient to you. Here are your options in the Seesaw Family account:

1. Tap your profile icon in the upper left corner.
2. Tap 'Account Settings.'
3. Turn email and/or push notifications ON / ONCE A DAY / OFF.

Key Principle 2:

Everyone's personal work/life balance is different, so when they access Seesaw will be different. So for example:

- Teachers may upload items or message early in the morning, late at night or on weekends. This will differ from class to class as each teachers personal circumstances are different.
 - Parents may message at varying times too, as each parents personal circumstances are different
- If notifications are turned off, as per key principle 1, then you would never be disturbed by a message or post. You would then have to choose to check Seesaw at a time convenient to you.

Key Principle 3:

All urgent communication will still be via the office. There is not an expectation that staff reply immediately to any messages from parents. They will respond in an appropriate amount of time dependent on their workload at that time.

Key Principle 4:

Any inappropriate messages will be reported to Mr George and Mr Smith. Where deemed inappropriate the person will be contacted and in the first instance warned that the content is inappropriate. Further action will be taken to turn off the message service to those who cannot adhere to this principle after they have received a warning.