



**Respect Share Determined Passionate Successful**



## **Parent Information Sheet – Thursday 8th September 2022**

### **Welcome Back – Croeso Nol**

It has 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. I'm extremely hopeful that we will have a full year in school and will not be affected by Coronavirus!

I am grateful to our team of cleaners who have worked throughout the summer holiday to ensure the school was ready for the staff and pupils to return.

Over the summer holidays we have made further improvements to the school environment. As a result of a pupil survey, new water fountains have been installed throughout the school to allow pupils access to fresh water throughout the school day. In addition, new toilets have been installed in the Nursery for our youngest pupils.

### **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.

### **School Dinners**

The cost of school dinners has increased to £2.20 a day. Please accept my apologies for not informing you sooner, but I only discovered this myself when I went on the Caerphilly website. It would be extremely helpful if all dinners could be paid for on a Monday for the week ahead. You can do this using the 'cashless system' where you can monitor your child's account. If you are having difficulties accessing the account, please contact the school office.

All pupils in Reception and Year 1 are now entitled to free school meals under the Welsh Government scheme. However, please check your child's account to ensure that any outstanding balances have been paid.

Please click on the link below to see a copy of the school lunch menu. Next week we will be on Week 2 of the menu.

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Schools/pupils-menu-week2-eng.aspx>

Fruit money will still need to be paid in cash. Fruit is 20p a day and we would be extremely grateful if you could send in fruit money for the week on a Monday morning in an envelope clearly marked

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with your child's name and class. You are more than welcome to pay fruit money for the term if this makes things easier. This is for foundation phase pupils

We are looking at reintroducing the fruit trolley for pupils in key stage 2 and will update you as soon as this is in place.

### **School Crossing Patrol**

As you are aware, Mrs Smith, our school crossing patrol lady, retired at the end of the summer term. Unfortunately, the local authority have been unable to fill the position although I believe the post has now been advertised. I have made the local authority aware of my concerns with the increased amount of traffic using Maes Y Garn Road at the beginning and end of the school day. I enquired if I could undertake the role until someone is appointed but was informed that this isn't possible.

I will of course keep you all updated and as soon as I receive further information I will let you know.

### **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.

### **Cost of Living**

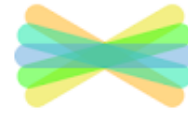
The cost of living crisis is affecting everyone at the current time. As a school we are looking at ways of reducing the impact on our pupils and families. If you are experiencing any difficulties, please contact the school for advice. We have a significant amount of school uniform here which we are happy to provide free of charge to anyone who requires it. We are here to help if we can!

**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.