



*Tyfu gyda'n gilydd, dysgu am byth*  
*Growing together, learning forever*

26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## RE: OCTOBER UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers

As our first half term draws to a close, it's been great to see how well children have settled into their new classes and the progress that they are making. I hope that you have found our earlier Autumn parent consultation evenings helpful and have provided a good opportunity for discussions with your child's new teacher, especially our new Nursery families – a big welcome to you all! The next parent consultations are scheduled for **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March** (Nursery will have an additional date due to large numbers).

### School Trips

With the exception of Nursery, all year groups have booked school trips for this term and many of you will remember we consulted with everyone about affordability of these last Autumn. During 22-23, school day trips costs ranged between £7 and £15 with the majority of them being subsidised by the school down to £10. Overall, the school spent just under £2000 last year to subsidise these trips for our families.

Many costs are continuing to rise, especially coach costs and we fully appreciate that with so many other costs of living also increasing, this will continue to be a challenge for many families. I have discussed this with our Governing Body last week and am pleased to confirm that **we will continue to subsidise day trips down to £10 this year**, albeit this will need a much greater level of subsidy from the school – I would anticipate this will be upwards to £5000 for the whole year. In future, we will also show the level of subsidy on each trip letter for your information.

Our school trips are usually linked to curriculum plans for the term, but we do try to ensure that costs are reasonable (some planned trips haven't gone ahead as we felt costs were too high). Our ability to run the trips depends upon having a sufficient level of contributions from families to meet that balance and if the situation continues to worsen and families are unable to make the requested contributions, then we may find ourselves having to cancel trips, but hopefully, through this subsidy, we can avoid that situation.

Sporting fixtures can present an additional challenge with fewer children attending, but generally similar transport costs. Some parents have asked about whether they can help out with transport to avoid these costs, so we'll try this out over the months ahead and see if it's a viable option. Ultimately, it may depend having sufficient volunteers and also whether parents are happy for their children to be transported by other parents as this would have to be entirely on a voluntary basis.

Just as a reminder, we will inform you about local (walking) trips and visits to the comprehensive school, but these are included in the paper consent form that everyone has completed previously, so we wouldn't usually send out electronic consent requests for these.

If any parents do not already have the [School Gateway app](#), or have changed phones recently, I would recommend downloading the app if at all possible as this makes for much easier communication, particularly around trips – and also keeps costs to the school to a minimum too.

### **Governing Body Vacancies**

We currently have three vacancies on our Governing Body, one parent vacancy and two LEA. (Ideally, LEA governor applicants would not be parents at Maes yr Haul for purposes of balance across the Governing Body.)

If you wish to be considered for election as a parent governor, please submit the following information to the school **by 5pm on Monday 13th November** (any applications received after this date will not be taken into account.)

1. Your Name
2. Address
3. Telephone number
4. Child's name

**You must also include a short statement of no more than 100 words which** will be included in the ballot form. Please note if you exceed the word limit only the first 100 words will be included on the ballot form. Please sign and date the information you submit to the school.

Also, if you know anyone who may be interested in becoming an LEA Governor (e.g. extended family, work colleagues etc, ideally not current parents of the school), there is a separate application form for this purpose, which is included along with this letter – please feel free to pass it on or ask them to contact the school directly.

Wishing everybody a great half term break and look forward to seeing you all again in November. We are back at school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Kind Regards



Kevin Stroud  
Headteacher