



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

18th September 2025

## **RE: SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents/Carers

The children have been settling well into their new classes and the staff are getting to know all their new faces. Whilst teachers will provide feedback on how they are settling in to their new classes in our Autumn parents evening (Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November), this is obviously still a while off, so if there are any particular concerns in the meantime, please do get in touch - contact the office and the class teacher will get aim to get back to you within 48 hours. Please avoid discussions on the doorstep at the start of the day unless it's urgent.

The 'google classrooms' for this year have now been set up (except Nursery which will be another couple of weeks), so please do have a look here for information from your class teacher. Access is through your child's Hwb account.

### **Lost Property**

With the very changeable weather lately, we're already seeing an increase in lost property – obviously without names, or we'd be able to return them to the child. This includes a few coats and quite a lot of new school jumpers. There are also a growing number of water bottles, lunch boxes too. If you'd like to come and have a look through the lost property, please come to the office, who will be happy to direct you. We simply can't keep the sheer volume of lost property that we have for ever, so we will have to dispose of some of it later this term.

### **Cycling to school**

We have lots of storage racks by the front entrance for any children coming to school with scooters or bikes so I'd really like to encourage the children to take advantage of this facility – can I just remind everyone that anyone cycling to/from school needs to walk their bicycles through the school grounds for safety reasons.

### **PPA / Staff Timetables**

I've had a couple of enquiries about when teachers are in class. All teachers are entitled to at least 10% teaching time as PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment). This is usually organised as one afternoon per week for infant classes (Nursery – Year 2) and a day per fortnight in the junior classes (Years 3 – 6).

In addition to this, there are three staff on the senior leadership team with classroom responsibilities who have additional leadership time out of class each week in order to fulfil their respective responsibilities. These are:

Mrs R Roach (Reception) – Assistant Headteacher and Additional Learning Needs  
Miss R Williams-Jones (Reception) – pupil wellbeing and family engagement, and  
Mrs R Jones (Year 6) – curriculum.

Arrangements vary slightly in different parts of the school, but at these times, the classes are normally covered by either the learning support officer (LSO) attached to that class, or other Senior LSOs who work more broadly across the school. In every case, these staff have significant experience within our school and with taking whole classes for these purposes. We are very fortunate in having a highly experienced and dedicated team of support staff – they work closely with their respective teachers, who oversee all the planning, activities and timetables for their own classes. All teachers meet regularly with relevant support staff to discuss pupil progress, share feedback and plan for the weeks ahead to ensure that pupil's learning is not disrupted by these times when teachers do need to be out of the classroom.

### **After School Clubs**

A number of class teacher provide extra-curricular clubs in their own time – some at lunchtimes, some after school. Given the size of our school, these are almost always in high demand and hence it isn't always possible to meet that demand! Information on each of these clubs is being sent out as/when confirmed – these are mostly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

To help enhance this further, we are always keen to explore any opportunities for other (chargeable) extra-curricular opportunities from external providers. Currently, this includes Mad Science (science - Mondays), Keybra (keyboards - Wednesdays), and EG Dance (contemporary dance - Thursdays). If you are interested in your child attending any of these clubs, please contact the office for further information.

### **Cutlery Skills**

This term, I've spent some time in the dinner hall at lunchtimes. In that time, I've noticed a surprising number of children (including junior age) who seem to struggle with using a knife and fork, opting for what I would call the 'stab and munch' approach! Obviously, this is an important skill for children to learn and the vast majority of our school meals are not what you might call 'finger food' (e.g. slice of pizza). Please can I ask you to help support your child to develop their cutlery skills as this is something that can be very time-consuming in the dinner hall when there are lots of children needing support. Here are a couple of videos that you might find helpful to support your child with this important skill.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIEA3uYu74Y>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=cau5cevlG2U>

Kind Regards



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