

**Headteacher update**

Well, that term went by in a flash, who could imagine we would have been living and working with Covid for over two years now. Our children have once again been incredible and have often shown resilience and dedication well beyond their years. They have nearly always remained steadfast in their focus and maturity to do their very best for themselves and those around them. This term has not been without its challenges and I thank pupils, staff and families for everyone's support this term. It has not always been easy, but the reward will be long lasting and definitely worth it.

We have many things to **celebrate** this term and you will see a flavour of this or very first school newspaper - written and designed by our budding team of journalists and also a continuing flavour on our school facebook page, we are also going to give the website a revamp over the coming weeks too. We had a lovely day today exploring the importance of Easter and Ramadan in our whole school virtual assembly as well as celebrating its pagan origins too, the bonnets and hats were just incredible! We are very proud of our whole school efforts for Ukraine appeal, many thanks for your support.

**Important dates next term**

Term begin	Monday 25th April**
INSET Day (5)	Friday 27th May
INSET Day (6)	Monday 27th June*
Half term	W/B Monday 30th May
Summer Term Ends	Friday 22nd July

\*now confirmed

\*\*Summer term uniform can we worn [Uniform - Ysgol Nantgwyn](#)

We are all looking forward to the summer term when all pupils will return refreshed and renewed for the term that lies ahead.

We have said **farewell** to three staff today, who are leaving us to pasture new. Miss Felicity Gardner (Performing Arts), Mr Tom Howells (Science) and Miss Jodie Atkinson (Progress Coach). We wish them all the best with their exciting new posts and will miss them, they will always be a part of #teamnantgwyn

**Our Special wishes** and heartfelt thoughts go to pupils, staff and families who are experiencing a range of personal difficulties at this time, we are always here if you need us. Our [help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk), will be monitored at key points over the holidays.

**Year 11** will be undertaking a range of revision events both in school and at the Urdd centre in Cardiff Bay in the second week of the Easter holiday, many thanks to staff who are supporting this three day event to support pupils in readiness for their forthcoming coming exam series, this should be a great three days. Any pupils or families who may have a last minute change of heart and would like to sign up to the school based programme next week should get in touch with myself or Mrs Williams.

As a reminder, **free school meal** payments will be paid via BACS payments over the Easter holidays. Also if you have not yet accessed your PDG access grant (uniform and resources), please check your eligibility here [PDG access grant](#)

Very best wishes for the Easter holidays, and we are looking forward to seeing everyone at the start of term on **Monday 25th April**, especially our new starters in nursery.

Yours, as always  
Kirsty Retallick  
Headteacher



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## **Covid restrictions**

Until informed otherwise schools will continue to operate under their specific Covid risk assessments, as the legislation continues to require that businesses, organisations and workplaces put in place reasonable measures to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Our schools continue to monitor and review these on a regular basis, and are taking proportionate responses based on local circumstances, to balance the need for face-to-face learning, and keeping our schools safe.

You can help us to continue to disrupt the transmission of the virus by:

- self-isolating when you feel unwell
- wearing masks in crowded places
- keeping up to date with your vaccinations.

Continuing with protective behaviours is important and will help to minimise exposure to and spread of Covid-19, as well as other respiratory infections and other diseases.

If you have any of the main symptoms of Covid-19, you should self-isolate and take a lateral flow test (LFT). You can order LFTs online at [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) or call 119 between 7am and 11pm (calls are free).

The main symptoms of Covid-19 continue to be:

- a high temperature
- a continuous cough
- loss or change of taste or smell.

The next few months will see further work in transitioning to Welsh Government's Living with Covid strategy, and we will continue to do everything we can to keep learners in the classroom, and to keep our schools safe. We are grateful for your ongoing support and will continue to provide updates as they become available. Encouraging good school attendance remains a key priority during the summer term.

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## **Head of School update**

What a term!!! It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating Christmas and now it is Easter, the time has flown. Once again, it has been a nonstop fortnight to round the term off. Phonics and reading continues to be the main focus each morning and pupils are seeing and showing us the rewards of this drive with improved reading outcomes in the recent Salford testing.

Furthermore, Yr2 and Yr3 have completed the NNT's and NRT's during the past two weeks and all pupils/parents have received their interim reports showing how they are progressing. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate in contacting your child's class teacher directly via email.

The faculty of life have continued with encouraging local and national providers to complete basic first aid training with all pupils in lower school, while yr2 enjoyed a scooter experience day that also included elements of road safety. As various aspects of life open up we will continue to provide our pupils with these enriching opportunities.

Please see our School Newspaper for further details about what has been going on around lower and the wider school, or simply follow our social media pages for regular updates.

Today, Mrs Retallick, hosted a whole school assembly, virtually of course, to celebrate Easter. Pupils (and parents) have been busy making Easter bonnets as an activity and families that request craft packs were supported via requests.

I have already started meeting with some parents surrounding attendance, this priority will continue into the summer terms with further meetings if your son/daughters attendance is or becomes a concern to us as a lower school team.

Reminder, we expect a minimum of 95% attendance across the academic year. You will find your sons/daughters recent attendance figure on the recently issued interim reports. Any concerns, or if you would like to discuss attendance further, please contact Mrs Elford on the email below or on the school number: 01443 436 171.

On Monday 25th April, we look forward to welcoming our new pre-nursery pupils to Ysgol Nantgwyn. All pupils have received the starter information and were invited to attend on Tuesday just gone. The pupils seem to love the opportunity to explore their new learning environment and we look forward to their first with us.

Year 1 will be having their audiology tests on Friday 29th April (first week back), this information has been shared with all parents via letter.

Reminder, that Monday 2nd May is a Bank Holiday and the school will be closed.

We look forward to welcoming all pupils back on Monday 25th April. In the meantime, enjoy the break and hopefully the weather. Remember, all pupils should be reading for between 20/30 minutes everyday, even during the holidays. This support from all parents will be hugely beneficial for all pupils, regardless of ability and will support the fantastic work teachers and pupils are doing in class.

A massive thank you to pupils, parents and staff alike. It has been a fantastic term and I look forward to seeing what the summer term brings.

### Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher

Winners in week 5 were:

- Callie (1A), Ted (Rec1) and William (3A): all are 'always responsible' in and around school. Well done.

Today's winners (week 6) were:

- Valentine (Rec), Oliver (Yr1), Anna-Belle (Yr2) and Dawson (Yr3) for being the most improved readers since the start of the year. Well done all.

Finally, to all our Ysgol Nantgwyn families, a very happy Easter, enjoy your time together with loved ones - and of course the chocolate.

Regards,

*J Davies*

Mr Davies

Assistant Headteacher - Head of Lower School

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## School Update

### Weekly wonders

The following pupils have received our weekly wonder award. This is awarded by the class teachers and reasons for awarding a pupil is given below. Congratulations all, keep it up.

Class	Weekly Wonder - w/c: 28/03/2022	Weekly Wonder - w/c: 04/04/2022
Nursery		Lottie, for settling into school really well and showing an interest in lots of activities.
Reception 1	Kiara, for trying so hard with all our work in Europe. Well done Kiara.	Tristan, for trying hard all week with his work.
Reception 2	Lyric, for lovely writing.	Dylan for trying so hard this week. Well done.
Year 1A	Fraya, for super reading this week and a lovely written plan for her story.	Abbie, for excellent reading and for writing a lovely story based on the 3 little pigs

		independently. She just gets on with things without any fuss! She is delightful.
<b>Year 1B</b>	Lucy, for fantastic reading with growing confidence and fluency.	Brooklyn, for always answering questions and being really helpful this week.
<b>Year 2A</b>	Samuel, for working with enthusiasm when creating arrays in maths with lego and making calculations.	Nari, for trying so hard to blend sounds to read new words and for always creating beautiful illustrations.
<b>Year 2B</b>	Carter, for his hard work all week and listening well in class.	Evlyn has been engaging really well in classroom discussions.
<b>Year 3A</b>	Daisy has worked incredibly hard this week to write a disaster story which shows the emotions of the main character. Well done.	Darcy, for outstanding oral work during our class discussions and for being enthusiastic and eager to learn.
<b>Year 3B</b>	Kian for writing a fantastic story about Pompeii.	Joshua, for fantastic maths work.

#### Lower School Contact details:

Staff contact details:

Assistant Headteacher, Mr John Davies  
Deputy Head of School, Mrs Judith Griffiths  
Raising Standards Leader, Mrs Liz Elford

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#### Attendance

Congratulations to each of the pupils in the table below that have achieved 100% attendance for the last week (Thursday - Thursday). We have also launched one of our attendance initiatives where pupils receive a certificate via ParentMail for 100% attendance each week - try and collect them all!

At the end of the half term, all pupils that have 100% attendance for the half term are invited to our attendance celebration! Please keep up the fantastic efforts and attend, as attendance at school is crucial for academic success!

Nursery 1	Nursery 2	Reception	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Vare	Amelia	Lilly-Rose	Deacon-Jackson	Teddy	Nari	Elliott	Grace	Italia-Rose
Lila-Grace	Marni	Scarlett-Rae	Connie	Oliver	Jack	Emilie-Rose	Harrison	Junior
Oscar	Lenny-George	Georgie	Ethan	Harper	Thea-Rae	Evelyn-Rose	Cory	Seren
Megan	Amelia	Lincoln	Meelah	Callie	Ava-May	Shane	Coby	Charley
Riley	Ava-Mae	Lyric	Aliyah	Luca	Izzabella		Darcy	
Esmee	Auggie	Oscar	Cora	Riley	Jax		Dawson	
Aurorah	Jackson	Cruze	Mia	Ryder-James	Henry		Finley	
Thomas	Navaeh-Rae	Destan	Alice	Ebony	Isabelle		Harper	
Tilly	Vinnie-Lynn	Harris	Alys	Emi	Oakley		William	
Charlotte	Lottie	Joey	Joshua		Charlotte		Summer	
Harlan	Esmee	Marnie	Ryan		James		Lucie	
Evan		Oliver	Thomas		Rhodri		Olivia	
Alexa		Aria	Thomas		Jasmine		Hunter	
Oliver		Haydn	Cooper		Thomas		Chael	
Noah		Esmie	Paige		Jesse		Faith	
Bailey		Jagger	Lilly		Jamie		Cassie	
Sonnie		Valentine	Griff		Matilda		Olivia	
Frankie		Jaxon	Rio		Lacey-May		Blake	
Leia		Millie-Harper	Lucy		Ollie		Fern	
Brodie		Noah	Nevaeh		Elliot		Belle	
Finley		Luna	Oakley		Reevah		Daisy	
Grayson		Kayla	Iwan		Sarina		Millie	
Rowan		Eve	Kian		Carter-James		Ebony	
Harry		Hollie-Ann	Jacob		Mitchell		Charlie	
		Hanson	Sofia		Paighton		Shay-Aneurin	
		Lowri	Brooklyn		Carys		Kiana	
		Libby	Alexis		Evie		Mali	
		Evelyn	Hallie		Samuel		Harvey	
		Kiara	Skye		Alma		Kaden	
		Dylan	Jaxson		Megan		Faith	
			Oliver		Olivia		Zak	
			Israel		Paisley		Halle-Rae	
			Esmee		Hadli-Rose		Osian	
			Gurman		Ruby-Tania		Amelia	
			Alicia		Scarlett		Taisie	



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are writing to let you know that we can now offer a COVID-19 vaccine to your child. Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from potential serious illness. This letter provides information to help you and your child understand more about the vaccine.

In the next few weeks NHS Wales will be contacting parents and guardians of children aged 5 to 11 years to offer vaccinations. For local information, health board vaccination web pages are listed here: [Gov.Wales/covidvaccine](https://gov.wales/covidvaccine).

Most 5 to 11 year old children will be offered two doses of the Pfizer BioNtech vaccine, 12 weeks apart. If your child has been identified as at clinical risk, or a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed, the interval is 8 weeks.

The UK independent medicines regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), has confirmed this vaccine is safe and effective for children of this age. They have carried out rigorous reviews of safety, quality, and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine for this age group.

The Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advises that two doses of the vaccine should give your child long-lasting protection against complications of infection. It could also prime their immune system against future variants.

As the parent / guardian, you will need to consent to them having the vaccine. You'll also need to go with your child or authorise another care giver to do so, with your written consent. If your child is unwell with a fever or has had a positive coronavirus test in the 28 days before the appointment, you should delay their vaccination as outlined in the links below. Please let your health board know.

Vaccinations are given in a safe, child-friendly environment. Experienced and supportive NHS staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have. It may help for younger children to take a toy, book or device to distract and entertain them, and a snack for immediately following the procedure.

Nearly 9 in 10 eligible people (age 12+) in Wales have already had both of their primary doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Please use the resources in the links below to help you and your child reach a joint decision about taking up this offer.

These links will take you to accurate and trusted sources containing information on vaccines. They have facts on safety, effectiveness and potential side effects (which are usually mild and don't require treatment). It would be good to involve your child in looking at some of the child-friendly resources below too:

Public Health Wales <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information>

Public Health Wales information for 5-17 year olds

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information/resources-for-health-and-social-care-professionals/covid-19-guide-5-17-text-only-version-1-english/>

Public Health England <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-aged-5-to-11-years>

British Society of Immunology <https://www.immunology.org/public-information/guide-vaccinations-for-covid-19>

Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-aged-5-to-11-years/a-guide-for-parents-of-children-aged-5-to-11-years>

Vaccination saves lives. The World Health Organisation estimates that at least 2-3 million deaths are prevented every year through immunisation. If your child has missed any routine vaccinations during the pandemic please let your General Practice know. They can arrange for them to be rescheduled. Visit <https://111.wales.nhs.uk/LiveWell/vaccinations/> for more information.

Yours sincerely,

**The Office of the Chief Medical Officer for Wales**