

Headteacher update

'At Nantgwyn, when you are ready, respectful and responsible, everything is possible'

A huge thank you for your support and positivity over the last seven weeks - what a seven weeks it has been. Our pupils and staff have been truly marvellous, despite many challenges including illness, absence, (pupils and staff), and our constant striving to want them to do their very best; they have risen to the challenge.

We have celebrated successes and supported many of the Ysgol Nantgwyn community who are having an incredibly sad and difficult time. Please remember we are always here if you need us, you are never alone.

Many thanks to the many parents and family members who completed our Nantgwyn questionnaire. I will share these positive results with you after half term, along with our action plans to address the areas in need of improvement. Please remember to get in touch with your child's teacher or lower, middle, upper school staff at any time if you are worried or concerned or alternatively pop us an email to help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk.

We have seen a slight improvement in school attendance over the last few weeks, but as a team together we now need to see a further positive improvement. Our target is for ALL pupils to be in school all of the time so that in a 4 week period a child could only be absent once as a maximum, and ideally no time at all. As Covid rates have dropped considerably and as finer weather is on the horizon, ensuring much better attendance and punctuality habits now needs to be our main priority to ensure excellent learning and progress can happen for the next half of this year. Please note the times of the school day below. It is expected that all pupils are in their classrooms, sat down and ready to learn by the school start time of either 08:40 (years 4 to 11) and 08:55 (nursery through to year 3). Any arrival after this point is classed as late.

Pupils return to school on **Tuesday 1st March** for St David's Day celebrations and we will also be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 5th, one day later the national day to support school operations. Information has been shared by Heads of School below.

Covid Update

In good news, after half term we will no longer be operating at the very highest state of Covid alert in school. However the current advice from the local authority is that we will remain within a high state of operations. This does bring a reduction in some of precautionary measures, namely:

1. No requirement for pupils and staff to wear masks inside classrooms, but masks will still be required in communal areas.
2. No masks required in outside areas.
3. Smaller assemblies in some circumstances
4. Return to normal parent drop off for gwyn pupils (in drop off time only). Please note that the gates on the Gwyn side will not open before 08:35 and we politely ask that you plan your journey to arrive on or after this time so that our neighbours in the Gellifaelog estate are not impacted by lines of queueing traffic.

All other current precautions will still apply at the high alert level.

Heads of School have set a number of half term challenges and especially important revision plans for year 11 pupils, but it is important to take down time too.

Yours, as always

Kirsty Retallick
Headteacher

Head of School update

Despite the wind and rain of the past two-weeks, it has once again been a reflective and productive fortnight in lower school. Please visit our social media pages for a snapshot as to what has been happening in classrooms.

It has been fantastic visiting classrooms daily to see all the wonderful work our pupils are creating and the learning they are exploring. Our focus continues to be centred around literacy, mathematical development and the wellbeing of our pupils. In addition, pupils are well into developing and broadening their knowledge in humanities, science, expressive arts and the languages of Welsh and Spanish.

I know it has been a difficult past few months, with numerous guidance changes and some just unsure what to do for the best. But, if you ever need advice or support, please feel free to contact us here at school and we will do our very best for you, your child and your family. Wellbeing support is regularly updated on the school website, but for ease just click [Wellbeing](#). Remember, if in need of the foodbank, please just email help@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk - this is a discrete service for our Ysgol Nantgwyn families, so please reach out if you need us.

The only thing left for me to say is 'thank you!'. Thank you to all the parents for your continued support, it is lovely to get a message of thanks, I know staff appreciate it - so please let me know personally if you would like me to publicly or personally thank a member of staff on your behalf. My thanks also go to the lower school team and staff in general at Ysgol Nantgwyn, it is truly a special place to work with very special people, some of which I could not do without. Finally, thank you to our amazing pupils, you truly do make everyday special and you always put a smile on staff's faces.

World Book Day

On Friday 4th March we will be celebrating World Book Day (one day later than the national day). Pupils in lower school will be allowed to wear their pyjamas to school on this day and bring in their favourite bedtime story. Throughout the day there will be exciting activities for pupils to complete, from designing their own bookmarks to a character hunt. There will also be a range of activities taking place in the Gwyn library. As part of World Book Day, all pupils will receive a book voucher that can be used as full or part payment for a book in their local shop.

St Davids Day

Reminder, on Tuesday 1st March (first day pupils are back in school) we will be celebrating St David's day! Pupils in lower school can wear something Welsh to school, or they can wear something white, green or red for the colours of the Welsh flag. There will be lots of activities happening during lessons for pupils to learn about and celebrate this special day. We also have a competition for all pupils to enter before St David's day. For this competition we want pupils to create something that shows **what Wales means to you**. This could be in the form of a poem or a song, you could bake a cake or make a model! In the past, pupils have been very creative with this.

If you have brothers or sisters that come to Ysgol Nantgwyn, you can work together and submit a joint entry! There will be one winner from each year group, winners will be announced on Tuesday 1st March on our school facebook page, and prizes will be given out by your class teacher or your form teacher.

You'll need to send a photo of your entry to stdavidsday@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk by 12pm on Monday February 28th. Pob lwc!

Half-term reading

My challenge this half-term is reading. Yes, it is a break for pupils, but can you encourage your child to read everyday over half-term, as this will support what teachers are doing in class. As previously mentioned, reading remains a priority for all pupils in lower school. There is no doubt that literacy is the essential element in all pupils' development and opens the door to a brighter future. We here at Ysgol Nantgwyn are committed to developing fluent and confident readers and you as parents can support us in our journey for your child. **All pupils in lower school need to be reading every night for approximately 20-minutes**. For our youngest pupils, this could be a parent reading a book at bedtime, showing their child the words as they go. For our slightly older pupils, we send age-appropriate reading books home, some will need support with these and others will be able to read more independently, but either way, I would encourage all to be reading out loud, just so you know they are reading the book in full. Thank you in advance for your support.

Attendance

We finished this term just under 92% across lower school (nursery to Yr3). Moving into next term, a reminder for all families that we will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality for all pupils. This happens everyday and any absent pupils will receive a phone call/message as part of our policy in improving attendance. Further reminder, as the evenings get lighter and hopefully the weather gets better that can be a temptation from some families to extend a weekend break, such requests will be declined and if a pattern of this attendance occurs you will be required to attend an attendance panel meeting with myself, as Head of Lower School. I am sure you will agree, pupils have missed too much school in the past two years and I cannot agree to any more absences. I look forward to your support on this matter. My message is clear: if pupils are not in front of teachers they are not learning and developing their skills, ultimately, this may result in poor attainment as they progress on their educational journey.

INSET Day

Monday 28th February is an INSET Day for staff training. Pupils will not attend school on this day.

Thank you all for your continued support. Stay and remain safe. Next week is about resting up and recharging the batteries, with a little reading of course. I look forward to seeing all pupils on Tuesday 1st March as we celebrate St Davids Day, following what I hope is a Welsh win over the English.

Come on Wales!!!

Stay warm, stay safe.

Regards,

Mr Davies


Assistant Headteacher - Head of Lower School


School Update

Uniform

For details on our school uniform requirements please visit our website or click [here](#) for detailed information (including PE kit). Please note, the past two years have impacted some families more than others, so please, if you are struggling and would like to discreetly discuss uniform or additional support, please contact a member of the lower school team and we will do our very best for you.

Physical Education

|  Faculty of Life 2021/22 WEEK 1 – PE Kit Days | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| Nursery | Reception | Year 2A | | Year 1B |
| Year 1A | Year 2A/2B | | | |
| Year 3B | Year 3A/3B | | | |



Faculty of Life 2021/22

WEEK 2 – PE Kit Days

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---------|------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| Nursery | Reception | Year 2A | Year 3B | Year 1B |
| 1A | Year 2A/2B | | | Year 3A |
| Year 7D | Year 3A/3B | | | |

PE kit, as indicated below and on the school website can be worn to school on the above allocated PE day(s). Should pupils wear PE kits on a day when they do not have PE, parents will be contacted to bring replacement uniform(s) to school. PE kit is black or navy shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings, royal blue or white t-shirt or polo shirt and trainers.

Morning arrival & breakfast club

The Gwyn gates will be opened just before 08:00 for breakfast club and locked again promptly at 08:10. The vehicle gates will be reopened at 08:35 to welcome pupils for the school day and locked at 08:55. At this point, lessons and learning would have started. If arriving late, you must access the site via the Nant gates and Llewellyn Street and report to the Nant reception. Please do not take it upon yourself to drive around to the Gwyn building, this is not acceptable.

Wellbeing and mental health

As a school, we try to ensure all parents and pupils have access to relevant support if needed. The past two years have been one of the most difficult challenges that families will face. We want to ensure all families know that we are here standing side-by-side with you throughout. We have a dedicated team of staff on hand to assist if you experience family difficulties or if you feel you need some information in relation to mental health or wellbeing. If you need any assistance, please visit the website or contact the lower school team via email.

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: 07/02/2022 | Weekly Wonder - w/c: 14/02/2022 |
|-------------|--|--|
| Nursery | Grayson for fabulous phonic work. | Amelia for always listening and being a lovely member of our class. |
| Reception 1 | Cruz, for trying really hard with his tricky words. | Lilly-Rose, for excellent counting. |
| Reception 2 | Millie-Harper for her positive attitude towards her learning. | Hudson, for always giving his best. |
| Year 1A | Iwan for some fantastic work all week with counting and writing. | Connie for trying her best with her reading. |
| Year 1B | Emi for working so hard on her reading. | Cooper for working hard on his place value during maths sessions. |
| Year 2A | Ava-May for trying so hard to learn sounds and tricky words. Keep practising...you can | Paisley for persevering when solving problems linked to counting pounds and pence. Keep it up! |

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| | do it! | |
| Year 2B | Lacey for some great work with her handwriting. | Izzabella for being a polite and respectful member of the class. Also she has worked super hard. |
| Year 3A | Harrison has really improved his concentration and his attitude to work. | William has made excellent progress on reading and is growing in confidence, fantastic work. |
| Year 3B | Dawson, for fabulous reading. | Cason, for brilliant writing. |

Lower School Contact details:

Staff contact details:

Assistant Headteacher, Mr John Davies

john.davies@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

Deputy Head of School, Mrs Judith Griffiths

judith.griffiths@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

Raising Standards Leader, Mrs Liz Elford

elizabeth.elford@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk

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!

| Nusery 1 | Nursery 2 | Reception | Year 1 | | Year 2 | Year 3 | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Vare | Amelia | Lilly-Rose | Abbie | Skye | Nari | Grace | Amelia |
| Lila-Grace | Harri | Amelia | Deacon-Jackson | Oliver | Thea-Rae | Cory | Tomos |
| Oscar | Lenny-George | Scarlett-Rae | Connie | Israel | Ava-May | Coby | Lucas |
| Megan | Amelia | Cruz | Ethan | Gurman | Heidi-Marie | Darcy | Taisie |
| Riley | Auggie | Georgie | Fraya | Alicia | Teigha | Dawson | Italia-Rose |
| Esmee | Jackson | Lincoln | Imogen | Teddy | Jasmine | Finley | Junior |
| Aurorah | Navaeh-Rae | Lytic | Joey | Callie | Thomas | Harper | Charley |
| Thomas | Penelope | Oscar | Meelah | Luca | Jesse | William | Saffron |
| Jessica | Luna | Cruze | Ollie-Blake | Riley | Matilda | Marley | |
| Charlotte | Meadow | Destan | Cora | Evelyn | Sarina | Summer | |
| Mckenzie | Lottie | Harris | Mia | Ryder-James | Mitchell | Lucie | |
| Harlan | Esmee | Joey | Cara | Ebony | Paighton | Olivia | |
| Evan | | Marnie | Alice | Amelia | Samuel | Chael | |
| Lukas | | Oliver | Alys | | Megan | Faith | |
| Levi | | Aria | Joshua | | Paisley | Cassie | |
| Alexa | | Esmie | Ryan | | Hadli-Rose | Olivia | |
| Oliver | | Jagger | Thomas e | | Ruby-Tania | Fern | |
| Noah | | Luna | Thomas | | Scarlett | Belle | |
| Sonnie | | Ted | William | | Emilie-Rose | Faith | |
| Frankie | | Eve | Paige | | | Daisy | |
| Leia | | Hudson | Kayden | | | Millie | |
| Bradley | | Hollie-Ann | Lilly | | | Ruby-May | |
| Grayson | | Hanson | Griff | | | Gethin | |
| Rowan | | Lowri | Brody | | | Ebony | |
| Emelia-Willow | | Ella | Rio | | | Jazmine | |
| Harry | | Libby | Penny | | | Charlie | |
| Ella | | Evelyn | Sira | | | Shay-Aneurin | |
| | | Romey | Lucy | | | Mali | |
| | | Kiara | Nevaeh | | | Harvey | |
| | | Dylan | Oakley | | | Kaden | |
| | | | Sophia | | | Faith | |
| | | | Iwan | | | Zak | |
| | | | Jacob | | | Halle-Rae | |
| | | | Alexis | | | Joshua | |
| | | | Hallie | | | Osian | |