

## Headteacher update

**'At Nantgwyn, when we are ready, respectful and responsible anything is possible'**

It's been another busy few weeks at Nantgwyn, and I hope you have had a chance to sign up and to follow some of the exciting development and daily activities on our Facebook page. [Ysgol Nantgwyn - Home | Facebook](#). We have had an exciting delivery on site this week, you will find pictures on FB and we are looking forward to sharing more exciting news with you on this very new development very soon!

We have seen a decline in Covid cases once again which is very positive. **Full attendance at school** is now more important than ever to ensure we can support any gaps in learning and continue to make good progress over the remainder of the academic year. Absence from school, even just one a day, impacts upon the whole picture and your child's overall success. **Good habits of attendance and punctuality lay foundations that last a lifetime.**

A reminder this half term ends at the **end of the day on Thursday 17th February**. We return to school after half term on **Tuesday March 1st**. Our whole school Eisteddfod celebrations as in previous years will take place in the summer term. Children in Nant may wear traditional Welsh costume of something red (along with their school uniform skirt or trousers) on this the 1st March and pupils in Nant who wish to wear a national jersey or national emblem along with their school uniform may do so. We have a range of St David's day activities planned too for this special day.

**A huge thank you to the PTA for organising the TwosDay** event and for all of their hard work and background work on future events. If you would like to get involved please get in touch via [emma.beasley@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk](mailto:emma.beasley@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk) The Pupil Leadership Team are also working on a plan for the new charities they would like to support for the remainder of this academic year, and can't wait to share this information with you soon.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours, as always  
Kirsty Retallick

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## Head of School update

I want to open this week's newsletter with a fond farewell to Miss Hughes. Miss Hughes has been with Yr3B as a trainee teacher since October 2021 and leaves us today to join her second placement as she looks to become a fully qualified teacher. Mrs Griffiths, who has been Miss Hughes' mentor, commented that the children in Yr3B will really miss her energy and natural enthusiasm that she brought to the classroom. When qualified, she will make a brilliant teacher. We all wish her the very best.

On Tuesday 1st March 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](mailto:stdavidsday@ysgolnantgwyn.co.uk) by 12pm on Monday February 28th. Pob lwc!

### **Reading, reading, reading**

Yes, I know this appears in every newsletter, but I am not making any apologies for it. 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.

The English Faculty will be releasing their first 'Reading Newsletter' next Friday (11th February) with useful tips and hints on how to support your child develop their reading skills at home. So lookout for this on an alternative Friday to my newsletter.

### **Attendance**

This is a continual message for all families. We monitor attendance everyday within Lower School. Mrs Elford does an amazing job from a wellbeing point of view, that if your child is not in school and you have not reported the absence she will be on the phone. Lower School attendance w/c: 10th January was very good at 95.68%. However, the past two weeks have not been great and I need to reiterate my message that attendance is more vital than ever. In previous newsletters I have mentioned that sadly Covid is not going anywhere anytime soon. So we cannot use 'the fear of catching Covid' as a reason why pupils are absent from school. 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.*

### **Birthday Celebrations in Gwyn**

On Thursday 17th February, all pupils in Gwyn will celebrate the birthdays of the pupils that fall within the month of February. So please feel free to pop an extra treat into your child's bag that day, so they are able to join in with the fun and games that afternoon.

### **INSET Days x 2**

Friday 18th and Monday 28th February are INSET Days for staff training. Pupils will not attend school on these days.

Thank you all for your continued support. Next week is about raising our attendance and reading, I look forward to your support. Have a fantastic weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 7th February.

Enjoy the rugby, come on Wales!!!

Stay warm, stay safe.

Regards,

Mr Davies


Assistant Headteacher - Head of Lower School

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## **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.



## 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: 24/01/2022	Weekly Wonder - w/c: 31/01/2022
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<b>Nursery</b>	Jackson for making us smile everyday and being kind to his peers.	Luna for being a lovely member of class and supporting her friends.
<b>Reception 1</b>	Oscar, for amazing reading and writing about the Arctic. Well done.	Lowri, for fantastic number ordering, well done Lowri.
<b>Reception 2</b>	Dylan for trying really hard with his number work this week.	Georgie, for excellent letter formation whilst working on the white boards.
<b>Year 1A</b>	Callie, for giving 100% in Spanish and for always trying her best.	Eden, for coming into school smiling this week, completing some beautiful work in her books and performing well in phonics with Mrs Schorschinski.
<b>Year 1B</b>	Oliver, for always working hard and having wonderful manners.	Thomas, for great place value and measuring work in our maths sessions over the last 2 weeks.
<b>Year 2A</b>	Mia, for working independently when completing subtraction challenges and working with enjoyment.	Matilda, for always trying her best and working with a smile on every challenge presented to her.
<b>Year 2B</b>	James, for maintaining resilience with his learning while developing new skills.	Corey, for displaying some fantastic oracy skills in Spanish.
<b>Year 3A</b>	Taisie, for always producing fantastic work.	Kian, for his outstanding attitude towards his learning and having 100% attendance.
<b>Year 3B</b>	Harvey Pritchard completed smashing reading response work during phonics lessons.	Italia Rose Trembath has tried extremely hard and written a smashing newspaper article.

#### 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!

N1	Nursary		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Amelia	Vare	Lilly-Rose	Abbie	Jaxson	Nari	Ruby-Tania	Grace	Taisie
Marni	Lila-Grace	Scarlett-Rae	Deacon-Jackson	Oliver	Jack	Scarlett	Harrison	kian
Harri	Oscar	Georgie	Connie	Israel	Thea-Rae	Elliott	Coby	Seren
Lenny-George	Megan	Lincoln	Imogen	Esmae	Annabelle-Rose	Corey	Darcy	Charley
Amelia	Esme	Lucas	Joey	Lily	Ava-May	Emilie-Rose	Dawson	Saffron
Auggie	Aurora	Lyric	Meelah	Gurman	Arianwen	Shane	Finley	Levi
Jackson	Thomas	Oscar	Ollie-Blake	Alicia	Heidi-Marie		Harper	
Louis	Jessica	Cruze	Cora	Teddy	Izzabella		William	
Penelope	Charlotte	Destan	Mia	Oliver	Jax		Marley	
Luna	Harlan	Harris	Cara	Harper	Henry		Summer	
Vinnie-Lynn	Evan	Marnie	Alys	Callie	Isabelle		Lucie	
Esmae	Lukas	Oliver	Joshua	Luca	Oakley		Olivia	
	Levi	Aria	Ryan	Riley	James		Chael	
	Alexa	Esmie	Thomas e	Ebony	Teigha		Faith	
	Noah	Jagger	Thomas	Emi	Rhodri		Cassie	
	Sonnie	Valentine	Cooper	Amelia	Jasmine		Olivia	
	Frankie	Noah	William		Thomas		Fern	
	Leia	Luna	Kayden		Jesse		Belle	
	Brodie	Kayla	Lilly		Jamie		Faith	
	Finley	Ted	Griff		Matilda		Daisy	
	Grayson	Eve	Brody		Lacey-May		Millie	
	Harry	Hudson	Rio		Ollie		Gethin	
	Ella	Hanson	Amelia		Elliot		Ebony	
		Lowri	Penny		Reevah		Sienna	
		Libby	Lucy		Sarina		Shay-Aneurin	
		Evelyn	Nevaeh		Mitchell		Kiana	
		Romey	Eden		Paighton		Mali	
		Kiara	Oakley		Carys		Harvey	
		Dylan	Grace		Evie		Kaden	
			Iwan		Samuel		Zak	
			Sofia		Alma		Joshua	
			Brooklyn		Olivia		Osian	
			Alexis		Mia		Amelia	
			Hallie		Paisley		Cason	
			Skye		Hadli-Rose		Lucas	