

#### **NEWSLETTER**

#### October 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half term of the academic year, I wanted to say a big thank you to the children, families, staff and Governors of Coed-y-Lan for getting the year off to such a positive start.

The children have fully embraced all aspects of the 'Cwpan-y-Byd Coed-y-Lan', health and well-being topic, and have learnt all about the importance of having a healthy body and healthy mind. They have investigated the benefits of exercise, positive mental health and the importance of good nutrition. To end the half term, we all went to Sardis Road to hold our 'Cwpan y Byd Coed-y-Lan' celebration of learning. Although the rain and technology were not on our side, it was a great opportunity to bring our families together to share the children's learning. It is my goal to involve parents in school life as much as I can, so that we work in partnership to ensure the children get the best possible learning opportunities. We have created a video presentation to share the progress the children have made this term. This will be shared with you on Seesaw.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October, the children dressed in yellow to mark 'Hello Yellow,' World Mental Health Day. During the day, the children participated in a range of activities linked to positive mental health, and explored opportunities to talk about emotions.

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, we celebrated diwrnod 'Shw Mae/ Sut Mae!' During the day the children were encouraged to start conversations in Welsh. We did lots of Welsh activities, and we discussed the Eisteddfod which is coming to Pontypridd in August 2024. It was a great opportunity for the children to explore Welsh culture, including some current Welsh pop music.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October we invited parents into school to celebrate the harvest with us. I was delighted to see the fantastic turn out, and I am sure you were not disappointed. The children's singing was fabulous, and it was clear to see how hard they had all worked to learn their songs. I was very proud of every one of them. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our survey. The feedback was very positive.

This week we have held parent/teacher consultations. The meetings were very well attended and I was pleased to hear how well the children have settled into school. Despite all the changes this term, the children have responded well and are as eager to learn as ever.

I have been fortunate to meet many parents this half term, but I know I have not spoken to everyone yet. Please feel free to say hello if you see me on the yard or around school, or if you have any issues you wish to discuss, my door is always open.

I hope you have a restful half term. Best wishes,

Mrs Evans



#### $\mathsf{PIAP}$

#### Update

#### **PIAP**

As you are aware, following our Estyn Inspection last year, we were required to draw up a Post Inspection Action Plan which clearly identifies how we plan to address the five recommendations made.

These were;

- Improve leadership at all levels;
- Improve teaching and assessment across the school;
- Improve the curriculum and provision for the progressive development of pupils' skills;
- Improve provision for pupils with ALN;
- Address the safeguarding issue that was identified during the inspection.

Although we did not have a full leadership team this half term, we have made a positive start in beginning to address the recommendations.

I have worked with our Systems Leader and Improvement Partner to address the PIAP as planned, and to make changes to our curriculum and our self-evaluation systems, to improve outcomes for our pupils.

- We have refined our approach to the new curriculum, putting in place a consistent approach to medium and short term planning.
- We have continued to make significant improvements to the learning environments.
- We have invested heavily in high quality resources to support pupils' learning
- We have ensured staff have access to high quality professional learning which will positively impact on teaching and learning.
- We have trained staff in a range of intervention strategies which will be put in place to improve outcomes for learners with additional needs.
- All teaching staff have been trained in the CSC Get Writing Framework, to Develop the Teaching of Writing.
- We have put in place a robust approach to pupil progress meetings which ensures every child's progress is closely monitored and tracked by their teachers and the senior leadership team.
- We have introduced monitoring pro-formas for learning walks, book scrutiny and lesson observations which provide guidance for all teaching staff on expectations.
- In Mrs Boulton's absence, we have worked with an experienced additional learning needs co-ordinator to maintain ALN processes and to ensure all ALN obligations have been met.

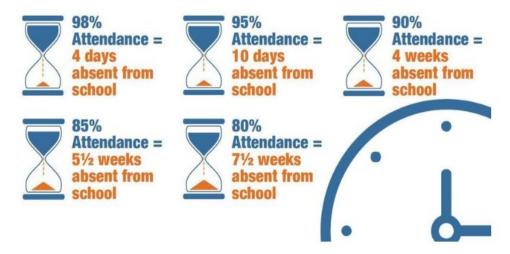
In October I attended our first progress meeting with the Local Authority and Central South Consortium. They agreed that, whilst we have not yet had time to embed the improvements we have made, we have put robust systems in place to move the school forward.

We will continue to make the post inspection action plan and school improvement a priority as this will have a positive impact on pupil outcomes.

### Attendance



At Coed-y-Lan we want to promote good attendance for all children. It is so important that children come to school every day, on time and ready to learn so that they can access a high quality education and reach their full potential every day counts. You would be surprised how quickly a missed day here and there add up.



We have also noticed a growing number of children arriving at school late in the mornings. By missing the first 15 minutes of school, your child is missing almost half their guided group reading session. This is a very important part of our daily teaching and missing it could impact on your child's reading. Please make sure the children arrive to school punctually every day.

Our aim in Coed-y-Lan is to work WITH families to improve attendance and punctuality, so if you need our support, please get in touch.

## Parking

Since the start of September, I have been contacted on numerous occasions regarding dangerous parking at school drop off and pick up times. The zig zag area, double yellow lines and single yellow line are all clearly marked. Please do not park in these areas when you drop your child/ children to school, even if it is for a very short time.

Parking in these areas at the busiest time of the day, makes crossing the road very dangerous for the children. None of us want to see any children injured, so please support the school by leaving 5 minutes earlier in the morning, so that you can park a little further away if necessary.



### Safeguarding



Safeguarding is a priority at Coed-y-Lan Primary and we are committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all children in our school. Our school follows the Rhondda Cynon Taf Safeguarding Children's Board procedures. The Designated Senior Person in charge of safeguarding is myself, Mrs. Evans.

If you have concerns about a child's welfare, these should be directed me or in my absence, the Deputy Designated Senior Person who is Mr. O Rees (Deputy Head). There are many posters around the school alerting the school community to be aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse. These posters also display contact information.

The school's safeguarding policy is available on request.

# Reading Cafe

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November Dosbarth Helyg and Dosbarth Castan will be holding a 'Reading Café.' This will be an opportunity for parents, carers or grandparents to come in to class to work alongside your children.

The teachers will share the strategies we use to develop reading and phonic skills, so you can use the same approaches to support children at home. It should be an interactive and enjoyable morning, and we hope you will be able to join us.



### Thank You PTA



I must take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the PTA. I cannot express strongly enough, how invaluable their support is in the current climate. In the short time I have been in Coed-y-Lan, I have already witnessed the commitment, hard work and dedication of the whole PTA team.

During the first half term they have already;

- Provided survival packs for the parents of any new starters to school;
- Hosted a Macmillan Coffee afternoon raising over £300 for the charity;
- Arranged a phenomenally successful Halloween disco which, as well as being great fun for the children, raised over £700 for the school;
- Organised charity Christmas cards which will also raise vital school funds;
- Funded new equipment for the Early Years unit;
- Agreed to pay the transport costs for the Christmas Pantomime trip

I know the PTA are always looking for new members. They have also made an appeal for any parents who may have useful contacts which could support the PTA in some way e.g. sponsorship, funding, discounts etc. If you can help, please get in touch with a member of the PTA.

I must also thank all our parents and families for supporting our PTA events so well. We appreciate everyone's contribution to making every event such a success.









# Dates for your Diary



Please add the following dates to your calendar, or print it off and put it on the fridge!

Date	Event
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Back to school
8 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccinations
15 <sup>th</sup> November	Dosbarth Helyg & Castan (Year1-3) Reading Café. Parents/carers welcome  9.00– 10.30am
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
1st December	Years 1-6 Pantomime Coliseum Aberdare
13th December	Dosbarth Celyn (Nursery Reception) Christmas Concert (School Hall) 9.30 am
14th December	Dosbarth Celyn (Nursery Reception) Christmas Concert (School Hall) 9.30 am
14th December	Christmas concert (Year 1-6) St Catherine's Church—Concert 5pm 4.15pm PTA with be providing tea/coffee/ cakes etc beforehand in the café area in the church (Further details to be confirmed)
15th December	Christmas concert (Year 1-6) St Catherine's Church—Concert 9.30 am 10.30 am PTA with be providing tea/coffee/ cakes etc after the concert in the café area in the church (Further details to be confirmed)
19th December	Christmas Lunch
20th December	Christmas parties
21st December	Last day of term
8th January	Start of term

#### Dosbarth Celyn (Nursery and Reception) Christmas visit to be confirmed

Please Note: There may be other dates added but these will be communicated to you by your child's class teacher or the office



### Governors

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers of Coed-y-Lan Primary,

A belated welcome back to school from the Governors to pupils and staff, we hope that everyone has settled in well for another academic year.

Many of you will have by now seen the substantial building works that were undertaken by the Local Education Authority over the Summer holidays, the details of which I have shared in our Governors Annual Report to Parents, which will be with you all shortly. I am delighted to share with you that the school has since obtained some additional funding from the LEA to purchase new classroom furniture, as well as to provide additional investment in learning resources for our children over the coming weeks and months. There are still a number of works that we would like to carry out, but we're pleased with the progress so far, and an additional tranche of works is currently being planned for Summer 2024.

We continue to work with the Senior Leadership Team at the school and our partners at the LEA and Central South Consortium to achieve the goals set out in our Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP). Our first progress meeting was held on October 9th, where very positive feedback was received on what has been achieved to date. There is still a long way to go before we can achieve all of our objectives, and we are expecting a follow up visit from Estyn before the end of the Autumn term for them to also assess our progress to date. We are confident that the improvements being made by the school will be well received.

In terms of the Governing Body membership, I am delighted to share that Carley Walters and Tracy Barnett will be continuing on with us following their re-election as Parent Governors at the school. We also say goodbye to Steve Carter, whose term as LEA Governor has come to end - Steve has had a long association with the school, and the Governors would like to thank him for all of the contributions he has made over the years.

Sincerely,

Símon

Simon Tucker, Chairperson of Governors at Coed-y-Lan Primary



# PTA UPDATE October 2023



The PTA extends a warm welcome to parents, carers and pupils both new and old! We hope your children are settling in well.

We know many of you will already be aware of the hard work and effort put in to help raise funds for the school, we couldn't do it without your continued support!





To help raise money for the school, this year we're selling Christmas cards designed by the children!

Thanks to all who have purchased cards and items featuring designs from your little artists!

#### **INTRODUCING, YOUR PTA:**

- Co Chair persons: Catherine Porch & Esther Jenkins
- Co Treasurers: Lauren Burgess & Eleanor Tucker
- Co Secretaries: Zoe Newland & Rhian Carter
- Nursery/Reception- Emma Brencher, Beth Jones, Mel Tippings, Rhian Downes, Emily Cattle
- Year 1- Lauren burgess, Katie James
- Year 2- Kathryn Scullion, Claire Corbett, Mel Tippings, Chloe Searle, Rhian Carter, Emily Cattle
- Year 3- Eleanor tucker, Cele John
- Year 4 Catherine Porch, Tracey Burnett, Rhian Downes, Katie James, Emily Cattle
- Year 5 Kathryn Scullion, Chloe Searle, Rhian Carter
- Year 6- Esther Jenkins, Emma Hope,
   Zoe Newland, Cele John

We will be doing a Christmas jumper/Christmas concert costume swap shop closer to Christmas. More info will be announced nearer to the time!





If you'd like to become a member of our very friendly PTA, keep your eye out for our next meeting and pop along. Or speak to any of the parents and carers listed above who can give you more details.





Look out for details of up-and-coming events we will be arranging from coffee mornings to a glass of wine.

We appreciate how busy everybody is, if you can't join then consider being part of the PTA 'lite'- help out with events as and when you can. Bake cakes or donate items for school events, offer use of a printer for tickets and posters. Anything you can do that supports us means you are supporting your children as it enables us to do much more to benefit your little ones and the school.

## At events - look out for the red lanyards!

Your PTA will be wearing them and if you need anything please just ask.

To offer your time and support you can also e-mail:
PAcoedylan@gmail.com

Thanks to your phenomenal support last school year we were able to help the school purchase/pay for or towards the following:

- · Outdoor & school equipment
- · Selection boxes and gifts
- New starter packs
- Dance teacher
- Class parties
- Buses both at Christmas and for school trips
- Jet washing and cleaning at the school
- Leavers Prom & hoodies



Keep up to date with PTA news and events

Join the Coedylan Facebook pages/groups,

search:

