



# NEWSLETTER

## December 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers

At the end of my first term in Coed-y-Lan I wish to thank everyone for the warm welcome and support I have received since September. I am delighted to have been appointed the substantive Headteacher, and look forward to working with you all in the years ahead, to make sure that the pupils in Coed-y-Lan receive the exciting and aspirational education they deserve.

I was very pleased to welcome Mr Rees and Mrs Boulton back this half term. In order to provide continuity for the class, we were able to retain Miss Williams in Dosbarth Castan, and I am pleased to confirm that this will continue for the Spring term. This will not only allow Miss Williams to continue the great work she has been doing in Dosbarth Castan, we hope it will allow Mr Rees and Mrs Boulton to support me in continuing to make progress against the recommendations in our Post Inspection Action Plan.

This half-term, the whole school topic has been based on 'Communities, Cultures and Celebrations.' It has been a cross curricular theme looking at how communities celebrate. At the beginning of November the children learned about Divali, and over the last two months, they have studied a range of festivals, culminating in Christmas, perfect timing!

Over the past few weeks, we have continued to focus on learning, whilst also enjoying Christmas activities. On the first of December we took pupils in Years 1-6 to watch two of our own very talented pupils, Phoebe and Erin, performing in 'Cinderella' in the Coliseum, Aberdare. The children and staff were extremely proud of them both.

Last week I was also very proud of all the children when we did our own Christmas performances. Dosbarth Celyn were excellent in the 'Wriggly Nativity.' It was a pleasure to see our very youngest pupils all participating with such enthusiasm.

The rest of the school were also outstanding in our first 'Coed-y-Lan Carols' in St Catherine's Church. The children's voices filled every corner of the church hall, and our Values Christmas tree was a sight to behold. I'd like to thank Charlotte and Trish from St Catherine's for their support and assistance in making the concerts such a success.

Thank you to everyone who purchased the children's Christmas crafts. Following an assembly with Councillor Brencher, the children decided to raise money for PONT, so that we could buy Christmas gifts for our partner schools in Uganda. The children raised £150 in total.

I want to say a huge thankyou to our dedicated PTA who organised a café and tuck shop at every concert, raising over £900 for the school. The hard work and organisation that is involved in each event is tremendous, and I cant thank you all enough. I know the PTA team are always looking for new recruits, so please get in touch if you would like to help them raise important funds for the school.

At the end of this very busy term, I must say a huge thankyou to the team here at Coed-y-Lan. It has been a very busy and challenging term, with lots of change, but everyone has worked together for the benefit of the children. I am looking forward to working with you all in the years ahead. Onwards and upwards everyone!

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Best wishes,

Mrs Evans





# Estyn Update

As you are aware, Coed-y-Lan was placed in special measures following our core inspection in February of this year. We were re-visited by Estyn on November 21st -23rd and I wish to update you on our progress against our Post Inspection Action Plan.

During this visit, Estyn focussed on three of the recommendations;

- Recommendation 1 - Improve leadership at all levels;
- Recommendation 2 - Improve teaching and assessment across the school;
- Recommendation 5 - Address the safeguarding issue that was identified during the inspection.

I am pleased to share with you that the inspectors recognised that the whole school community is working together to create a positive culture of improvement based on a shared vision that we all aspire to achieve.

Over the last term we have introduced effective systems and processes that are supporting the school to run more effectively. The monitoring and evaluation systems that have been introduced are beginning to have a positive impact on teaching and learning, as do the extensive improvements to the indoor and outdoor learning environments.

As Headteacher, I have ensured all staff have accessed professional learning opportunities which are bringing about improvement to teaching and learning. Staff have also benefitted from opportunities to observe effective practice in other schools, and this is something that we plan to continue in the new year.

The Governing Body has worked proactively to provide useful support and challenge to the school, and all Governors work diligently in their roles to fully understand our improvement progress.

During the re-inspection, inspectors commented on the respectful relationships between pupils and staff, the calm yet busy learning environments and the pupils' enthusiasm for learning. We have worked on developing pupils' independent learning skills this term, and this is an area for further development. The shared learning areas that have been created are beginning to be used well and will also be further developed in the new year.

We are currently working on refining assessment approaches in line with the new curriculum. This is an area for development in many schools, and we will be working with improvement partners and Central South Consortium to ensure our assessment processes are robust and support pupils in understanding the next steps in their learning.

The safeguarding recommendation identified in the core inspection has been fully addressed and the inspectors have closed this recommendation.

Although we have made good progress and are moving in the right direction, we are at the beginning of our improvement journey, and the changes we have made over the last term need time to embed to have a positive impact on pupil outcomes. Currently we remain in special measures and will be revisited again in a further 4-6 months. I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last term.

Mrs Evans





# Christmas festivities



Please do not share these photos









# Christmas festivities



Please do not share these



# 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.

**Cwm Taf Morgannwg Bwrdd Diogelu Safeguarding Board** [www.ctmsb.co.uk](http://www.ctmsb.co.uk)

**Diogelu Plant**  
Diogelu yw atal camdriniaeth neu esgeulustod tuag at blant a phobl ifainc, a diogelu'r rheini sydd wedi dioddef camdriniaeth neu esgeulustra.  
**Beth yw Camdriniaeth neu Esgeulustra?**  
**CAMDRIANIAETH** yw pan fydd plentyn neu berson ifanc yn cael eu cam-drin neu eu niweldio. Gall camdriniaeth ddigwydd mewn sawl ffordd:  
**Camdriniaeth Gorfforol • Trais Domestig**  
**Camdriniaeth Emosiynol**  
**Camdriniaeth Rywiol • Camdriniaeth Ariannol**  
**ESGEULUSTOD** methu â chwedd ag anghenion sylfaenol plentyn, sy'n debygol o amharu ar eu lles.

**Safeguarding Children**  
Safeguarding is about preventing the abuse or neglect of children and young people and protecting those who have been subject to abuse or neglect.  
**What is Abuse and Neglect?**  
**ABUSE** is when a child or young person is mistreated or harmed. Abuse can take many forms...  
**Physical • Domestic Abuse**  
**Emotional Abuse**  
**Sexual Abuse • Financial**  
**NEGLECT** is a failure to meet a child's basic needs, which is likely to result in an impairment of their wellbeing.

**Beth ddylwn i ei wneud?**  
Os ydych chi'n amau bod plentyn neu berson ifanc mewn perygl uniongyrchol o niwed, ffoniwch 999 a siarad â'r Heddlu.  
Os ydych chi wedi dioddef camdriniaeth (neu'n dal i dioddef), neu os ydych chi'n tybio bod rhywun rydych chi'n eu hadnabod yn cael eu cam-drin, ffoniwch un o'r rhifau isod.

**What should I do?**  
If you suspect a child or young person is in immediate risk of harm call 999 and speak to the police.  
If you are or have been subject to abuse, or know someone who has, please contact one of the following numbers:

**Rhondda Cynon Taf** Pen-y-bont | Bridgend Merthyr Tudful | Merthyr Tydfil  
☎ 01443 425006 ☎ 01656 642320 ☎ 01685 725000  
Oriau agor | Opening Hours: Dydd Llun | Monday - Dydd Gwener | Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm  
Carlun ar Ddyletswydd ar gyfer Argyfyngau y Tu Allan i Oriau Swyddfa: ☎ 01443 743665  
Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team:

Mae diogelu **YN FATER I BAWB**  
Safeguarding is **EVERYONE'S BUSINESS**

Mae croeso i chi gyfathrebu â ni yn y Gymraeg  
You are welcome to communicate with us in Welsh

**GIG NHS** **Healthcare Wales** **Emergency Health Services** **Emergency Police** **Emergency Fire** **Emergency Ambulance** **Emergency Coastguard** **Emergency Mountain Rescue** **Emergency Search and Rescue** **Emergency Maritime** **Emergency Air** **Emergency Land** **Emergency Sea** **Emergency Air** **Emergency Land** **Emergency Sea**



## Parking

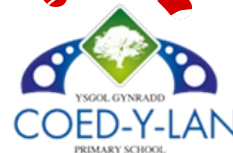
Since my previous request in September, there has been a noticeable improvement in parking at the beginning of the school day.

I'd like to thank everyone for parking more considerately. It makes the walk to school much safer for so many of our children.





# Dates for your Diary



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

Date	Event
Thursday 21st December	Last day of term
Monday 8th January	First day of term – All children (except new nursery starters)
Tuesday 9th January	Nursery new starters first day at school
Tuesday 30th January	Dosbarth Celyn – Reception parents workshops details TBC
Thursday 1st February	Dosbarth Celyn – Nursery parents workshops details TBC
Thursday 8th February	‘Women and girls in Science day’ – Looking for volunteers, any mums, grans, aunties who work in science and would be happy to come and meet the children, please let us
Thursday 8th February	Last day of the half term
Friday 9th February	INSET DAY

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, Carers and Guardians

Another term has flown by - one in which a lot has happened and a lot of good progress has been made by the school. Our most exciting news is of course, that Mrs. Evans has been appointed as our substantive Headteacher. The work that Mrs. Evans is leading on is already paying dividends, and really shines through in the very positive visit from Estyn that the school recently received.

Following a recent vacancy, we are pleased to welcome Mrs. Rhian Carter to our school as a Local Authority Governor. The Governing body regularly undertakes skills audits and continuous self assessment, and Mrs. Carter adds experience and skills that will help strengthen the school.

This term, Governors have regularly visited the school to conduct book looks, learning walks and participate in immersion days. It is vital that we gain a good understanding of what is happening within the school so that we can provide the right amount of challenge, support and oversight. All Governors ensured that they were up to date on mandatory training, and have identified additional training for the year to support them in their committee and link governor roles. Mrs. Evans and myself have also met several times with the Local Education Authority, Director for Education and Cabinet Member for Education to keep them fully up to date on progress being made within the school.

Sadly, earlier this month we were informed that Mr. Brian Davies, former Chair and long time Governor of Coed-y-lan Primary had passed away. Mr. Davies was a loyal and dedicated part of the school and the local community for many years, notably as part of Pontypridd Museum and the Hetty Winding House. He will be sorely missed by many.

***Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body, may I wish you all, and your families a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.***

Best wishes,

Simon Tucker  
Chair of Governors



Mrs Carley Walters

**What is your role as a Governor in the school?**

*I am a Parent Governor, my children Maggie and Em-mie are in Year 5 and Year 2. I have been on the Governing Body for 5 years.*

**Why did you become a Governor at Coed-y-lan?**

*I became a Governor at Coed-y-lan because I am passionate about improving educational experiences for all children, and I wanted to help my children's school in whatever way I could.*

**What do you do for work?**

*My current role is an Assistant Headteacher in a Primary School. I have been a Primary School teacher for the last 14 years.*

**What do you really enjoy doing outside of work?**

*I enjoy spending time with my family; going for walks, to the beach or for days out. I also enjoy shopping and travelling.*

**How do you think Coedylan could be improved?**

*I think Coed-y-lan is currently at a pivotal point in its improvement journey and the appointment of Mrs Evans as our Headteacher means that she can continue with all of the excellent work her and the staff have started. I think moving forward Coed-y-lan can increase the visibility and impact of its school pupil voice groups.*







## WISHING YOU ALL A FABULOUS FESTIVE SEASON!

Our last newsletter of 2023 is all about giving thanks. Thank you to everyone that has supported us in raising vital funds to help the school and the children of Coed-Y-Lan.

Thanks for giving your time, and your donations. You really do help us to make a difference.



Thanks to your phenomenal support, we were recently able to raise:

- £722.93 from the Halloween Disco.
- £390.00 from the children's Christmas card and items designs.
- We'd also like to thank everyone who came along for the Christmas concerts.

This meant we could provide the children with:

- Buses for the Christmas trips
- A new outside recycling bin
- New cones to help with making outside the school safer
- New resources for the school yards

thank you



# please

## CONTINUE WITH YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT IN 2024

There are a number of ways you can help us raise valuable funds for the school, and one of them is to give your time.

If you'd like to become a member of our very friendly PTA, our next meeting is 29th February at 7pm. We'll remind you closer to the date and let you know the venue.

Look out for our PTA forms, where you can register your interest not only to join but if you're shorter on time, just to help out as and when you can.



Raise money when you shop. It's as easy as 1,2,3.

1. Scan this QR code and sign up for easyfundraising.
2. When you shop online at thousands of selected retailers, earn money for the school at the same time at no additional cost to you.
3. Sit back and relax knowing you've helped the children of Coed-Y-Lan.



**Keep up to date with PTA news and events  
Join the Coedylan Facebook pages/groups,  
search:**

