

Builth Wells Primary School

Newsletter

September 2022

Annwyl Rieni / Warchodwyr,

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and had the chance to make the most of the lovely weather. The start of the new school year is always a special time at school as we extend a warm welcome to everyone and, in particular, to all the newest members of our school community.

We are very much a community school and, as such, we would like to encourage as many parents as possible to become involved in **The Friends of the School** (next meeting 28th September, 6 p.m. at the school) and / or **Busy Bees Committee** (date tbc). We rounded-off last year with a fantastically well-supported Summer Fete which proved to be a fantastic event and raised £3,487.15 to provide equipment and wonderful experiences for the children that we couldn't otherwise afford. Both committees would be very pleased indeed to see some new faces at their meetings.

For some time now, we have been working towards the requirements of the new **Curriculum for Wales** which all primary schools (and some secondary schools) in Wales are implementing this year. We will provide more information on all aspects and encourage parental input to the continued development of our curriculum in the coming weeks.

Every class teacher will soon share a newsletter specific to your child's class but, in the meantime, I should like to share a few general items which I hope you find helpful.

Staffing Update

Miss Ives (Y5/6 Dosbarth Tryfan) got married during the holiday and is now Mrs. Lewis. Unfortunately, she is unwell at the moment and won't be able to return for the first couple of weeks. Mr. Wilkinson has kindly agreed to cover her class.

Universal Free School Meals

All Reception children are entitled to a free school meal. A separate letter is being sent to parents with children in this age group to explain the importance of registering on Parent Pay. We are informed that all Y1 and Y2 children will be entitled to free school meals from April 2023 and all primary-age children by 2024. If you are on low income, we would encourage you to claim via <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/11906/Free-school-meals> as you may be entitled to other support such as PDG Access grant for uniform and other school clothing.

Uniform / P.E. Kit

Remember, children should wear uniform as described in our prospectus (available on our website). We currently have a few items of unclaimed lost property. If you are in need of extra items, 'recycled' uniform is advertised through the 'Builth Primary Uniform' group on Facebook. We also have a small supply of tops in the school office.

Please remember to label jumpers and cardigans. It makes life so much easier for us and reduces the risk of your child losing expensive items of clothing.

On P.E. days, children should wear appropriate P.E. kit (T-shirt, jumper / hoodie, shorts or joggers, trainers). Please note, we ask for a full-length T-Shirt and not strappy tops or crop tops. Jewellery should be removed for safety reasons.

Covid - latest guidance for parents on isolation

Welsh Government guidance was updated on 11th August. The isolation guidance states:

- Attending education is important for children and young people's development, health and well-being. The long-term impact of missing education should not be underestimated.
- Children and young people with mild symptoms can continue to attend their education setting. Mild symptoms include a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, in children who are otherwise well.
- Children should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing and/or sneezing. They should wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues.
- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home. They should avoid contact with other people where they can. They can go back to their setting when they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough to attend.

You can see the full guidance at:

[Guidance for people with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/guidance-for-people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19)

Start and End of the School Day

We open the gates at 8:40 a.m. and then take responsibility for the children as they come into school. Bus drivers have been instructed to wait until we open the gates before letting children disembark. The school gates are closed at 8.50 a.m. when the school day begins.

School finishes at 3.25 p.m. Please bear with us at the end of the day as it always takes a little longer to begin with to hand children over to parents. Teachers may not yet be familiar with parents of new children in their classes, and we have to be sure we don't let children go without being sure we have seen a parent or carer. Please come prepared for a short wait until we get fully up to speed.

If your child uses **School Transport**, please make sure you let Mrs Carter (school administrator) know if there are any changes to the regular transport arrangements. Failure to do so can lead to some significant delays. Children are frequently reminded of the need for good behaviour on the school buses and we ask that parents also set the same expectations.

New Road Safety Measures Completed

You asked us to try to do something to improve safety in and around the car park. The governors and I have worked with Powys County Council to secure some improvements which were completed during the summer break. Please play your part by:

- **Keeping to the 5-m.p.h. speed limit**
- **Using the zebra crossings**
- **Not dropping-off children in the bus bay or in the road**

Flu Immunisations

Powys Teaching Health Board will be coming to provide nasal flu immunisations on **Wednesday 5th October** for all children. Please look out for the consent letter in your child's bag.

School Projects / Themes / Events

At the start of this half term, all classes will be engaged in activities along the theme of '**Alive and Kicking**' / '**Yn Fyw ac yn Iach**' which will promote an awareness of developing our physical, mental and emotional health and an appreciation of the importance of a healthy, active lifestyle.

Over the next few weeks, we will be visited by sports coaches representing a variety of sports and activities available within our community, including some which may be completely new to the children, e.g., Squash.

Later, we will all be engaging in work based around the story '**Jungle Book**'. Once again, we are pleased to be able to host a theatre performance by **M&M Theatre Company** on **28th September** to launch the project.

We look forward to an exciting term!

Cofion cynnes,
G. Cornelius
Headteacher