

Ysgol Penyffordd

To inspire a love of learning, now and forever.

Website: www.ysgolpenyffordd.org

Telephone: 01244 547214



Dear Parents,

We were delighted to welcome back author Neil Griffiths as we began the new term. Neil's passion and enthusiasm for books and stories is infectious. The children were totally engaged in his presentations and were a credit to our school.

Pupils and staff all gathered in the hall to mark and reflect Remembrance Day on 11 November. The children were very thoughtful and respectful of the significance of the day.

This term promises to be extremely busy with trips, preparations for Christmas concerts and events whilst also working hard to develop their learning. There are lots of planned school activities scheduled this term. Please refer to the Dates for your Diary section at the end of this newsletter. In the current economic climate we are mindful of costs incurred with regard to trips etc therefore, we are trying to keep the contributions as low as possible by subsidising these with school funds. If you are facing financial difficulties and are unable to make payments to school, please contact the school office.

We appreciate your continued support and hope you are able to join in with the scheduled events this term.

Mrs J Mulvey

Headteacher



Let us know when:

- *There has been change of contact details; please make sure that the Office has the details so that we can update our contact systems. Also if you have any changes to your address or email details. Thank you.*
- *Changes in medical needs: Has your child been recently diagnosed with anything that school should know about? Are they now Asthmatic and require an Asthma Care Plan? All these things school should be aware of. If your child requires medication a form must be completed before school can administer anything*
- *Changes in circumstances: If you feel there has been a change within the family, which you think could affect your child and we should be aware of. By us knowing, this helps us to monitor your child and help if required.*

What Have We Been Up To?

School Council

We have been very busy again this year!

Our first meeting was to decide what we'd like to think about this year, and to choose our Chairpersons. We elected Ahmed as Chair.

Our Reading Hut was what we wanted to concentrate on this year, and we thought we'd need the following:

- A team to keep it tidy
- Decorate the inside like a story
- Timetable who can use it – perhaps only when you're on a certain yard
- Audiobooks
- Reading buddies

We asked the rest of the school using Smart School Council Meetings, and they thought Reading Buddies, Audiobooks and Decorating the Shed were the most important. Our Chairpersons are going to have a meeting with Mrs Mulvey and Mrs Hamilton to decide how we can decorate it, and how we're going to pay for the decorating

Eco News:



The Eco Councillors have been working hard this term planning and making decisions about our Wellbeing garden development. The children have had lots of ideas and we will be working on adding plants and trees to our Wellbeing Garden next term. We have also been continuing with the Golden Dustpan award, which encourages each class to be more environmentally friendly, with the award going to a class each week. Well done to the classes who have won so far!

We are very pleased to announce that the school has also been gifted a donation of £3500 from Castle Green Homes for the development of our Wellbeing garden space. We would like to say a huge thank you to Castle Green as this has helped us to purchase lots of equipment including benches and planters, which the school staff have worked hard to assemble and get ready for our garden this term.

Photo shows representatives from Castle Green Homes, Mrs Foley and Eco Councillors Thomas, Maise and Ewan when they came to see our garden space before we began work on it.

Medicines in school

We are able to administer medicine in school if your child is required to have antibiotics, we do require a permission slip to be completed. Please follow the procedure below: –

- Once you know your child requires medicine in school time and it has been prescribed please complete the permissions to administer medicines form. – available through the school office.
- Once the form is completed, the medicine should be handed over to either the Class Teacher or Classroom Assistant each day by a responsible adult (not your child)

Please do not put any medicines in your children's bags.

Anti-Bullying Week

This term we recognised and were proud to take part in national anti-bullying week in school. The focus was 'reach out' and the children have been participating in activities around this theme. It was lovely to see so many family members joining us.

We began the week by wearing odd socks in an effort to show solidarity and reach out to stop bullying. It's also a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in AntiBullying Week! If you would like to know more about Anti Bullying Week, please follow this link <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>

We are extremely proud of their achievement in producing this video.

Parental Engagement

Thank you for those that attained the Family Engagement session with your children. We hope you enjoyed the insight to your child's education and taking part in the activities. We have received some lovely feedback from parents and the children!

Parents' Evenings

We hope you found your child's parents' evening meeting useful and informative. It was a lovely opportunity for the teachers to meet you. We hope you enjoyed looking through the work they have completed so far this year.

Neil Griffiths – Tuesday 8 November

We were delighted to welcome Neil Griffiths back to our School after half term. Neil ran an afternoon workshop for parents during his visit, we hope you enjoyed his session. Neil is so enthusiastic about books and his passion is infectious. Before embarking on his role as a director of a National Literacy Support Project for the Basic Skills Agency, Neil was a Primary Headteacher with vast experience. If you would like to know more about him please click on the following link: <https://cornertolearn.co.uk/about-neil/>



Pentrellyn & Nant BH

The children in year 5 & year 6 had a fantastic time at the outward-bound centres in October. They came back exhausted but with so many things to share with you whilst they created priceless memories to last a lifetime with their friends.

As both of the centres are extremely popular, we have already booked for next year. We will continue to subsidise these trips but not to the same extent as we have been able to do in previous years. We will be sending out information and details via School Comms in the New Year to help with budgeting and spreading the cost, during the year. From personal experience over the years, it is a privilege to be able to watch the children experience and develop new skills.

Choir

This term Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Pritchard (Vinnie's mum) have been busy setting up a new school choir during lunchtime. The children are enjoying learning new songs, which they hope to be able to perform in the future.

Many thanks to Vinnie's Mum for volunteering and sharing her singing knowledge to help make this possible.

Christmas Dinner Menu – Wednesday 14 December

Mains:

Roast Turkey

Or Quorn Roast

Roast potatoes, carrots, broccoli, sprouts, cocktail sausage and gravy

Desserts

Christmas pudding

Or Christmas shortbread biscuit

Prepared by Mrs Shaw & team. Served by all of the staff. The cost of the school dinner is £2.50 and is paid through School Comms.



Free information through <http://www.inourplace.co.uk> using the code NWSOL

1. Baby section

- Understanding your pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby
- Understand your baby

2. Child section

- Understand your child
- Understanding your child with additional needs
- Understand your child's feelings
- Understanding your child's mental health and wellbeing

Lost Property

There are lots of items in the lost property, which we are unable to reunite with their respective owners. These will be placed outside during the last week of term if you would like to reclaim missing items. Any items left will be passed on to FOPS for recycling. Please can you ensure your child's name is on every item of their uniform and coat. Thank you.



News from the Governing Body

The Governing Body met in October and November this term. Both meetings were held in school and were very well attended.

Governors have attended governor committee meetings, reviewed school policies and met with outside agencies. They have also attended staff meetings and team meetings to discuss various topics relating to the development priorities of the school. They have attended training on Safeguarding and story telling. We have discussed the strengths and areas for development and how the governors can support the work of the school in specific areas.

We particularly enjoyed the Governors in School day on 17th November when the theme was wellbeing and anti-bullying. We attended the family engagement session, visited classrooms, talked to children, observed lessons and met with teachers. It is always a pleasure to take part in these visits. The children are articulate and are always eager to talk about and share their work with us.

The staff continue to work incredibly hard to maintain the high standards of the school and we are grateful to them for their enthusiasm and commitment.

On behalf on the governing body, I would like to thank you for your support of the school and wish you a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Glenys Nethercott

Vice-Chair of governors

A message from Friends of Penyffordd School



Friends of Penyffordd School (FOPS) is a registered charity run by a group of friendly volunteers who support the school by raising money to benefit the children's learning. We also put on experiences and events for the children to enjoy.

WE NEED YOU!

We desperately need more volunteers to help us to continue to plan and run our activities. Any contribution of time is very welcome. We will soon be holding our annual general meeting and are on the lookout for new committee members. If you feel you can help in any way, please get in touch.

UNIFORM DONATIONS

The pre-loved clothes rail is now available by the school main entrance. It will be located outside weather permitting, if you can't see it please ask at reception. Everything is free, and there is a donation box available if you can contribute anything to our charity. Please send any donations of clean school uniform, outdoor wear, school shoes, wellies, and Christmas jumpers in a good usable condition into school.

HALLOWEEN PARTY AND CRAFT COMPETITION

FOPS Halloween Party took place at Penyffordd & Penymynydd War Memorial Institute on Saturday, 29th October. We raised £283.14, thank you to everyone who came. Congratulations to Scarlett, Morgan and Logan who won our Halloween craft competition, we hope you enjoyed your sweetie prizes.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS

The children's artwork is currently being scanned by Cauliflower Cards who will be sending out your orders in the next couple of weeks. Please be aware the mugs will be arriving separately so may not come home the same day as the other items ordered. Thanks for all your orders, we've raised £238.50.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas Fair this year will be on Thursday the 1st December 4.30-6.30. The fair will include stalls, food and drink, games, Storytime with Santa, and our ever-popular raffle. We're still on the lookout for good quality, clean, cuddly toy donations to use as prizes. If you have any, please send them into school.

Storytime with Santa slots are now available to purchase in our online shop: <https://friends-of-penyffordd-school.sumupstore.com/> Children will be able to hear a story read by Santa in his grotto and receive a gift. Any slots remaining on the day of the fair will be for sale via the entrance desk.

We still need volunteers to help set up, run stalls, and tidy after the Christmas Fair. Please get in touch if you can help in any way.

KEEPING INFORMED

FOPS communicates via email, school text and on our private Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1103593539748129>

We can be contacted on fopscommittee@gmail.com

Warm Wishes

The FOPS Team

Kayleen, Sarah, Becky, Clare and Miranda

And finally but very importantly a few notes of 'Thanks'.

This is an extremely busy long term with educational trips, family engagement sessions and preparing for concerts. I would like to thank you for taking the time to attend our family engagement sessions and hope that you enjoy the forthcoming concerts and activities.

I would also like to thank the members of FOPS who volunteer their time and efforts; working tirelessly with fund raising events to support our school. We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated team. Diolch yn fawr FOPS! They are always looking to welcome new members, if you are able to help in any way; please let them know on the above contact details.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December 2022		
1 st December	FOPS Christmas Fayre	4.30pm - 6.30pm
6 th December	3/4C, 3/4Y & 4/5W Celt & Roman Experience	School Hall 3.30pm
7 th December	Junior Children (Y3-Y6) Robin Hood Panto at Theatr Clwyd	Children will be back for lunchtime
14 th December	School Christmas Dinner	Please pay via the School Gateway
15 th December	5/6C & 5/6H Christmas Concert	School Hall 2.00pm
19 th December	Reception & R/1D Christmas Concert	School Hall 10.00am
19 th December	1S, 2G & 2/3F Christmas Concert	School Hall 1.30pm
20 th December	1S, 2G & 2/3F Christmas Concert	School Hall 10.00am
20 th December	Reception & R/1D Christmas Concert	School Hall 1.30pm
21 st December	Nursery Christmas Concert	School Hall 10.00am
22 nd December	School Closes for the End of Term	
23 rd December	Inset day for Staff	
January 2023		
9 th January	School Re-opens	
February 2023		
17 th February	School Closes for Half Term	
17 th February	Closing date for Nursery Applications Sept 2023	