

Croeso/Welcome

Welcome back to another new school year at Ysgol Derwen. A special welcome also goes out to those of you who are associated with the school for the first time. I hope your children settle in well at the school and you soon become part of the school community.

With the term now in its second week, the summer holidays are a distant memory and we are all looking forward to the many activities and experiences which we hope will be happening throughout the school year with some normality returning to our lives. The school is starting to run in the way it was pre Covid and we all really hope we do not experience the sort of disruption we have all faced over the past year and a half!

The majority of pupils have settled back into the school routine quickly, but we do realise it may take a few weeks for all the children to fully adjust after so much disruption to their schooling over the past months.

I look forward to working closely with the children, staff and parents throughout the year to ensure Ysgol Derwen has another successful year.

Covid 19

Whilst we welcome the freedoms from Covid restrictions we are currently experiencing, we must be mindful that Covid is still here and is already causing disruption to pupils who are having to self-isolate. We have had positive cases at the school this term and we will continue to do everything we can to keep the pupils, staff and school community safe.

Guidance has changed over the summer break meaning that a positive case does not now result in a bubble/ class having to isolate. The responsibility of making any decision relating to a positive case has also been taken away from the school with TTP now informing schools and the individual what steps need to be taken. To date we have not had any information from TTP which impacts other learners.

The best way to stop Covid 19 spreading in the school is to stop it coming in. Please continue to be vigilant and if you have any doubts whether anyone in the family has symptoms, please keep your child home and book a Covid PCR test.

Please see the additional Covid 19 advice at the end of this letter.

New Build

At long last, work has started on the new build to the rear of the school. Ysgol Derwen was successful in securing a grant to help develop full wrap around care at the school. The new build, which has an estimated build time of 14 weeks, will become the new base for Kinnerton Little Acorns. Covid has delayed the start of this project by 12 months and we are hopeful that the build will be handed over to the school by the end of this term.

Having builders on site during term time is providing many challenges to the daily running of the school but I will do everything possible to ensure the impact doesn't disturb the pupil's education. We currently do not have access to the top yard or the school field so playtimes have had to be organised with smaller groups out at any given time. PE lessons in the Hall are also restricted as the furniture to be used in the new build has already been delivered and is stored in the hall. We are hoping that by the end of this week a safe passage to the field will have been created to help provide more capacity for outdoor Games lessons. Kinnerton Little Acorns will also continue to use the school hall for KS2 Breakfast and After School Clubs until the build is complete. While the work is taking place, the use of the school hall for any other activities or events is not possible.

When the build is complete we hope to move Kinnerton Little Acorns into their new base and start to plan for full wrap around care at Ysgol Derwen.

This will include:

- Breakfast Club (7.45 am to 8.55am)

- After School Club (End of the school day until 6pm)
- Nursery Plus (11.30am to 3pm)
- Early Entitlement (10 hours a week)
- Pre School Provision (Yet to be organised but this will be a play group for pre-nursery pupils)
- Holiday Clubs (More details will be shared with parents when plans have been finalised, but we are hopeful to be in a position to offer this by the end of the academic year)

We will share any exciting developments with you later this term.

Music and Swimming Lessons Resuming

The music service will be resuming their on-site lessons this week with swimming due to start in the coming weeks. Further details of which class will have the first swimming sessions at Buckley Baths will be shared when all details are confirmed. We hope to take all four KS2 Classes during the course of the year.

Lunch and Snack Information

Lunch prices for the half term

2/21 to 22/10/21 = £85

(£2.30 daily)

Annual snack payment in the Foundation Phase can now be paid on the School Gateway (£35). For those who prefer to pay by the term, the cost will be £9.25 and will appear on the school gateway by Friday 29th October 2021.

Admissions

Year 7 Admissions

Applications for Year 7 Admissions (High School) for September 2022 are now open for all current Year 6 Pupils. Please ensure you submit your application online to Flintshire County Council by November 5th 2021.

Derwen Admissions

Admissions to Ysgol Derwen Nursery and Reception Classes for September 2022 will open on 27th September 2021 with the closing dates being:

Nursery – 18 February 2022

Reception – 19 November 2021

Dates

The School Nurse team will be visiting Derwen on Wednesday October 6th to administer Flu Nasal Vaccinations to children from Reception to Year 6.

Tempest Photography will be taking individual (and hopefully family) photos on Monday September 27th.

The following is from the updated Covid 19 guidance:

If you have any **coronavirus symptoms** (a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change of taste or smell*), you should self-isolate at home and **get a test**. You should not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

**We are hearing of many cases this term across Wales having mild cold like symptoms or an upset tummy.*

Self-isolation means that you **do not leave the house**. You should self-isolate straight away if you have symptoms and until you receive the results of a COVID-19 PCR test.

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, or have been told to self-isolate by the NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect (TTP) service, you must stay at home. You are breaking the law and could be fined if you do not stay at home and self-isolate.

The self-isolation period is **10 days** from either:

- the day immediately following the date of the start of your symptoms
- the day immediately following the date of your positive test, or
- the date confirmed to you by the TTP service if they identify you as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

Self-isolation applies to adults and children of all ages.

As of 7 August 2021, adults who have been fully vaccinated and received the vaccine in the UK and those under the age of 18 will no longer have to self-isolate if they are identified as close contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. You will be asked to take PCR tests on Day 2 from your last contact with the positive case (or as soon as possible) and on Day 8. It is important that you take these tests even if you feel well, you may have COVID-19 even if you do not have symptoms.

Those who are no longer required to self-isolate will also receive advice and guidance from TTP contact tracers about how to protect themselves as follows:

- Try to minimise contact with others and avoid crowded settings, particularly indoor settings
- Consider using lateral flow tests on a daily/ more regular basis for the time you would otherwise have been self-isolating
- DO NOT visit vulnerable people such as those in care homes or hospitals.
- Work from home if you are not already doing so
- Inform your employer that you are a contact of case of COVID-19.
- Pay extra attention to thorough and regular hand washing and wearing a face covering

If you develop COVID-19 symptoms at any point, no matter how mild, regardless of your age or vaccine status, you should immediately self-isolate and arrange a COVID-19 PCR test.

If you are over the age of 18, and have not received a full course of COVID-19 vaccination in the UK, you should self-isolate for 10 days if:

- you develop COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild (and you should book a test)
- you live with someone who has developed COVID-19 symptoms and they are awaiting the outcome of a PCR test
- you live with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

- you have been contacted by the TTP service and told to self-isolate because someone you have had close contact with has tested positive for COVID-19