

Derwen News September 18

I hope you are all keeping well.

Please find below some dates and information for the term ahead.

The school has received notification this morning that an Estyn Inspection will take place at Ysgol Derwen on the week beginning October 2nd. More information regarding the inspection will be shared with you later.

School Admissions

Nursery and Reception Admissions September 2024

The application process for admission to Nursery and Reception classes for September 2024 will start on Monday September 25th 2023.

If you have a child eligible for these classes or know of someone looking for a place for their child at Ysgol Derwen, please complete an online application form found on the link below.

Application Forms

Applications must be made on an official electronic application form on the Flintshire County Council Admissions Portal (Link Below)

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Admissions.aspx>

These will be available in accordance with the published dates. Parents will be asked to provide official documentation showing their child/children's date of birth.

Admissions Timetable 2023/24

Admission Phase	Admission forms available to parents w/c	Parents' consideration period	Closing date for receipt of completed forms	Allocation period by LA/ admitting authority	Parents informed by ("Offer date")
Reception	25/09/23	25/09/23-17/11/23	17/11/23	17/11/23-23/02/24	16/04/24
Nursery	25/09/23	25/09/23-16/02/24	16/02/24	19/02/24-22/03/24	07/05/24

Admissions to High School

The application process for High School is now open with the relevant forms also available on Flintshire CC Website. Please ensure you complete your application by November 6th to avoid any disappointment associated with late applications. Pupils from Ysgol Derwen have been refused entry into Castell Alun having attended the school and living within the village due to late applications in the past. Castell Alun is annually over subscribed, and the appeal process is very stressful!

Castell Alun have an upcoming Open Evening for Year 6 students, scheduled for September 28th, and a morning session on September 29th.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for two Parent Governors at Ysgol Derwen. Parent Governors are elected as representatives of the interests of parents of pupils currently attending the school. A Parent Governor can continue to serve until the end of their four-year term of office, even if their child leaves the school during the period. Meetings take place during the school day and after school.

Nominations are invited from parents/guardians and applications can be made by requesting an application form from the school office.

If you wish to nominate any parent, or nominate yourself, you should complete and submit the form before the deadline of 3.20pm on Monday 25th September 2023.

If there are more nominations than vacancies, then a ballot will be held. More details will be shared on whether a ballot is needed.

Pupil Absence

Whilst I fully understand many of our parents can't physically get holidays during your child's holiday times, and huge savings can be made during school time, can I please ask you consider very carefully before taking your child out of school during term time and especially during key times of the year.

Parents who arrange family holidays during term time can lead to problems in that:

- Your child's education suffers**
- Lessons and extra-curricular activities are missed**
- Continuity of project work is lost**
- There is often no opportunity for teachers to set additional work or to assist a child in catching up on their return from holiday**
- The class is generally disrupted and your child and other pupils may suffer as a result**
- You may be in breach of your legal obligation to send your child to school.**

Parents are entitled to ask for leave of absence of up to 10 school days for an annual holiday, and this may be authorised by the school. Only in exceptional circumstances can any more than 10 days be authorised.

If you need to request leave of absence for your child, please give as much notice as possible. We wish to stress that any request for holiday absence will be considered very carefully taking into account factors such as general attendance / punctuality, number of similar requests; the educational nature of the proposed holiday etc.

If you are unable to avoid requesting absence during school term, an application must be made on an application form (available from the school office or website) .

Can I also please request that every session of absence by your child (illness, appointments etc) is communicated to the school either by the absence form, a note to the teacher or by leaving a message on the school phone.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

PARKING

Main Road, Higher Kinnerton can become extremely congested at the beginning and end of the school day. The School car park is very small and in the interests of safety parking within the school car park is for staff only. Please do not use the car park to drop off or collect children or park on the zig zag markings outside the school gate as this also causes safety issues.

We ask you also to please be considerate of the needs of local residents when parking. We frequently receive complaints from local residents regarding parents parking in their drives or parking across their drives, parking on double yellow lines or blocking the pavements. Please do all you can to drop your child off safely whilst also respecting our local residents and keeping to the highway code.

The Royal Oak and Swan Public Houses along with the Village Hall also have car parks which can be used during the main drop off and pick up period to help alleviate traffic problems directly outside the school. These three car parks are only a few minutes' walk away from the school building.

Dates For The Term

September

- **Thursday 21 – FODS AGM (Relaunch)**
- **Friday 22 – Dragon Sports Leaders Award – Years 5 & 6**
- **Tuesday 26 – PC Stu (Years 2,4 & 6) AM**
- **Wednesday 27 - Year 3 and 4 visit to Liverpool Museum**
- **Thursday 28 - Year 1 and 2 Visit to Bickley Farm**

October

- **Monday 2 - Start of Estyn Inspection**
- **Tuesday 3- Xplore Lego Workshop – Year 5**
- **Thursday 5 – Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 6)**
- **Friday 6 – McMillan Coffee Fundraiser**
- **Monday 9 - Principality Savings Workshop - Year 1 to 4**
- **Tuesday 10 – Parents Evening 3.30-6pm (More details to follow)**
- **Wednesday 10 – Parents Evening 3.30-6pm**
- **Wednesday 10 - Spectrum - Year 5 and 6 - Healthy Relationships
(all day)**
- **October 16/17/18 - PGL - Year 5 and 6**
- **Thursday 19 - Spectrum - Year 6 - Appropriate/inappropriate images**
- **Monday 23 - Year 1 and 2 visit to Dangerpoint**
- **Tuesday 24 – PC Stu Assembly (Halloween/Fireworks)**
- **Wednesday 25 - Spectrum Year 6 - Gender stereotypes**
- **Thursday 26 – School closes for pupils**
- **Friday 27 – Training day**

November

December

- **Friday 1 – CA Football & Netball Tournament PM**
- **Friday 8 – Christmas Concert for senior citizens PM**
- **Monday 11 – Christmas Concert – Year 5 & 6 @ 2pm & 5.30pm**
- **Tuesday 12 - Christmas Concert – Reception & Nursery @ 10am**
- **Tuesday 12 - Christmas Concert – Year 3 & 4 @ 2pm & 5.30pm**
- **Wednesday 13 - Christmas Concert – Year 1 & 2 @ 2pm & 5.30pm**
- **Thursday 14 – Christmas Dinner**
- **Thursday 21 – School closes for Christmas**
- **Friday 22 – Training day**

Thank you for your continued support

R Jones