

Derwen News February 18th 2022

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

After getting through the past six weeks with limited impact on school operations through Covid, I'm sure no one expected the end of another half term to be disrupted again, but this time from a storm! I was in meetings all day yesterday so most of you knew schools across North Wales were closing before I did by following the news and press releases. Although the weather is currently calm, I hope the predicted storm passes over quickly with as little impact as possible and that you all have a safe and happy half term break.

Covid 19

Although Covid is still causing major disruption in schools across Wales with high pupil and staff absences along with the difficulty of getting supply cover, we have had a relatively Covid free few weeks. Most positive cases in the community are currently in the primary age group. On average we have had two or three pupils and one staff member absent from school with a positive case every week, but this hasn't impacted greatly on the running of the school or the delivery of the curriculum. Thank you to everyone for your continued vigilance with regards to Covid and for taking the necessary actions whenever your child has shown any symptoms or had been in contact with a positive case. This has helped greatly in keeping Ysgol Derwen and the local community safe.

New Build

The new build has now been completed and the handover of keys should have happened last Tuesday. Unfortunately, the grounds have been left in a less than satisfactory state leaving me with a host of health and safety issues which will need to be resolved before the school agrees to take responsibility for the site and new build. There are major issues with the school field, access ramps, yard surface, drainage, gates and fences and the trim trail, so until these have been rectified, the school will only have access to the lower yard. This situation could still be the same after half term so please ensure that you don't let your child beyond the cordon when

waiting for the junior pick up at the end of the school day. I will hopefully be able to inform you soon that Little Acorns has moved into their new home and that we have full access to our school grounds again.

Additional training Days

Due to issues caused by Covid and the two preparation days imposed by the Welsh Government at the start of this term, we now still have two training days to add to the school calendar. We have already used the extra bank holiday for the Queens Jubilee on December 22nd. To hopefully limit any further disruption to the school year we will have the two remaining training days on Thursday July 14 and Friday July 15th. Ysgol Derwen will therefore close for pupils on Wednesday July 13th. This may also give some of our families a chance of booking a long awaited and possibly cheaper summer break as most schools in England will not be closing until the following week.

Possible Phone Disruption

You may recall that the school had some issues with the phone lines earlier in the school year. We will be having a new phone system installed on Wednesday March 2nd so we may experience some connection issues during the process on this day. If you need to contact the school and the phone lines are down, please email kimail@hwbcymru.net.

Dydd Gwyl Dewi /St David's Day

We will be celebrating St David's Day on Tuesday 1st March. We will be completing Welsh themed activities during the week at school. To mark the occasion children can come to school wearing the Welsh colours of red, white and green on this day. Traditional Welsh costumes and national Emblems(daffodils &leeks) can also be worn.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 11th March. To celebrate this event children can bring their favourite book to school and be prepared to tell their peers about the story and why

they like it. Children can come to school on this day in non-uniform or dressed as their favourite book character.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor at Ysgol Derwen. Further information about the role and how to apply and get nominated will be shared after the half term break.

Stay safe everyone

R Jones