

## **Derwen News July 6<sup>th</sup> 2022**

### **Covid Unwelcome Return!**

**I hope that you are all keeping well.**

**We are now fast approaching the end of the academic year at Ysgol Derwen which is also traditionally one of the busiest times of the year.**

**Unfortunately, having somehow avoiding Covid for two and a half years, I tested positive yesterday morning and am feeling pretty unwell. In line with current guidance from Flintshire County Council I will have to spend at least five days self-isolating. There are currently another two members of staff also self-isolating with Covid. Some schools locally are again struggling to stay open due to staff shortages.**

**After two years of disruption we were all hoping that Covid had gone away, but that is clearly not the case with positive infection cease on the increase both locally and nationally. With many of you, along with my staff, looking forward to long earned holidays in the coming weeks can I please ask that we all do everything we can to help protect each other from contracting Covid. If anyone in your home or your child has any of the symptoms associated with Covid, please take a test and if positive keep them home.**

**I am absolutely gutted to have caught Covid so late in the year and during such a busy period. I had to cancel my welcome talk with new parents this morning and will miss some exciting events over the coming days such as transition day, the drama performance and the Year 6 leavers canoeing trip on the Menai Straits. I hope that I make a quick recovery in order to be present for the end of Foundation and Year 6 leavers service on Monday.**

### **BCUHB Vaccinations**

**Please see links below to the latest from BCUHB re vaccinations:**

**Link : <https://bcuhb.nhs.wales/covid-19/covid-19-vaccinations/covid-19-vaccination-booster-information/>**

**The Vaccination Programme Team have asked if this information can be shared among parents of children aged 5+ .**

### **Staff Changes**

**We have three longstanding and much-loved Teaching Assistants leaving our team at Ysgol Derwen this term.**

**Mrs Sally Thomas has been a Nursery Nurse and more recently a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant in our Lower Foundation for 20 years. Mrs Thomas has decided that the time is now right for her to retire and spend quality time with her family and grandchildren. We hope that Mrs Thomas will be returning to Ysgol Derwen on a regular basis during her retirement to help with reading groups in the Upper Foundation.**

**Mrs Mandy Collings has also made the decision to leave her post as Teaching Assistant in our Reception Class and also as the Senior Mid-Day supervisor. Mrs Collings started her career at Ysgol Derwen as a 1:1 support before becoming a teaching assistant and has been a constant part of the school for 27 years, mainly working with our Reception children. Unfortunately, after contracting Covid earlier this year, Mrs Collings had to be admitted to hospital with pneumonia. This very distressing event has led Mrs Collings to make the decision that her health is far more important than anything else.**

**Mrs Meyrick has also decided that the time is right for her to reassess her life and look for other challenges and spend more time with her family. Mrs Meyrick started working at Ysgol Derwen as a Catering Assistant in the school kitchen before making the transition to Teaching Assistant. She has been employed at Ysgol Derwen for 14 years and for the past few years she has been a very creative influence within the Upper Foundation department.**

**Everyone associated with Ysgol Derwen will greatly miss all three, but we wish them every success, health and happiness in the years ahead and look forward to hearing about their new exciting futures.**

### **End of Year Reports**

**An end of year report for your child will be shared with parents in the week beginning July 11<sup>th</sup>. Please inform the office if you have changed your email address recently. Due to Welsh Government Covid regulations along with all the disruption caused through Covid throughout the year, the report will not contain:**

- **Attendance information**
- **Test information**
- **Year 2 Outcomes**
- **Year 6 Levels.**

### **Preparing for the New Term in September**

**With the end of term approaching please remember to support the school with the following issues in readiness for the new school year, especially when purchasing new school wear for September.**

### **SCHOOL DRESS CODE**

**Although we have relaxed the uniform policy throughout the Covid pandemic, we will expect all pupils to be wearing their full school uniform from September 2022. This includes black shoes and not trainers or boots. School uniform can be purchased online from the Forresters Sport, Mold link below:**

**[Derwen Primary School \(URN-400389\) - School \(monkhouse.com\)](#)**

**or from other clothes stores.**

### **PE KIT**

**Throughout this year, children have increasingly come into school on PE days in football tops etc. From September we would like all children to wear the simple and inexpensive PE kit of plain white t-shirt and black shorts.**

### **Jewellery**

**The wearing of jewellery can be dangerous in some activities and is therefore not allowed at school. In order to comply with the LA and school's own Health and Safety Policy, jewellery is not permitted to be worn during P.E. and Games lessons. All forms of jewellery (bracelets, necklaces, earrings, rings etc.) should not be worn during school hours/visits when wearing school uniform.**

**Watches and earring studs only are permitted. Any child who cannot remove stud earrings for PE lessons, for whatever reason, must cover them with micropore tape. Watches must also be removed for P.E./Games activities.**

### **Extreme Fashion Haircuts**

**Please save these for the summer break if your child likes to experiment! Extreme fashion haircuts are actively discouraged at school e.g. tramlines, colours, Mohicans.**

**Long hair (boys and girls) should be tied back at all times.**

**We welcome your full support in these matters.**

### **Little Acorns**

**Nursery Plus – If any of our new parents with children starting in the Nursery Class in September would like more information about Little Acorns Nursery Plus Provision (11.30am – 3pm every school day), please contact the club directly on:**

**[office@kinnertonlittleacorns.co.uk](mailto:office@kinnertonlittleacorns.co.uk)**

### **Dates**

- **Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 Transition Day to Castell Alun**
- **Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> – Transition morning for classes Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5.**
- **(Year 2 and 3 transition will happen Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup> as Year 3 had booked a visit to the Eisteddfod before Castell Alun released their transition date)**
- **Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> – Year 3 Visit to International Eisteddfod in Llangollen**
- **Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> – Performance of “The Bee Musical” in the school hall @ 5.30pm (Ysgol Derwen Drama Group)**
- **Friday July 8<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 canoeing trip on the Menai Straits**
- **Monday July 11<sup>th</sup> – Reports out to parents**
- **Monday July 11<sup>th</sup> - Year 2 End Of Foundation Phase Service @ 2pm**
- **Monday July 11<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 Leavers Service @ 5.30pm in the school hall**
- **Wednesday July 13<sup>th</sup> – School finishes for pupils for the Summer break**

## **September 2022**

**Ysgol Derwen will open to pupils on Monday September 5<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Flintshire School Term Dates 2022 / 2023**

### **Autumn Term 2022**

- **1 September 2022 - 28 October 2022\***
- **7 November 2022 - 23 December 2022**

### **Spring Term 2023**

- **9 January 2023 - 17 February 2023**
- **27 February 2023 - 31 March 2023**

### **Summer Term 2023**

- **17 April 2023 - 26 May 2023**
- **5 June 2023 - 20 July 2023**

**The following training dates have been agreed by all schools in the Castell Alun Cluster**

- **Thursday September 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup>**
- **Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>**
- **Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup>**
- **Thursday July 20<sup>th</sup>**

**PLEASE NOTE: Welsh Government have made an announcement during one of their recent briefings that there will be an additional training day added to the calendar above during the 22/23 academic year. Schools have not yet had confirmation of this but if it does go ahead, the Castell Alun Cluster will try and get a common date for all schools which will be communicated to parents as soon as we know what is going on.**

**Thank you for your continued support**

**Take care**

**R Jones**