

Newsletter

belong • believe • become your best

6th September 2024

Did you know?
A two-week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can get is 94.7%



www.santdunawd.co.uk

Ysgol Sant Dunawd

@YSD_BOD

Updating details

We will soon be sending home copies of the details we have on record for your child, including emergency contact information. Please make every effort to review these details carefully and ensure they are correct before returning them to the school. It is crucial that we have up-to-date information to ensure your child's safety and well-being.

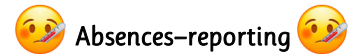
Additionally, if your child has any allergies or has developed new allergies, please inform us immediately so we can update our records and make any necessary adjustments to our care procedures.



Another reminder—please don't forget about our Welcome Back BBQ on Friday evening, 13th September, 6:00pm - 8:00pm. It's a wonderful opportunity for all of us to reunite, catch up, and celebrate the upcoming year together.



There will be delicious food and drink available to buy, and a chance to meet our dedicated staff. As ever, during the first week back in school, the weather looks to be glorious, the children will be able to play together in the school grounds, whilst you all enjoy the refreshments. Please bring along your own picnic chairs and blankets. Mr. Griffiths has sent out an expression of interest form this week so that we know how much to cater for. Please make sure you fill it in!



Should your child be absent from school due to illness, please ensure you let the school office know via telephone or email. Please do not rely on report absences through SeeSaw, they must be reported to Mrs. Nightgale or Mr Griffiths at the school office.

A message from the Headteacher

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break filled with rest, fun, and special moments with family and friends. It has been a delight to see all of the children back in school this week, looking so smart and full of pride in their new uniforms. They truly represent our school wonderfully, and we could not be prouder.

It has been a joy to watch the children settle back in so quickly and with such enthusiasm. They have been busy making new friends, reuniting with old ones, and sharing their stories of summer adventures. The positive energy in the classrooms is infectious, and it's wonderful to see how eager everyone is to dive into learning and make the most of this new term.



This newsletter will provide you with general information and remind you of the exciting events we have planned for this half term. Please keep an eye on your emails and our school noticeboard for more details and updates on all that is coming up.

Dion Griffiths (Headteacher)



Attendance and Punctuality Matters!

Regular attendance at school is vital for every child's learning and development. When children attend school consistently, they have the best chance to engage fully with the curriculum, build on their knowledge day by day, and develop strong relationships with their peers and teachers. It helps them establish a routine, build confidence, and develop essential social skills that will support them throughout their educational journey. Every day of school is an opportunity for learning, and even occasional absences can disrupt a child's progress and make it harder for them to keep up.

We kindly remind parents that holidays should only be booked during school breaks to ensure your child does not miss out on valuable learning time. For further details on our expectations around attendance, please refer to our Attendance Policy, which is available on our website.

As part of our efforts to go paperless, we are introducing a new online form to request leave of absence from school. This form will be available from Monday, 9th September. Further information, including how to access and complete the form, will be shared with you soon.

Being punctual sets a positive tone for the day! The first 10–15 minutes per day is crucial; usually children use this time to address any misconceptions from the previous day's learning; complete a challenge set by the teacher; or engage in independent basic skill development using ICT. This is why, being in school on time is so important!

Getting to school **on time** really matters. Did you know in a school year...

If you are late everyday by...	You would have lost approximately...
5 minutes	3.5 days from school
10 minutes	7 days from school
15 minutes	10 days from school
20 minutes	14.5 days from school

Uniform Reminder

We kindly remind all parents about our school uniform policy to ensure that all children are dressed appropriately and ready to learn. All children should be wearing black shoes, not trainers, to maintain a neat and consistent appearance.



Additionally, for safety reasons, we ask that no jewelry, including dangling earrings, bangles, or smart devices such as smartwatches or Fitbits, be worn at school. Keeping to these guidelines helps maintain a focused learning environment and avoids any distractions.

A Polite Reminder About Lunches

Please can all parents make sure that they order their child's meals in advance. You are able to book up to 3 weeks in advance on Parent Pay. We're currently having some issues at lunchtimes, where children are not having meals ordered for them before the 8:00am deadline, which means that sometimes we run out of food—or they are asked to eat their unpreferred option. It's vital that you choose their meals together, as some parents choose the 'healthy option', but the children simply do not eat it. This often causes tears at the serving hatch and a considerable amount of food wastage.

Information Sessions

We would like to offer parents the wonderful opportunity to visit school on Friday, 13th September, at 2:30pm. You will have a chance to see the classroom where your child will be learning, meet the teaching team informally, and receive a general introduction to the learning topics for the term. An email has been sent out earlier this week.



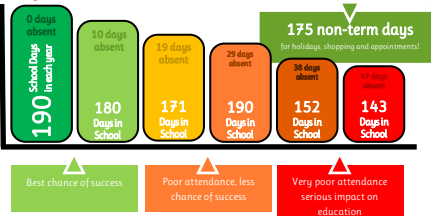
Your child should have come home with their SeeSaw codes this week. Please make every attempt to set these up on your mobile phones as soon as possible. This way, you'll be able to keep up to date with what's going on in class, as well as having a point of contact for the staff. Should you have any problems setting this up, please see your child's class teacher.

At a glance...

Breakfast Club 8:00am–8:35am
Paid Breakfast Club from 8:00am–8:30am (£3)
Free Breakfast Club from 8:30am–8:35am (FREE)
Paid childcare afterschool club 3:05pm–6:00pm

Gates 8:45am–8:55am
School starts at 8:55am
School finishes at 11:35 (nursery)
3:05pm (R/Y1) 3:10pm (Y2–Y6)

Our target is to be in school 96.8% of the time (184-190 days)



At a glance

Whole School Attendance TARGET

96.8% 😊

Target 96.8%

Dinners, Trips & Clubs

