

# Newsletter

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6th December 2024

Don't forget to pay for the Pantomime or Cinema trip on Parent Pay!



www.santdunawd.co.uk

Ysgol Sant Dunawd

@YSD\_BOD

## Feedback from you

We were thrilled to receive such positive feedback from the parents who attended Family Learning and Show and Share.

One parent, shared how impressed they were at how teachers recognise such a variety of personal achievements, both academic and otherwise. Others praised the opportunity to come in and spend time with their children.

Of course, we also appreciate constructive feedback, and we are committed to continually improving our school. A few parents mentioned that they would like to see events like these take place on different days. We're pleased to say that this feedback has already been actioned, and we have ensured that family learning sessions take place on different days and times throughout the year.

### A huge 'Diolch' for the Foodbank Donations

I wanted to take a moment to share some truly lovely news about the generosity of our school community. This November, your incredible donations of food and gifts to the Wrexham Foodbank have made a phenomenal impact, and we've received a beautiful email from the Bangor-on-Dee volunteers to share just how much it has meant.

Here's what they had to say:

*'Just a quick update after today's collection - the Salvation Army were blown away, with one staff member saying, 'This gives us hope.'*

*The Wrexham Foodbank collection exceeded 364kg of donations, which is the most collected in a very long time. They were beyond thankful and over more they will be able to help this Christmas.*

*The volunteers were also overjoyed with the positive impact contacting the school has had on this collection and would love if you'd be willing to do similar for future collections. I can't thank you enough - I was personally blown away by the kindness of everyone when I walked into reception!'*

Hearing this feedback filled me with immense pride. Your kindness not only made a difference to families in need but also lifted the spirits of those tirelessly working to support our wider community.

## Neges gan y Prifathro

As we approach the festive season, I want to take a moment to acknowledge how well our children have been managing the challenges of the busy lead-up to Christmas.

It's been a month of unpredictable weather, with heavy rain and the occasional snow flurry, providing both challenges and fun for our school community.



This time of year is always bustling with extracurricular activities and exciting enrichment opportunities, and our pupils are certainly making the most of them.

In this newsletter, you'll find updates on some recent events, what's been happening in the classrooms, and a few important reminders for the rest of the term.

Diolch o galon,

Dion Griffiths (Headteacher)

### A King is Born Christmas Concert

What a truly wonderful day we had on Thursday, 5th December, at our Christmas concerts, The King is Born! Our Nursery to Year 2 pupils took to the stage and delivered two stellar performances that left us all beaming with pride.



We were blown away by their enthusiasm, energy, and talent. The clear and loud projection of their voices echoed throughout the hall and their beautiful singing and dancing brought the spirit of Christmas to life, and we couldn't be prouder of how they performed.

Of course, there were a few adorable moments that only the younger children can get away with - a cheeky giggle here, a missed cue there, and some perfectly timed 'baas' from Mr. Jones. But that's all part of their charm! The 'cute factor' was definitely in full swing, and we wouldn't have it any other way.

A special mention must go to our Nursery children, for whom this was their very first time on stage. They were simply fantastic! For some of them, stepping onto that big stage was a brave new adventure, and we couldn't have been more proud of how they embraced the experience.

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents for their support and encouragement throughout the rehearsal process. A huge thank you as well to our amazing staff who worked tirelessly to help the children shine. Without your dedication, these magical moments wouldn't have been possible.

### Nightingale House Reindeer Run

"On 17th December, we will be taking part in the Reindeer Run, an event aimed at raising funds for Nightingale House. In order to participate, we are suggesting a donation of £1.50 per pupil, but any contribution is welcomed.

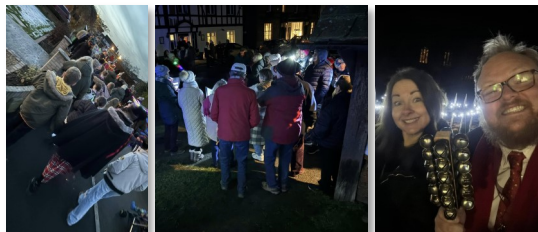
Sponsorship forms should be returned by 16th December, so please make sure to send them back to school with your child.

We truly appreciate any contributions you can make. Your generosity will help both our school and local charities that have such a positive impact on our community."

- The First and Deputy Ministers.

### Bangor on Dee Christmas Light Switch-On and Lantern Parade

We had a magical evening as we celebrated the Bangor on Dee Christmas Light Switch-On and Lantern Parade late November! It was truly heartwarming to see so many families gathered back in school and lining the streets of our village to mark the beginning of the festive season.



As we made our way to the beautifully decorated Christmas tree, the sound of the St. Dunawd Church bell ringers filled the air, setting the perfect tone for the evening. The streets were alive with the excitement and joy of the community, and it was a joy to watch the children, parents, and grandparents all coming together to share in the spirit of Christmas.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this event such a success—our staff, the local community, and all of the families who came out to support the event.

### Show and Share Event: A Celebration of Learning

We were delighted to host our recent "Show and Share", where our pupils had the opportunity to sit with their parents and showcase their learning. Our children were able to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they've been developing in the classroom, from exciting new projects to personal achievements.

It was heartwarming to see so many families actively involved, engaging in thoughtful conversations about their child's learning journey. The children were clearly proud to share their work!



We truly value the partnership we have with you and look forward to continuing these opportunities.

KS2's Cinderella Rockafella tickets on sale now!



## At a glance

Whole School Attendance TARGET

95.3%

Target 96.8%

Dinners, Trips & Clubs



Forest School

Mrs. Johnson has been leading some truly magical activities in Forest School, and the children have been busy embracing the festive spirit through hands-on Christmas crafting. The pupils have shown incredible enthusiasm and creativity while working with tools such as hammers, saws, and nails to design and build beautiful decorative decorations and wreaths. It has been wonderful to see the children grow in confidence as they tackle these practical tasks in the great outdoors. Forest School provides an environment where they can take on new challenges, problem-solve, and develop fine motor skills in a way that is both engaging and empowering.



Beyond the festive fun, the impact on the children's wellbeing is evident. Spending time outdoors, working together, results of their efforts brings a sense of accomplishment and joy.



Dosbarth Alyn and Elwy have been fully immersed in the world of farming, bringing real-life learning experiences into the classroom. One of the most exciting parts of our learning has been the creation of our very own makeshift farm shop. The children have been working hard to manage their 'shop', learning about the importance of buying and selling goods, budgeting, and handling money.

The learning experiences haven't been confined to the classroom, though. Dosbarth Alyn and Dosbarth Elwy were incredibly lucky to have had a visit from our parent farmers, who brought their tractors to the school during the snowy weather. The children were thrilled to see the tractors up close and were fascinated by how these powerful machines work. This real-world experience gave them a hands-on understanding of winter work on the farm.



Dosbarth Alyn & Elwy

Dosbarth Ceiriog

One of the highlights of their learning has been exploring the work of the renowned artist, John Williams. The children have been inspired by his stunning landscape images, capturing the beauty of rural life. They have worked on recreating his artwork, experimenting with his signature techniques, such as splatting and dribbling paint, to bring the landscapes to life in their own unique ways. The children have shown great enthusiasm in developing their artistic skills, while also gaining a deeper appreciation for the connection between art and the world around them. As part of their Talk for Writing learning, the children have been exploring Jack and the



Beanstalk, crafting their own imaginative versions and acting out scenes in front of a green screen. With the magic of technology, they've transformed themselves into characters scaling towering beanstalks, exploring the giant's castle, and escaping with the golden goose! This innovative approach has brought a new level of excitement and engagement to their learning. The use of green



The pupils of Dosbarth Clywedog have been busy showcasing their incredible creativity and hard work this term, blending storytelling and art into their learning. As part of their Talk for Writing unit, the children have been developing their skills in creating stories with dialogue. They've been thoroughly engaged in learning their text map, a visual tool that helps them structure their narratives and incorporate speech effectively.

In addition to their writing, the class has been exploring the world of art with a festive twist. They've been experimenting with different materials and techniques to create stunning snowy scenes. Using textures, glitter, and plenty of imagination, the children have brought the magic of winter to their artwork, showcasing not only their artistic skills but also their attention to detail and creativity.

This combination of literacy and art has been a joy to see, as the children's confidence in both their storytelling and artistic abilities continues to grow. Dosbarth Clywedog is certainly a hub of inspiration this term, and we can't wait to see what they'll create next!



Dosbarth Clywedog



Henry showing off his artistic skills! Da iawn!



This week's Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher!

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for signing up and supporting our school through the ASDA Cashpot initiative. Your involvement helps us raise vital funds to enhance learning experiences for our children.

Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Ysgol Sant Dunawd School is getting into the festive spirit with a special Christmas Jumper Day on Tuesday, 12th December.

On this day, children are invited to come to school wearing their favourite Christmas jumper to join in the celebrations.

The highlight of the day will be our delicious Christmas dinner, lovingly prepared by our school cook. Alongside this festive feast, children will enjoy a day filled with fun seasonal activities, spreading cheer throughout the school.

To ensure that everyone is catered for, it's important that Christmas dinners are booked in advance. Families can do this through Parent Pay. For those not opting for the Christmas dinner, children are welcome to bring a packed lunch instead.

Parking and Safety

We are so grateful for the incredible support we receive from you, our parents and carers. However, it's crucial that we also show respect to our neighbours and the surrounding community, particularly when it comes to parking and road safety.

We kindly ask all parents to park sensibly when dropping off and collecting children. Please avoid parking on pavements or grass verges, and ensure driveways and access for larger vehicles are not obstructed. This consideration makes a huge difference to our neighbours and ensures everyone can move safely and freely around the school area.

I also want to address the growing concern about some parents stopping on the zigzag lines outside school or double parking to drop off children. While we understand mornings can be busy, safety must come first. We would much rather welcome your children safely into school, even if they're slightly late, than see anyone put at risk.

Additionally, our community police liaison has informed us of an increasing number of incidents where drivers are exiting Worcester Road onto Sandown Road without stopping for oncoming traffic. This poses a serious hazard, and we urge all parents to take extra care, adhere to road safety rules, and always prioritise the wellbeing of pedestrians and other drivers.

Ysgol Sant Dunawd

You have helped raise

**£131.83**

3 days left



See progress