

Newsletter

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12th September 2025

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_BDD

A message from the Headteacher

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed some special time with family and friends. It has been fantastic to see the children return this week looking so smart, happy, and full of energy for the year ahead. Their enthusiasm for learning and the way they support one another is already shining through, and I am very proud of how quickly they have settled back into school life.

As your new Acting Headteacher, I feel privileged to be leading such a warm and welcoming school community. I am really looking forward to working closely with staff, parents, and carers to ensure that every child continues to thrive, both in and out of the classroom.



This newsletter will keep you up to date with important information and highlight the exciting events we have planned for this half term. Thank you for your continued support—I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks.

Regards,

Joshua Jones (*Acting Headteacher*)

LUNCH REMINDER



Please ensure that your child's meals are ordered in advance via ParentPay. Meals can be booked up to three weeks ahead, but must be selected before the 8:00am daily deadline. Historically, we've had some difficulties at lunchtimes where meals have not been ordered in time. This can mean that food runs short, or that children are served an option they do not enjoy.

As always, we kindly ask that parents take a moment to go through the menu with their child when ordering. Choosing together helps avoid upset at the serving hatch and reduces unnecessary food waste.

Thank you for your support in making lunchtimes a positive experience for all children.

Curriculum & Learning

This term, each class is diving into exciting new topics across the curriculum. **Dosbarth Alyn** have been settling into their new classroom, making friends and learning new routines. **Dosbarth Elwy** are exploring Family Album, with a Humanities AoLE focus on history, as they learn more about families, the past, and how our stories connect us. **Dosbarth Ceiriog** are taking on Bones, Blood and Gory Bits—a Science & Technology-rich topic that promises to be every bit as fascinating (and a little messy!) as the title suggests. Meanwhile, **Dosbarth Clywedog** are studying Bend and Flow—not interpretive dance, but a Humanities AoLE focus on geography, where they will investigate rivers, landscapes, and the natural world around us. We look forward to sharing the children's learning with you as the term progresses.

Every Moment Counts

Being on time sets a positive tone for the whole day! The first 10–15 minutes of the school day are especially valuable, as children often use this time to revisit the previous day's learning, address any misconceptions, or complete a challenge set by the teacher.

Our new morning routines—lining up and being greeted by the class teacher—ensure that all children are in class, settled, and ready to learn by 8:55am. Arriving punctually helps your child start the day calmly, confidently, and fully prepared for learning.

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 jewellery, 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.



PTA Events



We are delighted to share that our PTA has lots of exciting events planned for the months ahead. We'll be starting with our **Tea, Coffee and Cake Afternoon (03.10.25)**, followed by a **Spooky Disco (23.10.25)** later in the half term.

Through discussions between school and the PTA, we have agreed that some of the funds raised this year will go towards purchasing new home reading books for the children. Our current collection is becoming a little tired and outdated, and we want to make sure that children remain inspired and motivated to read at home. We are very grateful for your continued support with these events, which make such a difference to our school community.



Seesaw



Your child should have brought home their Seesaw login codes this week. Please take a moment to set these up on your mobile devices as soon as possible. Seesaw is a fantastic tool that strengthens the link between school and home—you'll be able to see what's happening in class, celebrate your child's learning, and have an easy point of contact with staff.

No more "What did you do today?" followed by "Nothing!"—Seesaw gives you a real window into your child's school life. If you have any difficulties setting it up, please speak to your child's class teacher, who will be happy to help.

Updating Details

It is absolutely vital that the school holds the most up-to-date information about every child.

This includes parent and carer contact details, as well as the details of other trusted adults who may collect your child in an emergency.

We also need accurate information about medical needs, asthma, dietary requirements, and allergies so that we can provide the right care and keep every child safe. If any of your details change, please inform the school office straight away so our records remain current.

Coffee & Cake

I apologise once again for the cancellation of the Welcome Back BBQ. However, we are delighted to announce we will host a Tea & Coffee Afternoon on Friday, 3rd October, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to come together, enjoy some delicious cakes, and have a natter.



You are warmly invited to join us in the school hall, where you'll be able to sit with your child, share a drink and some cake, and catch up with other families. All proceeds from cake sales will go to the PTA.

We would be very grateful for any cake donations (homemade or shop-bought) to help make the afternoon a success. We hope to see as many of you as possible for this lovely community event!



Year 5 & 6



From now on, Year 5 and Year 6 children will be going **swimming** and visiting the **library** every **Tuesday morning**.

Please ensure your child brings their swimming kit, and they may also bring a healthy snack to eat after their swim. If they have a library card, please send it along so they can borrow books during the visit.



Absences—reporting



If your child is absent from school due to illness, please inform the school office directly by telephone or email. Absences should not be reported to teachers via SeeSaw. All absence notifications must go to Mrs Nightingale or Mr Jones in the school office.

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

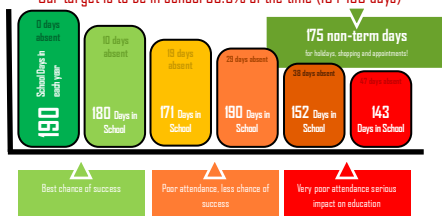
Bell sounds: 8:50am

In class learning at 8:55am

School finishes at 11:35 (nursery)

3:05pm (R/Y) 3:10pm (Y2–Y6)

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



Dinners, Trips & Clubs

Whole School Attendance so far this year:

97.6%

Target 96.8%