

# Builth Wells Primary School

## Newsletter

*September 2023*

Annwyl Rieni / Warchodwyr,

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. The start of the new school year is always a special time at school, and we extend a warm welcome to everyone, especially all the new members of our school community.

Mrs. Burgess joins us as a teaching assistant in Dosbarth Tryfan. Mrs. Hacker is also a new member of the team, supporting teaching in the Welsh Stream.

Every class teacher will soon share a newsletter specific to your child's class but, in the meantime, I should like to highlight a few important things which I hope you find helpful.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

There is a very strong link between good attendance and progress in learning. We achieved our overall school average attendance target of 93.5% last year. If your child does happen to be ill, please contact the school by 9.30a.m. to provide a reason for absence. If we don't hear from you, we will do our best to contact you to make sure your child is safe. We advise against taking holidays during term time because, if your child also happens to have periods of absence through ill health, overall attendance can be significantly impacted. If you do decide to proceed with a holiday, please notify us at the earliest opportunity. We might be able to authorise some holidays or absences due to special circumstances but only if your child's attendance is otherwise very good.

### **Uniform / P.E. Kit**

Remember, children should wear uniform as described in our prospectus (available on our website). We have a few items of unclaimed lost property if you are in need of extra items and hand-me-downs are often available on the Builth Primary Uniform Facebook page, run by The Friends of Builth Primary School.

On P.E. days, children should wear appropriate P.E. kit (T-shirt, jumper / hoodie, shorts or joggers, trainers). **Please note, we ask for a full-length T-Shirt and not strappy tops or crop tops.** Jewellery should be removed for safety reasons.

### **Start and End of the School Day**

We open the gates at 8:40 a.m. and then take responsibility for the children as they come into school. Bus drivers have been instructed to wait until we open the gates before letting children disembark. It is extremely important, for safety reasons, that parents do not drop-off children in the bus bay or in the road in front of the school. Please also keep to the **5mph** speed limit.

Please bear with us at the end of the day as it always takes a little longer to begin with to hand children over to parents. Teachers may not yet be familiar with parents of new children in their classes, and we have to be sure we don't let children go without being sure we have seen a parent

or carer. Please come prepared for a short wait until we get fully up to speed. Please try to be on time when collecting children. We understand that sometimes being a bit late cannot be avoided and we will always keep you child safe with us. However, if this becomes a regular occurrence, we will have to ask Busy Bees to take the children and you will be charged.

If your child uses **School Transport**, please make sure you let Mrs Carter (school administrator) know if there are any changes to the regular transport arrangements. Failure to do so can lead to some significant delays. Children are frequently reminded of the need for good behaviour on the school buses and we ask that parents also reinforce these expectations.

### **Clwb Bore Da Breakfast Club**

Clwb Bore Da runs from 8:00 until 8:40 Monday to Friday. Mrs. Teri Morgan has stepped-up to be the new leader of Clwb Bore Da. A free breakfast is provided, and children can play games or do arts and crafts. We had a grant last year which meant that we could offer a free service, however, we have now used-up all of that grant. From **1<sup>st</sup> October** we will need to reintroduce a charge of £1.50 per session to cover the cost associated with opening for more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour each day. Please do not arrive before 8:00 a.m. as we are still busy setting-up between 7.45 and 8.00 a.m.

### **Busy Bees After-School Club**

**Rated Good in all categories at our Care Inspectorate for Wales (CIW) inspection in April. Please see our website for the full report.**

Busy Bees runs from 3.25 until 5.30 p.m. Monday to Thursday. Children are able to play games both inside and outside, play with the toys and equipment or just 'chill' after a busy day at school. We bought lots of new toys and resources last year to keep the children entertained and snack-time is always popular.

Parents wishing to use Busy Bees should contact the school office to ask for a registration form. Payment of £6.50 per session (£5.50 for siblings) should be made via Parent Pay. If needing to book on the day, please contact the school office to check there is room as we have to keep to adult: child ratios of 1:8 for CIW. Likewise, if you need to cancel, please let us know as someone may be on our reserve list waiting for a space.

### **Swimming**

Both Year 3 / 4 classes (Cadair Idris and Elan) will be swimming on a Friday morning, **starting 15<sup>th</sup> September**. Year 5/6 will swim in the Spring Term and Y1/2 will swim in the Summer Term. We don't take Reception swimming.

### **Flu Immunisations**

Powys Teaching Health Board will be coming to provide nasal flu immunisations on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October** for all children. Please look out for the consent letter in your child's bag, which will be coming home soon.

### **Other Notable Dates:**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September - Ti a Fi starts in the hall every Monday morning from 10.00 a.m.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 9.00-9.45a.m.: drop-in session for parents of Reception children to meet with Mr. Cornelius and Mrs. Michelle Davies to discuss your child's experience of starting school. We are always looking to improve our approach year-on-year to make sure our youngest

pupils have a happy and positive first experience of school. Please don't feel daunted at the prospect of meeting the headteacher and deputy, we would love to meet you and have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee. We will even bring cake and biscuits!

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September - M&M Theatre company performance of 'The Railway Children' for all classes. We are asking for a contribution of £2 per child towards the cost of the performance. These theatre visits are a big hit with the children every year and it is so much cheaper than travelling to a theatre. We can only continue to arrange these performances if we get a contribution from most if not all parents.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - all schools in the Ysgol Calon Cymru cluster will be closed for staff training supporting effective implementation of the Curriculum for Wales. These dates were originally shared in the summer term.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October - Colorfoto individual and sibling portrait photographs. Parents with children of pre-school age should arrive between 8.30-9.00. Please contact the office to let us know if you intend to bring pre-school children so we know how many to expect. We don't cater for siblings of secondary school age.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October - The Welsh Beatboxer (Dean Yhnell) online concert.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Half Term.

Diolch yn fawr,

*G. Cornelius*

Headteacher



Siarter Iaith

Wobr Arian

Cyd-ddysgwn, Cydlwyddwn

Together We Learn, Together We  
Achieve



Ysgol Efydd

Cymraeg Campus