



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Y Santes Fair
Milford Road, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2EH
Acting Headteacher: S Ruggeri



Croeso nol! Welcome back!

What a wonderful start to the new school year we have enjoyed this week.

Today, we have celebrated the birthday of Mary, Our Lady and Mother of Jesus. The children have worked in their houses, enjoying making crafts to bring home this afternoon. Look out for photographs on Facebook...



All of the staff have been busy over the summer, preparing classrooms and activities for the coming term:

DOSBARTH CELYN will be learning all about **Stories**, so get those reading books at the ready...

DOSBARTH BEDWEN will be studying **Castles**, jousting challenges a go...

DOSBARTH ONNEN will be learning all about the **Romans**, watch out for passing chariots...

DOSBARTH CASTAN will be studying (and sampling) **Chocolate!**

I am not sure who are the most excited for the adventures which lie ahead, the children or the teachers!

Uniform Reminder

Lots of our children have come to school looking extremely smart, all ready and raring to go!

For those of you still making preparations, please may I remind you of our school uniform, as all children are expected to comply with our uniform policy.

A pair of indoor shoes (preferably black, avoiding high heels or thick platforms)

A pair of outdoor shoes/wellies

Royal blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan

Boys:

Grey or black school trousers, long or short (not jeans)

Dark socks

Girls:

Grey skirt, pinafore dress

or tailored trousers (not jeans)

White socks or grey or black tights

Blue and white check dresses may also be worn.

P.E. Kit:

Plain black shorts

Plain yellow T-shirt or Yellow T-shirt with school logo

P.E. Shoes / trainers

Hair should be clean and tidy with no unnatural colouring.

Long hair should be tied back at all times.

Jewellery is not allowed except one small stud or sleeper per ear.

Daily Routines

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club opens at 7.45am and closes at 8:30am. Breakfast is served from 8:00am to 8.30am. The cost is £1 per day per child.

Arrival Times

The top gate by the office window opens at 8:45 for pupils to go into their class. This gate closes at 8:55. There is a member of staff on duty to relay messages from parents to relevant teachers.

Late Arrivals

For pupils running late, the front door will be opened for their admittance into school.

New Dismissal Arrangements from Monday, 10th September

Dosbarth Celyn	3.15pm from the top gate by the office window
Dosbarth Bedwen	3.20pm as above
Dosbarth Onnen & Castan	3.25pm as above

Please help us to speed up the dismissal process by leaving this area as soon as you have collected your child. Once again this arrangement will be reviewed in due course and your viewpoints taken into consideration.

Drive and Car Park Safety

Please can I appeal to you all to take the utmost care when using the car park to prevent any accidents from happening. Remember that we have car park permits which allow you to use the Powys County Council car park just across the park and over the bridge for half an hour at the beginning and end of the school day for FREE. The car park is just a short walk across the park and is a much safer option for everyone. Please see Mrs Whittington if you have not collected yours yet.

If it **is** necessary for you to bring your cars to school at any time, please note the following:-

- The **speed limit** along the drive and in the car park is **5mph – DO NOT EXCEED THIS AT ANY TIME**
- DO NOT park in the disabled parking space outside Plas Dolerw – This space is reserved for ‘blue badge’ holders ONLY.
- AVOID parking in the centre of the car park as this just causes further congestion.
- DO NOT reverse your car at speed at any time.

Attendance

Our attendance target for this year is **96%**. Due to an increasing number of holidays during the Summer Term of last year, we failed to meet this target. Therefore, I beseech you all to help us in improving our attendance by arranging holidays to coincide with the school holidays, as detailed in the calendar attached to your pupil's school report. The school calendar can also be found on the Powys Website.

Every day is a learning day, so please help make each day count for your child's education.

Urdd

Following on from last year's successes in the Urdd we shall be joining up again this year.

Alongside taking part in the arts, sports and recitation, we are very keen to try out the dance competitions this year - disco, folk and creative! So the more members the merrier!

Membership costs £7 if you join before 10th January and £10 after that date.

If your child is interested in joining the Urdd please send them to Mrs Whittington for a form or apply online.

A Listening Ear or two...

Whilst we have a formal Parents Evening scheduled for November, we are always here to listen to any matters which may arise beforehand. An appointment can be made via Mrs Whittington to speak with your class teacher, as we are always here to help in any way we can.

Complaints Procedure

From time to time, things do not go as smoothly as they should. To help in such situations, we have a complaints procedure. Should you need it, the following is a brief summary of the arrangements made by Powys County Council as a Local Authority in respect of complaints about curriculum and collective worship. The full document may be viewed at the school upon request. Complaints regarding matters other than curriculum and religious worship (for example, discipline, admissions) do not come within the scope of these arrangements. Parents are asked to take their concerns to the Headteacher.

School level: A complaint should first be made to the Headteacher so that a full but informal investigation and discussion may take place.

Formal Complaint: If the above step does not resolve the matter, the Headteacher will supply the complainant with the address of the Clerk of the Governors so that the complaint can be set out in writing. The Clerk will then arrange for the complaint to be investigated and considered by the Governing Body. The complainant may make a verbal presentation to the Governing Body should they wish to do so.

Formal complaint: If the matter involved related to something that is solely the responsibility of the LA or if the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the Governors, the complaint may be sent to the Director of the Children, Families and Lifelong Learning Directorate. The Director will arrange for the complaint to be investigated.

As well as our Complaints Procedure, we have a range of statutory policies which can be made available to parents on receipt of a written request. These include our Admissions Policy, Charging Policy, Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Policy, Data Protection Policy, Equality Plan, Health and Safety Policy, Pay Policy, Performance Management Policy, Pupil Discipline (including Anti-Bullying) Policy, School Session Times, Sex Education Policy, Special Educational Needs Policy, Staff Discipline, Staff Conduct, Capability and Grievance Procedures.

Future Newsletters

At the beginning of each half-term there will be a newsletter published, which will contain information about upcoming key events. Please make notes of those all important dates!

For those unexpected additions, such as sporting events, information will be given to those pupils involved.

At the end of each month, there will be a summary newsletter produced, which will share all the exciting events we have been up to!

Photographs from our adventures will be shared on Facebook as they happen... or as close to this as possible!

The newsletters will be made available on our school website and our Facebook page.

Please will you complete and return the confidential information sheet and low risk visits consent to us by the end of next week. It is essential that we have your current details for contact so please keep us informed of any changes. The forms have been sent home today with the children.

Here's to the next half term!

September - Key Dates

7th September - Feast of the Nativity of Virgin Mary

Party celebrations to be held in school for everybody!

11th, 18th, 25th September - Swimming for Dosbarth Castan

Please bring in £1.50 contribution towards transport costs

14th September - Roald Dahl Day

Dress up as your favourite character!

17th September - Dosbarth Onnen Trip to Roman Experience in Chester

Gladiators and chariots step this way. Further details to follow...

20th September - Dosbarth Bedwen Trip to Conwy Castle

Knights and fair maidens step this way. Further details to follow...

20th September - Bronze Ambassadors Training at Newtown High School

Our Y6 Bronze Ambassadors, Jorja Kelly and Dennis Kozma have elected two new Y5 Bronze Ambassadors - Congratulations to Rubi Mark and Riley Sears!

21st September - Harvest Festival

Join us at 2:00 for a celebration of our bountiful home in which we are lucky enough to live. Donations towards a collection for the Salvation Army Food Bank (non-perishable) or a money donation towards our CAFOD collection will be very gratefully received.

28th September - September Snippets!

Look out for our class newsletters, sharing news of all our exciting activities.

29th September - Car Boot Sale

Opportunity to have a pre-Christmas clear out for all those new toys! Only £5 a table.

October - Key Dates

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd October - Swimming for Dosbarth Castan

Please bring in £1.50 contribution towards transport costs

5th October - Grandparents Afternoon

All grandparents are invited to spend the afternoon with their darling sunbeams! Details to follow...

10th October - Opening Evening - Numeracy

Join us to find out ways to support your children's learning in numeracy. Details to follow...

22nd - 26th October - Engineering Week, culminating in an Engineering Fayre on the Friday.

Join us for a celebration of engineering feats...

26th October - October Highlights!

Look out for our class newsletters, sharing news of all our exciting activities.

29th October - 2nd November - Half-Term Holidays!

Still to be arranged - a trip to [Cadbury's World for Dosbarth Castan...](#)

S. Ruggeri

Acting Head teacher