



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Newtown

I am a very informative 'Back to School Information Pack'

Please read me!



Welcome back! Croeso nol! Witamy spowrotem!

Hopefully, we have all had a good rest and are ready to start out new school year with plenty of energy and enthusiasm. I know that this is true of the staff who have prepared exciting topics for the children to enjoy and develop new skills.

Of the seventy nine primary schools in Powys, our school is unique for many reasons. Our school is the only catholic school in Powys, this makes it a very special place to be (yes, I will admit I am biased but then I know the children who make it so). It is now unique as the only school to which children may be admitted full-time during the term in which they attain their fourth birthday. When they join our Nursery class, children have access to many wonderful experiences, in the loving care of Miss Philips. Our 'little acorns' are in very capable hands as Miss Phillips helps them to grow personally, socially and academically into mighty oaks!

IMPORTANT INFO re a change of menu to mark the Queen's Baton Relay. The only school dinner available to children this Thursday 7th September is a picnic box containing a filled sandwich, a pizza finger, an iced fairy cake and a bottle of water. Sandwich fillings will be a choice of ham, cheese or tuna.

To learn more about the routines and expectations within each class, come to our '**Meet and Greet**' sessions this **WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER** at either **3.45pm** when Miss Philips and I will supervise the children. The sessions will be run again at **5.45pm**. Each teacher will begin their presentation at these times and will be available for questions and comments. We are hoping that, with these new timings, a greater number of parents will be able to access this important and interesting information such as details about topics, homework, reading routines and suchlike.

Friday 8th September is a very special day as it is the **birthday of Mary, Our Lady and Mother of Jesus**. We shall start the day with a special assembly in her honour and would be delighted if you could join us. This will start at **9am** and will last about half an hour. Please do come! Traditional birthday celebrations for the children will continue into the afternoon, as Mary is very special to us.

Starting on Thursday 14th September, we shall be having an additional assembly which, through the course of the term, will be led by different groups of children, primarily the older ones. We would like you to join us for these acts of worship if you can; they will be simple but prayerful. Parents, friends and parishioners are most welcome! A list of dates, with these events and others, is attached for your information.

There is a cream coloured sheet for an **updated confidential information sheet** enclosed. Please complete and return to school asap. As we plan for more and more of our information to be shared electronically, it is essential that we have the most current details. Diolch!

There is also a local visits consent form to be completed and returned asap please.

For you to be aware of...

Dosbarth Derw – although this class is empty at the moment, Miss Phillips is making sure that all is ready for our incoming four year olds who will have their visits next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons before starting full time on Monday 18th September.

Dosbarth Celyn – Our Reception and Year One children are taught by Mrs Marriott on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternate Wednesday mornings. Mrs Luke teaches Celyn on alternate Wednesday mornings,

Wednesday afternoons, Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Austin is our full time teaching assistant in Celyn. There are currently twenty three children in this class.

Dosbarth Bedwen – Mrs Jones teaches Dosbarth Bedwen with support from Mrs O'Brien for Mathematical Development. There are currently twenty four children in this class.

Dosbarth Onnen – Miss Brian is the teacher in Dosbarth Onnen. There are currently twenty three children in this class.

Dosbarth Castan - Mrs Ruggeri is the teacher in Dosbarth Castan. There are currently twenty seven children in this class.

PE – every class has scheduled sessions for PE each week but it is best if the children can keep their PE kits in school throughout each half term in case of changes or additional events. At this time of year, this should consist of a yellow T-shirt (with or without the school logo), blue or black shorts, socks and trainers. There are yellow polo shirts available online from Tesco, Asda and Matalan which are ideal and are a cheaper option if this helps.

School uniform is a requirement of the Governing Body and part of our tradition. As a pupil of St Mary's, all children are expected to wear it.

All children should have:

A pair of indoor shoes, preferably black, of a sensible and safe design avoiding high heels or thick platforms

A pair of outdoor shoes or wellies

Royal blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan

White polo shirt, shirt or blouse.

Boys: Grey or black school trousers, long or short
Dark socks

Girls: Grey skirt, pinafore dress or tailored trousers
White socks or grey or black tights

In warm weather, blue and white check dresses may be worn.

P.E.Kit: Plain black or navy blue shorts
Plain yellow T-shirt
Or
Yellow T-shirt with school logo
P.E.shoes / trainers

PLEASE NOTE THAT JEANS SHOULD NOT BE WORN FOR SCHOOL

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.

In response to expert advice, we changed our policy on the requirement for all children to wear indoor pumps. Like you, we are still keen to avoid the children's school shoes getting muddy and bringing the mud indoors. As the weather gets wetter and our play areas get muddier, we would like to give parents the option- children should either bring wellies or old shoes for outdoor play or have a change of shoes, but not slippers, for indoors.

Breakfast club opens at 7.45am and breakfast is served from 8am to 8.30am when Breakfast club closes. £1 per day per child.

Dismissal times i.e. the time at which the children leave the building:

Derw	3.15pm from the Bwthyn
Celyn	3.20pm from Dosbarth Celyn
Bedwen, Onnen and Castan	3.25pm from the top playground

Please help us and speed up the dismissal process by standing on the playground where you can be seen when you are collecting your children, rather than gathering on the footpath where you cannot be seen. There is now more seating available around the playground so you can wait in relative comfort!

No Dogs Allowed / Psy nie są akceptowane

Please can I remind you all that we do not allow dogs onto the school grounds. Please do not bring your dogs with you to school. Thank you. Przypominam tez ze istnieje zakaz wprowadzania psow. Prosimy nie przyprawdzac ze soba psow na teren wokol szkoly.

'Smoke Free' Zone "Zakaz Palenia" Strefa

Can I respectfully ask you not to smoke on the school grounds NOR outside the school building when bringing your children to and from school. We are a 'Smoke Free' Zone. Thank you.

Complaints procedure

From time to time, things don't 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 or another member of staff 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.

The Headteacher and Governing Body are proud of the excellent but well-deserved reputation that the school enjoys within the community and are ready to listen to concerns raised by children or parents, at all times in order to maintain it.

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.

SAFETY ON THE DRIVE AND IN THE CAR PARK

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.

Proszę wszystkich o uwagę aby uniknąć wypadków. Przypominam wszystkim że posiadamy karty wydane przez Powys uprawniające do darmowego parkowania przed Radiem Hafren. Parking ten znajduje się w parku w bliskiej odległości od szkoły. Proszę o ich odbiór kart w biurze szkoły u Mrs. Whittington, jeśli jeszcze państwo tego nie uczynili. Jeśli mimo to zmuszeni będą państwo do parkowania samochodu przed szkołą proszę o zwrócenie uwagi na:

- Max predkosc na podjezdzie wynosi 5 mil/h
- Zakaz parkingu na miejscach przeznaczonych dla osob niepełnosprawnych z wyjątkiem posiadaczy legitymacji
- Proszę nie zostawiać pojazdów na środku placu, poza wyznaczonymi miejscami
- Proszę o nie zawracanie z dużą prędkością

Attendance

Our attendance target for this year is 96%. This is quite high but you can help us enormously by not organising holidays in term time- a list of dates is attached for your use.

Of the 97 children who should have been in school today, there were only 87 present. This is an attendance percentage of **89.6%** which is a very poor start.

A new system is being introduced by Powys to promote attendance and our school is adopting this procedure. A letter is attached giving more information.

Urdd

Following on from last year's successes in the Urdd we shall be joining up again this year. So, if your child is Dosbarth Bedwen, Onnen or Castan, is interested in joining the Urdd and taking part in various events, including sports and recitation then please see Mrs Whittington for a form. Membership costs £7 if you join before 5th December and £8.50 after that date.

Bikes and Helmets

It is lovely to see some of you and the children cycling to and from school, it's great for your health and fitness and as a Healthy School we most certainly wish to encourage this. However, I must insist that if your child is cycling to school, they **MUST** wear a protective helmet to safeguard themselves in the event of an accident.

A listening ear

You will see that Parents Evening is scheduled for November. However, if there are any concerns about your child which we should know beforehand or if a concern arises, please do speak with your child's class teacher or let us know in the office so that we can help.