



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Croeso n'ol / Welcome Back.

Here we are at the start of another brand new academic year, I hope you all enjoyed the summer break and feel refreshed. I know that the staff are all feeling recharged, ready for the term ahead. I am delighted to welcome all our new staff, pupils and parents to our wonderful school.

Throughout the holidays we have had work done to improve the school environment. The Nursery has had a complete refurbishment and a new outdoor play area has been created. This is conducive to our vision for the learning environment. The old Nursery outdoor area will now be used by Reception and Year 1 pupils. I have to say that the Nursery looks amazing and the children and staff are enjoying their new environment. My thanks to the Local Authority and TRJ for the work and for being five weeks ahead of schedule.

We have five new class teachers with us this year. Please make every effort to welcome them into our Gnoll School. Mrs Wheadon was successful in becoming the acting Deputy Headteacher at Blaendulais Primary School, Seven Sisters. Miss Carney is on a year's Welsh sabbatical with Swansea University. As a result Miss Laura Evans and Mr J. Thomas are covering their classes. Mrs A. Davies and Miss S. Mogford have started or will soon commence their maternity. We have Miss B. Williams covering Reception/Year 1 Class and Miss J. Jones covering Year 3 class. Mrs N. Jones is teaching our new Year 1 class.

Over the summer holidays we had two weddings. Congratulations to Miss Down and Miss Morris. They are now Mrs Parfitt (Miss Down) and Mrs Taylor (Miss Morris).

Additional Learning Needs Coordinator roles have also changed. We now have a team of Coordinators rather than just Mrs Trollope. Mrs S. Coleman is ALNCo for Foundation Phase, Mrs Fielding is ALNCo for Key Stage 2 and Mrs Trollope is ALNCo for our Rainbow Rooms. My thanks to Mrs Trollope for her dedication, commitment and hard work over the past eight years as the sole ALNCo in the school.

As you may be aware, one of the priorities on the School Improvement Plan last year was Welsh and Welsh Cultures. This will continue to be a priority this year and as a result I have decided to name each class a river or mountain in Wales. The children like this idea as this will give them a link to Wales.

Nursery	Mrs Evans	"Y Nant",
Reception	Mrs Coleman	"Crug"
Reception/Year 1	Miss Williams	"Nedd"
Year 1	Mrs Jones	"Bryn"
Year 1/Year 2	Mrs Harcombe	"Tawe"
Year 2	Mrs Gibbon	"Pen-y-Fan"
Year 3	Miss Jones	"Taff"
Year 3/Year 4	Mrs Parfitt	"Cadair-Idris"
Year 4	Mr Thomas	"Tywi"
Year 4/Year 5	Miss Evans	"Tryfan"
Year 5/Year 6	Mrs Fielding	"Yr Hafren"
Year 6	Miss Blackman	"Yr Wyddfa"
Rainbow Room Infants	Miss Khakshour	"Enfys 1"
Rainbow Room Juniors	Mrs Trollope	"Enfys 2"

Once again I'm looking forward to working closely with you to ensure our children continue to grow, develop and blossom during their time at this very happy and successful school.

Below are lists of important dates for your diaries.

Dates for the diary:

3 rd September 2019	-	Whole School	Start of New Academic Year (Inset day)
4 th September 2019	-	Whole School	INSET Day
5 th September 2019	-	Whole School	First Day back at school for the pupils
11 th September 2019	-	Year 6	Music Service Road Show @ Cefn Saeson Comprehensive

12 th September, 2019	-	Whole school	Mad Science Assembly
13 th September 2019	-	Rainbow Room 2	Neath Fair Visit
16 th September 2019	-	Reception and Rec/Yr 1 Class	Parents Meeting (Mrs Williams, Mrs Coleman, Mrs Jones)
17 th September 2019	-	Year 1/2 & 2 Classes	Parents Meeting (Mrs Gibbon & Mrs Harcombe)
18 th September 2019	-	Year 3 & 4 Classes	Parents Meeting
19 th September 2019	-	Rec to Yr2	Parent Interventions Coffee Morning
19 th September 2019	-	Year 5 & 6 Classes	Parents Meeting
24 th September 2019	-	Rainbow Room Parents	Coffee afternoon (2pm start)
25 th September 2019	-	Nursery Class	Parents Meetings (11am for morning class and 3pm for afternoon class)
3 rd October 2019	-	PTA AGM	AGM New Members welcome (9am)
23 rd September 2018	-	Whole School	Family & Individual Photographs
25 th October 2018	-	Whole School	PTA "Monster Ball" Disco
28th Oct - 1st Nov	-	HALF TERM WEEK	
9 th December 2019	-	Nursery & Reception	Christmas Concert 1:30pm
10 th December 2019	-	Nursery & Reception	Christmas Concert 10am
10 th December 2019	-	Year 1 & Year 2	Christmas Concert 1:30pm
11 th December 2019	-	Year 1 & Year 2	Christmas Concert 1:30pm
13 th December 2019	-	Whole School	Christmas Jumper Day
13 th December 2019	-	Foundation Phase	Christmas Party (pm)
16 th December 2019	-	Key Stage 2 Classes	Christmas Carol Service Venue TBC
17 th December 2019	-	Whole School	Christmas Dinner Day
18 th December 2019	-	Nursery	Christmas Party (am & pm)
18 th December 2019	-	Lower KS2 Classes	Christmas Party
19 th December 2019	-	Upper KS2 Classes	Christmas Party
20 th December 2019	-	End of Autumn Term	
6 th January 2020	-	INSET DAY	
7 th January 2020	-	Pupils back into school	

NB dates will be added to this list as and when they are organised.

School Uniform:

It is wonderful to see the children return to school dressed smartly in their new school uniform. The badge and the uniform has certainly lifted the appearance of the school. My thanks to all parents for the support in this matter. The children have a sense of pride in the new logo and uniform. If you feel that you have an interest in the new uniform for the school, then please express an interest with the office as I intend to create a parent group who can help shape the uniform for next year.

Please could I remind you that if you require new uniform, Sportec are the supplier that has our new school badge. They also have school book bags and water bottles. Please ensure that all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name. For health and safety reasons, may I ask that pupils with long hair keep it tied back whilst in school and that on the days they have PE their pierced earrings are removed for that day unless they are able to remove them independently before the start of the lesson. Wearing jewellery to school is also discouraged for safety reasons and to avoid items getting lost / damaged. Bright hair dyes and extreme haircuts must also be avoided for school as they do not comply with the school's policy.

Family Group Activities at Gnoll

We continually look to develop further family activities and I'm pleased that we will continue to run Relationship Based Play on Monday afternoons and Families Connect on Tuesday Afternoons. These will be held in the iZone from 1pm.

Polite Reminder - Attendance & Punctuality:

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time - the school day starts at 8.50am and teaching and learning begins immediately. I must remind you that holidays taken during term time are not authorised by the school and you may face a fixed penalty notice if they are taken. If your child is off school for more than one day could you please inform us on the first day of the absence and every day after as it helps to keep our registers up to date. If we do not hear from you by 9.15am on the first day of absence, school will contact you to find out why your child is off.

We work very closely with our Education Welfare Officer. We are currently monitoring several families very closely as lateness and unauthorised absences have a hugely negative impact on child development. Please ensure your child arrives on time and attends school regularly. You are expected to contact school on 01639 642938 to report your child's absence by 9:30am. Unauthorised absences and latecomers are reported to the EWO. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Every school's Welsh Assembly Government target is **95%**

The attendance for 2018/2019 was: 92.9%
Whole school attendance last week: 86.9%

If your child's attendance falls below 95%, their progress could be seriously affected. Colour coded attendance letters will be issued termly so that you are fully aware of your child's attendance percentage. **GOOD ATTENDERS = GOOD ACHIEVERS!**

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club pupils are **admitted at 8.15am**. Pupils must not arrive any later than **8.30am**. Please ensure your children are fully supervised when waiting for doors to open.

Dinner Money

Dinner money continues to be **£2.35 per day**. School has sent home letters regarding ParentPay with details of how to register so that you are able to pay for school meals online. Please let us know if you experience any difficulties with this. If your child is eligible for free school meals, school will add these details to ParentPay on your behalf.

Contact Details

School regularly sends important pieces of information via our Text2Parents service and on occasions we may need to contact you in an emergency. It is therefore vital we hold up-to-date contact details for you. Please inform the school office if you have any changes to telephone numbers.

Collection of Pupils

Children must be collected by a responsible adult (i.e. a person who has officially left school) and is on the pink form. If anyone different is collecting a child for whatever reason at the end of the day, the class teacher must be informed in the morning.

After School Clubs and Activities for this term

As you are aware we as a school have always been committed to run after school clubs. However, due to the present climate and budget cuts we have had to cut back on the clubs available this term. Below is the list of clubs available at the moment. We are awaiting confirmation from some outside agencies who have expressed an interest in running a club here.

The clubs for this term are:

<i>Day</i>	<i>Dinnertime Clubs</i>	<i>After School Clubs</i>
<i>Monday</i>	School Council	
<i>Tuesday</i>	Criw Cymraeg (SC)	Glee Club (EF & MC)
<i>Wednesday</i>	Choir (BW & JJ) Digital Leaders (NB)	Code IT Club (LE)
<i>Thursday</i>	ECO Committee (DH)	Rugby Club (JT)
<i>Friday</i>		

Books Amnesty

We are reviewing our reading scheme of work and have noticed that many books are missing. Could you please have a rummage around at home and see whether there are school reading books tucked away somewhere. We desperately need them back.

Thank you once again for your support and I look forward to another great year shaping our future at Gnoll Primary.

Rhys Harris

Headteacher

School Email:
gnollprimary@npted.org

School Website:
<http://gnoll-primary-school.j2bloggy.com/>

Twitter:
@GnollPrimary