



Clyro Church in Wales
Primary School

Clyro School News

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7th January 2021

Welcome to 2021!

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all enjoyed a lovely Christmas and here's to 2021 being a better year, although it is still presenting its challenges already! A very warm welcome to Alfie and Rosella Russon and to Ossia Stroud, who all start in Class 2 this term. We hope that they and their parents will enjoy a long and happy association with the school. Once again, pupils are now at home accessing their online blended learning. If you still would like to borrow a school laptop and/or a MIFI dongle to get better WIFI access, please contact us asap and we will be able to organise this for you.

Diary Dates -

Don't forget these are available on the website

All work is now online on HwB TEAMS pages; Any problems, please contact your child's teacher who will be more than happy to help you.

Friends of
CLYRO SCHOOL

As I am sure that you are all aware, "The Friends" new GoFundMe page is now up and running and we are already

thrilled to have received some amazing donations in order to safeguard our 4-class school. Please share this with as many people regularly as you possibly can through the usual social media channels as well as email, etc. A very big thank you to Mrs. Ceri Price for all of her hard work in getting this all set up and running. The link is:

<https://gofund.me/99857fea>



Q Search How it works Start a GoFundMe



Sign in

Share

Donate

Help us save our Class at Clyro Primary School



£1,724 raised of £55,000 goal

27 donors 138 shares 27 followers

Share

Donate now

27 people just donated

Louise Barnham
£100 · 1 hr

Sue Williams
£20 · 4 hrs

See all

See top donations

Friends Of Clyro Primary School is organizing this fundraiser to benefit Assoc of Friends of Clyro School.

Created 1 day ago | Education & Learning

Our Values work for
January is:

HOPE

"Hope is the little voice you hear whisper "maybe," when it seems the entire world is shouting "No!"

Topics for this term are:

Class 1 - "Big Wide World"

(Geography based);

Class 2 - based on "Back to Earth with a Bump" and "The Tale of Two Feathers"

(Science based);

Class 3 - "Food Glorious Food"

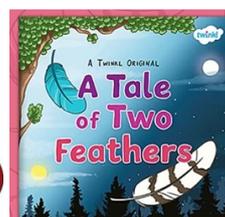
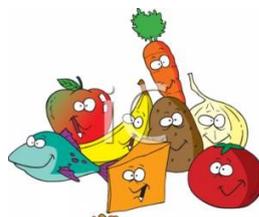
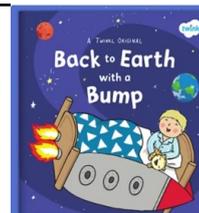
(Science based);

Class 4 - "Is there

light at the end of

the tunnel?"

(Science based);



GOVERNOR NEWS

As you may be aware, the end of term was more than tumultuous for Clyro School and for many of us the Christmas holidays have been filled with online meetings, letter writing and staring at budgets. The sequence of events began in 2019 when pupil numbers dropped below 91 which automatically meant that the school dropped to the lower funding band and lost over £50,000 of delegated funding. As governors, we decided that we would not make the expected decision and move down to three classes as we still had 89 pupils. Looking at our budget and numbers it was decided that we would continue with 4 classes, cut back wherever else possible and use our surplus. 2020 was however not just any other year!

After lock down, we lost a significant number of pupils to a mixture of home schooling, private education and people moving. This meant that for another year and possibly for 2021/22 we would continue to be in the band that was only funded for three classes. We have been attending finance surgeries and meetings with Powys throughout the year and have continued to argue that the spread of our pupil numbers would make three classes very difficult to organise, especially in a time of Covid with cross key stages and a possible top class of over 35 pupils.

As governors, our priority is to the pupils, their education and their well-being. We are also supposed to support our staff and represent the parents. We thus made the decision that we could not move towards redundancy and going down to three classes, not within any composition of job sharing between the staff or splitting of the classes.

On December 8th we received a warning letter from Powys which gave us five working days to deliver a recovery plan. I wrote to Powys to let them know that this time frame was impossible, considering specific personal circumstances. I was informed that this was regrettable but we still needed to deliver a recovery plan. We have been saying all year that our recovery plan was to continue with our deficit, work on finding more pupils and that numbers suggested would be up again by 2022/23. We held an online meeting in the last week of term and informed Powys that we would not be delivering a recovery plan.

On December 18th all of the staff were called to school for a meeting with Lynette Lovell, the interim Head of Education at Powys. I was not able to attend as a member of my family was awaiting a Covid test result and we were thus self isolating. Rod Lewis and Damian Murphy, community and parent governors, were able to attend. Staff were informed that the governing board were to have their delegated financial control removed and that Powys would be taking over. The staff had to be present (when they were working from home as pupils were receiving online teaching that week due to Covid) as Powys need to give the required amount of notice in order to begin a redundancy process. Staff and governors made their cases and argued against what Powys were proposing. Rod Lewis stated how unfair the 'fair' funding formula is and announced his resignation. Trish Richardson, Local Authority governor and vice chair also wrote her letter of resignation as a result of the bullying tactics used by Powys against Clyro School.

All Clyro School needs in order to avoid this situation is to get above the magic number of 91 pupils and yet Powys insisted on publishing a press release as soon as the meeting had been held on 18th December. We asked if this had to be done as it immediately affects our possible numbers for January 2021. If parents read that Clyro School is in trouble with Powys and faces cuts in teachers then they could easily decide to start their reception pupils elsewhere in January. This is the last thing we need. Clyro is an excellent school with fabulous staff and our Estyn report is evidence that we are not the only ones who think this.

Parents have now set up a GoFundMe page to try and raise funds to help the school. I am in constant discussions with our local councillors, our MP and the Church of Wales, trying to rectify the situation. On top of all this, we are still in the grip of this terrible pandemic and decisions are changing daily. We have no idea what Powys will do next as concerns our budget and the possible redundancy process. We will keep you informed through Schoop as soon as we receive any information.

Mari Fforde

Christmas festivities - It was lovely to celebrate Christmas, in a fashion, in school last term, despite being slightly different. We had our own Christingle assembly in school on Monday 14th December as well as Christmas parties! On our last day of term, we also raised £69.00 for the Save the Children for the "Wear your Christmas Jumper" Day. Thank you very much to everyone who donated money.



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Please ensure that your ParentPay accounts are in credit and update to date whilst pupils are not in school. Many thanks.

Blended Online Learning - All teaching staff have their Class HwB TEAMS pages up and running once again, with some exciting work for all of their pupils. Please please do try to get your child to log on each day through their HwB log-in. If you need any help with this, please remember the instructions on how to get onto HwB and the pages are on our school website, under the "Home Learning" page. If you are still unsure, please get in contact with us, as per usual, and we will be very happy to help. Many thanks.

