



LEARN TOGETHER

*'Let's learn to enjoy, achieve, respect and nurture together'*

16th July 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

Once again we are at the end of another very busy school year, we have had lots of success and some memorable times to look back on.

The wonderful entrepreneurs in all of our classes raised a fantastic £974 earlier this year. The children were involved in choosing what they would like to purchase for their class and chose:

Dosbarth Alwen	Number games and Forest School resources
Dosbarth Tegid	Natural outdoor resources for numeracy and literacy e.g wooden writing tablets
Dosbarth Dinas	Train set and magnetic construction kits
Dosbarth Vyrnwy	Playmobil and lego for small world activities
Dosbarth Brecon	Range of games for numeracy, literacy and topic
Dosbarth Cadair Idris	}
Dosbarth Yr Wyddfa	} Board games and resources for arts and craft
Dosbarth Tryfan	}

These items have already been in use and we will be able to continue using many of them for years to come. Diolch.

Our recent wellbeing and environmental week was really well supported with lots of visitors to school and we raised £372 in our 'Move a Mile' event which has been donated to Hope House Hospice, providing respite and palliative care for children. Hope House told us that this amount of money would pay for four children to receive an hour of care from specialist nurses. This could involve spending time in the creative area, relaxing in the multi-sensory room or splashing in the swimming pool. Diolch yn fawr to everyone who made a donation.

Some of the other highlights have been the success with our school improvement plan priorities with regard to improving learning and teaching:

- Key Stage 2 children are responding effectively to verbal feedback from their teacher and improving their work as they go along, taking increasing responsibility for their own learning.
- Many more Foundation Phase children are engaged with writing. We have also contributed to creating a resource with three other schools which can be used to support the development of writing for young children.
- Digital leaders have worked hard to raise the profile of IT and the importance of keeping safe online across the school. The standard of digital skills has significantly improved this year.
- Embedding a growth mindset culture is on-going but already having a positive impact on attitudes to learning, with children understanding, amongst many other things that 'mistakes help our brains to grow'.

Some other lovely news has been that Mrs Humphreys (Dosbarth Tegid teacher) became a mum again a couple of weeks ago. Our love, best wishes and congratulations have gone out to Mr & Mrs Humphreys, baby Mia and big brother Charlie.

I would also like to extend our thanks to Mrs Vickie Jones (Dosbarth Brecon) who has been covering maternity leave for Miss Lianne Evans and will be leaving us when Miss Evans returns to school at the end of this term. Miss Katie Pritchard will also be leaving us and returning to further her studies in childhood and family at university. Diolch yn fawr iawn to Mrs Jones and Miss Pritchard for their hard work with the children.

#### **A few things still to look forward to this week**

**Wed 17th July 'Picnic Party' themed lunch** - The lunch menu is changed to the following on this day:  
Mini Pizza, Cheese & Onion Roll, Fries, Corn on the Cob and Ice Cream Tub & Aqua Juice

**Wed 17th July 5.45pm – Y6 Leavers Concert** for Y6 parents and family members

**Thurs 18th July – Chester Zoo Ranger workshops** for infant pupils

**Thurs 18th & Fri 19th July** – junior pupils **only** may bring a game / toy of their choice to school. We would encourage games / toys which they can play with another child or a small group e.g board games, cards. If your child chooses to bring an electronic device e.g. tablet, Nintendo switch, etc. However this is at their own risk. It must be charged (no chargers to be brought in) and no more than two games. NO MOBILE PHONES and there is no access to wifi for personal devices.

Early indicators are that school attendance overall has once again been good at 96.2% (figures for 15/7/19), however this is just below our school target. Overall punctuality is very good with nearly all children arriving at school on time, important for life and to minimise disruption to each child's own learning and for others in the class. Thank you for your support in keeping requests for leave in term time to a minimum and medical appointments to after the end of the school day where possible. This is essential to ensure that school attendance is the best it can be for your child. We do appreciate your support with this.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the PTA for their support, raising valuable funds for school. This has enabled us to fund 22 new iPads and cases, a further 21 chrome books with a charging trolley, credit for Apps and Christmas gifts since September. (All over and above the chrome books and charging trolley funded last Summer). You will have seen lots in the media about funding for schools over the last year and we really couldn't have the quality resources that we have without the support of the PTA and yourselves coming to events. This is much appreciated. Our recent PTA Summer Fair raised a fabulous £2300 which we can now plan for as part of our School Improvement Plan 2019-20. Diolch yn fawr iawn to everyone who supported this.

### **For over the Summer**

**Summer Reading Challenge** – The Summer Reading Challenge takes place every year and your child can sign up at Wrexham or another local library. This year the theme is 'Space Chase'. To complete the challenge, all your child has to do is read six library books of their choice over three visits in the Summer to complete the challenge. There are rewards to collect and it is FREE to take part. More information about new books and mini challenges is available on [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

This is a really worthwhile, free activity to engage your child in reading over the Summer holiday. They can also come back to school in September with their medal for special mentions!

**School uniform** – as you are aware, our school uniform consists of grey trousers / skirt / shorts, white / pale blue polo shirt or a white shirt and tie and a royal blue sweatshirt / sweater / cardigan. Items with the school logo on can be purchased from RAM Leisure or <https://ourschoolwear.co.uk>

Items of school uniform without the school logo are also permitted and can be purchased from any retailer.

We also have our 'recycled uniform' shop in the school foyer with many items of preloved uniform available.

A reminder that footwear is dark coloured shoes, suitable for school NOT trainers please.

Financial support is available from Welsh Government for parents who receive eligible benefits for children entering Reception, Year 3, Year 7 or Year 10. More information and the online application process is on

[http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/education/school\\_uniform\\_grant.htm](http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/education/school_uniform_grant.htm)

**Extreme haircuts and ear piercing** – occasionally when we return to school in September, we have a few issues with children who have recently had their ears pierced or had a more extreme hair cut in the holidays (i.e. coloured stripes, areas shaved or lines cut into their hair). We would appreciate, if your child is having a haircut of this nature or having their ears pierced that this is done at the start of the holidays to enable the style to grow out by September or ears to have suitably healed to enable them to participate in P.E. Thank you for your support with this.

**Keeping safe** – we regularly talk to the children about keeping safe and ensuring their parents know where they are during the holiday. We would again urge you to monitor your child's online 'life' and also remind them about the importance of respecting the privacy of others. We were recently made aware of an incident where a disrespectful note about an online game had been delivered to the home of one of our families in addition to some obscene language that had been used on an Xbox chat. Not something anybody wants to their child to find through the letterbox.

**Child Protection** - if you are concerned about the welfare of any child over the holiday or at any time, advice can be sought from SPOA (Single Point of Access for Children) during office hours on 01978 292039 or out of hours on 0845 0533 116.

**Be aware** - I would also ask for your support if you live near Barker's Lane or another school over the Summer. As you may be aware, in the past we have been the victim of vandalism on the school grounds in the Summer holiday. Therefore if you have any information of people on school grounds out of hours, causing damage, carrying out thefts, causing anti-social behaviour, or any other incidents at schools please report it to 101, the Police non-emergency number. Many thanks.

### **Looking ahead to September**

We look forward to welcoming new members of teaching staff to our team in September, Mrs Katherine Langford in Foundation Phase and Miss Connie Brunskill in Key Stage 2. Miss Evans will also be returning to school and teaching Blwyddyn 6 - Dosbarth Tryfan. We look forward to having Miss Evans back with us, she has been very much missed by the children and staff.

Diolch yn fawr to everyone who completed our parental questionnaire earlier this term. Thank you for the many compliments and the constructive feedback to help us move forward. The results were very positive, with 95%+ respondents stating that:

- Their child/ren like school and feel safe.
- Teaching is good and teachers expect their child/ren to work hard and do their best.
- The school is well run and managed; and that texts / emails / website keep parents well informed.

Areas which we will be looking at which have come up in the questionnaire for improvement are:

- Further supporting the children to understand how eating and drinking affects their health.
- Extending the range of extra-curricular options, which we will be looking to do through the use of coaches for a nominal charge.
- Timescales with regards to returning homework also came up. The changes we have made to homework over the last year have been positively received by the children when we have asked them about this. We do have clear timescales for both infant and junior homework tasks to be returned therefore I will be looking at how we communicate this to parents to ensure that this is clear for everyone.

We have also identified our school improvement priorities for September which will see us continuing to work on preparing for the new curriculum, strengthening learning and teaching, cymraeg and improving physical and emotional wellbeing.

Personally, I would like to again thank our amazing children for all of their hard work and for making our school so fantastic! Thank you to you as parents for your support, it is sincerely appreciated by myself and all of the staff. I would also like to say a huge thank you to the very committed staff and governors that we have at our school, they are extremely dedicated and do their very best for your children, continuing to work hard to move our school forward. A wonderful team!

Last and by no means least, we wish a fond farewell to our Year 6 children and parents who will not be returning in September. These children and their families were in the first class that I met at Barker's Lane when I joined the school back in 2011. They have come a long way since then and we will miss them at Barker's Lane but wish them all good things in life as they venture on their next step in their educational journey at high school.

Have a happy and enjoyable summer!

Yours faithfully,

Mrs C Edwards  
Headteacher / Pennaeth

#### **Dates for your Diary**

Friday 19th July 3/3.10pm School closes for Summer Holiday  
 Wed 4th Sept School opens for full-time pupils (*Nursery pupils have been issued with a start date*)  
 Mon 9th Sept Bikeability training for Y6  
 Thurs 12th Sept Junior trip to 'Tom Gates' at Venue Cymru (*please ensure forms returned by Fri 6 Sept*)

#### **Term Dates 2019-20 at Barker's Lane**

<b>Event</b>	<b>School Closes 3/3.10pm</b>	<b>School Opens</b>
Autumn		Wednesday 4 September
<i>Training day</i>	<i>Monday 2 &amp; Tuesday 3 September – SCHOOL CLOSED</i>	
Half Term	Friday 25 October	Monday 4 November
Christmas	Friday 20 December	Tuesday 7 January <b>2020</b>
<i>Training Day</i>	<i>Monday 6 January – SCHOOL CLOSED</i>	
Half Term	Friday 14 February	Monday 24 February
Easter	Friday 3 April	Tuesday 21 April
<i>Training Day</i>	<i>Monday 20 April – SCHOOL CLOSED</i>	
May Day *	Friday 8 May – <i>SCHOOL CLOSED</i> *(Please note change of date)	
Half term	Friday 22 May	Monday 1 June
Summer	Friday 17 July	