

Welcome

To The Autumn Term 1

Annwyl pawb,

Welcome back to a new school year! After a restful summer break, we are all enthusiastically embracing the excitement that comes with a new class, with endless opportunities ahead of us...

Sarah Ruggeri



Welcome to our School Family



Kinga Murawska

We are thrilled to be welcoming Kinga Murawska to our team this year.

Kinga will be supporting our learners in both Dosbarth Glasbren (Class 2) and Dosbarth Coeden (Class 3).

We are so privileged to have such an empathetic person who values each child in their uniqueness and places high value on the importance of relationships being key to her practice.

Curriculum

Curriculum Creation & Covenant

Our overarching learning umbrella is entitled, "Creation and Covenant", as we explore the theme of our place and our role within our world.

In exploring the awe and wonder that comes with appreciating, 'The heavens are telling the glory of God' (Psalm 19:1), we will encounter our God who creates and calls a people, first through Abraham and then through Moses.

Our focus Area of Learning is:
Health & Well-Being



We will be focusing upon helping learners to understand the factors that affect physical health and well-being. This includes health-promoting behaviours such as physical activity, balanced diet; personal care and hygiene; sleep; and protection from infection. It also includes an understanding of health-harming behaviours.

Catholic Social Teaching Stewardship



We are guardians of God's creation, living sustainably and enhancing the wellbeing of our planet.

Sofia often sleeps in her favourite tree within a National Park forest. One day a big machine woke her up and started chopping down the trees. She joins some of the others who call the forest home, to stop the illegal logging. She reminds the operators that these trees need to be cared for like the rest of God's creation.

From Sofia's story we find out that we need to be caring for the many gifts that God has given to us. These include our environment, our own talents and other resources.



Swimming



On Wednesdays, Dosbarth Glasbren (Class 2) will be swimming, starting on 3rd September.

Please ensure that your child brings their swimming costume and towel every Wednesday. For goggle-use, email the office with your written consent. The contribution to transport will be placed on Parent Pay.

Forest Schools



On Fridays, Dosbarth Glasbren (Class 2) will be enjoying Forest School sessions with Lynne Austin and Paulina Jurkiewicz-Davies.

Music

On Fridays, Dosbarth Hedyn (Class 1) will be enjoying musical sessions with Clovis Phillips.



PE Days

On PE Days, learners will be required to wear their PE kit to school:

- **yellow t-shirt**
- **black shorts / leggings / jogging bottoms**
- **trainers**
- **blue school jumper**

Dosbarth Hedyn (Reception, Year 1 & Year 2)

- Monday
- Thursday

Dosbarth Glasbren (Year 3 & Year 4)

- Tuesday
- [Swimming on Wednesday - no PE kit required].

Dosbarth Coeden (Year 5 & Year 6)

- Friday
- [Monday & Tuesday will incorporate a variety of elements from Expressive Arts, including dance and drama - no PE kit required].

Curriculum

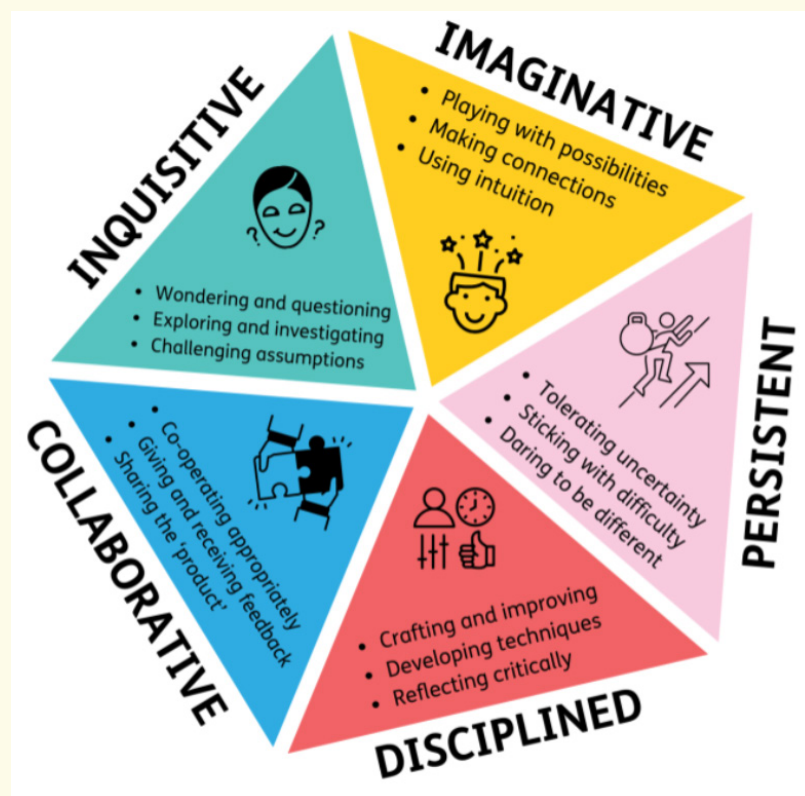
Lead Creative Schools

We have been incredibly fortunate to secure funding for a two-year programme, entitled Lead Creative Schools Scheme, funded by the Arts Council of Wales.

This is an enquiry-led approach, whereby our teachers work with Creative Professionals to co-construct creative and authentic learning experiences which align with the Four Purposes of the Curriculum for Wales and engage the Creative Habits of Mind.

Our second project is going to be undertaken by Gemma Mann, working alongside our newly appointed creative practitioner, Naomi Heath. Naomi's creative practice is deeply rooted in the natural world, drawing upon the language and its cultural context, often taking a cross media form. Take a look at her website to explore a selection of her work:

<https://iknowmeism.com/>



Introducing Naomi Heath...



Enquiry Project

Every Monday and Tuesday, we will looking to find out:

Can working with a creative practitioner develop authentic learning opportunities within our school to support a more holistic curriculum approach; encourage our Year 5 & Year 6 learners to develop appreciation of our local area; inspire an inquisitive and reflective approach to learning and increase attendance through making school "the place to be"?

Clubs

Starting the week beginning
Monday 8th September...

Autumn Nature

Mondays - 3:25-4:25pm - Year 2 - Year 6

Explore our local environment with Gemma Mann, making the most of the seasonal changes in our beautiful surroundings



Disco Dancing

Tuesdays - 3:25-4:25pm - Year 5 & Year 6

Time to get those dancing shoes on with Lottie Jarvie, as we choreograph a routine for the Urdd Eisteddfod competition. If your child wishes to be part of the troupe, they will need to be a member of the Urdd - enrol at <https://www.urdd.cymru/en/join/>



Coding

Wednesdays - 3:25-4:25pm - Year 2 - Year 6

Calling all those digital-wizards, our coding club opens up a digital world of creativity of problem-solving, led by Harry Austin.

Choir

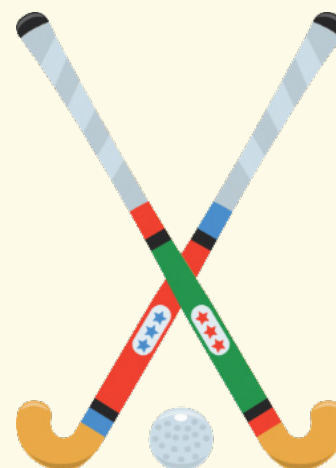
Thursdays - 3:25-4:25pm - Year 2 - Year 6

An opportunity to enjoy a sing-a-long together, with Debbie Luke introducing some feel-good favourites intermixed with modern tunes!

Hockey

Thursdays- 3:25-4:25pm - Year 4 - Year 6

Time to unleash our energy, as we develop our hockey skills ready to take part in the hockey festival in October, coached by Sarah Ruggeri.



Attendance

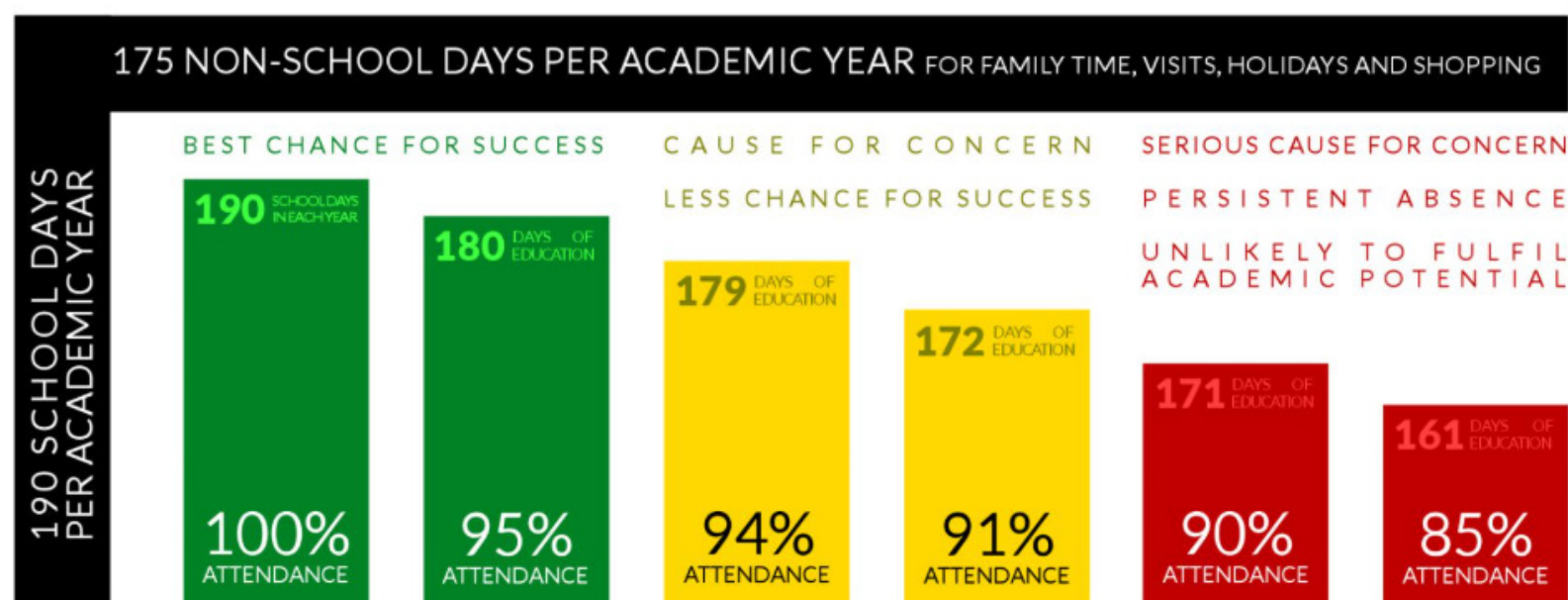
Be In School, Be On Time!

Improving our school attendance is a key priority for us this year. In order for us to be successful in making improvements, we need the support of our parents / carers to work towards the Welsh Government target of 95%...

Did you know that?

GOOD ATTENDANCE MEANS

BEING IN SCHOOL AT LEAST 95% OF THE TIME (BETWEEN 180 & 190 DAYS)



Every day counts!

The evidence is clear - even a few days of missed school can have a significant impact on a child's education and future prospects.

Fact At primary school, children who attend school nearly every day in Year 6 (95-100% attendance) are 30% more likely to reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to similar pupils who attend 90-95% of the time.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/03/why-school-attendance-matters-and-what-were-doing-to-improve-it/>



Punctuality

Be In School, Be On Time!

7:45am - 8:45am

Breakfast Club (Breakfast served until 8:30am)

8:45am - 8:55am

School Gates Open

By 8:55 - All children should be in school.

8:55am - 9:05am

Late Mark on the Register

9:05am onwards

Register is closed for the morning session - Unauthorised Absence



Did you know that?

Missed Learning: Missing important instructions, explanations and activities at the beginning of lessons, which can make it difficult to catch up and understand subsequent material.

Disrupted Learning: Late arrivals disrupt the flow of the lesson for the entire class and the teacher.

Lower Attainment: Consistent lateness is linked to lower attainment.

Difficulties with Routines: A struggle to settle into the school day and adjust to classroom routines.

Increased Anxiety: Rushing to class and feeling embarrassed about being late can cause anxiety and stress.

Social Isolation: May miss out on social interactions with peers during the start of the day, potentially leading to feelings of isolation.

Difficulty Integrating: It can be challenging for children to feel like they are part of the group when they are often arriving at different times than their classmates

If your child is late every day by...



5
minutes



10
minutes



15
minutes



20
minutes

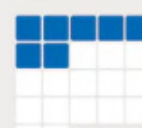


30
minutes

Your child would have lost approximately...



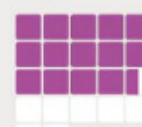
3.5
days from
school



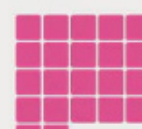
7
days from
school



10
days from
school



14.5
days from
school



22
days from
school

Safeguarding

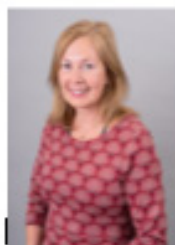
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Safeguarding – Everybody, Everyday



SEE something
HEAR something
SAY something

Report any concerns
immediately
to the designated
safeguarding team:

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



Debbie Luke
01686 625582

luked1@hwbcymru.net

Safeguarding Lead



Sarah Ruggeri
01686 625582

ruggeris@hwbcymru.net

**Governor Responsible
for Safeguarding**



Mike Bacigalupo
03000253128

mike.bacigalupo@gov.wales

If you have any safeguarding concerns about the Headteacher, Sarah Ruggeri,
you must report these to the Chair of Governors, Mike Bacigalupo.

The Chair of Governors, will seek advice from the Powys' Designated Lead Officer
for Safeguarding in Education – Michael Gedrim - 01597 826431 - michael.gedrim@powys.gov.uk

Upcoming Events

September 2025



Snack-temper September

The whole school will be taking part in this initiative to help children choose healthier, more sustainable snacks.

Visit <https://www.nutrition.org.uk/snack-temper-2025/> for more information...

Noah Day - Friday, 5th September

The whole school will be celebrating a 'Noah Day', where we will develop a deeper understanding of our creation care responsibilities.



Parent/Carer Drop-In - Wednesday, 10th September

@ 8:45am

An opportunity to have a 'cuppa and a chat' with:

- Shona Perry, our Education Welfare Officer
- Sophie Yates, our Family Liaison Officer

Teacher Meet & Greet - Wednesday, 10th September

@ 3:30pm

An opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher, find out about a typical school day and ask any questions you may have. Please come along for this informal gathering.

Roald Dahl Day - Friday, 12th September

The whole school can come to school dressed up as their favourite Roald Dahl character. Amaze us with your creative costumes!

Owain Glyndwr Day - Tuesday 16th September

Our whole school celebration of Wales' last native Prince, as we explore Glyndwr's legacy as the founder of the first Welsh parliament. All children can come to school wearing the colours of his flag - red and/or yellow!



Cross Country - Wednesday 24th September

Our Year 3 to Year 6 children can take part in the Cross Country competition at Dolerw Park. Please come along to support - more information to follow closer to the time.

Upcoming Events

October 2025

Black History Month, 'Dig Deeper, Look Closer, Think Bigger'

Our whole school will take time to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of Black people in Wales and around the world.



National Poetry Day, 'Play' - Thursday, 2nd October

Our whole school community are invited to take part in this playful initiative to encourage everyone to enjoy, discover and share poetry together. All are welcome to join in with us as we celebrate with language games, joyful performances and creative experiments at 9:30am - 10:30am

Wear Yellow Day, 'You are not alone' - Friday, 10th October

To raise awareness of mental health, our whole school will be wearing yellow to show young people that they are not alone in their mental health challenges.



Hockey Festival - Tuesday, 14th October

Our Year 5 and Year 6 children have the opportunity to take part in this hockey tournament at Maldwyn Leisure Centre

Diwrnod Shwmae Sumae - Wednesday 15th October

Our whole school will embrace the focus of giving our Welsh Language a go - our Welsh language belongs to everyone and we can all use it, even if it is just a simple greeting!



Urdd Football Festival - Thursday, 16th October

Our Year 5 and Year 6 children have the opportunity to take part in this football tournament. To take part, your child needs to be a member of the Urdd. Please join up in plenty of time...
<https://www.urdd.cymru/en/join/>



Harvest Festival - Thursday 23rd October

Our whole school celebration of harvest will take place at 2pm. Please come along to be treated to an array of entertainment!



INSET Day - Friday 24th October

Cluster INSET Day - School CLOSED to pupils

Half-Term Holidays - Monday 27th to 31st October

Half-term holidays