St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Ysgol Santes Ffair

Autumn 2
Newsletter

# Welcome

# To The Autumn Term 2

## Annwyl pawb,

**Welcome back to the second half of this magical term, where our learning embraces the excitement of the season as we create opportunities to explore, to deepen our understanding and to develop our sense of awe and wonder...**

*Sarah Ruggeri*

## Visit to Patagonia

*Pob Lwc!*

Our very own Lottie Jarvie will be following in the footsteps of our ancestors from the 19th century, by travelling to Patagonia in Argentina. At this time, Welsh speakers were being persecuted for the use of their language and culture, epitomised with the use of the Welsh Not.

In 1865, 153 Welsh people migrated to Patagonia, creating a colony called, Y Wladfa. The connection between Wales and Patagonia continues to flourish today, with The Welsh Language Project, promoting Welsh in schools, workshops and social activities across the Chubut Valley since 1997.

As part of this initiative, Miss Jarvie will be teaching our Welsh language in a school. With her boundless enthusiasm and true dedication, Miss Jarvie will certainly bring the love of Wales to her new pupils. Whilst we will truly miss Miss Jarvie, we are also so excited about being able to make links with our neighbours in South America. In the age of technology, we will hopefully be able to engage in some learning activities together!

We will bid Miss Jarvie a fond farewell in the Spring and look forward to her return at Christmas, when she will be able to share stories of her travels with us.

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# Curriculum

## Curriculum

### Prophecy & Promise

**Our overarching learning umbrella is entitled, "Prophecy and Promise', as we explore the teaching of the prophets as they point to the fulfilment of God's promise in a messiah, Jesus.**

In exploring the expectant waiting for the Messiah through the Advent season, we will encounter the story of the nativity of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation.

**Our focus Area of Learning is:**

**Science & Technology - Computation is the foundation for our digital world**

We will be focusing upon exploring how algorithms process data to solve a wide range of real-world problems. We will seek to understand that there are broad legal, social and ethical consequences to the use of technology This will help us to make informed decisions about the future development and application of technology.

## Catholic Social Teaching

### Human Dignity

**Each of us is made in God's image. This means that everyone is special - we should treat everyone the way we want to be treated.**

Luc has many brothers and sisters. He is the oldest brother, but he reminds his siblings how important they are. Some of his younger siblings have been upset as they are a bit different. Some have different coloured skin, some are a bit shorter, some a bit slower, one has only three legs. Luc has a gentle way of reminding them that they are all beautiful and important, just as they are. They are all made by God and have great value.

CAFOD

## Swimming

**On Wednesdays, Dosbarth Glasbren (Class 2) and half of Dosbarth Coeden (Class 3) will be swimming, starting on 5th November. (The other half of Dosbarth Coeden will swim in January).**

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 Coeden (Class 3) will be enjoying Forest School sessions with Lynne Austin and Paulina Jurkiewicz-Davies.**

## Music

**On Fridays, Dosbarth Glasbren (Class 2) 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)
- Monday
- Friday

# Clubs

**Starting the week beginning
Monday 10th November...**

## Folk Dancing

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

An opportunity to embrace our traditional Welsh dances, with Gemma Mann and Debbie Luke. 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/

## 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.

## Tag Rugby

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

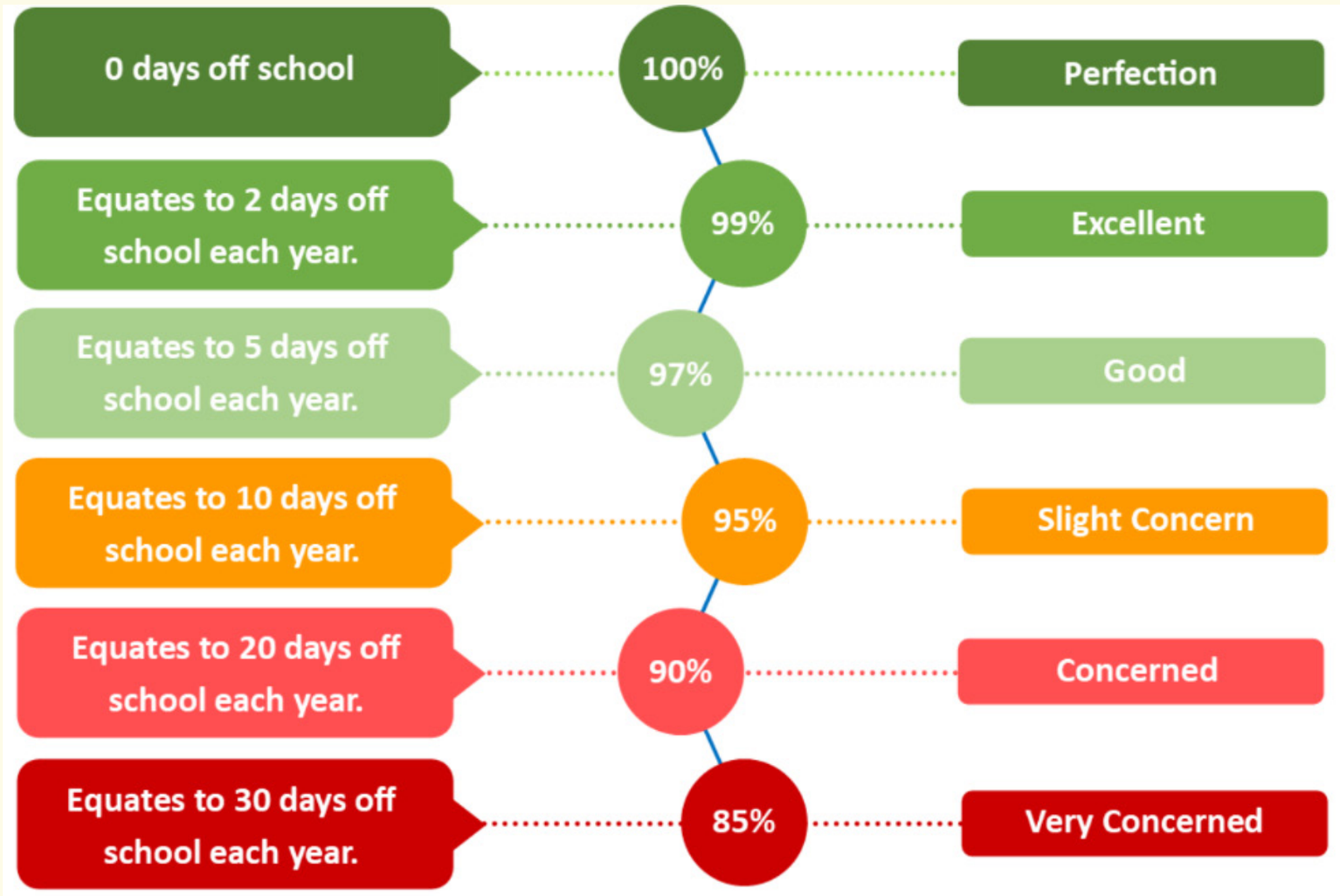
Time to unleash our energy, as we develop our rugby skills ready to take part in the Urdd tournaments, coached by Sarah Ruggeri. All children welcome to attend the club, but the tournaments will be for Year 3 & Year 4 Mixed and Girls Year 5 & Year 6. Spare clothes and trainers are essential, as we will be using the playing field!

# Attendance

## Be In School, Be On Time!

Good attendance and punctuality remains a top priority for us. We share parents and carers views in wanting the best for your child and we want to work in partnership with you.

We strive to ensure your child has the best opportunities to be the best they can be, to feel safe and supported in school, and to develop a sense of belonging both with their peers and as a wider part of our school community.




We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child's educational journey and ensure their educational entitlement.

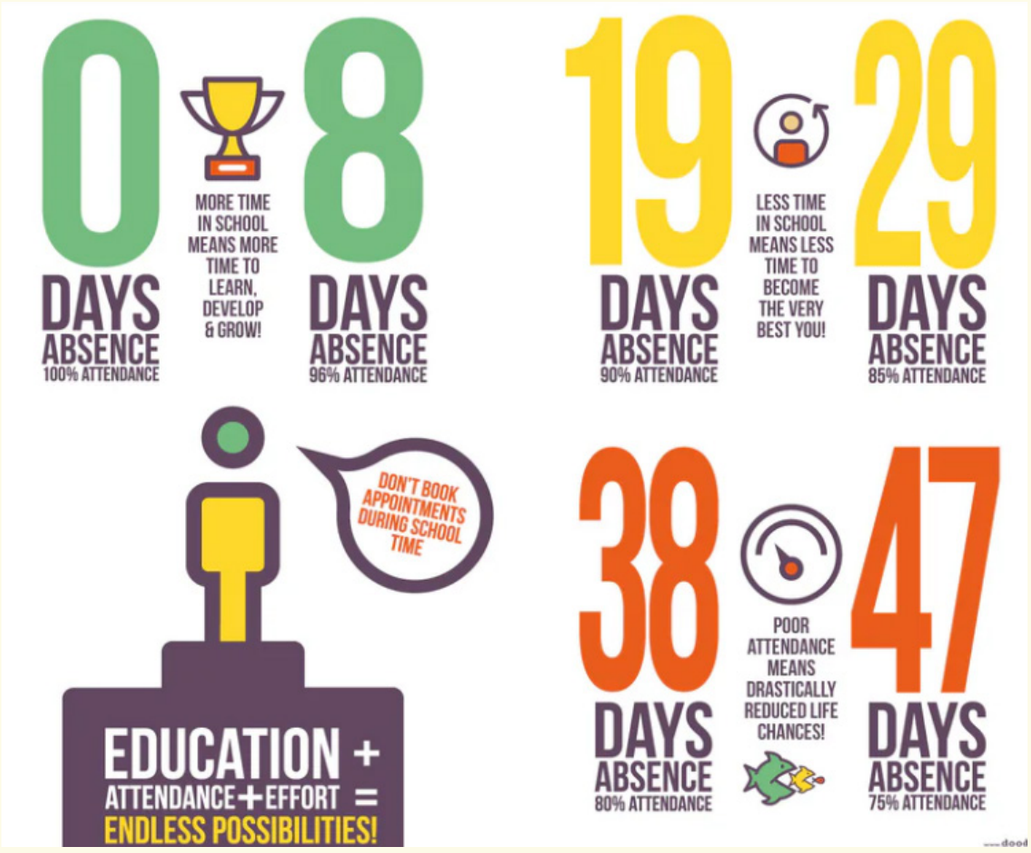
# Attendance

## Be In School, Be On Time!

We expect all pupils at to attend school as regularly as possible. Our ambition for every child is 100% attendance. We recognise that on occasion some children may experience illness or have exceptional reasons preventing regular attendance. We will work with you as partners to ensure in such circumstances any identified barriers are discussed so we can best support your child's well-being and education.

## Did you know that?

90% attendance may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, however the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child misses half a day of school every week, the equivalent of 19 school days (almost one whole month), during the year. Children who miss this amount of school do not achieve as well as their peers who attend more regularly




## Every day counts!

# Attendance

## How well did we do?

**Every time that a child arrives in school on time, a counter drops into our class jars! Every class managed to fill their jars last half-term and enjoyed a trip to the park as a reward! Llongyfarchiadau pawb!**

**September Attendance**
Whole School Attendance - 85.49%

Dosbarth Hedyn (Class One) Attendance - 86.42%
Dosbarth Glasbren (Class Two) Attendance - 79.52 %
Dosbarth Coeden (Class Three) Attendance - 90.19%

9 children received a 'Near Perfect' Attendance, for 95% or more attendance
17 children received a 'Perfect' Attendance, for 100% attendance

**October Attendance**
Whole School Attendance - 85.31%

Dosbarth Hedyn (Class One) Attendance - 86.43%
Dosbarth Glasbren (Class Two) Attendance - 80.09%
Dosbarth Coeden (Class Three) Attendance - 89.00%

10 children received a 'Near Perfect' Attendance, for 95% or more attendance
25 children received a 'Perfect' Attendance, for 100% attendance

## Can you help us to make improvements in November?

# 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

## How can you help?

- Ensure a good bedtime routine to enable your child to get enough sleep.
- Establish a good routine so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours wherever possible.
- Take any holidays during school holiday periods, and not during term time
- Talk positively to your child about school and take an interest in their school day.
- Praise and reward your child's efforts and achievements at school.
- Support school staff by working in partnership to best manage and support your child.

# Community Projects

## Christmas Jumper Swap Shop

**Our Christmas Jumper Swap Shop is back!**

**Our Super Ambassadors kindly request donations of any pre-loved Christmas Jumpers.**

**A Christmas Jumper rail will then be created, free for anyone to choose from, so that our jumpers can be lovingly reused in a brand new home!**

Our Super Ambassadors from 2021 introduced this idea when they discovered that 'Christmas Jumper Day' was responsible for the highest absenteeism of the year because they they are just too expensive for some families. They wanted everyone in our school family to be able to take part - this inclusive act is what makes our school so special. What a legacy!

**"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted", Aesop**

# 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

## November 2025

### World War II Evacuee Day - Monday 3rd November

Year 5 & Year 6 Enrichment Trip to Royal Welsh Museum in Brecon. Following the children's interest in learning more about World War II, they will be taking part in an evacuee role-play day, full of workshops and artefact handling.

### Urdd Girls Football - Thursday 6th November

Our Year 5 and Year 6 girls 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/

### Outdoor Learning Day - Thursday 6th November

We will be taking part in this global movement to make time outdoors part of every child's day. With our expansive and beautiful grounds, outdoor learning is a key element of our curriculum. Please ensure your child has suitable footwear and a waterproof coat in school - for this day and every day!

### Anti-Bullying Week - Monday 10th - Friday, 14th November

The theme this year is 'Power For Good', with the focus being upon empowerment to speak out, support others and build a world where kindness wins. Our KIVA Committee will be leading activities to promote the anti-bullying message that everyone is unique and should be treated with respect.

### Odd Socks Day - Monday, 10th November

Kick-off anti-bullying week by wearing Odd Socks to celebrate individuality!

### Remembrance Day - Tuesday 11th November

Our juniors will attend the ceremony at the Cenotaph at 11am to pay our respects in remembrance of all the people who have lost their lives while serving in the armed forces.

### Celebrating Deaf-lympics - Friday 14th November

We will be marking the 100th Anniversary of the Summer Deaflympics which began in Paris one hundred years ago, a celebration of deaf culture and pride, alongside raising awareness about deaf achievements and identity.

### Road Safety Awareness Week - Monday 17th - Friday 21st November

We will be raising awareness of the importance of road safety to keep our children safe - the theme this year is 'Safe Vehicles, Save Lives'

SAFE VEHICLES SAVE LIVES. Road Safety Week

### Parent/Carers Evening - Wednesday 19th November

Please come along for a discussion about your child's progress with their class teacher.

# Upcoming Events

## December 2025

### Football Sessions - Tuesday, 9th December

Our whole school will take part in football sessions delivered by a Finley Cullen, a coach from Newtown Football Club. Remember your trainers!

### Nativity - Wednesday, 10th December

Our Class One will delight us with their performance of The Nativity - please join us at 3:30pm

### Football Come Together - Thursday, 11th December

We have signed up to take part in a football themed unifying generations event at Newtown Football Club. More details to follow once we receive them...

### Carol Singing at Bethshan Nursing Home - Monday, 15th December

Our Year 5 & Year 6 learners will spread the joy of the season with our older generation.

### Christmas Unwrapped - Monday, 15th December

Our Year 5 & Year 6 will be treated to a Christmas presentation at the Crescent Christian Centre.

### Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day - Tuesday, 16th December

Time for us to enjoy festivities together, as we settle down to a Christmas Lunch in our Christmas Jumpers!

### Panto Trip - Wednesday 17th December

Our annual whole school trip to the theatre is here again. This annual treat is funded by a combination of school and PTA fundraising events, which ensures that every one of our families can enjoy this festive treat, free of charge. Thank you everyone for your hard work!

### Christmas Carol Service - Friday 19th December

Our annual Carol Service takes place in our Church; please come along at 2pm to join in with our festive singing as we share the true message of Christmas.

### Christmas Holidays

Monday 22nd December - Monday 5th January 2026

### Spring Term INSET Day - Monday 5th January

INSET Day - School CLOSED to pupils

### Spring Term - Tuesday 6th January

First day of term - welcome back everyone!