



Dreaming, believing, succeeding together
Breuddwydio, coelio, llwyddo gyda'n gilydd



Annual Governors' Report to Parents Autumn 2024



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SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2024 - 2025

Autumn Term

Staff Training Day 01.09.24

Staff Training Day 02.09.24

Term starts 04.09.24

Half term close 25.10.24

Half Term Open 04.11.24

Term ends 20.12.24

Spring Term

Staff Training Day 06.01.25

Term starts 07.01.25

Half term close 21.02.25

Half term open 03.03.25

Staff Training Day 28.03.25

Term ends 11.04.25

Summer Term

Term starts 28.04.25

Half term close 23.05.25

Half term open 02.06.25

Staff Training Day 30.06.24

Term ends 18.07.25

Staff Training Day 21.7.24



Excellent Estyn Report March 2019 places school in top 2% of Wales:

Nearly all pupils including those with additional learning needs make good and often very good progress in the development of their literacy and numeracy skills by the end of Year 2, sometimes from low starting-points. Nearly all pupils' attitude towards learning is exemplary. Standards of behaviour and self-discipline in lessons and around the school are high. They are polite and considerate, and they relate well to each other. The quality of teaching supports very high levels of pupils' engagement and very strong progress in learning. Teachers and assistants work highly effectively as a team and create an enthusiastic learning environment in all classes. They have very high expectations of each pupil. The quality of care, support and guidance provided is excellent and has a very positive effect on pupils' standards and wellbeing. Senior leaders provide a strong strategic direction for the school with a clear focus on meeting the diverse needs and wellbeing of all pupils. Team work is a strength of the school. The governing body is highly supportive of the school.

Primary School of the Year:

We were extremely proud to win this award in November 2023. During the evening, the nomination was shared, expressing "The school was recently awarded the National Inclusion Award showing the dedication the school has towards both learners and staff. They go above and beyond to make families feel part of the school". Staff felt extremely proud that their hard work and dedication has been noticed by our parents and the community. We are also extremely proud of Mrs Anwen Maher and Mrs Nia Williams who were nominated for Best Support and Best Teacher.

Governor Meetings and Business

Since the last annual report to parents was published, the Governing Body have met every half term. The meetings are a combination of Full Governing Body meetings and Sub-Committee meetings. Curricular and non-curricular meetings were also held involving the pay and performance management committees and the data scrutiny group the finance working party.

Various curriculum policies and non-curricular policies have been reviewed in line with the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Policies reviewed include the statutory policies: Child Protection and Safeguarding, ALN Policy and Pay policy.



Who is who on the Governing Body (2023-2024)

Headteacher—Ysgol y Foryd—Mrs. N Rowlands
Chair of Governors—Mr Gary Young
Clerk—Mrs K Evans

Local Authority Governors - (appointed by LEA for a four-year term)

Cllr G Corry (31.05.24)
Cllr M Smith (31.05.24)
Mayor L Formston (31.05.24) Vice Chair
Cllr B McLoughlin (20.01.27)
Cllr Lynda Griffiths (11.5.28)

Community Governors

Cllr B Griffiths (21/09/27)
Ms Joanne Matthews (24/9/24)
Mrs Rachel Hyland (01/10/25)

Teacher Governors (appointed by teaching staff)

Mrs H Williams (1.9.27)
Mrs N Williams (1.9.27)

Parent Governors (elected by parents)

Mr C Headland (31.10.24)
Mr G Young (31.08.26)
Mrs R Quayle (31/08/23)

Ancillary Staff Governor (appointed by ancillary staff)

Mr J Burt (31/03/25)

Local Authority Contact:

Mrs Kate Evans

GWE Supporting Improvement Officer:

Mrs Sue Clisham



Transition and what our pupils do after leaving our school?

We work very closely with parents, local day nurseries and relevant outside agencies when it comes to inviting new pupils into our nursery class, Traed Bach. A combination of home visits, taster sessions, parents and professionals' meetings ensure a smooth transition into part time school.

As the children move into full time education, staff ensure that they begin to build relationships with their new children, making sure that they visit them in their current classes, transition meetings are held during the Summer term between staff, parents have an opportunity to meet their new class teachers and teaching assistants and find about the school year ahead. We also ensure that staff from the previous year, who are familiar and trusted adults to the children continue to link in with the children, especially during the first few weeks of the school year. This again supports the children with their transition from class to class.

Once the children finish year two, they transition to Ysgol Maes Owen, our feeder junior school. The year two teacher, Miss Jones and the year 3 and 4 teachers at Maes Owen planned and delivered a comprehensive transition programme which saw year 2 pupils visiting Ysgol Maes Owen several times during the summer term and Miss Blears visiting Y Foryd to work with the year two pupils in their familiar surroundings. Mrs Maher, our Family Liaison Officer also organised an opportunity for Year 2 parents to the Year 3 and 4 staff here at Y Foryd to assist with transition.

Ysgol Emrys Ap Iwan update us with news of past pupils and we enjoy hearing their success stories.

What do the pupils say about school and does this support school improvement?

Pupils' well being is a key priority throughout the school. From the moment the children come in to school in the morning, they are greeted by their class staff with our "Meet and Greet" which allows the children to choose a hug, high five or a non-contact wiggle and dance. This allows the staff to greet each individual child. Children are then encouraged to share how they are feeling, from placing their name on a Colour Monster, choosing an emotion to place by their name or by telling the class staff. Teachers regularly check in with the children throughout the school day to ensure that the children are ready to learn. Children have expressed

"by putting my name on a colour monster it lets Miss Jones know how I am feeling. And if I'm feeling sad, she always comes to check on me".

"if I've had a bad morning and I'm feeling sad I always like seeing my teachers and friends and I always choose a wiggle, it makes me smile".

"I like getting ready to start the day and get my brain ready to work".

During the Spring term, all pupils in years one and two completed a survey called 'Pupils Attitude to School Survery' (PASS). The children are asked a number of questions and their answers help build a picture around feelings around school, preparedness for learning, learner self worth and response to learning. The results of this survey are extremely positive with pupils sharing they feel happy and safe in school, they trust the people in school, they have friends and they are ready to learn.

Our school council met regularly with Mrs Rowlands and shared the ideas in assemblies and during class visits. They enjoyed the opportunity to meet with Mrs Rowlands, share their view on how they wanted to learn, what they needed as children to make school a safe learning environment and enjoyed



supporting Mrs Rowlands around school.

Our Eco Councillors continued to work hard on their targets that they had set early in the school year. They chose to focus on litter and waste this year and they made sure, with the support of Mrs Williams, that classes were planning opportunities for the children to learn and have a better understanding of the Eco areas – litter, waste, energy, school grounds, biodiversity, transport and global citizenship. They shared information during termly assemblies and they updated parents monthly on the newsletter. During the Summer term we were reaccredited with the Platinum Eco Award with the assessor

"I was also happy to hear how the Eco Team are working to spread positive environmental messages to the school's wider community and also how numerous targets are being achieved through class work – giving all children the opportunity to be involved in positive action"

The Criw Cymraeg continued to support Mrs Williams on developing the targets set in the Arian Cymraeg Campus. After being awarded the Silver Cymraeg Campus in 2023 our mission is now to embed and develop these targets further, especially the use of Welsh outside the classroom. The children have continued to take Cai Coch on his travels around the local area and this is shared with the children on our "Happy News Post" in a Friday assembly.

What activities and options are available for our pupils?

We always listen to our children and follow their lead when planning and delivering extra curricular sessions. Kick it has been a popular choice again this year with children from Year 1 and Year 2 attending the weekly sessions to develop ball skills and team work. School staff have also volunteered their time to deliver Games Club and Cookery Club.

This year, the children had opportunity during the school day to trial a football session over at the Leisure Centre. This was a great opportunity for the children to try the session before committing to the sessions after school and it was a great chance for us as a school to support the local football team.

We have trim—track play equipment, a climbing frame, a slide, swings, a train and sand pit to use at break times. We also have an outdoor classroom to broaden the pupils' learning experiences. We make good use of Ysgol Maes Owen's woodland area and community woodland. Classes regularly use the leisure centre for various activities, including outdoor PE sessions in the MUGA. We are well equipped, thanks to generous donations from the PTA, with bikes and play equipment for the children to use at playtimes.

The year one and year 2 children attended a week's worth of swimming and water confidence sessions. These sessions have been invaluable to the children and we feel it is important to promote swimming and water confidence as we are located so close to the sea. It was great to see the children's confidence growing during the course of the week.

How are we making sure that every child is taught in a way that meets their individual needs?

We are well staffed at Ysgol Y Foryd, with good pupil to staff ratios. Across school we currently have two higher-level teaching assistants (HLTA), 8 teaching assistants and one family liaison officer. We also have four teaching assistants with responsibility for supporting pupils with additional learning



needs. All staff are committed to providing pupils with the necessary skills and support to achieve their full potential. Classes are all of mixed ability and teachers provide a variety of activities to suit the diverse learning needs of all pupils. Pupils regularly talk about their learning and discuss their next steps with adults. Progress is tracked carefully throughout the year.

Pupils are rewarded, praised and encouraged when working hard and learning new things. Our weekly celebration assembly continues to be held on a Friday throughout the year, celebrating all achievements, both in and out of school. 'Stars of the Week' are chosen for pupils who are positive and cheerful. The stars of the week become the class 'Helpwr Heddiw' for the following week. A 'Headteacher's award' is given weekly to somebody who has been outstanding in their behaviour, attitude or work. Pupils are also awarded for following the 'Y Foryd Values' and for good use of Welsh in class and around school; these pupils are chosen by the 'Crew Cymraeg'.

The new Curriculum for Wales became statutory from September 2022 and we are very pleased with the implementation thus far. Our curriculum has been designed to suit the needs of our learners and we are carefully monitoring progress to ensure the pupils experience a range of activities during their time at Y Foryd which will help them achieve the four purposes (healthy, confident individuals, ethically informed citizens, ambitious capable learners and enterprising, creative contributors).

Parents are encouraged and welcomed to be partners in their children's education and we regularly report to them on their child's progress and achievements. Class Dojo helps to inform parents of their child's learning journey and staff are always visible at the start and end of the school day to answer any questions parents may have about their child's learning. Where appropriate parents are invited into the classroom to learn with their child! Termly reports were introduced during the year, allowing parents to have regular and up to date information about their child's learning and how they can support at home.

At Ysgol y Foryd our highly experienced and trained team of staff work collaboratively to support pupils and, through early identification, plan and deliver the interventions they may need. Where pupils are identified as having Additional Learning Needs (ALN), the class teacher works with the additional needs coordinator to ensure those needs are being met. Pupils identified as having ALN in these year groups will have either a school Individual Development Plan (IDP) or a local authority IDP, which ensure more focused support in addition to the universal provision offered by the school. Our additional learning needs coordinator in school is Mrs Samantha Hogg. Various interventions are delivered to a diverse range of pupils; sometimes being withdrawn from class but mostly within their own class setting. Interventions include literacy, numeracy, nurture, physical development, SALT (speech and language therapy), SAFMEDS (Say-All-Fast-Minute-Every-Day-Shuffled) and RWI (Read, Write,inc) 1:1 sessions. All such interventions are tracked to ensure pupils are making progress. Thank you to Mrs Williams and Mrs Hogg for their hard work in this area.

How do we make sure our pupils are healthy, safe and well supported?

We continue to develop an excellent programme of play, physical education, sport and games to keep learners active and fit. School meals became free in Wales to all pupils from September 2022 and the uptake has been good. Our catering department offer a balanced diet throughout the week, with a good choice of meals to suit all pupils. Pupils have fruit with milk or water at snack time and have water bottles in class to encourage them to keep hydrated.

The Welsh Assembly Government ensure all pupils are able to receive a Free breakfast. We continue to



run a free breakfast club from 8am and breakfast club staff safely deliver pupils to their classes at 8.45am. During the session the children receive cereal, toast, fruit, milk or fruit juice, have an opportunity to play games and then an active time before calm time, ready to start the school day.

Health and Safety is regularly monitored through protocols in school and checklists are carried out monthly within each year group and monitored by Mrs Fernandes. All defects are reported to Mr Ravi Kumara the caretaker and to Mrs Rowlands when of a more urgent nature. Mr Young is designated Governor for Health and Safety.

Toilet facilities. We have sufficient toilets for our pupils and one disabled toilet facilities as well as four adult toilets. All facilities are checked and cleaned by staff throughout the day and by our two cleaners after school hours.

What we are trying to improve?

Following a rigorous self-evaluation process, we devise priorities for school improvement. 2023-2024 priorities included:

Current school priorities:

- To continue to improve progress in Languages, Literacy and Communication (LLC) for all pupils.
- To continue to develop the emotional wellbeing of pupils, parents and staff
- To continue to develop the use of Welsh language in school, particularly oracy

Additional priorities

- Continue to develop, improve and refine assessment procedures, in line with the Curriculum For Wales (CFW), to impact positively on pedagogy and pupil progress. (Cluster priority - 2023-2024) (Linked to National Priority)
- To continue on the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) transformation programme, implementing new policies and procedures as they become mandatory (2023-2024)
- To continue to work closely with families and the attendance officer to improve attendance and punctuality, aiming for a whole school percentage of 94 (2023-2024) (Linked to National Priority)

National priorities:

- Improving pupils' progression by ensuring their learning is supported by a range of knowledge, skills and experience
- Reducing the impact of poverty on pupils' progression and attainment

What are our child absence rates?

Attendance figures for Whole School year 2023-2024

Whole School attendance 89.2%

Authorised absence 8.1%

Unauthorised absence 2.7%

Unauthorised reasons for absence i.e. not an acceptable reason for absence 1.350%



Present marks 84.990%
Circumstanced absence 0.777%
Holiday absence 1.553%
3.388% Late
6.4% illness

Whole School attendance termly;

Term 1a – 89.6%
Term 1b – 89.5%
Term 2a – 89.8%
Term 2b – 88.9%
Term 3a – 88.8%
Term 3b – 89.2%

63 learners have a holiday recorded on their register.
47 learners had a holiday of a week or longer.
16 learners have had a holiday of two weeks or more.

4 learners maintained 100% attendance throughout the academic year.

Reception - overall attendance was 92.9%

Year 1 - 89.3%

Year 2 - 89%

20 learners were identified as having attendance concerns with their attendance dropping below 80%
8 of these learners are year 2 and will be transitioning to Junior school in September.

Using this information we are able to identify areas of concern ahead of the next academic year and can ensure early interventions are put in place and support can be offered immediately.

How are we working with parents and community?

As a school, we continue to build strong links with all our parents to enrich the learning opportunities for our children. Our monthly newsletter, which is shared on the school website, keeps all parents and members of our school community informed of Y Foryd business. This also includes a calendar of forthcoming events. We also use Class Dojo to regularly update parents on the progress their child is making on their individual portfolios and we use the events section to inform parents of any upcoming events.

We have delivered numerous parent groups this year which have been well attended and feedback from you as parents has been excellent. Mrs Maher runs a 'cuppa and chat' morning with the family centre which has benefited parents from Y Foryd.

Parents are encouraged to actively engage with school when looking at their progress and learning. Photos and videos are uploaded regularly on the children's individual portfolio on Class Dojo and photos and videos are shared on the class page to share the learning and experiences in class. Parents receive termly reports sharing "I can" statements which are in line with the skills and taught during the term. During the Summer term, parents also received pupil voice, general comments and head teacher's comments which gave an overview of the child's experiences and learning during the year.



Attainment and progress:

Mrs Williams and Mrs Rowlands hold termly pupil progress meetings with all teachers, giving opportunity to discuss all pupils, ensuring all pupils are making progress, discussing any pupils who may not be making progress in order to provide relevant interventions.

When starting in Nursery and in Reception, pupils are assessed using our baseline assessments. This allows us to have a starting point for each child and we can track their progress with us until the end of Year 2. When a child joins us mid year, we complete an On Entry assessment and again this can then be used to track the child's progress. Progress is good and we are continually developing ways to evidence this in line with the expectations of the new curriculum.

Other matters of interest:

- The whole school held a Harvest festival, parents were invited and it was very popular
- We supported children in need and red nose day
- All year groups performed Christmas events
- The PTA held successful fundraising events and a joint summer fair with Ysgol Maes Owen
- A whole school Eisteddfod was held to celebrate Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant
- The pupils and staff dressed up as a character from their favourite book for World Book Day, with the staff all being characters from the Mr Men and Little Miss books.
- The pupils enjoyed having an intensive week's worth of swimming and water confidence sessions
- Each year group held Sports Days and parents were invited to come and watch
- Year 2's enjoyed a trip to Greenwood and a film and pizza night in school until very late!
- Year 2 children went to the "Children's Day" at Llangollen's International Eisteddfod
- Bwyd a Hwyl successfully ran for 3 weeks during the summer holidays
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- Mr Hughes was successful in gaining a year's sabbatical with the Welsh team. He will have a year away from school, learning how to speak Welsh. We are excited for him to visit in the Spring and Summer term to deliver Welsh sessions to the children and staff.
- Miss Grimes-Thomas and Miss Hannah Sharpe were successful in the teacher interviews and will be joining the Y Foryd team for 1 year.
- Year 1 children proudly invited their parents in to school to celebrate "Cymru am byth". This gave the parents an opportunity to join in with Dawnsio Gwerin, eat Welsh cakes and see the wonderful art work based on Welsh artists.
- We have a strong PTA who have met regularly and arranged PTA fundraising ideas which included bingo, raffle and cake stalls.
- We had an Easter parade and amazing Easter bonnets were brought in from home
- Design to smile initiative has re-started so all pupils (with consent) are brushing their teeth in school
- Staff enjoy a weekly wellbeing session with Mrs Maher on a Friday after school. This has been very well attended (100%) most weeks and is a nice way to end the week positively.
- A first aid course was delivered for parents
- We took part in a two minute silence for remembrance and held a short assembly



Finances

Briefly the school budget/allocation for the year April 2024 totalled to £704,341 with additional resources which included a substantial EIG of £186,518. Reserves carried forward to 2024-2025 will be £84,066 (8%). This carryover will be used to maintain staffing levels despite an expected reduction in the number of pupils.

Leadership

Mrs Nicola Rowlands has been the Headteacher since May 2019 following an 18 month period as acting headteacher. Mrs Hannah Williams has been Deputy Headteacher since June 2019 following an 18 month period as acting deputy Headteacher. Leadership was judged as excellence in our 2019 inspection, stating that "senior leaders provide a strong strategic direction for the school with a clear focus on meeting the diverse needs and wellbeing of all pupils. Team work is a strength of the school. The governing body is highly supportive of the school." Mrs Samantha Hogg is part of the SLT (Senior Leadership Team).

Thank you

Firstly, the Governors wish to express their thanks and best wishes to Mrs Rowlands who will be leaving Ysgol Y Foryd at the end of this academic year. Mrs Rowlands has been an integral part of Ysgol Y Foryd for the past 20 years, through her hard work, dedication, and leadership to not only the school but also to the local community. We would also like to congratulate Mrs Hannah Williams and Mrs Nia Williams who will be leading the school in their interim roles as Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher for 2024/25.

The Governors would also like to thank Mr and Mrs Patterson for their significant contributions to the school and community as they also depart with our best wishes for their future endeavours. We would also like to thank Mrs Llinos Davies for her support for the past 15 years and wish her well in her retirement.

A special thanks to Miss Seeley for all her continued hard work and commitment in maintaining the high standards within the office, and to Miss Kath Evans who has again been a key support in her final year as clerk to the governing body.

Also, we wish to recognise Mrs Anwen Maher for continuing to support our families and the work undertaken with outside agencies to ensure staff, parents and pupils are supported.

Finally, we wish to recognise all staff and pupils for their instrumental contributions to another year of developing and achieving together.