



Ton Yr Ywen Primary School

Maes Y Coed Road

Heath,

Cardiff.

CF14 – 4HG

Tel: 02920754633

16/12/'24

Dear parents, carers, children, governors and staff,

As we come to the end of 2024 I am writing to not only wish you all seasons greetings but to share good news and to update you on how we are moving forward with school improvement projects.

My highlights from the autumn term:

My highlights of the term have included the even bigger Domino Rally charity event, the Friends of Ton Yr Ywen's winter shopping for grown-ups, a surprise visit from Father Christmas for those in the Early Years, the wonderful Christmas Concerts and the evolvment of the school choir singing both in school and in the local community



Here they are singing and signing in St Andrew's church as part of a Heath Resident Celebratory event.

Curriculum developments:

In September 2024 we launched our new bespoke curriculum, with each year group focussing on the overarching concept of '**Identity and Diversity**' in a purposeful, authentic way.

Next half term we move to a new whole school concept called '**Impact of technology**' with each year group exploring different elements of technology linked to the past and future. As an optional **Holiday Homework Challenge** please begin to talk to your children about technology that they have access to in and around the home, how it has changed over time, and what it would be like to not have the technology. For those that would like an extra challenge, we would love to add to our classroom learning journey walls futuristic technology that your child would like to see invented. Please draw or write ideas down onto a post-it note size piece of paper and bring these ideas into school at the start of next term to share.

Developments to the grounds:

Developments haven't only been indoors, with the Friends and staff joining together in the half term holidays to revamp and develop an outside area in Reception.



Next, once the weather improves, we will be looking for community support to develop an overgrown forest area at the back of the site, enabling the growth of Forest School activities across the school. If this is something you would be interested in helping with please give your name, contact details and information around which days you would most be able to help into the office.

Sport update:



Our girls football team continue to go from strength to strength – I am thrilled to share that they've won their qualifying group of eight schools from Cardiff and The Vale. Forty schools entered and the TYY Team are now down to being one of the final eight teams.

The remaining eight schools will take part in a play off in March with the winners that day going on to represent Cardiff schools in a regional Welsh tournament to be held in Newtown Mid Wales in May.

With regards to other clubs run in school, we continue to run '**Enrichment**' on a Friday afternoon where staff offer a rich variety of clubs to all learners in years 3 – 6. The clubs offered change each term and include practical, academic activities as well as sport-based provisions. These run in school time to ensure all pupils can access them at no cost to any of our families. Our next step is to involve Year 2 in this provision no later than the Summer Term.

With regards to alternative after school clubs, if you know of any suitably qualified person/s that would like to hire a hall to run an after-school club in, the canteen with its anti-slip surface still has availability every day apart from a Tuesday. Anyone looking to run clubs / hire the school, should contact Mrs Bezodis in the school office and request a copy of the latest Hire and Lettings Policy / documentation.

Since September children from across the school have been adding their photos to our **Proud to Present** board. If you have a photo that you would like to add of your child, please email or drop it in to the office.

As you can see, although many pictures have been added, we still have lots of room to add more.



Here is the latest picture that we added last week:



In this picture a group of TYY children have just achieved the Chief Scout's Acorn Award which is the pinnacle of the Squirrel Scout section. Another wonderful achievement. Well done!

Building Developments in Ton Yr Ywen:

Building developments have continued this term with the generation of a bespoke provision created within the Early Years – Reception class learning space. This area has been developed to offer a space that is suitable for providing a quieter, more sensory approach to teaching and learning, which some of our learners are already benefitting from.

Elsewhere we now have the promised additional bike and scooter shelter – requested in response to the large numbers of our families utilising this mode of transport. **With more children, parents and staff now riding scooters and cycling to school, can we ask that everyone dismounts their bikes and scooters once onto site as we have had a number of near misses where pedestrians and cyclists/scooters have almost collided. Thank you.**



Staff changes:

This week we will be undertaking interviews for a full-time temporary teaching assistant to be based initially in Nursery/Reception. In addition to this we currently have two Midday Supervisor vacancies working 11.45 – 1.15 every day. If you would be interested in applying all information can be found on ETeach (www.eteach.com). More information can also be gathered from talking to staff in the school office.



Farewell:

After 36 years we say a sad farewell to Mrs Barker, a loyal, kind and considerate member of teaching staff that will be missed by all. Mrs Barker is described by staff as being the ‘cheerleader and champion of everyone’. A week never goes by without Mrs Barker thanking or checking in on people.

When talking to the children about Mrs Barker they said things such as: “She teaches Welsh to the school”, “She is a very kind teacher” and “She is always helping us.”

On behalf of staff, governors and children I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Barker for her long service to Ton Yr Ywen, her adaptability and positive attitude to the many changes she has been part of during her time in TYY. Most importantly we would all like to wish her and her family well as she relocates to live in a beautiful place near to her family.

Diolch yn fawr iawn! Pob lwc i chi a’ch teulu.

Who will teach the children in the classes usually taught by Mrs Barker?

For those families wondering who will teach their children instead of Mrs Barker I can confirm that Mrs Baldwin will move to teaching Dosbarth Willow full-time, and although Mrs Coles will continue to teach Dosbarth Fir on a Monday and Tuesday, she will also teach Dosbarth Oak on a Friday, sustaining in both year groups the consistency of a familiar face to the children.



Mrs Hennessey, is also leaving us to go onto pastures new. Forever smiling and totally unflappable (except I am told when it comes to baking), we will miss her sunny disposition and wonderful support to both the children and staff. Talking to pupils about Mrs Hennessey they report that “She tells us funny stories”, “She is good at helping us” and “She is a funny person - great at telling jokes.”

Application to start Reception in September 2025

The closing date for Reception 2025 applications is 13th January. If you need any help with your application please contact: primaryadmissions@.gov.uk

New things coming to Ton Yr Ywen in January:

Reading Reconsidered – In response to our findings and parental feedback, over the last year both Mrs Antoniazzi and Mrs Molloy-Evans have been undertaking extensive specialist training in order to support the roll out of this exciting whole school approach to **reading**. During the staff Inset day in January all staff will have training on *Reading Reconsidered*. This will enable everyone to begin the implementation of this approach to reading from the Spring. *Reading Reconsidered* has many benefits but the greatest gains I hope to see for the children of TYY is a greater love and interest in a variety of different reading materials. Feedback on this approach heavily suggests that we can expect to see the children all be able to **read harder texts, to understand how to ‘closely read’ texts** rigorously and intentionally, to **read nonfiction** more effectively, and to **write more effectively** in direct response to texts.

We look forward to sharing with you in future months an update on the gains observed.

In response to Parents Voice we have also been working on developing a new ***Communication Strategy*** for parents and staff.

Attached as the last page in this newsletter (page 9) is a 1-page document which we hope shows you how we are going to move forward, to ensure consistency and clarity in our communications with you, our families.

Please take time over the Christmas holidays to familiarise yourself with our refined approach.

Key points to note include:

A. Launching this Spring we will have a new website that has, and will continue to be, developed with parents, staff and governors as a tool to contain all the key information you need. If you would like anything specifically added to the website please liaise with Miss Cook who is working directly with the website company in readiness for its launch in January.

B. We are moving to a communication model whereby staff will respond (once in work and not teaching) to emails between the hours of 7.30 – 5.30 on working days. Emails received outside these hours will be responded to on the next working day.

C. In place of X (formerly Twitter), we will use the new website to share pictures of whole school events, whilst also extending Seesaw to all classes in the school. Those already accessing seesaw are reporting very favourably of the roll out of this app in the early years, and will not need to sign a new permission letter. Those not currently accessing Seesaw will have access to Seesaw from the Spring term, once you have provided your consent on the letter going home with your child tonight. In providing consent you will be able to:

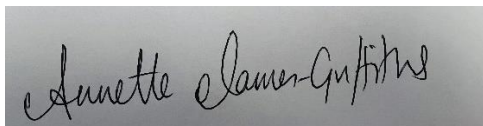
- View your child's approved work in real-time from any device.
- Engage with your child's work - add comments while your child is at school and stay connected throughout the day.
- Deepen conversations at home.

Please refer to the letter coming home in your child's bag this evening for more information.

Don't forget you must sign and return the letter to enable Seesaw access.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy winter break.

Yours



Mrs James-Griffiths (Headteacher)



Mary & Joseph as drawn by Alys in Dosbarth Fir

Reminder:

Dates for diaries reminders looking ahead to the upcoming half term:

School closes normal time to pupils and staff on **Friday 20th December 2024.**

School re-opens to staff on Monday 6th January and for **pupils on Tuesday 7th January 2025 (Monday 6th January is an inset day).**



Clashing Clothes Day – 23rd January – On this day children and staff are encouraged to wear clashing clothes. (But still clothes they can safely play and learn in). £1 non-school uniform donations on this day will go towards funding ingredients for the Chocolate Bake Off and Healthy Hearts day events that are due to take place later this half term.



Chocolate Cake Bake Off – Feel free to pop in to join the Assembly Squad at 3pm in the canteen who will be judging the Chocolate Cake Bake Off challenge that the whole school will have taken part in as part of their teaching and learning on **27th January 2025 – National Chocolate Cake Day.**



Children's Mental Health week and National Number day – W/B: 3rd February, concluding on Friday 7th February. During this week children will undertake activities that promote good mental health. On Friday 7th February, the children will lead the learning for the day based on the theme of 'Numbers', and children can wear something to school that day which contains a number.



Healthy Hearts day – children and staff to wear their PE kit to school on **Friday 14th February.**

Inset day: Friday 21st February: School closed to pupils.

Until then. Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe holiday.

Kind regards Mrs James-Griffiths.

Let's keep this
going for all the people
who are going through
a tough time.

For anyone who needs some
support right now. ❤️

CALM - 0800585858

Mind - 03001233393

No Panic - 08449674848

Bereavement - 08088081677

PAPYRUS - 08000684141

Samaritans - 116 123

SHOUT - Text SHOUT to 85258

Abuse - 0808 2000 247

Refuge - 020 7395 7700

Stay safe this Christmas.



School Communication Strategy launching January 2025 in Ton Yr Ywen

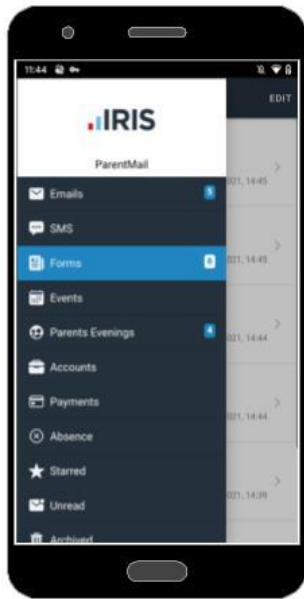


Ton Yr Ywen Primary School - Ysgol Gynradd yr Ton Yr Ywen
School Communications

Introduction

We aim to make communication between home and school as straightforward as possible. Please familiarise yourself with the guidance below so you are aware of our approach from January 2025.

ParentMail



ParentMail

Most of our communication with you will be through ParentMail. We try to give as much notice as possible for events and will also send reminders.

You can use ParentMail to report pupil absence and book parents evening slots. Please note, you cannot reply to ParentMail messages.

Email

To contact the school, senior staff or a class teacher, please follow this guidance:

You can email the school office at tonrywenprm@cardiff.gov.uk - *this is the best way to make sure your message is dealt with promptly.*

Staff email addresses are all in the format of username@tonrywen.co.uk

It is difficult for staff members to access their emails during teaching time. Staff are only required to check and respond to emails during the hours of 7.30am-5.30pm. Please allow 48 working hours for an initial response from a staff member.

If you need to contact the school urgently or in the event of an emergency, please phone the office on 029 2075 4633.

Homework



Homework will be shared through Seesaw for Years N - 1 and Google Classroom for Years 2 - 6.

Hwb/Seesaw logins are available from your child's class teacher.

Website

A new website will be launching in January 2025. Here you will find key information such as policies, key dates and photos taken during whole school events..

Dedicated to helping every child flourish

Ymroddedig i helpu pob plentyn i ffynnu