

# "Every summer has a story"



As another school year comes to an end, I want to put my heartfelt thanks out to everyone involved with Ysgol Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant. The togetherness and perseverance everyone has shown during what has been an incredibly challenging time is amazing, and I cannot thank everyone enough for their support and patience throughout the year.

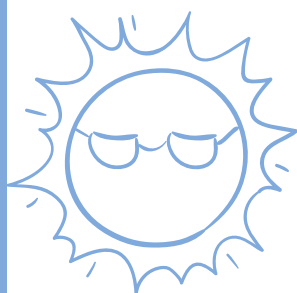
We started the school year in our bubbles, masks and staggered starting times and I honestly thought that at some point, all that would change and we could go back to normal. How incredibly wrong I was. The pupils have demonstrated amazing resilience and positivity, as have the staff and parents. Going into lockdown in December and having to do blended learning for the next 3 months tested everyone's patience but we got through it together and I am very pleased with what we all achieved during that time.

In school, strict bubbles has meant that pupils have only been with the same pupils in their class and the same staff for the whole school year. They haven't been able to do anything extracurricular outside of their bubbles, until very recently, and they have missed out on so many different opportunities. However, when you spend time with the pupils, you wouldn't tell. They have come to school every day with smiles on their faces and got on with life. As adults, we worry far too much sometimes. We need to take a pinch of positivity from these children because they are more resilient than we think.



As we move forward, we have work to do. The pupils have made progress and we are so pleased but further down the line, the normal pressures of life will resume and we all may need support to bounce back properly from what has happened during the last 18 months. I have every confidence that we can do that as a team at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr, pupils, staff, parents and the community, in order to resume normal life again.

I am pleased to announce that as of September, there will be no bubbles. Pupils will be able to do clubs and mix on the playground again which is really positive. Not everything will be exactly how it was of course, we still have to react to any positive cases of COVID19 but it will look very different come September. Once everything has been finalised, I will be in touch with what you need to know for September in due course.



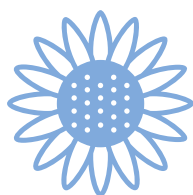
## Cylchlythyr Haf

## Summer Newsletter

During this summer term, the staff have been so busy creating rich opportunities for the pupils. Learning has been fun for them all and it shows in their progress and confidence. I'd like to personally thank all the staff for creating such brilliant learning opportunities for the pupils during this time. It has been an exciting time because this has been a glimpse into what the new curriculum will look like, as we have been able to try new things out during the term. Please see links to the class videos in the ParentMail message.



During the term we have been lucky to have some visitors to the school, either in person or virtually. PC Gayle came to speak to year 6 whilst the Fire Service spoke to the foundation phase about fire safety. Dosbarth Mrs Turner took part in the 'Diwrnod Bairdd Plant Bach' session with poet Aneirin Karadog, ahead of the Digital Powys Eisteddfod and they also took part in a session with author Casia William, whilst Miss Brown's class listened to author Claire Feyers. Years 5 and 6 listened to the school nurse, Ruth Overthrow, about important 'growing up' information. The local vicar, Reverend Norman Morris came in for two Monday afternoons to help coach cricket to keys stage 2 in PE.



A big thank you to Dan Foster from Derwen College and his team for trimming back our willow dome which had got out of hand! Unfortunately, the Derwen college team who have been helping us with our grounds can no longer continue but we are very grateful for their help.

Thank you also to Kirsty Martuccio for continuing to provide yoga sessions throughout the year and this term outdoor learning experiences. Thank you also to our music teachers; Mike Wilcocks (Guitar) and Ruth Thomas (Piano). Ruth Thomas is leaving us this summer and Haf Watkins will take her place in September. I'd like to thank Ruth for stepping in to help us this year and for providing lessons safely during the current situation. Ian Putt will be starting this September as our drum teacher and Liz Bickerton will be available for harp lessons again. If you are interested in any of the above music lessons (KS2 only at this time) please get in touch. Unfortunately, we are currently at full capacity with piano.

We have also had some great success during the last 6 weeks. A huge congratulations to pupils in Dosbath Miss Watkins who reached the national Criw Mentrus Enterprise Troopers awards for their 'Sebon a Chalon' soap project. They didn't win the overall prize but did come away with the Social Enterprise award, a great achievement. A group from Dosbarth Miss Watkins also reached the final of the Minecraft WRU Design a Club of the Future competition. They were interviewed about their creation and had the chance to speak to a few WRU rugby stars. They were also very pleased with their goody bag prizes! The girls in Dosbath Mrs Turner did incredibly well to reach the final of the Dim Cwis Dim Clem quiz competition, representing Montgomeryshire in the national final. They came 5th overall, a great effort out of 150 schools!

Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a day of adventurous activities at Glanllyn. The pupils enjoyed rock climbing, high ropes, the leap of faith and canoeing. A real shame we missed out on this year's residential trip but the pupils really enjoyed themselves.

We were disappointed that parents couldn't join us for this year's sports day, it wasn't the same without you. However, we are so pleased that the pupils still got a chance to take part and we had a great two days spreading out the events. Well done to every child on the day, they all showed great effort and determination. Congratulations to Rhaeadr, who won the team cup. Congratulations also to our individual winners; Seren Williams (Excellence), Hari Evans (Team Leader) and Noah Bragg (Effort).





We look forward to welcoming 10 new starters in September. The new parents have had the chance to speak to their teachers last week and we look forward to everyone joining our school community in the autumn term.

Year 6 have had a very challenging last year at primary school, missing out on so many experiences. However, they have conducted themselves brilliantly and we are very proud of them all. They enjoyed their transition day at Ysgol Llanfyllin and are now ready for the step up. They were part of a lovely virtual leavers' assembly on Thursday and the video will be shared with year 6 parents ASAP. Congratulations to our individual award winners: Owen (Disposition), Seren (Culture), Nathaniel (Welsh 2nd Language) and Iestyn (Sporting Excellence). Good luck to each and every one of them. Thank you also to those parents who will now be ending their time as a parent at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr. Thank you for all your help and support during your child's time at the school.

We were kindly donated a new end of year award in memory of Sara Dulson this year. For those of you who knew Sara, she was a kind and supportive person and the family were keen to have an award that reflected that. Therefore the family donated our new 'Kindness shield' and the first ever winner was Llyr Ellis who was presented with the award by Nathaniel Dulson. Each class nominated the kindest person in their class who also received prizes.



Congratulations to Tallula Parkes and Elin Jones, this year's winners of the Year 2 Cyfnod Sylfaen (Foundation Phase). Good luck to all of year 2 who now make the step up into year 3.

I'm sure that many of you will agree that the introduction of ParentMail was a big boost for parent/school communication. As we come to an end of our 3 year agreement with ParentMail, we will be using a new company called WEDUC from September. You will soon receive your activation email. Please follow the instructions to set up your account. Benefits of the new app include the Welsh language, two-way communication, a new 'social media' style page with interactions and a better looking and easier app. More information will be available in September and we will continue to use ParentMail as well as WEDUC as we phase out the latter.

As I mentioned, school will hopefully begin to look more 'normal' again in September. There will still be some regulations in place and we may need to bring in stricter rules at some point but be rest assured, everything will be done with yours and your pupils' safety at heart.

Thank you all for your kindness and support during the most challenging of years. I am once again proud to say that I am headteacher of this wonderful school and I very much look forward to my permanent role from September. As parents you can be very proud of how you have dealt with the past 18 months, and we are very proud of every child here at Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant. Have a wonderful summer holiday. We will see you back on Thursday 2nd September!

Warm regards,

Jonathan Richards

### Dates

01.09.21 - Non Pupil Day  
02.09.21 - Back to School

### Idiom of the month

“Deuparth  
gwaith yw ei  
ddechrau”