



# Welcome Back Croeso

September 2022

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a relaxing summer holiday and enjoyed the sunny weather. Firstly, I'd like to welcome all our new pupils and parents, it has been lovely to see our nursery children join us here at Gwaunfarren, all be it with a few tears. Our returning children have settled in well and are already showing a good attitude to their learning.

On a personal note I'd like to introduce, I am Mr Lewis the new Head teacher here at Gwaunfarren. It has been lovely meeting the children and parents this week and I hope to meet more of you, over the coming term.

The autumn term is a busy term, and we aim to settle the children in as quickly as possible. All classes will have a wellbeing focus in the opening two weeks of term, before the children start their new topic - Our Changing World.

## Start and End Times

### Foundation Phase

9.00 - 3.20

*Nursery/ Mrs Butler Classes - Collect from class*

*Foundation Phase - Collect on School Yard*

### KS2

9.00 - 3.30

*Junior Children - Collect at the walking gate*



## Important Email Addresses

### School Office

[office@gwaunfarren.merthyr.sch.uk](mailto:office@gwaunfarren.merthyr.sch.uk)

### Mr Lewis

[head@gwaunfarren.merthyr.sch.uk](mailto:head@gwaunfarren.merthyr.sch.uk)

## Drop off and Pick Up


From Wednesday 7th September, only parents with children in Nursery and Mrs Butler's class will enter the school grounds via the foot gate with their children at the start of the day. All other children/classes in the school will enter the school via the foot gate and be met by staff and taken off parents. At the end of the day, parents of children in the Foundation Phase (Nursery to Year 2) can enter the school via the foot gate to collect their children from yard or classes.

There will be staff available to direct and support with this.

At the end of the school day Nursery and Mrs Butler's classes will be dismissed from their classes, other foundation phase parents will collect the children from the school yard at 3.20, whilst our juniors will be brought to the walking gate at 3.30. As of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September Mr McCarthy and Miss Warren's classes will be dismissed from the car park gates.


School Term Dates				
Term	Term Begins	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn 2022	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2022
Spring 2023	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022
Summer 2023	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2022	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2022

INSET Days 2022 - 2023
School will be closed for all pupils on the following dates
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2022
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
Monday July 24 <sup>th</sup> 2023



**PARENTPAY**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**



A reminder: it is the responsibility of all parents/carers to pre-book school meals through ParentPay.

Even if your child receives Free School Meals, a booking must still be made by the parent/carer.

Failure to book may result in a meal not being allocated for your child.

To make the process easy, we've come up with a simple mnemonic; **The Three P's of ParentPay!**

**Pay**

Ensure your balance is always in credit. A negative balance won't allow you to book meals for your child

**Pick**

Select a school meal option for your child everyday. Bookings must be made by 8am or meals won't be allocated.

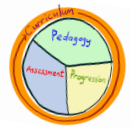
**Plated**

Booked meals will be cooked and served to your children as normal and without having to scabble for coins.

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Booking meals has never been so easy; ParentPay can be accessed on any internet-connected device including smartphones!

If you continue to have problems please contact the school directly.



## The New Curriculum

We are moving into an exciting time in education with the introduction of the New Curriculum for Wales. All schools in Wales will begin to implement this as of September 2022. Our curriculum will meet the needs of all our pupils and community, and prepare our pupils for life in the wider world.

We will share our plans with you over the coming months and work with you to provide the best possible education for the children at Gwaunfarren.

If you would like more information about the changes to education in Wales please click on the following link:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales>

Our Governing Body	
Chair Person	Mrs Maria Thomas
Vice Chair Person	Mrs Anne Roberts
Headteacher	Mr A. Lewis
Community Governors	Mrs Marie Evans Mrs Anne Roberts Mr Huw Williams
Local Authority Governor	Councillor David Isaac Mr Chris Davies Mrs Maria Thomas
Parent Governor	Mr David James Mrs Beth Jones Mr Paul Phillips Mrs Aimee Williams
Staff Governor	Mrs L. Evans Mrs S. Pike
Clerk to the Governors	Mrs Emma France



teachers2parents



Please keep up to date with our social media posts...



**Twitter** - @GwaunfarrenSch

**Facebook** - Gwaunfarren Primary School

**Parent Pay** - Please download the Parent Pay app - you will need to book your child's lunch on this even if they are Free School Meals

**Website** - <https://sites.google.com/gwaunfarren.merthyr.sch.uk/gwaunfarrenprimaryschool/home>

**Text Messages** - Please ensure we have your correct contact details at the office, as we send regular messages

### Staff Changes

There will be a slight change in teacher in Miss Warren's class on a Monday. Mrs Driscoll will cover for Mrs Warren on a Monday this year as Miss Warren continues her studies, undertaking her masters in Psychology. Miss Warren and Mrs Driscoll will work closely with each other. We'd like to wish Miss Warren the best of luck with her studies.

### Jewellery

We want our pupils to be safe in school and don't want any jewellery to be damaged.



- One small pair of ear studs
- One Watch



- Looped earrings
- Rings
- Bracelets/ Bangles
- Necklaces
- E-Watches (Apple Watches etc.)



### Birthday Cakes



This year we will be working towards the Healthy Schools - Phase 6. As we will be encouraging healthy eating, children will no longer bring birthday cakes into school, to be shared with members of their class. To replace this we will celebrate every child's birthday in special assembly, and also give each child a birthday gift from the school.

### Water Bottles



Please provide your child with water for school, in a clearly labelled bottle. We have seen an increase in the number of fizzy drinks being brought into school. There are a number of water machines around the school for the children to use, to refill their bottles.

### Class Dojo



Don't forget to connect to Class Dojo. Important information will be posted in the school story section. Class Dojo is also a great way to connect with your child's teacher.

Teachers will respond to messages when they can. If there are any emergencies or vital information that needs to be shared, please contact the school office.

### Diary Dates



A separate list of key dates will be sent out over the next week. We aim to keep you updated in plenty of time.