

Community Focused Schools

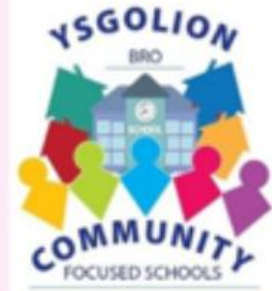


Newsletter
Summer 2025

Hi, my name is ...

Carly Geake

Please get in contact with if you think I can be of help...



What I do

I work for the 'Community Focused Schools' team with the North Cluster of Merthyr Tydfil.

My role as a Community and Family Engagement Officer aims to build partnerships to enhance educational outcomes and well-being for pupils, families and the community, by working with school staff, families and local agencies.

I am very much looking forward to working with staff, pupils and families at Gwaunfarren this year.

About me

I have only recently joined the 'Community Focused Schools' team. Prior to this, I was a Primary School teacher for 10 years within Merthyr Tydfil.

I am a mother to two young boys, who keep me extremely busy with their sports!

Contact me

Tel: 07355 925 396

carly.geake@merthyr.gov.uk



Carly will be available to meet with parents every other Wednesday.

9am - main school building

2.30pm - bungalow

PTA

I would like to take a moment to thank our wonderful PTA - and all of you - for the incredible support you have shown throughout the year.

Thanks to your generosity and involvement, the PTA has made a significant contribution to our school community. This year, their efforts have helped to develop our nature reserve into a valuable outdoor learning space for all our children to enjoy. They have also provided outdoor equipment for our nursery, enriching the play opportunities for our youngest pupils.

We were delighted to receive new netball have already been put to good use and are helping to support the children's enthusiasm for sport and active play. The PTA also made sure that every child received an Easter egg - a small gesture that brought big smiles across the school.

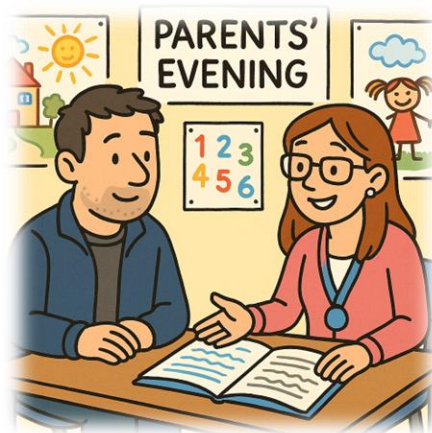
In addition, your donations towards the Christmas school trips meant that every child was able to enjoy a festive outing at a reduced cost, creating special memories that they will cherish for years to come.

We are incredibly grateful for the PTA's dedication and to all parents and carers who have supported their events, donated, or given time in any way. Your involvement makes a real difference and helps create the nurturing, engaging environment we strive for at our school.

Parent Meetings

Thank you so much for taking the time to attend our recent Parents' Evening. Your support and involvement in your child's education make a tremendous difference, and we truly value the opportunity to connect with you. We are pleased to report that 89% of parents attended parents evening.

Parents' Evening is a vital part of our partnership with families. It gives us a chance to share your child's progress, celebrate their achievements, and discuss any areas where they may need additional support. Just as importantly, it provides you with the opportunity to ask questions, offer insights, and work collaboratively with us to help your child reach their full potential.



By working together, we can ensure that every child feels supported, motivated, and confident in their learning journey. Your engagement helps reinforce the messages we give in school and shows children that their education is a shared priority.

Looking ahead, we're pleased to offer another opportunity for you to celebrate your child's learning. On **Tuesday 17th June**, you will be invited into school to look through your child's books and talk with them about their work. This will be a lovely chance to see their progress first-hand and share in their achievements.



The recent School-Aged Parenting Workshop proved to be a highly successful initiative, providing parents with valuable support and guidance in key areas such as establishing routines, encouraging talk and play, and understanding behaviour. The sessions were well-attended, and parents engaged enthusiastically with the content, demonstrating a strong commitment to enhancing their children's development at home.

One of the most significant impacts of the workshop was the practical knowledge and strategies parents gained. Many expressed how beneficial it was to receive clear, actionable advice on managing daily routines, fostering meaningful communication, and responding effectively to their children's behaviour. Several participants reported that implementing these strategies led to noticeable improvements in their home environments, with children responding positively to consistent routines and increased interaction.



Beyond the practical benefits, the workshop also created a valuable support network among parents. Through open discussions and shared experiences, attendees built connections with one another, offering encouragement and advice beyond the sessions. This sense of community was a key outcome, providing parents with a safe space to voice concerns, celebrate successes, and seek guidance without judgement.



Feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive, with many highlighting the workshop's impact on their confidence and approach to parenting. The opportunity to learn from both professionals and peers reinforced the value of collaborative support in raising school-aged children.

Moving forward, the school is committed to continuing this engagement by offering further workshops and resources tailored to parental needs. The success of this initiative has reinforced the importance of supporting parents as key partners in their children's education and well-being. We look forward to building on this strong foundation and fostering further opportunities for parental involvement and support.

Linking with our Community

The recent collaboration with the Community Focused Schools Team and the subsequent Engaging the Community event has provided significant benefits to our school, strengthening our connections with local agencies and enhancing our ability to support families effectively. This report evaluates the impact of the event, considering the key areas of professional development, collaborative relationships, and direct benefits to our school community.



The event considerably extended my knowledge of the range of agencies available within Merthyr. While I was aware of some of the key organisations, such as family support services and educational welfare teams, the event introduced me to additional agencies that offer more specialised support, including mental health services for children, financial advisory support for families, and community-based youth engagement programmes. Understanding the full spectrum of available support has allowed us to signpost families more effectively to appropriate services.

One of the most valuable outcomes of the event has been the establishment of new professional contacts. Through discussions and networking opportunities, I have connected with representatives from various organisations that provide targeted support for children and families. These relationships have already proven beneficial, with agencies offering guidance on specific cases and providing direct support where needed. Having a wider professional network has reinforced my role as a leader in ensuring the holistic wellbeing of our pupils.

The event has played a crucial role in developing collaborative relationships between schools, agencies, and the Community Focused Schools Team. The structured discussions and interactive sessions facilitated greater mutual understanding of each organisation's role, leading to more cohesive working partnerships. The Community Focused Schools Team has been instrumental in fostering these connections, ensuring that schools have access to relevant support networks. This collaboration has already led to more integrated support for families and improved cross-agency communication.



As a result of the event, our approach to supporting families has evolved significantly. The increased awareness of available services and the strengthened professional links have enabled us to respond more proactively and efficiently to the needs of our families. By being better informed and having direct contact with key agencies, we can now facilitate timely interventions, ensuring that children and parents receive appropriate assistance before issues escalate.

The Community Focused Schools Team has been a vital support in my role, offering guidance, facilitating connections, and providing resources to aid our work with families. Their involvement has enhanced our ability to engage with external agencies, ensuring that support structures are in place for those who need them most. The team's ongoing engagement has reinforced the importance of a joined-up approach to community support in education.

Since the event, there has been a noticeable increase in referrals made both by and to our school. The enhanced knowledge of services has enabled us to direct families to appropriate agencies more effectively. Likewise, external organisations have referred families to us for additional support within the school setting. This reciprocal relationship has ensured that children and parents receive well-rounded and timely assistance.

The event has been highly worthwhile and beneficial. It has expanded professional knowledge, strengthened community links, and improved our school's ability to support families. The collaborative approach fostered by the event has ensured that schools and agencies work more cohesively, ultimately benefiting the children and families we serve. I would strongly advocate for similar events in the future, as they provide invaluable opportunities for learning, networking, and improving practice within education and community support.

Keep Wales Tidy



We are delighted to share some exciting news with you — our school has recently received a generous grant from *Keep Wales Tidy* to support the development of our school gardens.

Thanks to this funding, we have been able to install new planters, a polytunnel, benches, and storage sheds. These improvements will significantly enhance our outdoor learning environment and provide fantastic opportunities for pupils to engage with nature, learn about sustainability, and enjoy hands-on gardening experiences.



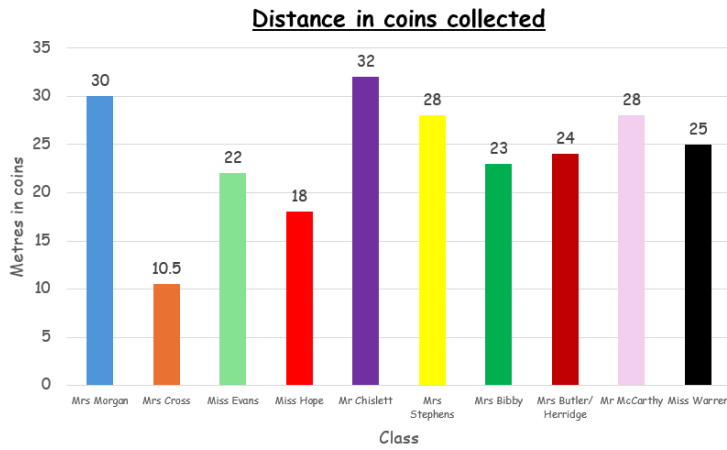
We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parent and grandparent volunteers who have generously given their time and effort to help with the project. A special thanks as well to the EE volunteers, whose support has been invaluable.

This project has already started to make a positive impact on the children, and we are excited to see how it continues to grow — quite literally — in the months ahead.





Autism Awareness Day 2025



A huge thank to everyone who helped us raise money for our Autism appeal.

We raised a fantastic

£250.61



Thank you!

Transaction ID: c1a36028-aac2-4940-bac8-8ad9a13cf112

Let the world know!



Your £468 goes a long way



COLOUR RUN FRIDAY 13TH JUNE

All children will take part in our sponsored colour run on Friday 13th June.

Please can the children wear a White T-Shirt.

All children will need to wear a pair of Sun glasses.

The colour run will begin at 1.45pm.

Parents are more than welcome to come and watch.

Gwaunfarren Colour Run Friday 13th June 1.15pm

Items Needed





Sports Day

Thursday 19th June
@ School Field

Nursery - 9.15
Reception - Year 2 - 10.15
Juniors - 1.15

EVERYONE WELCOME



FRIDAY 11TH JULY
1PM
GWAUNFARREN PRIMARY SCHOOL

JOIN US FOR OUR 2025

SUMMER FETE



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
GAMES • MARKET • STALLS

