



Autumn 2 - 2022

Newsletter

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a well-earned break over October Half Term. It has been brilliant seeing the children back in school, all eager to learn.

It has been lovely seeing our families back on the school site through coffee mornings, class assemblies and parent meetings. Our first term was extremely busy, and the run up to Christmas will be much the same, with lots planned over the next half term.

As we move into the festive period, we know that coughs and colds will appear, but please make every attempt to send your child to school, if they are well enough. We will continue monitor attendance this term. Remember every day that your child misses impacts on their education. If you are keeping your child home, please contact us at the school office.

#MISS SCHOOL MISS OUT

Start and End Times

Foundation Phase

9.00 - 3.20

Nursery - 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

Mr Lewis

head@gwaunfarren.merthyr.sch.uk

We have now developed and started to implement our 'School Improvement Plan' for this academic year. Below is a graphic highlighting the areas we will be focussing on.



Morning drop off changes



Breakfast Club gates are open from 8.10 - 8.30

The school gates for all other children, will now open at 8.50am.

Children in Reception - Year 6, can be dropped off at the walking gate from 8.50am, where they will join the breakfast club children on the yard or in the school hall (depending on the weather).

On dry days, the children will be supervised on the school yard, until the start of the school day, at 9am. On wet days, the children will enter school through the sheltered area and wait in the hall at 9am before they are collected by their teachers.

Nursery parents will continue to take the children to their classroom, from 8.50am (doors open 8.55).

Collection Changes

We are concerned about the congestion at the road side, at the end of the day. We have made some changes to collection arrangements for parents who have children in both foundation phase and KS2.

As of Monday 7th November, foundation phase children will continue to be collected at 3.20, however if you have children in both Foundation Phase and KS2, older siblings can be collected by parents/ carers at 3.25, from their classroom doors. By doing this, we hope that the congestion by the road will ease, only leaving KS2 children left to exit the school grounds at 3.30.

As always, when parking around school site, please respect local residents.

Please can the parents waiting for their KS2 pupils wait opposite school, in front of the houses. Pupils will be brought to the gates by their class teacher.

The New Curriculum

Our curriculum has been designed around four purposes for learners.

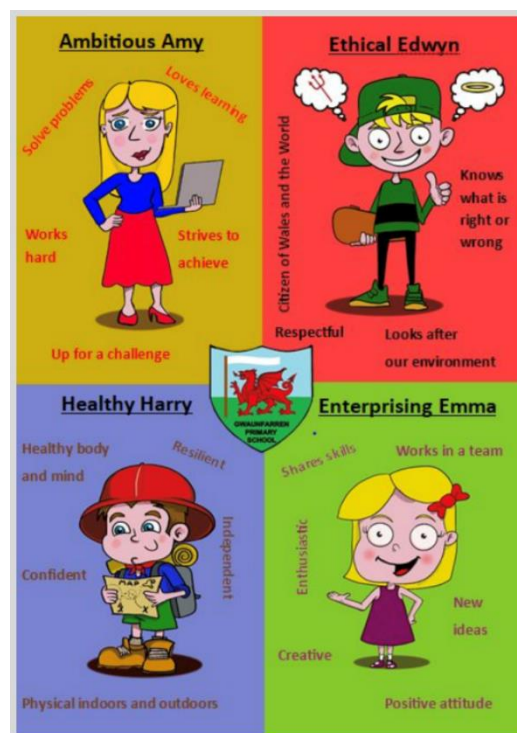
Gwaunfarren's curriculum is to support our learners to become:

- **Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives**
- **Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work**
- **Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world**
- **Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.**

We at Gwaunfarren aim to provide high quality teaching experiences, which excite and motivate children in the classroom and beyond. Teachers will be the facilitators of learning. Considering the needs, views and stages of learners they will design fun, challenging and progressive experiences. Pupils will have opportunities to influence their learning by developing "I wonder" questions from which their enquiry based learning can take place. Immersion days or hook experiences will spring board themes and pupils' engagement is captured through awe and curiosity. Our learners will have opportunities to work in ways that enhance their learning and also contribute to driving school improvement through pupil voice groups. Learners will participate in community projects, go on school trips, welcome visitors to the school and raise money for charities to also enhance their learning experiences.

A full copy of our curriculum statement can be found by clicking the link below.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LAXI6Z6KXvsrim5xrsfodmOrj1vg6tzD/view?usp=sharing>



Pupil Voice

Our pupil voice committees have been organised for this year. These include:

- School/ Eco Council
- Wellbeing Squad
- Criw Cymraeg
- Digital Leaders
- JRSO's

School Council/ Eco Council

Following discussions during the initial school council meetings this term, the children have decided to focus on the following areas this academic year:

- **Improving our nature reserve.** The children would like to make the area more inviting to both pupils and wildlife. They aim to grow butterfly friendly plants and hang bird feeders and bird baths. The children will build insect hotels. They would like to hang colourful hessian bunting from the trees.
- **Ensuring our school is a litter free zone.** The school council/ eco committee will carry out regular litter picks in our school grounds and community. They aim educate others on the importance of reusing, reducing and recycling our waste.
- **Encouraging active travel to and from school.**
As a school we will promote the 'Active Journeys' program and encourage whole school participation in events such as 'Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel' (March) and 'Walk to School' week (May). We will organise several 'Bling Your Bike' events beginning with a 'Halloween Bling' this October.
- **Promoting healthier lifestyles.** As a healthy school, we will look at food alternatives to celebrate events and reward pupils. Our school will no longer allow cupcakes/sugary treats to be given out on birthdays. We will promote healthy eating by taking part in events such as 'Eat Them to Defeat Them'.
- **Positive relationships and happy break times.** We want all our pupils to be happy at school. We will take part in 'Anti-Bullying Week' this November and have decided to purchase a 'Buddy Bench' for our school yard. We will gather ideas from all pupils on ways in which we can improve our play times. We would like to purchase some new equipment and re-establish 'playground leaders'.



Wellbeing Squad

The Wellbeing Squad is a pupil voice group that has been established to improve the mental health and wellbeing of pupils and staff at Gwaunfarren. The group members aim

to promote our SHINE mantra to help generate and embed an ethos of support and positivity throughout our school. They will also take sole responsibility for the successful running and maintenance of the school's Dojo shop, which has been founded to help promote the holistic positive reward system we uphold at Gwaunfarren. Group members will also take a proactive role in generating ideas for wellbeing activities, innovations such as "Feel-Good Fridays" which have become a popular event for staff and children alike. They also hope to fundraise to raise money to buy various items to help promote talk and mental wellness across the school. The Squad further aims to voice and action the suggestions of learners into what would make the school a happier place to be; the group have set up a 'suggestion box' to action ideas initiated by pupils across the school, elevating the importance of the voice of the child. A main role of the Wellbeing Squad for this academic year is to drive the key principles of the UNCRC in order to achieve our RRS Silver Award. It is the hope that through promoting the values of the UNCRC, combined with an ethos of positive health and wellbeing, that our pupils will be learning fit. Generating healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society. #HelpingGwaunfarrenSHINE



Criw Cymraeg

As a newly established Criw Cymraeg for the 2022-23 academic year, they will be continuing to strive for the Silver Award in the Siarter Iaith. The Criw Cymraeg will begin by doing learning walks, collating and analysing current evidence, having weekly meetings in order to plan for what targets and/or evidence is required to progress further. We will continue with weekly assemblies promoting and celebrating speaking Welsh inside and outside of the classroom.



Digital Leaders

Miss Evans will trial some of the coding equipment with the digital leaders so they can take their learning into their classes. Some members of staff might not have had the opportunity to use the equipment before, so we would like the children to showcase some of the projects they could complete in a show and tell type workshop or assembly. Two pupils have been chosen from each of the classes so they can support the use of the equipment in their class. The digital leaders as a group will also support the use of equipment in some of the classes. For example, each digital leader will model and support 2 or 3 children in a class in the Foundation Phase.



JRSO's

During the Autumn Term the JRSO's will monitor the traffic and parked cars outside the school building, highlighting any issues that may arise, feeding this information back to the road safety team. The group are to compose a newsletter introducing themselves and reminding the parents the importance of safe parking and will undertake activities in the lead up to and during Road Safety Week.



Help our PTA

Our PTA are busy planning for the Christmas Fete which will take place on Friday 16th December.

The PTA are looking for donations of the following items. If you are able to help, can you send the following items in throughout the weeks of;

14.11.2022 - Tins and dried food

21.11.2022 - Shop bought/ pre packed - Chocolates/ biscuits and cakes

28.11.2022 - Alcohol and bottles

5.12.2022 - Toys/ games/ books/ bric and brac

Key Dates

10.11.2022	-	Nursery Class Assembly (9.15am)
14.11.2022	-	Anti Bullying Week
14.11.2022	-	Road Safety Week
18.11.2022	-	Children in Need
18.11.2022	-	Mrs Butler Class Assembly (9.15am)
25.11.2022	-	Mrs Morgan Class Assembly (9.15am)
25.11.2022	-	Wales vs Iran - Children wear red/ football kits to school
2.12.2022	-	Miss Evans Class Assembly
9.12.2022	-	Christmas Dinner
9.12.2022	-	Christmas Jumper Day
9.12.2022	-	Mr Chislett Class Assembly
12.12.2022	-	Mrs Butler/ Mrs Morgan Classes Christmas Concert - 10am
12.12.2022	-	KS2 Christmas Concert - 4pm
13.12.2022	-	Nursery Christmas Concert - 10am
13.12.2022	-	KS2 Christmas Concert - 4pm
14.12.2022	-	Miss Evans/ Mr Chislett Christmas Concert - 2pm
16.12.2022	-	Christmas Fete - Time TBC
20.12.2022	-	Repunzel @ The Redhouse (Year 1 - 6)
20.12.2022	-	Nursery/ Reception - Breakfast with Santa
21.12.2022	-	Christmas Parties
23.12.2022	-	Children break up for Christmas
9.1.2023	-	Children Return to School



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