



Development Through Care

# YSGOL DERWENFA

## NEWS



OCTOBER 2022

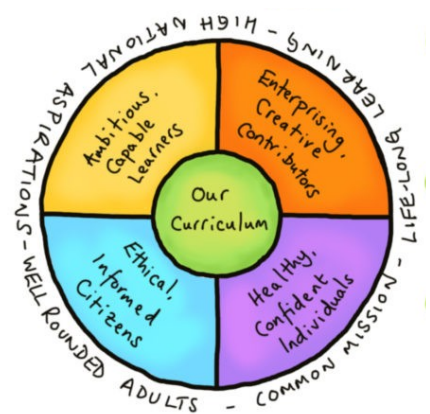
# Ysgol Derwenfa

## Whole School News – Mr Jones Headteacher



It has been a very busy and exciting start to the new school year. We would like to introduce to you our new deputy headteacher, Mr John Jones. He has settled in very well and has some fantastic ideas for the ever-changing future of Ysgol Derwenfa!

With the implementation of the New Curriculum, all staff are embracing the changes and are offering a range of exciting and engaging experiences for all children, with pupil voice at the heart of learning. Our whole school topic this term is 'Dyma Ni' (All About us).



As part of the new curriculum and our new school vision, we have enlisted the help of our wonderful children to help design various elements of Ysgol Derwenfa's new brand. The past few weeks the children have been busy designing new logos and characters to represent the four purposes. We are also extremely excited about having a mural painted on the side of the school – all designed by the children of Ysgol Derwenfa – to reflect our school values and the history of Leeswood itself. We really enjoyed hearing old tales from our Chair of Governors Ray Hughes and Mr Carlton Jones, which helped inspire our designs.



At Ysgol Derwenfa we prioritize pupil voice. We are very proud of our pupils and their appetite for learning and their enthusiasm towards all the new changes. We have resurrected 'School Council' and 'Ciw Cymraeg' which will help raise standards of the Welsh

language spoken in school, with the hope of achieving our Bronze Award this year. We have also appointed Digital Leaders in KS2 who will undergo training to become Digital Heroes, with a view to reach out to the community. Over the next few weeks we will also have Sport Leaders and Sports Council – something Mr J Jones is passionate about.

Fridays are very important at Ysgol Derwenfa. We all love our Head Teacher's assembly and we are now pleased to see the return of 'Top Table'; where the children eat their lunch with Mr Jones, with a special sweet treat from Auntie Deb and a glass of lemonade – they even get to pinch a few of Mr Jones' grapes! The children are then awarded with VIP status for the following week, allowing them to have the best seats in the house during our assemblies.

## Upcoming Events at Ysgol Derwenfa

We are ready to Rock & Roll for the launch of Times Table Rockstars – a fun initiative focusing on the learning of times tables! We are allowing children to dress up as Rock Stars on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October! I can't wait to play some of my favourite Rock anthems!

Here are the albums I'm currently listening to:

**Ozzy Osbourne – Patient Number 9**



**Queensryche – Digital Noise Alliance**



We will be holding our first in person assembly for parents, to celebrate the Harvest Festival in school. We are kindly asking for donations of food and personal goods to drop off at the Foodbank during the last week of term. We will also be paying a visit to the **Sunshine Café on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October** to perform a few pieces for the community. Pop it in your diaries!



We are working hard to continue to develop our outdoor areas. We have been successful in securing grants from URENCO Chemplants and FCC to replace fencing and to further develop our outdoor learning provision.

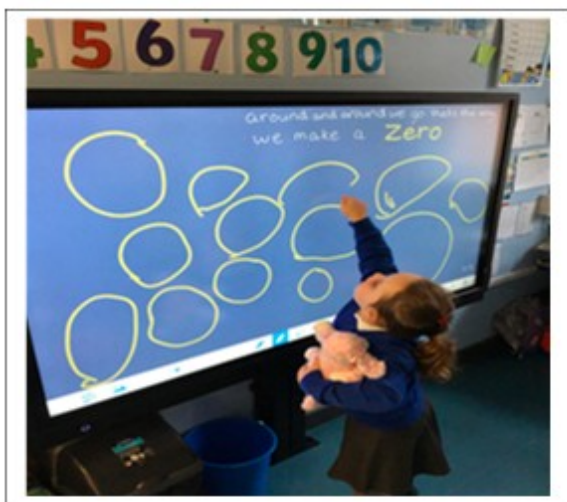
As part of Family Learning with Flying Start, we are pleased to offer our first course for parents. This is something we are looking to develop alongside Nurture at our school to continue to assist both children and parents throughout their learning journey.





We have been learning that circles roll really well.

We have been learning to count with 1-1 correspondence.

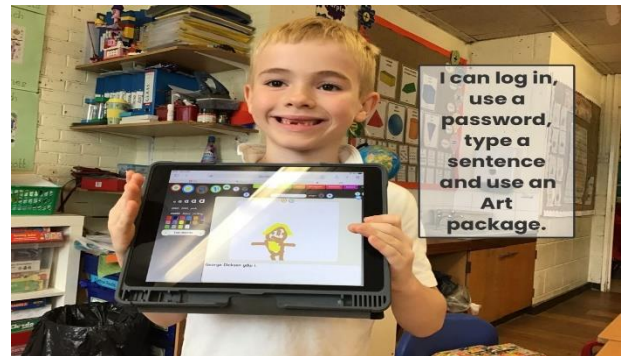


We are so lucky to have a new 'White board' We have been practising writing zeros

# Ysgol Derwenfa

## Foundation Phase Class- Mrs Hughes

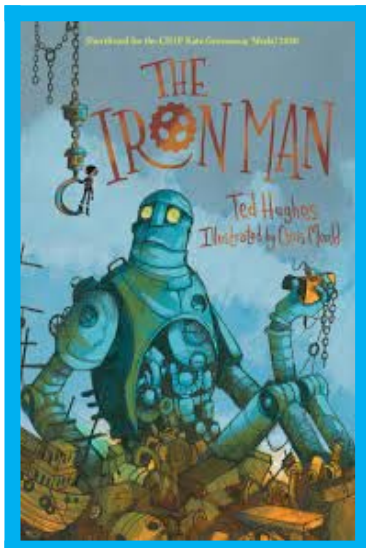
We were really excited to start back to school in September!  
We have a lovely large area where we can learn lots of new things and best of all, our Reception children have settled really quickly.  
Here are some of the wonderful activities we have been doing since September:



Hello,

Welcome to the first edition of the 2022/23 academic year for the Year 3 and 4 section of the 'Leeswood News'. Firstly, I would like to introduce myself, my name is Mr John Jones and I have recently been appointed as the New Deputy Headteacher at Ysgol Derwenfa. Previously, I taught at Southdown Primary School in Buckley for six years after completing my degree in Primary Education at Bangor University. I am passionate about Health and Well-being and providing learners with enrichment opportunities across the curriculum. I am also currently completing the final year of my Masters Degree, where I have been focusing on Health and Well-being as well as the Curriculum for Wales. I am delighted to have had the exciting opportunity to join Ysgol Derwenfa, and I am looking forward to being active in the local community. If we haven't had the chance to meet yet, please don't be afraid to come and say hello!

The children have settled well into the new school year and have been working hard. Our topic for the Autumn term is 'Dyma Ni' (All about me) and our class read is 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. We started our new topic with an unexpected discovery! A crime scene was discovered in our school forest, and it appeared that the Iron Man's



In Language, we have been learning about descriptive writing. We have revisited verbs, nouns and adjectives, as well as learning how to use similes to make our writing interesting! We are working towards writing our own chapter of the Iron Man, applying the skills we have developed. I can't wait to see what the children will create!

In Maths, we have been learning about Place Value. The children have demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning, completing their challenge tasks to a high standard! I have also been very impressed by the children's resilience and growth mindset when facing some tricky Maths challenges! Da iawn, pawb!



What a fabulous start to a new school year! I have 29 lovely children in Year 5 & 6 this year who are full of amazing ideas and enthusiasm. This term our topic is 'Dyma Ni' (All about us). We are enjoying learning about ourselves, the Human body, building relationships and kindness. Our class novel for this term is 'Wonder' by RJ Palacio.



We have been focusing on the importance of kindness. We have been reading poetry and discussing random acts of kindness. We have learnt about the tale of the two apples – how words can affect our feelings on the inside, even though people may appear happy and OK on the outside.



We have been busy creating our self portraits. We have lots of creative children in our class who love the draw. The children have also decided that they would like to study the artist Pablo Picasso this term. So watch this space for some amazing artwork!

We are also pleased to see the return of our School Council. The children were asked to prepare their own manifesto as part of our elections – a first time event at Ysgol Derwenfa! We are so proud of the children; they all delivered fantastic speeches and showed a great sense of maturity. Congratulations to Lola & Finley in Year 5 and Elliott and Lola in Year 6 on being elected as school councillors.

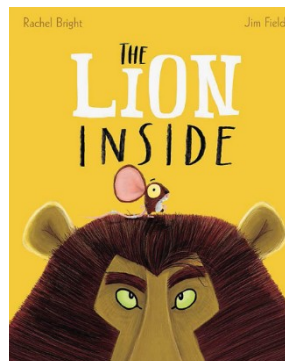




At Ysgol Derwenfa we have been developing our Nurture provision and completing the National Nurturing Schools Award. Nurture is a safe place where children can talk, develop their self-esteem and mental health.

We have been doing this through learning about the Six Principles of Nurture. These are:

- School is safe
- We use our words to talk about how we feel
- We learn in our own way and in our own time
- We believe in ourselves
- Our behaviours can show how we are feeling
- We can cope with changes in our lives.



It has been lovely welcoming some of our new Reception (Big Teds) to our Nurture Sessions. We have been reading 'The Lion Inside' by Rachel Bright which talks about being brave and unique. This is especially important for children who are just starting full time school!

We have been very busy in Nurture the past few weeks. The children have been creating self portraits for our welcome to nurture display. A picture that represents themselves. We will be talking about what is important to us and what we want to work on whilst in Nurture sessions in the next few weeks.

Here are just a few of the wonderful designs so far....



# DERWENFA'S J-OAKS



I WENT TO THE SHOP AND ASKED IF  
THEY HAD HELICOPTER CRISPS  
BUT THEY ONLY HAD PLAIN!



DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T  
RUN ON A CAMPSITE?

IT'S RAN....BECAUSE IT'S PAST  
TENSE!

BY ELLIOTT YEAR 6



BY LOLA YEAR 6



BY SUMMER  
YEAR 6

**RIDDLE TIME**  
YOU'RE DRIVING IN A CAR, YOU ARE  
HUNGRY AND THIRSTY. YOU SEE 3  
DOORS, ONE HAS UNLIMITED  
MONEY, ONE HAS TONS OF WATER  
AND THE OTHER HAS FOOD. WHICH  
DOOR DO YOU OPEN FIRST?

A- THE CAR DOOR





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# AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

## at Ysgol Derwenfa

**3pm-5:15pm**

**Children  
receive  
snacks &  
drinks**

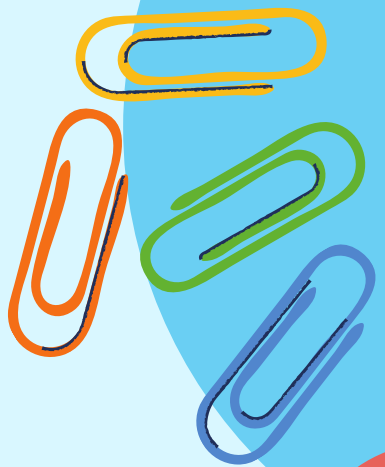


**Activities include  
jewellery making,  
outdoor learning,  
& crafts**



**All children  
from  
Nursery to  
Year 6  
welcome**

**First hour:  
Foundation  
Phase £5  
KS2 £4  
£4 an hour  
after that**



**To book your child a place please text  
Megan on:  
07842 103294**

**Located in the school hall**





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# *Ladies & Gents Christmas Shopping Night 2022*

**ADULT ONLY EVENT**

**AT LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

## **£3 entry**

**FREE STRIP OF RAFFLE TICKETS  
IF BOUGHT IN ADVANCE**

**20 stalls  
to choose  
from**

**Friday  
11th  
November  
7pm - 10:30pm**

**All  
proceeds to  
be given to  
Ysgol  
Derwenfa**

**Licensed  
bar and  
food by  
Charlie's  
Kitchen**

**Contact  
Suzanne for  
tickets on  
07759449442**