



Autumn Term Newsletter 2019

As another year draws to a close, here's a quick overview of what's gone on over the term, and once again, the biggest challenge has been choosing the highlights!

What now seems like a distant memory, is our visit at the end of June from Estyn, the Welsh Government school inspectors. While we as a staff were aware of the outcome at the end of the three-day inspection, we had to wait until the report was published at the end of August to share the good news.

They rated wellbeing and attitudes to learning at the school as excellent and said it is good in all other inspection areas, and we were delighted that Swansea Council and the South Wales Evening Post were keen to share the good news.



The report stated that the school plans the curriculum effectively and teachers develop pupils' skills successfully through a wide range of interesting activities stating that the school had responded well to the challenges of developing a new curriculum for schools in Wales. We are also delighted that our provision for outdoor learning was recognised as effective practice and now appears as a case study on the Estyn website:

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/taking-teaching-outdoors>



The use of outdoor learning to enhance pupils' attitudes to learning and improve their wellbeing is excellent and this ensures that pupils are developing into confident learners."

We were also pleased that the report outlines that the governing body makes an effective contribution to the school's development and partnership working is a strong feature at Crwys Primary, stating that the school was at the 'heart of the community', and that a strong and successful relationship existed between home and school.

Pupils, staff and the school's wider community can feel very proud of this report and I would like to thank them all for their continued support. I would also like to thank everyone who has forwarded their congratulations. These have included Director of Education, Nick Williams, local Assembly Member Rebecca Evans, Member of Parliament for the Gower Tonia Antoniazzi and Swansea Council's Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills, Jennifer Raynor.





Erasmus

As part of our Erasmus project this term, we have focussed on the topic 'Collecting natural resources', and shared our activities with our partner schools. During our woodland sessions, pupils have investigated different ways natural materials could be used, and all classes discovering different ways to do so! This topic certainly allowed for imagination, creativity and problem-solving skills.

In November, Mr Short and Mrs Howells visited our Erasmus partners in Sicily, Italy, to develop their knowledge of their country and culture, and to share best practice in how outdoor learning was being used within a different environment. They enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to gain an insight into a different educational system, whilst also appreciating how they approach teaching and learning within outdoor education. It was very evident how proud their hosts were of their rich culture and beautiful surroundings, and how they wanted to share the history of Sicily with them.



A video showcasing the visit can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL6ED2FTJQW0MY9W8B5NVFCWVQ1RJ6BSW&v=7EMB7AHREOY&app=desktop>

Educational Visits/Additional Learning Experiences



Once again pupils from Nursery to Year 6 have enjoyed a huge variety of experiences both in and out of the classroom this term, and I'm proud to say that seat bound learning is not the norm at Crwys! In addition to the regular visits to the woods, pupils have enjoyed the annual residential visit to Borfa House as well as visits to museums, theatres and farms. These are in addition to the variety of visitors we welcome to the school, all of which give real context to learning and we firmly believe that all of these additional experiences further enhance

pupil learning and contribute to the high academic standards we enjoy at Crwys. Many, if not most of these opportunities are only made possible because of your support. Can I therefore thank you on behalf of the staff. Without this support, they would not be able to plan such interesting and exciting activities.





Goodman Primary School



You will I'm sure recall that, last year, we decided to support a primary school in Gambia called The Goodman Primary School. The school was sharing one toilet and hand basin between all staff and 170 pupils! I am proud and delighted to report that the monies our pupils raised was put to immediate and effective use and a new toilet block is now almost complete. Craig and Isabel recently returned from Gambia with a number of thank you letters from pupils, who have affectionately named the new facility 'Tŷ Bach Crwys', and were keen for me to pass on a huge Abarake Bakke to all

who supported the cause! For a thank message and tour of the new block please follow the links: <https://twitter.com/SchoolGoodman/status/1205559121472307200>
<https://twitter.com/SchoolGoodman/status/1204029511395926017>

Healthy Schools/ Eco Schools

The autumn term was another successful one for pupil voice at the school with another two awards coming our way. Following Eco Club's successful campaign to become a SAS Plastic Free School, the renewal of our Platinum Eco School was but a formality, while our 5th Healthy Schools Leaf was presented to School Council members following an assessment earlier in the term. My thanks to the pupils and Mrs Crombie-Davies and Mrs Harris.



Childsplay Swansea

While the school's afterschool club goes from strength to strength, I pleased to announce that Childsplay Swansea are very close to opening a private nursery at the school. The nursery will be opening from 11:30am onwards and will be based in the school's nursery classroom. This will ensure that full wrap around facilities will be available to all our pupils. For more details, please contact the school office or contact Childsplay directly; childsplayswansea@outlook.com, 07759045136.





Christmas Concerts

December saw pupils returning to the Vestry at Capel y Crwys for five excellent and well-attended concerts. The Foundation Phase performed their show 'Lights, Camel, Action; The Sequin' twice, while the Juniors' production; 'Alice the Musical' was performed three times due to the sheer demand for tickets! Not to be outdone, Nursery pupils' performance The Christmas Star held in a packed School Hall (I'm sure we broke some health and safety rules that day!) Once again, I was left in awe of the talent we have at the school! Sincere thanks to the pupils and staff for their hard work and thanks to you as parents for the effort you put into the costumes. Thanks also to Mr Leighton Evans and the Officials of the Chapel for their continued support.



PTA

Our thanks, once again, goes to the PTA, who continue to work tirelessly to raise money for the school. Monies raised have been put to good use to fund an online maths tool and the development of our outdoor areas has been thanks in no small measure to PTA support. Please keep an eye out for a PTA meeting early in the New Year, as planning for the summer fete will begin, all are welcome. Our sincere thanks!

All that remains, is for me, on behalf of the staff and pupils of Crwys Primary, is to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and to thank you for your continued support. Nadolig Llawen!

Important Notice

The spring term will begin on Monday January 6th 2020.

School will be closed to pupils on March 9th 2020 and Friday April 3rd 2020 due to staff training,

