



YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG BRYN-Y-MÔR

Pennaeth/ Headteacher: Mrs Elin Wakeham

Mewn undod mae nerth /Stronger together

Dear Parents / Carers



Nadolig Llawen! It has been wonderful to be part of the Christmas services this year. Seeing the children perform and take part, following 2 years of disruption has, I am sure, ignited the spirit of Christmas for many of us. I would like to thank all staff and pupils in their hard work preparing for these services and for all their hard work throughout the term. It's been busy! Keep an eye on your child's class or twitter page to see what's been going on. <https://twitter.com/YGGBrynymor1>

Staffing

At the end of this term **Mr Aled Morgan** will be leaving us. Mr Morgan has been part of the school fabric since 1998! He has supported countless sports team and has been an integral part of the school's sporting community. Not only this, all pupils that have been taught by him, have enjoyed his guitar playing skills. Mr Morgan will be greatly missed by us all as he starts his new endeavour of working part time with his family's business. However, I know that Mr Morgan plans to remain part time in the teaching profession and that we may yet see him again. We would like to wish him all the very best and a HUGE thank you for all the years of service he has given to the pupils of this school. Diolch yn fawr!

Joining the team – Mr Shaun Leyshon will take over the teaching of year 3 and Mrs Lowri Caswell has already taken over Miss John's maternity cover to teach year 5&6 Dosbarth y Crychdydd. Miss Sophie John has started her maternity. We wish her well! Miss Alanna Solomon has joined Dosbarth y Morlo Bl 1 a 2 as a TA.

PTA and parent support

A huge thank you to Louise Davies and the PTA team for arranging a wonderful Christmas fair this year. The fair raised almost £3000 for the school! A thank you to all who came to support our school. A big thank you to Kate Humphreys who donated a large amount of soil and bulbs to the school and worked with the ECO pupils on the planters at the front of the school. I am sure that they will look lovely when spring arrives.

I would also like to **thank** all the parents that have supported the school trips this term. Without your volunteer work we would struggle to offer these experiences to our pupils.

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bryn y Môr, St Albans Road, Brynmill, Swansea, SA2 0BP

E-bost/ E-mail: yggbrynymor@swansea-edunet.gov.uk

Gwefan/ Website: www.yggbrynymor.co.uk

Trydar/Twitter: @YGGBrynymor1

Ffôn/ Tel: 01792 466354





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School dates for the New Year 2023:

- **School will reopen for all pupils on Monday January 9th**
- Inset – Friday 23.12.22
- Inset – Friday 17.02.23
- Half term – 20th-24th February 2023
- End of term – 31.3.2023

Attendance

Our school target for this year is **95%**. Our current whole school attendance is **92.7%**. It is vitally important that you ensure that your child is in school regularly and that your child is given the best opportunity to succeed. **Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time.** Your child will receive an attendance report to bring home today.

You said – We did

In my last letter I said that I would report on comments/suggestions made by parents during the last parent questionnaire and our response to those comments. Here are some common themes that were raised:

Parent Suggestion/Comment:	Response from school:
Communication about school events.	This term we have re-introduce the fortnightly timetable of events – this is sent out via parent mail. The school calendar and website is also frequently populated. Access to all school letters are also available on the school website. https://www.yggbrynymor.co.uk/
Concerns about too much praying.	Current law requires all state-funded schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to hold daily acts of 'Collective Worship'. This can be in class, department or whole school worship. In England and Wales in schools with no formal religious character this worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. In Bryn y Môr, we respect that there are a range of beliefs in our school community and during times to pray – we invite children to join in, should they wish to, with prayer.

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To continue with forest school.	We have been able to continue with forest schools for pupils in years 1 and 2 and expanded the offer to support other pupils with their wellbeing across the school.
More integration between home/parents and school	Parents have been supporting school with gardening projects and parents coming in to read with pupils since September. We have had one coffee morning and more are planned for the new year. Also, in the new year, parenting workshops will be offered.
Please concentrate on maths, reading and writing in both Welsh and English, and please make use of the nearby outdoor spaces, parks and beaches, because the BYM yard is quite terrible, lacking in space and green spaces.	A broad and balanced curriculum is planned in school with a strong focus on Literacy and Numeracy. We use drilio disglair, tric a chlic, rapid phonics as strategies for improving Welsh/English language acquisition, shared and guided reading and 'big write' as strategies that embed core/key learning across the school. Similarly, staff are developing their understanding and implementation of the new maths and numeracy curriculum and providing opportunities to use 'real' maths in various situations such as the recent entrepreneurial experience offer in Adran yr Afon this term. Staff continue to make good use of the local area. The Chair of Governors and the head teacher recently met with representatives of Swansea council to discuss and highlight the challenges and quality of the school site and to discuss future possibilities for the school. If there are any outcomes, we will share them with you as soon as possible.
Concerns about the quality of the food provided at lunch time.	All comments with regards to processed food have been shared and passed on to the catering department - Swansea Council.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

E. Wakeham

Elin Wakeham

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