



Newsletter

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Christmas month Ho ho ho !!!
 3/12/21



Apparently, not everyone was aware that we made plans for a concert this year. Please see below the message that was in the newsletter on Nov 12th.

Christmas Concert

Are we doing a concert this year?

We are, but sadly we cannot yet have an audience.

What are we doing?

The early years unit are performing a nativity.

The main school are performing a play called "Straw and Order".

Will we be recording the performances?

Yes, and we will send the video out to all parents via the children's hwb accounts. The recording must not be made public and it must not be posted onto social media.

Will the children need costumes?

Yes. The class teachers will let you know. They will provide ideas for you so you do not need to spend any money if you don't want to.

I am sorry if we have put any stress onto you for costumes. This was not our intention. We are encouraging everyone to go back to basics with costumes and use what we already have. Shop costumes are too expensive! I hear you ask.....why is it only now we are letting parents know about costumes they need? Here's why....

Firstly, we have been massively affected with staff illness and isolation. Keeping classes open has been a battle as there is a shortage of supply teachers. Staff have covered staff. At one point we did not have a cleaner so staff were cleaning at the end of the day too! It has been ridiculous!

Then ... the message about the concert went out on Nov 12th. Nov 16th, we took a call from the Estyn inspection team to inform us that they were paying us a visit on Dec 1st. For those of you who know what this means it creates a lot of pressure on staff. We decided not to cancel the plans for the concert as the children have already missed so much due to covid we knew they would be looking forward to this. There is more information below on how this visit went.

Hopefully this helps and we thank you for your understanding. We are now in a position where we can help as much as we can. If you need help, we have plenty of it here. We have access to costumes and lots of creative minds and skills. Please do not stress. Just let us know you need help and we can sort it.

Estyn visit to school

The visit was to take a look at what steps we are taking for the new curriculum and ALN reform. What have we done? How are we progressing? What is the school plan and do we need any help?

After a detailed inspection tour of the school the headteacher and staff were interviewed, and then pupils were chosen to show their work and talk about school life at Eastern.

We are delighted to tell you that the visit was very positive and the inspector informed us that we have a very clear vision for the school and there is evidence that everything needed is in place. We are making expected progress and they can see that we have a structured plan for moving forward.

We are super duper pleased to tell you that Estyn have asked if they can name the school in a report that identifies good practice from all their visits through Wales. Our answer obviously was YES!

Eastern team does it again! Tremendous! Well done all.



Christmas Jumper - reminder - this was sent out previously.

This year, we are asking everyone to make their own Christmas jumper, including the staff! Talk to your children about it and search ideas on the internet with them. Help them with any sewing, gluing, pinning, painting etc and allow them do this themselves. Have fun with it. It will create smiles and laughter. It helps them learn skills. It is quality time with your children. Best of all it saves you money!

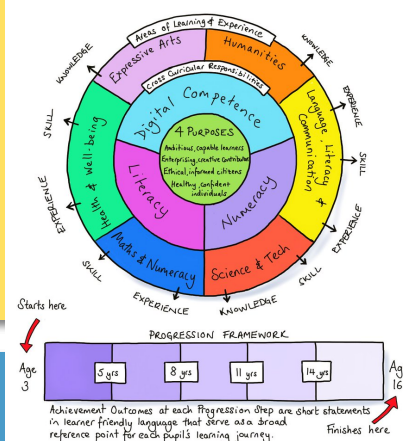
A New Curriculum

There is a new curriculum for Wales from September 2022. Schools have an opportunity to shape this curriculum in a way that best suits their school. Over the next two terms we will let you know how the plans are progressing for Eastern, and we will welcome your thoughts, questions and comments along the way. If you would like to know more about the changes ahead for schools you can find lots of information here - <https://gov.wales/education-changing>

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Curriculum for Wales

A transformational curriculum for children in Wales



ALN Reform

ALN = Additional Learning Needs. Used to be known as SEN = Special Educational Needs.

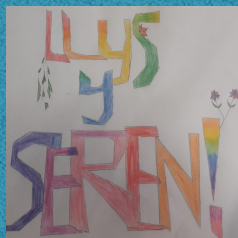
This too is changing! To make this easier for you ... if your child has been identified by school as having additional needs in the past, we will contact you to let you know what happens next for your child. Want to know more now?

Here is the information.... <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/>

[2018-06/aln-factsheet-how-will-the-act-affect-children-young-people-and-parents-carers.pdf](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-06/aln-factsheet-how-will-the-act-affect-children-young-people-and-parents-carers.pdf)

Home / school communication

During lockdown, we set up good communication systems. We have landline calls, mobile calls, whole school texting service, personal 1 to 1 mobile texts, email, website, and Facebook. Please note, we do not use Facebook Messenger due to social media policies that staff have to adhere to. Please do not be offended if messages to staff Messenger accounts are not opened or if a 'friend request' is not accepted. Staff Facebook accounts are secured for their personal protection outside their work space.



The kindness and support you have offered to the residents of Llys y Seren is heart warming. Thank you so much, I am sure the gifts will make their Christmas!

Sign designed by our very own in house artist - Kiah Harding

Inset day

First day back after Christmas we have a staff training day. Children come back to school the next day - the 5th.

Christmas trips / events

The last two days, staff have been busy getting back on track with the plans for the Christmas events. We have had lots of questions:

- what is each class doing?

We have trips out, parties and local visits depending on the class age and the group.

- when is the concert video coming out?

When we video it. Each bubble will be filmed separately, then by magic, someone puts all the clips together to make the show run from start to finish. It will be sent out before we finish the term.

- do we have to make the Christmas jumper? We would like the children to make them with you. A little healthy competition.



Kitty's work

Wow! Super duper art work Kitty! Just look at the shades of colour. That should be hanging in an art gallery!!

Diary Dates

9/12/21	Flu Nasal Spray reception to yr 6 (parental consent only)
9/12/21	Year 6 parents - open evening at Ysgol Cwm Brombil.
14/12/21	
16/12/21	Christmas lunch for the children. Christmas jumpers and hats at the ready please!
19/1/21	Children In Need Day
17/12/21	Last day of term.
5/1/21	Children back to school
21/2/21	Half term - holiday week

School Term Dates

Here is the link

<https://www.npt.gov.uk/18512>

School Photographs

These should be with us after half term. We requested the proofs to make sure the ordering is accurate. Staff like to see the photographs too so we are looking forward to seeing them all.