Ysgol Gwaun Cae Gurwen

Ymlaen law yn llaw

Croeso i Ysgol Gwaun Cae Gurwen

Rhagair: Meddai Rhys Griffiths, Pennaeth:

Mae'n bleser gennyf eich cyflwyno i'n hysgol. Rydym yn ymfalchïo mewn bod yn ysgol groesawgar, ofalgar a chyfeillgar, gan feithrin amgylchedd lle mae pob myfyriwr yn teimlo ei fod yn cael ei werthfawrogi a'i gefnogi, a lle mae'r pwyslais ar ganmoliaeth i ysgogi dysgu.

Cymuned glos

Mae cymuned fywiog 'Y Waun' yn ganolog i bopeth a wnawn, gan annog ymdeimlad o berthyn sy'n rhoi pwrpas a chysylltiad unigryw i'n disgyblion â'r ardal leol. Credwn fod meithrin y cysylltiad hwn â lleoliad ein hysgol yn cyfoethogi profiadau addysgol a thwf personol y dysgwyr i gyd.

Partneriaeth gyda rhieni

Mae partneriaeth gref gyda theuluoedd yn hanfodol, gan ein bod yn credu bod cynnwys teuluoedd yn chwarae rhan hanfodol yn llwyddiant a lles ein disgyblion. Gyda'n gilydd, rydym yn creu amgylchedd anogol a chynhwysol lle gall plant ffynnu a chyflawni eu llawn botensial.

Hyrwyddo'r cysylltiad rhwng rhieni a'r ysgol

Fel y gwelwch, wrth ddarllen y straeon rhieni a disgyblion o fewn y prosbectws hwn, rydych chi a'ch plentyn yn bwysig iawn i ni. Rydym yn hyrwyddo'r cysylltiad rhwng yr ysgol a'r rhiant ac yn gweithio'n galed iawn i'ch cynnwys chi ym mhob cam o amser eich plentyn yma...a chynyddu mwynhad eich plentyn o ddysgu.

Profiadau a chyfleoedd

Rydym yn cynnig ystod o brofiadau cyfoethog trwy gwricwlwm difyr sy'n canolbwyntio ar yr ardal leol, Cymru, a'r byd ehangach. Mae ein cwricwlwm yn integreiddio cyd-destunau'r gorffennol, y presennol a'r dyfodol, gan sicrhau addysg gyflawn.

Sgiliau eang ac amrywiol

Rydym yn darparu cyfleoedd i blant ddysgu sgiliau eang ac amrywiol, gan eu hannog i gymhwyso'r sgiliau hyn yn annibynnol ar draws gwahanol bynciau.

Cysylltwch

Byddem wrth ein bodd pe baech yn dod i weld drosoch eich hunain pa awyrgylch arbennig sydd yma. Ffoniwch ni ar 01269 822238 neu swyddfa@ysgolgcg.npt.school i drefnu ymweliad.

Sheree and Ceri Lewis's daughter Alys has a special bond with her teachers at YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen

Sheree Lewis-Jones and Ceri Jones have Alys in Year 6 age 11.

Dechrau ysgol

Gall dechrau yn yr ysgol fod yn gyfnod anodd ac er bod Alys yn gyfarwydd ag YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen ar ol mynychu'r meithrin; pan ddaeth hi'n amser dechrau yn y derbyn, fe gymerodd hi dipyn o amser iddi ymgartrefu. "Cymerodd bron i bythefnos iddi setlo yn y derbyn er ei hamser yn y dosbarth meithrin. Unwaith iddi setlo, dyw hi byth wedi edrych yn ôl, mae hi wrth ei bodd yn yr ysgol. Mae hi wrth ei bodd â Saesneg, Cerddoriaeth a Hanes; mae hi'n hoffi gwneud ychydig o bopeth," meddai Sheree.

Paratoi i symud ymlaen

Mae Alys a'i rhieni yn paratoi ar gyfer y symud i'r ysgol uwchradd a bu llawer o drafodaethau ynglŷn â pha ysgol y bydd Alys yn ei mynychu. "Mae Alys yn gyffrous ac yn nerfus am fynd i'r ysgol uwchradd. Bu peth trafod am fynd i ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg ond gan ei bod wedi cael ei haddysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg erioed; mae'n gwneud synnwyr iddi barhau â'i haddysg mewn awyrgylch Cymraeg ei hiaith," meddai Sheree.

Athrawon ysbrydoledig

"Mae'r athrawon i gyd wedi cael dylanwad enfawr ar Alys. Mae ganddynt berthynas wych gyda'r plant. Mae ganddynt nhw rywbeth ychydig yn ychwanegol ac maen nhw'n cyfathrebu â phob plentyn fel unigolyn. Maen nhw'n lefelu gyda'r plant, maen nhw'n gyfeillgar ac yn hawdd mynd atynt ond hefyd yn gosod ffiniau clir i'r plant," meddai Sheree.

Gwobrau am siarad Cymraeg

Mae annog y plant i siarad Cymraeg â'i gilydd yn rhan o ddiwylliant YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen. Mae pwyslais ar gydnabod ymdrech plant i ddefnyddio'r iaith ac o ganlyniad, ceir awyrgylch gadarnhaol i ddatblygu eu Cymraeg. "Mae'r ysgol yn rhoi tystysgrifau wythnosol i'r plant sydd wedi ceisio siarad Cymraeg ac mae disgyblion yn casglu tocynnau dyddiol am siarad Cymraeg. Mae parti piysa ar ddiwedd pob tymor i'r plant hynny sydd wedi casglu'r nifer fwyaf o docynnau," meddai Sheree.

Cysylltiadau gyda'r gymuned leol

Mae YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen yn mynd ati i chwilio am gyfleoedd i'r plant feithrin cysylltiadau â'r gymuned leol. "Mae'r ysgol yn wych am integreiddio gyda'r gymuned. Mae ci therapi yn dod i helpu'r plant sydd yn isel mewn hyder; mae'r plant yn cael darllen i'r ci mewn amgylchedd diogel ac anfeirniadol. Mae ganddynt hefyd gysylltiadau cryf â'r llyfrgell leol ac yn trefnu ymweliadau rheolaidd. Mae côr a band yr ysgol yn ymweld â chartrefi nyrsio a gofal yr ardal ac yn perfformio ar gyfer y trigolion. Defnyddiodd yr ysgol y capel lleol yn ddiweddar i gynnal priodas er mwyn iddynt ddeall beth sy'n digwydd mewn priodas," meddai Sheree.

Dysgu tu allan

"Mae'n adeilad traddodiadol gyda llawer iawn o le. Mae ganddyn nhw ystafell ddosbarth awyr agored sy'n hyfryd ac maen nhw'n gwneud ysgol goedwig o'r meithrin hyd at flwyddyn 6. Mae wal ddringo a maes chwarae antur ar yr iard er mwyn cefnogi datblygiad corfforol y plant sy'n wych, "

Adeiladu hyder ac annibyniaeth

Mae gan Alys anghenion iechyd ychwanegol ac mae YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen wedi ei chefnogi i'w rheoli trwy gydol ei thaith ysgol. Mae Alys wedi bod yn paratoi ar gyfer y cyfnod pontio i'r ysgol gyfun, gan fagu hyder yn ei hannibyniaeth ac addasu i'w hamgylchedd ysgol newydd. Mae gan yr ysgol drefniadau pontio arbennig sydd wedi gwneud y broses hon yn llyfn ac yn galonogol. "Mae hi'n mynd i weld eisiau'r ysgol yn fawr ac mae hi eisoes wedi gofyn a all hi barhau i helpu gyda digwyddiadau'r ysgol y flwyddyn nesaf! Mae'n dweud cymaint am yr ysgol fod cymaint am ddychwelyd ar ôl gadael; maen nhw i gyd yn cael eu croesawu yn ôl gyda breichiau agored ac roedd yn wych gweld cymaint o gyn-ddisgyblion yn ymweld â'r Ffair Haf eleni a hyd yn oed helpu ar y stondinau!" meddai Sheree.

Lle i bob plentyn

"Mae wedi bod yn brofiad mor gadarnhaol i ni. Mae'r ysgol yn meithrin perthnasoedd da iawn ac yn ymgysylltu â theuluoedd trwy gyfathrebu effeithiol a pholisi drws agored. Maent yn darparu ar gyfer plant â phob angen, boed yn gorfforol, ymddygiadol neu emosiynol. Mae lle i bob plentyn yn yr ysgol," meddai Sheree.

Mae plant yn dweud:

Meddai Alys: "Byddaf yn gweld eisiau pawb, yn enwedig y plant bach."

Ymgartrefu a'n cwricwlwm ysgol

Ein horiau ysgol

- Mae'r diwrnod ysgol yn rhedeg o 8.50am tan 3.20pm.
- Bydd plant meithrin yn dechrau am 8.50 yb ac yn gorffen am 11.20 y bore.

Clwb brecwast

Cynhelir clwb brecwast yn yr ysgol i bob disgybl yn rhad ac am ddim o 8.10yb.

Gwisg

Disgwylir y bydd pob plentyn yn gwisgo'r wisg ysgol, sef siwmper / hwdi porffor , crys-t gwyn a throwsus llwyd / du. Bydd staff yr ysgol yn annog y plant i wisgo'r wisg swyddogol i ddangos eu bod yn falch o fod yn aelod o'r ysgol. Sylweddolwn hefyd fod cost cael logo'r ysgol yn gallu bod yn ddrud ac nid oes disgwyl i ddisgyblion wisgo dillad wedi eu brodio.

Prydau ysgol [prif bennawd yr erthygl]

Rydym yn annog disgyblion i fwyta ein ciniawau maethlon, rhagorol sy'n cael eu paratoi, eu coginio a'u gweini ar y safle gan ein staff arlwyo. Mae'r holl blant, gan gynnwys y rhai sy'n dod â phecyn bwyd, yn eistedd gyda'i gilydd yn y neuadd. Mae pob plentyn yn derbyn cinio ysgol am ddim

Ein cwricwlwm ysgol: ystyrlon, diddorol a pherthnasol

Yn ganolog i ethos yr ysgol mae'r gred bod plant yn ymateb gyda mwy o frwdfrydedd ac ymrwymiad i'r broses ddysgu pan gânt brofiadau sy'n ystyrlon, yn ddiddorol ac yn berthnasol i'r bywydau y maent yn eu byw.

Cwricwlwm i Gymru

Mae ein cwricwlwm yn sicrhau bod ein disgyblion yn datblygu sgiliau a phriodoleddau'r pedwar diben... i ddod yn:

1. Dysgwyr Uchelgeisiol, Galluog.
2. Cyfranwyr Mentrus, Creadigol.
3. Dinasyddion Egwyddorol, Gwybodus.
4. Unigolion Iach a Hyderus.

Anogwn ddatblygiad a phwysigrwydd y pedwar pwrpas trwy ddefnyddio ein pedwar cymeriad– Dyfan Dyfalbarhau, Mari Mentrus, Elin Eco a Hari Hyderus.

Dyfalbarhau = perseverance

Mentrus = adventurous

Eco = Eco!

Hyderus = confident

Yr Iaith Gymraeg

Cymraeg yw iaith swyddogol cyfathrebu'r ysgol, ond mae'r holl gyfathrebu rhwng yr ysgol a'r cartref yn ddwyieithog. Mae'r staff meithrin a derbyn i gyd yn arbenigwyr mewn trochi iaith a gwna'r holl ddisgyblion gynnydd rhagorol yn eu caffaeliad o'r iaith trwy gydol cyfnod cynnar eu haddysg. Mae rhieni a gwarcheidwaid sy'n siarad Saesneg yn cael eu cefnogi'n llawn i'w galluogi i ddysgu'r iaith ac i ddefnyddio'r iaith gartref; mae parodrwydd y cartref i fabwysiadu'r iaith a dysgu ochr yn ochr â'r disgybl yn cael effaith sylweddol ar gyflymder caffael iaith. Mae'r ysgol yn rhannu adnoddau wrth ddechrau yn yr ysgol i'w defnyddio gartref a gall gyfeirio teuluoedd at gyrsiau Cymraeg a rhwydweithiau cymorth e.e. y Caffi Cymraeg yn y llyfrgell leol. Mae disgyblion sy'n ymuno â'r ysgol o ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg yn cael cymorth ychwanegol i ddysgu'r iaith a bydd disgyblion sy'n ymuno ym mlwyddyn 3 neu'n hwyrach yn dilyn cwrs trochi dwys mewn ysgol gyfagos yn ystod eu tymor cyntaf

YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen oedd y dewis cyntaf i Sarah o ran dod o hyd i ysgol i'w merched mabwysiedig

Merched Sarah yw P sydd yn 8 mlwydd oed ym Mlwyddyn 3 ac A sydd yn 6 oed ym Mlwyddyn 2

Y camau cyntaf

Dod o hyd i rywle a fyddai'n addas ar gyfer ei merched oedd prif flaenoriaeth Sarah pan ddechreuodd ymchwilio i leoliad ysgol ac roedd YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen yn bodloni pob disgwyliad o'r diwrnod cyntaf. "Pan ddechreuon ni'r broses fabwysiadu, fe ddechreuon ni edrych ar ysgolion ac yn arbennig pa ysgolion fyddai'n gweddu orau i'n cefnogi ni yn ein sefyllfa. Fe'n sicrhawyd o glywed bod yr ysgol wedi cefnogi plant eraill a oedd wedi bod drwy'r system ofal a bod yr holl athrawon wedi'u hyfforddi yn y dull rhianta therapiwtig, gyda beth oedd wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth i ni wrth benderfynu ar ba ysgol i ddewis. Ein blaenoriaeth wrth chwilio am ysgol oedd y byddai'r merched yn cael y cymorth yr oedd ei angen arnynt ac maent wedi cael hynny ers y cychwyn cyntaf," meddai Sarah.

Integreiddio ysgol i fywyd bob dydd

"Yn anffodus, roedd rhaid aros ychydig cyn i'r merched ddod atom ac oherwydd yr oedi roedden nhw wedi cael eu tynnu allan o addysg. Roedd yn rhaid i mi gyflwyno achos i banel er mwyn i'r merched allu dechrau'r ysgol yn gynt na'r hyn a argymhellir. Daeth y merched i ni yn y Gwanwyn ond cawsom wybod bod angen aros tan y mis Medi cyn iddyn nhw ddechrau ysgol. Erbyn iddyn nhw fod gyda ni am 11 wythnos roeddwn i'n gwybod eu bod nhw'n fwy na pharod ar gyfer yr ysgol, roedd angen y drefn arnyn nhw ac roedd angen i ni, fel teulu, ddod â mynd i'r ysgol yn ein bywydau, roedden ni i gyd eisiau'r normalrwydd a'r sefydlogrwydd hwnn ac roedd y merched eisiau gwneud ffrindiau. Roedd yr ysgol yn wych yn fy nghefnogi i gyflwyno'r achos ac rwy'n falch o ddweud ein bod wedi ennill a bod y merched wedi dechrau'r ysgol yr haf hwnnw a dydyn ni erioed wedi edrych yn ôl," meddai Sarah.

Ymgartrefu

Doedd Sarah ddim yn siŵr beth i'w ddisgwyl pan ddechreuodd y merched yn yr ysgol ac wrth i bryderon amrywiol ddod i'r amlwg bu tîm YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen yn gweithio gyda Sarah a nawr mae'r merched ar y trywydd iawn. "Rwyf wedi cael llawer o brofiadau cadarnhaol yn yr ysgol. O'r cychwyn cyntaf maen nhw wedi bod mor gefnogol. Mae'r merched datblygu cymaint. Pan oedd P ym Mlwyddyn 1, dywedodd ei hathrawes nad oedd ei dealltwriaeth y lle yr hoffent iddo fod ac roedd gennyf bryderon y gallai fod ganddi Dyspracsia gan ei bod yn taro i mewn i bethau. Cefais gymorth gan y tîm meddygol drwy'r gwasanaeth mabwysiadu a dywedasant nad oedd gan P gyflwr meddygol, ond ei bod yn ymateb i'r trawma mae wedi gwynebu. Trafodais hyn gyda'r ysgol a chytunwyd y byddai cymorth ychwanegol dros yr haf a pharhaodd cymorth ychwanegol ar ôl iddi ddychwelyd i'r dosbarth ym mis Medi. Rydyn ni nawr wedi cyrraedd y pwynt lle rydyn ni'n siarad am atal y cymorth ychwanegol gan ei bod hi wedi dod ymlaen gymaint," meddai Sarah.

Darganfod gweithgareddau a chael hwyl

"Mae'r merched yn mwynhau'r ysgol ac maen nhw wrth eu bodd â'r wisg porffor! Maen nhw'n mwynhau mynd I'r clwb brecwast ac mae cael yr opsiwn yma fel rhiant sy'n gweithio yn help enfawr. Mae'r ysgol yn cynnal clwb ar ôl ysgol ar ddydd Mawrth lle maen nhw wedi darganfod cariad at griced ac mae P wedi bod ar drip preswyl. Mae hyder y merched yn tyfu ac maen nhw newydd ddechrau yn y Brownies," meddai Sarah.

Byw yn ôl gwerthoedd yr ysgol

Mae Sarah yn gyffrous am yr hyn sydd gan y dyfodol i'w merched ac mae hi'n dwli cylwed am brofiadau'r merched yn ysgol. "Rydyn ni'n siarad am werthoedd yr ysgol, am garedigrwydd a pharch ac rydyn ni'n siarad am beidio â rhoi'r gorau iddi. Dwi mor falch o'r merched. Mae'r ysgol yn teimlo fel cartref oddi cartref ac maen nhw'n adeiladu eu sgiliau bywyd a sgwrsio yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg sy'n anhygoel. Maen nhw'n canu yn Gymraeg drwy'r amser gartref, mae'n gymaint o hwyl!" meddai Sarah.

Mae plant yn dweud:

Dywed P: "Rwy'n caru fy ffrindiau i gyd."

Dywed A: "Rwy'n hoffi fy athrawon a fy ngwisg porffor."

Cwricwlwm cyfoethog: gweithgareddau, teithiau, ymwelwyr ac addysg gorfforol

Gweithgareddau allgyrsiol

Rydym am sicrhau bod pob disgybl yn cael y cyfle i ddatblygu eu diddordebau ac rydym yn falch o gynnig rhywbeth i bawb. Darperir ystod o weithgareddau allgyrsiol yn yr ysgol.

Mae gennym draddodiad chwaraeon cryf ac yn aml yn cystadlu mewn cystadlaethau rygbi, pêl-droed, pêl-rwyd, athletau a chriced.

Mae ein clybiau chwaraeon ar ôl ysgol yn darparu ar gyfer pob gallu ac yn cael eu rhedeg gan yr Urdd y mae gennym bartneriaeth hirhoedlog gyda nhw.

Mae gennym hefyd 'Clwb Perfformio' lle gall disgyblion ddysgu canu a datblygu eu sgiliau actio mewn amgylchedd cyfeillgar a chefnogol.

Yn ogystal â hyn, mae gennym 'Clwb y Waun' sydd ag amrywiaeth o weithgareddau ar gael yn amrywio o gelf a chrefft, codio i goginio.

Cynhelir clwb côr yr ysgol yn ystod amser cinio ac maent yn cystadlu mewn Eisteddfodau lleol ac yn perfformio'n aml mewn digwyddiadau cymunedol.

Gwersi Offeryn

Mae gwasanaeth cerdd Castell-nedd Port Talbot yn cynnig hyfforddiant o ansawdd uchel ac fel ysgol; rydym yn falch o ddweud ein bod yn manteisio'n llawn ar eu harbenigedd ac yn cynnig gwersi pres, llinynnol a drymiau.

Mae pob gwers yn boblogaidd iawn ac oherwydd nifer y disgyblion sy'n chwarae, gallwn frolio am fand pres sy'n cystadlu mewn cystadlaethau lleol ac yn chwarae mewn digwyddiadau cymunedol.

Ymweliadau ac ymwelwyr

Mae dysgu yn fwy na'r hyn sy'n mynd ymlaen yn y dosbarth ac rydym fel ysgol yn rhoi pwyslais mawr ar drefnu ymweliadau â mannau o ddiddordeb i gyfoethogi dysgu'r plant, ac rydym hefyd yn trefnu i ymwelwyr ddod i siarad am eu harbenigedd a'u profiadau.

Mae teithiau diweddar wedi cynnwys:

- Amgueddfa Caerdydd.
- Amgueddfa Sain Ffagan.
- Techniquest.
- Stadiwm Swansea.com.
- Mynd i weld perfformiadau e.e.Theatre Na N'Og.

Mae ymwelwyr diweddar yn cynnwys:

- Cwmni 'Practical Science TTS'.
- Athletwyr Olympaidd.
- Merched yn Chwaraewyr Rygbi Rhyngwladol.
- Burns By Your Side (cynllun lle mae disgyblion yn darllen i gi i gynyddu hyder).
- CAMHS / Dechrau'n Deg / Plant Dewi - pob sefydliad sy'n cefnogi teuluoedd (mae'r rhain yn foreau coffi, gweithdai ac ati).

Teithiau preswyl

Mae disgyblion o flwyddyn 3 ymlaen yn cael cynnig y cyfle i fynychu cyrsiau preswyl ym Margam, Gwersyll yr Urdd Llangrannog, Call of the Wild, Manor Adventure a Chanolfan Gweithgareddau'r Urdd Glan Llyn.

Welcome to Ysgol Gwaun Cae Gurwen

Foreword: Rhys Griffiths, Headteacher, says:

I am delighted to introduce you to our school. We pride ourselves on being a welcoming, caring and friendly school, fostering an environment where every student feels valued and supported, and where the emphasis is on praise to stimulate learning.

Close community

The vibrant community of 'The Waun' is central to all we do, encouraging a sense of belonging that gives our pupils purpose and a unique connection to the local area. We believe that instilling this bond with the place where our school is situated enhances their educational experience and personal growth.

Partnership with parents

A strong partnership with families is essential, as we believe that family involvement plays a crucial role in the success and well-being of our students. Together, we create a nurturing and inclusive space where children can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Championing the link between parent and school

As you will see, by reading the parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

Experiences and opportunities

We offer a range of rich experiences through an engaging curriculum focused on the local area, Wales, and the wider world. Our curriculum integrates past, present, and future contexts, ensuring a well-rounded education.

Broad and varied skills

We provide children with opportunities to learn broad and varied skills, encouraging them to apply these skills independently across different subjects.

Get in touch

We would love you to come and see for yourselves what a special atmosphere prevails here. Please ring us on 01269 822238 or swyddfa@ysgolgcg.npt.school to arrange a visit.

Sheree and Ceri Lewis's daughter Alys has a special bond with her teachers at YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen

Sheree Lewis-Jones and Ceri Jones have Alys in Year 6 age 11.

Starting school

Starting school can have its ups and downs and despite Alys being familiar with YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen by attending the nursery provision; when it came to starting Reception, it took a while for her to settle in. "It took almost two weeks for Alys to settle in to the reception class even though she'd been at the nursery. Once she settled, she's never looked back, she loves school. She loves English, Music and History, she's an all-rounder, she likes to do a bit of everything," says Sheree.

Getting ready to move on

Alys and her parents are preparing the transition to comprehensive school and there have been many discussions as to which school Alys will attend. "Alys is excited and nervous about going to comprehensive school. There was some discussion about going to an English medium school but as she has always been educated through the medium of Welsh; it makes sense for her to continue her education in a Welsh speaking environment," says Sheree.

Inspirational teachers

"The teachers have all had a huge influence on Alys. They have a brilliant rapport with the children. They have something a little bit extra and communicate with each child as an individual. They level with the children, they are friendly and approachable but also instil a strong sense of boundaries," says Sheree.

Rewards for speaking Welsh

Encouraging the children to speak Welsh to each other is part of the culture at YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen. There is an emphasis on recognising children's effort to using the language and as a result, there is a positive environment in which to develop their Welsh. "The school give weekly certificates to the children who have tried to speak Welsh and pupils collect daily tokens for speaking Welsh.

There is a pizza party at the end of each term for those children who have collected the most tokens," says Sheree.

Links with the local community

YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen actively seek opportunities for the children to build connections with the local community. "School is great at integrating with the community. They have had a therapy dog come to help those low in confidence; the children get to read to the dog in a safe and non-judgmental environment. They also have strong links with the local library and arrange regular visits. The school choir and band visit nursing and care homes in the area and perform for the residents. School used the local chapel recently to stage a wedding for the children to watch so that they could understand what happens at a Christian wedding," says Sheree.

Learning outside

"It's a traditional building with a huge amount of space and they have an outdoor classroom which is lovely and they do forest school from nursery right through to year 6. There is a climbing wall and an adventure playground on the yard for the children to support the children's physical development which is great, "

Building confidence and independence

Alys has additional health needs and YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen have supported her in managing them throughout her school journey. Alys has been preparing for the transition to comprehensive school, building confidence in her independence and adapting to her new school environment. The school has excellent transition arrangements which have made this process smooth and reassuring. She's going to miss the school immensely and has already asked if she can still help with school events next year! It says so much about the school that so many want to return after leaving; they are all welcomed back with open arms and it was great to see so many ex-pupils visit the Summer Fair this year and even help on the stalls!" says Sheree.

A place for every child

"It has been such a positive experience for us. The school builds really good relationships and engages with families through effective communication and an open-door policy. They cater for children with all needs, whether its physical, behavioural or emotional. There's a place for every child at the school," says Sheree.

Children say:

Alys says: "I'll miss everyone, especially the younger children."

Settling in and our school curriculum

Our school hours

- The school day runs from 8.50am to 3.20pm.
- Nursery children will start at 8.50 am and finish at 11.20am.

Breakfast club

A breakfast club is held at the school for every pupil free of charge from 8.10am.

Uniform

It is expected that each child will wear the school uniform, which is a purple jumper / hoodie , a white t-shirt and grey / black trousers. The school staff will encourage the children to wear the official uniform to show that they are proud to be a member of the school. We also realise that the cost of having the school logo can be expensive and there is no expectation that pupils have to wear embroidered clothes.

School meals

We encourage pupils to eat our excellent, nutritious lunches, which are prepared, cooked and served on the premises by our catering staff. All children, including those who bring packed lunches, sit together in the hall. All children receive free school meals.

Our school curriculum: meaningful, interesting and relevant

Central to the school's ethos is the belief that children respond with greater enthusiasm and commitment to the learning process when they are provided with experiences which are meaningful, interesting and relevant to the lives which they lead.

Curriculum for Wales

Our curriculum ensures that our pupils develop the skills and attributes of the four purposes… to become:

1. Ambitious, Capable Learners.
2. Enterprising, Creative Contributors.
3. Ethical, Informed Citizens.
4. Healthy and Confident Individuals.

We encourage the development and the importance of the four purposes by using our four characters – Dyfan Dyfalbarhau, Mari Mentrus, Elin Eco and Hari Hyderus.

Dyfalbarhau = perseverance

Mentrus = adventurous

Eco = Eco!

Hyderus = confident

The Welsh Language

Welsh is the official language of communication throughout the school, but all communication between the school and home is bilingual. The nursery and reception staff are all experts in language immersion and all pupils make excellent progress in their acquisition of the language throughout the early part of their schooling. English speaking parents and guardians are fully supported to enable them to learn the language and to use the language at home; the readiness of the home to adopt the language and learn along side the pupil has a considerable impact on the speed of language acquisition. The school shares resources upon starting in school to use at home and can sign post families to Welsh courses and support networks e.g. the Caffi Cymraeg (Welsh Café) in the local library. Pupils that join the school from an English medium school are given extra support to learn the language and pupils that join in year 3 or later will access an intensive immersion course in a neighbouring school during their first term

YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen was the first choice for Sarah when it came to finding a school for her adopted girls

Sarah's daughters are P age 8 in Year 5 and A age 6 in Year 3

The first steps

Finding somewhere that would be the right fit for her girls was Sarah's main priority when she began researching a school setting and YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen ticked all the boxes from day one. "When we started the adoption process we began looking at schools and in particular which schools would be best suited with supporting us in our situation.

We were assured to hear that the school had supported other children who had been through the care system and that all the teachers have been trained in the therapeutic parenting approach, that was what swung it for us and that school is within walking distance from home is a bonus. Our priority when looking for a school was that the girls would get the support that they needed and they've had that since the very start," says Sarah.

Integrating school into everyday life

"The girls were initially delayed in coming to us and due to the delay they had been taken out of education. I had to present a case to a panel for the girls to be able to start school earlier than recommended. We had been advised that the girls delay starting school until the September as they had come to us in the Spring. By the time they had been with us for 11 weeks I knew they were more than ready for school, they needed the routine and we, as a family, needed to bring going to school into our lives, we all wanted that normality and stability and the girls wanted to make friends. School were fantastic in supporting me present the case and I'm proud to say that we won and the girls started school that Summer and haven't ever looked back," says Sarah.

Settling in

Sarah wasn't sure what to expect when the girls started school and as various concerns began to come to light the team at YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen worked with Sarah and now the girls are right on track. "I've had many positive experiences with school. From the very start they've been so supportive. The girls have come on in leaps and bounds. When P was in Year 1 it was flagged by her teacher that her understanding wasn't where they'd like it to be and I had concerns that she might have Dyspraxia as she was constantly bumping into things. I sought help from the medical team through the adoption service and they advised that P didn't have a medical condition, she was in trauma mode. I discussed this with school and we agreed that extra help over that first summer would be helpful and additional help continued once she returned to class in the September. We're now at the point where we're talking about P no longer needing the additional help in school as she's come on so much," says Sarah.

Discovering activities and having fun

"The girls enjoy school, they love the uniform being purple. They go to breakfast club which they love and is a massive help being a working parent. They do club after school on a Tuesday where they've discovered a love of cricket and P has been on a residential trip. The girls have just started at Brownies which is a huge confidence boost," says Sarah.

Living by school values

Sarah is excited for what the future holds for her girls and she can't wait to see what they love to learn. "We talk about school values, about kindness and respect and we talk about not giving up. I'm so proud of the girls. School feels like home from home and they're building their life skills and conversing in Welsh and English which is incredible. They sing in Welsh all the time at home, it's so much fun!," says Sarah.

Children say:

P says: "I love all my friends."

A says: "I like my teachers and my purple uniform.".

Enriched curriculum: activities, trips, visitors and P.E.

Extra-curricular activities

A range of extra-curricular activities are provided in the school. We want to ensure that all pupils get the opportunity to develop their interests and we are proud to offer something for everyone.

We have a strong sporting tradition and often compete in rugby, football, netball, athletics and cricket competitions.

Our after school sport clubs cater for all abilities and are often run by the Urdd with which we have a long lasting partnership.

We also have a 'Performance Club' where pupils can learn to sing and develop their acting skills in a friendly and supportive environment.

In addition to this, we have 'Clwb y Waun' which has a range of activities on offer rangin from arts and crafts, coding to cooking.

The school choir club is held during school dinner times and compete in local Eisteddfods and perform often in community events.

Instrument Lessons

Neath Port Talbot music service offers high quality tuition and as a school; we are proud to say that we take full advantage of their expertise and offer brass, string and drum lessons.

All lessons are very popular and due to the number of pupils that play, we can boost a brass band that competes in local competitions and plays in community events.

Visits and visitors

School visits to places of interest enrich the children's learning, and visitors to the school talk about their expertise and experiences. Recent trips have included:

- Cardiff Museum.
- St Fagans Museum.
- Techniquest.
- Swansea.com stadium.
- Theatre Na N'Og.
- TTS Practical Science.
- Olympic Athletes.
- Women International Rugby Players.
- Burns By Your Side (scheme where pupils read to a dog to increase confidence).
- CAMHS / Flying Start / Plant Dewi - all organisations that support families (these are coffee mornings, workshops etc).

Residential trips

Pupils from year 3 onwards are offered the opportunity to attend residential courses at Margam, Urdd Camp at Llangrannog, Urdd Camp Glan Llyn, Call of the Wild, Manor Adventure and Urdd Activity Centre Glan Llyn.

Derbyniadau... a chymryd rhan

Polisi derbyn

Meithrin

Gellir derbyn plant i'r dosbarth meithrin rhan amser tymor ar ôl eu trydydd penblwydd neu yn ôl disgresiwn yr ysgol a byddant yn symud ymlaen i addysg amser llawn yn y dosbarth derbyn ar ddechrau'r Tymor yr hydref yn dilyn eu pedwerydd penblwydd. Ni fydd gan blant sy'n mynychu'r dosbarth meithrin hawl awtomatig i gael eu derbyn i addysg lawn amser yn yr un ysgol, a bydd angen i rieni ofyn am le yn y dosbarth derbyn drwy'r A.A.A.

Dylai rhieni gysylltu â Phennaeth eu hysgol feithrin ddewisol am Ffurflen Gais Derbyn neu gysylltu â'r A.A.Ll. Swyddog Derbyn (Helen Lewis) yn uniongyrchol. Dylid dychwelyd y ffurflen wedi'i chwblhau at: Mrs Helen Lewis Swyddog Derbyn i Ysgolion Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot, Canolfan Ddinesig Port Talbot, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

Dosbarth derbyn

Mae'r holl dderbyniadau i ddosbarth derbyn (addysg amser llawn) hefyd yn cael eu cymeradwyo gan y Swyddog Derbyn. Derbynnir plant i ddosbarthiadau derbyn yn y mis Medi yn dilyn eu pen-blwydd yn bedair oed.

Cymryd rhan

Ffrindiau Ysgol Gwaun Cae Gurwen

Gwahoddir rhieni i ymuno â Chyfeillion Ysgol Gwaun Cae Gurwen er mwyn helpu i godi arian i'r ysgol i brynu adnoddau i'r plant. Mae'r plant wedi elwa'n fawr o gyfraniad Cyfeillion Ysgol Gwaun Cae Gurwen.

Gwirfoddolwyr

Rydym yn croesawu rhieni fel 'Partneriaid Darllen' sy'n dod i mewn bob dydd Mawrth i ddarllen gyda disgyblion ar draws yr ysgol.

Llywodraethwyr

Mae Llywodraethwyr yr Ysgol yn cymryd diddordeb byw yn y plant a'r ysgol ac yn ymweld yn rheolaidd. Os hoffech chi fod yn llywodraethwr ysgol, gofynnwch yn swyddfa'r ysgol.

Admissions... and getting involved

Admissions policy

Nursery

Children can be admitted to the part-time Nursery a term after their third birthday (except when this is inconvenient due to school arrangements) or at the discretion of the school and will progress to full time education in the Reception Class at the beginning of the Autumn term following their fourth birthday. Children attending the nursery class will not have automatic right of admission to full time education at the same school, and parents will need to request a place in the Reception class through the L.E.A.

Parents should approach the Headteacher of their preferred nursery school for an Admissions Application Form or contact the L.E.A. Admissions Officer (Helen Lewis) directly. The completed form should then be returned to: Mrs Helen Lewis Schools Admissions Officer Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

Reception

All admissions to reception class (full time education) are also approved by the Admissions Officer, Pupil Parent Support. Children are admitted to reception classes in the September following their fourth birthday.

Getting involved

Parent Teacher Association

Parents are invited to join the Parents Teachers Association in order to help raise funds for the school to purchase resources for the children. The children have benefitted greatly by the involvement of the PTA.

Volunteers

We welcome parents as 'Reading Partners' who come in every Tuesday to read with pupils across the school.

Governors

School Governors take an active interest in the children and school and visit regularly. If you would like to be a school governor, please ask at the school office.

Heol Newydd / New Road, Gwaun Cae Gurwen
Rhydaman / Ammanford, Castell nedd Port Talbot, SA18 1UN
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Email: swyddfa@ysgolgcg.npt.school
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