

Governors' Annual Report to Parents



Plascrug Primary School
2021/2022

Introduction

As we look back on the 2021-22 school year there is much to celebrate. It was a relief to have a whole school year where the children were able to be present together in class. At the outset of the year we were all hopeful that the school community could come together again. Whilst there were disappointments such as the nursery and reception nativity having to be performed without parents there was also much to allow us to enjoy being part of the Plascrug Community together. A personal highlight was school sports day and the PTA Fair to follow which was a hugely enjoyable event in the sunshine. I am sure you have missed opportunities such as this where our whole school community can come together. A huge thanks to our wonderful PTA. I'm sure you'll also remember seeing the school choir singing in a live concert at the Arts Centre.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents for your support of the school. The close partnership between yourself and the school is so important and it something that the Governing body would like to build upon. Whilst we haven't had to engage with learning online this year I hope you have appreciated the flexibility that using technology in events such as Progress Meetings between yourselves and your child's teacher has provided. Wellbeing has been and always will be a priority for the school. It was great to see the 'Plas' being opened officially this year. It has already proven it's worth in providing a homely environment to provide nurture support for children throughout the school day. We all need help once in a while and the Plas ensures that we have a purpose built comfortable environment in which to provide it.

The whole school community have had an opportunity to feed into the process of curriculum design as we were looking forward to the launch of the New Curriculum. Our mission statement states that the school will ensure that each child thrives . This sits very comfortably with the new curriculum where the focus is upon ensuring that each child makes progress with provision that supports and recognises that no two children are the same. My thanks go to the staff of the school and my fellow Governors for their continued hard work and endeavour as we all seek to keep building a school that we can all be truly proud of.

Mr Tim Davies, Chair of Governors.

At the end of the school year, we have a total of 457 pupils attending the school and the staff consists of a Head Teacher, Deputy Headteacher, 13 full time teachers and 6 part time teachers. We also have a team of Teaching Assistants working within Foundation Phase and a Core Staffing team of supporting pupils with Additional Learning Needs. Three full time HLTA's complete the staffing team. The school was also supported by two full time administrative assistants, a full-time caretaker and breakfast club and after school club supervisory staff.

Attendance Figures

The whole school attendance for 2020-21 was 92%.

The school has stringent attendance procedures reflecting the importance of excellent attendance. According to the school attendance monitoring procedures, letters are sent for attendance under 90% and meetings held with parents and the Education Inclusion Officer. Penalty notices may be issued for 10 unauthorised absences. Holidays during term time are unauthorised, however any requests received in writing for leave of absence for reasons other than illness are considered individually.

Extra-curricular activities and School Councils

The children were able to participate in a range of extra curricular activities arranged by the staff. Amongst the activities on offer were Badminton, ballet, scootering, chess, running, hockey, football, netball, rugby. I'm always struck by the positive impact this has upon the children participating and it certainly strengthens the relationship between staff and children as they get to know one another better out of the classroom.



Representative Committees at the school had another busy year with the School Council and Eco Committee members working together very effectively especially in thinking about improving the outdoor area. As we all think about how to live more sustainably the Eco Council were keen to get the message across regarding the damage of single use plastics and the profile of bees and their importance was also raised.



With the Urdd celebrating it's centenary in 2022 the school again made the most of the opportunities that this fantastic organisations has to offer both culturally and on the sporting field. The highlight was taking a busload of pupils to Rhuthin in May for the Urdd National Eisteddfod. Everybody gave of their best and we were proud of all who took part. It was also pleasing to return with two firsts for the Can Actol and the Ymgom.



We made the most of opportunities to take our learning outside in around the Aberystwyth area and further afield. Year five for example had an opportunity to meet Lucy Owen virtually to discuss her new book called 'Flower Girl' and as a result we planted a cherry blossom donated to the school.

Building links between the community and school

As one of the largest schools in the area, we are an integral part of the community. We make regular use of the resources available to us with trips to the National Library, Museum, Arts Centre and Leisure Centre. The school is always looking to deepen relationships with local organisations and make the best use of our wonderful local environment. It was great to see year 3 for example getting hands on with their learning in some coastal rock pools and pupils undertaking a local litter pick using equipment borrowed from Caru Aber. Learning through links with organisations such as the Police were built upon. Some pupils from year 6 won a competition organised by Aberystwyth University as they focused on ways to support our environment. As you can see they enjoyed a choppy voyage on a research boat!



We work closely with many outside agencies, such as the Ceredigion Actif team, the local police who highlighted how to enjoy Halloween and Bonfire night safely along with school nurses. Local supermarkets have also supported the school, in supplying reduced cost fresh fruit for the tuck shop and prizes for raffles etc as well as visits linked to the curriculum. The Best Foot Forward Challenge gave pupils the opportunity to get to know their local area a little better both within school time and when at home at evenings and weekends. We were grateful to Aber Instruments for their generous donation which meant that over £4000 was raised for diabetes UK, Macmillan Cancer Support and the development of the outdoor area. A great effort by all concerned.



Targets for improvements set by the Governing Body

The school and governing body agree targets for school improvement annually, which are monitored termly and progress reported to the governing body.

The targets were:

- Prepare to implement CfW September 2022
- Prepare for and implement the ALN transformation programme
- Further develop effective Wellbeing provision across all phases, to ensure good levels of emotional and mental health and resilience, amongst all pupils, staff and leaders of the school as well as providing opportunities to improve pupils' physical health.
- To continue to develop the nursery and reception outdoor area, enhance year 1 and 2 areas ensuring that pupils are able to develop a range of skills effectively and work with the Eco Council and outside agencies on developing the school field.

The Governing Body (2021-22)

| Name | Governor Type |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mr Tim Davies | Chairperson (Parent) |
| Mr Michael Allman | Vice Chairperson Parent |
| Ms Catrin Rhys | Teacher |
| Cllr Ceredig Davies | Local Authority |
| Mrs Mair Hopson | Staff |
| Mrs Mette Jenson | Parent |
| Mr Berian Lewis | Headteacher |
| Ms Ana Machado | Community |
| Cllr Alex Mangold | Community Council Representative |
| Dr Katherine Santer | Parent |
| Ms Kerry Ferguson | Community |
| Mr Richard Warrender | Community |

We meet as a full governing body once per term, as well as having three sub-committee meetings focusing on Buildings and Premises, Curriculum and Policy along with Finance and Staffing.

Clerk to the Governors – Ceredigion County Council Education Department, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3UE

The Education Authority and the school will inform parents/guardians of the arrangements for any opportunities to be part of the Governing Body and electoral arrangements.

There is no requirement for a Parent/Governors meeting to be held each year, however one can always be requested in accordance with section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

The parents will need to satisfy the four (4) statutory requirements when calling a meeting which are as follows:-

that the parents of 10% of registered pupils, or the parents of 30 registered pupils (whichever is the lower) must sign a petition requesting a meeting;

the meeting must be for the purpose of discussing matters relating to the school;

the maximum number of meetings that parents can request in any school year is three (3);

there must be sufficient school days left in the school year to allow a meeting to be held.

Further:-

meetings must be held before the end of a 25 day period;

the 25 day period commences the day after receipt of the petition but does not include any day which is not a school day;

if another meeting is required to be held as a result of a different petition the 25 day period will not commence until the day after the other meeting has been held;

there must be sufficient days left in the school year to allow a meeting to be held before the end of the 25 day period;

meetings will be open to all parents of registered pupils at the school, Head and any other person invited by the governing body;

notification of meetings to parents must include the date, time and venue of the meeting and the matter or matters to be discussed.

Financial Statement for the Previous Year

Please see Appendix 1

As a Governing Body we ensure that the finances of the school remain healthy.

Use of the PDG Grant

Amount allocated to the school £103,500

Plascrug school spends its Pupil Deprivation Grant to ensure it makes an impact upon particular learners in school. Staff are employed to raise the literacy and numeracy skills of those learners and ensure their wellbeing is supported in a range of different ways. The grant has also been used to assist with the cost of educational trips.

We believe strongly that all children deserve the best start in life – the PDG grant helps us achieve this aim.

Parent Teacher Association

We have a successful Parent Teacher Association at the school. Anybody is welcome to attend the meetings. Many of the members are class representatives too. This has proved to be extremely popular and all children enjoyed using it after returning to school following the lockdown period. They provide an excellent point of contact for those little questions that parents would like to ask about the practicalities of day to day life in the class e.g. when is swimming etc.

Parents Evening

At the start of each year we invite parents to a 'Meet the Teacher' evening. This is an opportunity to meet your child/ren's teacher and understand the curriculum and themes for the following year. In addition to this we hold a parents' evening in the Autumn and Spring term. This is a fantastic chance to look at your children's work and discuss their progress. I am sure that many of you will have appreciated the chance to meet face to face with your child's teacher again. If you wish to meet at any other time, please do contact your class teacher to make an appointment.

School policies

Plascrug School has a comprehensive list of policies which may be requested at any point from the school reception

Term Dates and session times

The list of term dates for may be found on the [LA website](#)

The Curriculum

Plascrug has been a Pioneer School and contributed to the development of the new curriculum for Wales which will be launched in September 2022. We believe that learning should be enjoyable and that pupils should be able to influence the learning voyages that they embark upon. Teachers create exciting learning opportunities that allow pupils to develop their skills in the six areas of learning and experience which are Mathematics and Numeracy, Language and Literacy, Science and Technology, Humanities, Digital Competency and the Creative Arts.

Throughout the entire curriculum pupils develop their literacy, numeracy and ICT skills and receive plenty of opportunities in their learning voyages to embed these skills. All learning experiences promote the four purposes of the new curriculum ensuring pupils will be ambitious capable learner, enterprising capable contributors an ethical informed citizens and be healthy and confident individuals. A new curriculum statement was sent to every family.

Language

Plascrug school and Ceredigion County Council is clear in its aim and principle of developing our pupils' ability to use both Welsh and English fluently and confidently in a variety of situations. The school's language category is now T2 which means that over the next 10 years we will be transitioning to becoming a bilingual school. This will enable pupil to become full members of the bilingual society of which they are a part, fostering pride in the languages, heritage and culture of Ceredigion and Wales.

Currently, the majority of lessons are taught in English with weekly Welsh second language lessons. Many aspects of the curriculum are also taught through the medium of Welsh and the Welsh language is regularly used in formal and informal situations which successfully creates a Welsh ethos.

Toilet facilities

The school provides sufficient toilets for the number of pupils on roll. These toilets are cleaned on a daily basis.

Healthy eating and drinking

The development of healthy lifestyles is a high priority for our school. Plascrug is a Welsh Network of Healthy Schools National Quality Award school and actively promotes healthy eating and physical activity. All pupils have access to drinking water throughout the day. The school meals service provides healthy lunches and we encourage healthy options in packed lunches. The school will be going for Healthy Schools re-accreditation early in the Spring term of 2023.

Appendix 1

| <u>CYFLAWNIAD ARIANNOL 2020/21</u> | | <u>FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2020/21</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mae'r Awdurdod Addysg Lleol newydd gau'r cyfrifon am y flwyddyn ariannol a ddaeth i ben ar 31 Mawrth 2021. Dangosir isod sut y daethpwyd at y cyllid a benodwyd i'r ysgol. | | The Local Education Authority has recently finalised the closure of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021. The total funding for the the school has been derived as set out below. |
| Dyraniad Cyllid Gwreiddiol yn ôl Fformiwla | 1,515,394 | Formula Funding Initial Allocation |
| Niferoedd Disgyblion | 0 | Pupil Numbers |
| AAA | 0 | SEN |
| Y Dreth Annomestig | 114 | National Non-Domestic Rates |
| Cau Ysgol | 0 | School closure |
| Addasiad Arall | 45,198 | Other Adjustment |
| Dyraniad y Gronfa wrth Gefn heb ei Defnyddio | 12,329 | Allocation of Unutilised Contingency |
| Dyraniad Cyllid Diwygiedig 2020/21 yn ôl Fformiwla | 1,573,035 | Revised 2020/21 Formula Funding Allocation |
| Gwariant Net | 1,474,338 | Net Expenditure |
| Amrywiant | 98,697 | Variance |
| Llog ar y Gweddillion | 0 | Interest on Balances |
| Gwarged / (Diffyg) - 1 Ebrill 2020 | 111,488 | Surplus / (Deficit) - 1 April 2020 |
| Gwarged / (Diffyg) - 31 Mawrth 2021 | 210,185 | Surplus / (Deficit) - 31 March 2021 |