



# Dinas Powys Primary School

## Newsletter: **School Improvement Special**

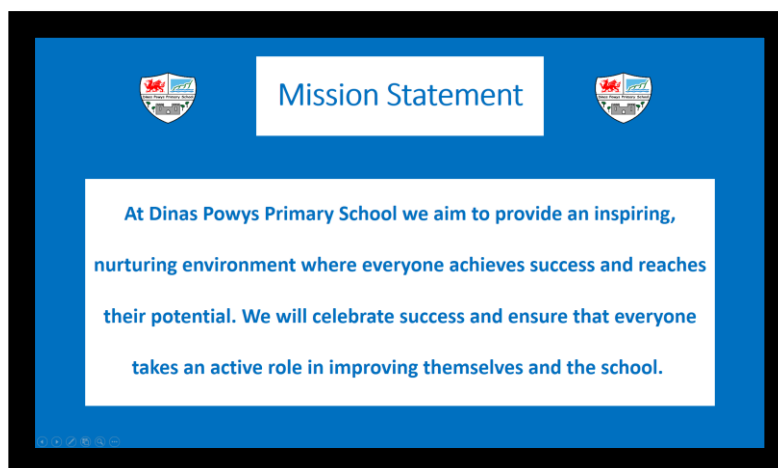
November 2023

Please remember to follow us on X (formally Twitter) @dinaspowysps

In this newsletter we would like to share some information about the improvements school has made and its development aims for the next year.

### **Vision**

We have reviewed the school aims, mission statement and motto using information from the children, parental questionnaires, governors and staff. The updates are outlined below.



### Mission Statement

At Dinas Powys Primary School we aim to provide an inspiring, nurturing environment where everyone achieves success and reaches their potential. We will celebrate success and ensure that everyone takes an active role in improving themselves and the school.



# Dinas Powys Primary School

School Aims

- Provide a high quality teaching and learning environment that develops ambitious, capable individuals who have the desire and skills to be lifelong learners.
- Provide a nurturing environment that fulfils pupils' emotional, physical and social needs so they develop as healthy and confident individuals.
- Provide high quality learning experiences to develop pupils' core skills and support pupils to thrive in a bilingual society.
- Challenge all pupils to aspire to reach their full potential and recognise their progress and success.
- Develop pupils' understanding of their rights and responsibilities to their community and the world beyond, ensuring they develop as ethical and informed citizens.
- Work with all members of the school community to provide an inspiring, engaging and challenging curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils, ensuring they develop as enterprising and creative individuals.
- Strive as a whole school community to continually improve.

## Parental Questionnaire

Thank you to all the parents who completed the parental questionnaire earlier this year. The information was used to help us plan for improvement. In the table below we have outlined some of the common areas from the questionnaires and how we are addressing these.

Area	What we are doing
A greater range of educational visits	When planning visits, we consider how they fit with the school's curriculum offer and how we can manage the costs. We are reviewing our educational visits and exploring opportunities to broaden these. For example, Year 3 pupils enjoyed visiting Boulders, in-door climbing centre and Year 5 have recently visited the Royal Mint.
Greater clarity on how school addresses bullying	We have incorporated this into our school development plan. After half term every class in the juniors will have a session with Bullies Out. The school's anti-bullying policy is based on a template from the local authority but we aim to make this more accessible to both pupils and parents.
Communication	We are currently reviewing the school's website and have produced a summary of the digital platforms used across school and how parents can access these (see Parentmail September 2023) This is an area we will continue to review with Parent Forum.
Transition from Year 2 to Year 3	We organised several activities for Year 2 pupils to visit the Junior Site in the Summer term as well as the Year 5 buddies visiting Year 2 at the Infant Site. We also held a Welcome to Year 3 meeting for parents, including a tour of the Junior Site.



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## School Development Plan

Each year the school creates a plan for work on its areas of development. Some of this work is completed with specialists such as those from the Regional Education Consortia or with local schools. Below is a summary of the key areas along with some ideas on how parents can support the school in achieving its aims.

### AIM: Writing

Across the whole school we are looking at opportunities to improve the standard of pupils' writing. This includes writing at length, varying sentence patterns and vocabulary as well as accurate punctuation, spelling and grammar.

### How can parents help?

With younger children parents can encourage them to make marks by having crayons etc available for their independent use. As they begin to hold these items it is useful to encourage a tripod grip. Playing with material such as plasticine develops finger strength to help children hold pencils correctly.

From Year 1 onwards we encourage the children to use a capital letter to start their sentences and on names, place a finger space between words and a full stop which parents may wish to also reinforce at home. From Year 3 onwards the children increasingly follow the rules outlined below with the level of punctuation becoming more complex as the children get older.

I use the next clean page in my book.

I cross out mistakes with one line.

I write my date and title making sure to underline with a ruler.

Monday 3rd September.  
All About Me.

03.12.23

In mathematics I draw a margin with a pencil and ruler. I write the short date and write each digit in a box.

## Golden Rules

I use my pencil or pen, holding it correctly and sitting up straight, with feet on the floor.

I write my letters and words on the line.

We are reading  
The Tear Thief.

I use capital letters to start sentences and names and use full stops at the end of sentences.

Using electronic devices is also a good way to encourage children to write. This should never be too onerous but could include activities such as creating a simple poster of their holiday or day trip.



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It is also extremely beneficial for children to hear adults reading stories to them, even into the juniors. This provides experience of varied language patterns and vocabulary.

### AIM: Welsh

We are delighted with the progress we are making in developing the children's Welsh language skills and aim to continue this.

### How can parents help?

We have some phrases we encourage the children to use (known as WAGOLL Welsh) which parents may find helpful in the house.



### WAGOLL WELSH



**Bore da/ Prynawn da**      Good morning/ Good afternoon

**Ga i fynd i ty bach os gwelwch yn dda?**

Can I go to the toilet please?

**Ga i pencil/ dwr / golchi dwylo os gwelwch yn dda?**

Can I have a pencil / water / snack please?

**Ble mae pencil / llyfr / athrawes/athro?**

Where is the pencil / book/ teacher?

**Hwyl fawr, wela ti yfory**      Goodbye see you tomorrow



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### WAGOLL WELSH at Lunchtime



Prynhawn da / Shwmae

Good afternoon/ Hi

Ga i .... os gwelwch yn dda?

Can I have ..... please?

Dw i'n hoffi .....

I like .....

Diolch yn fawr

Thank you very much

Hwyl fawr, wela ti yfory

Goodbye see you tomorrow

#### **AIM: Ensuring challenge for all pupils and developing them as independent learners.**

As part of this work we will ensure opportunities for problem solving as well as developing independence in the children assessing their own work (the Golden Rules play a part in this). We will also be reviewing our work on Growth Mindsets.

#### **How can parents help?**

We encourage the children to persevere by helping them think differently when they become 'stuck'. We encourage the children to say 'I can't do this YET' rather than 'I can't do this' and talk about mistakes being normal and that they help us learn. To develop as independent learners, we encourage the children to think about resources they could use to help them (everything from an online dictionary to number squares and calculators).

You may hear the children talk about '3 before me'. This is where we encourage the children to try three different support mechanisms before asking an adult (these could be resources or a friend).

When the children are older we encourage them to review their own work and look for improvements (we use the terminology 'Tickled Pink' for the things that are good and 'Growing Green' for things to improve).

We will also be working on other areas this year including anti-bullying, anti-racism, developing diversity within our curriculum offer and continuing to work with local schools on progression within the curriculum.

#### **School Rules**

As a school we have been working with an organisation called, 'When the Adults Change' (and the associated book by the author Paul Dix) looking at how we manage behaviour in school.



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As a result, we have changed our school rules to the following. Parents may find these helpful to use at home too.



## Values

Each half term we use one or two Values as a stimulus for assemblies and in class discussion. These are listed below so parents can follow up with their children.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Respect & Friendship	Appreciation & Peace	Happiness & Love	Responsibility & Honesty	Cooperation	Kindness & Caring

## Dates for your Diary

**INSET DAYS:** 8<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> February

### November:

- 9<sup>th</sup> Flu Vaccinations for Reception to Year 6  
(consent forms will be issued approximately two weeks prior)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Super Ambassador Event 2x year 6 pupils
- 10<sup>th</sup> Year 6 pupils Remembrance Service Village
- 16<sup>th</sup> Individual pupil photos
- 17<sup>th</sup> Children In Need
- 20-21<sup>st</sup> Bullies Out Assembly & Workshops for Juniors
- 21<sup>st</sup> Rags2Riches collection
- 24<sup>th</sup> Green Day

### December:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Festive Film for Juniors at Murchfield Community Centre
- 4<sup>th</sup> Choir Christmas Songs at Dinas Library 2.30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> Christmas lunch for staff and pupils



## Dinas Powys Primary School

8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 : Hearing Screening
12,13,14 <sup>th</sup>	Infant Concerts mornings
14&15 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Concerts afternoons
18-21 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas parties (details to follow)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Christmas Songs
22 <sup>nd</sup>	End of Term

### January:

8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>INSET day</b>
15–31 <sup>st</sup>	Swimming for Year 5 and 6 at Hebron Hall

### February:

9	<b>INSET day – school closed to all pupils</b>
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Vale school term dates can be found at:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/schools/School-Term-Dates.aspx>

### Contact School:

If you have any concerns or queries, please contact school.

Tel: **02920 512151**

Email: [dinaspowysps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:dinaspowysps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

A copy of our complaints policy can be found on our website.