



Northop Hall C.P School Governors' Annual Report to Parents 2023-2024

Meeting Time and Date: 5:30p.m Thursday 12th December 2024

Venue: Year - 5 classroom, at the school.

Questions relating to the Report:

Unless there are special circumstances, we propose offering again this year the possibility of a meeting with the governors. Should you wish to raise a question regarding the report, it should be presented in writing prior to the meeting. Questions should be put into an envelope and marked 'Governors' Report to Parents Question', and handed into the school office by Monday 9th December, 2024

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the chair of the School Governors, it is with great pleasure that I introduce the Statutory Annual Governors' Report to Parents for the school year 2023-2024. Alongside the written report, the governing body must present the findings to the parents and carers. We will be offering such a meeting on the evening of Thursday 12th December 2024. As usual we have decided that unless at least 5% of parents declare they will attend, the meeting will not be held. Please email the school office if you wish to attend the meeting.

I am pleased to share that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has diminished, with pupil sickness absence now returning closer to pre-pandemic levels in both frequency and duration. We continue to foster a nurturing and supportive environment to help all children develop the skills they need to succeed.

As mentioned last year, the fall in birth rate has resulted in a national trend of declining pupil numbers, which is continuing to have an impact on schools across the country, including ours. This year, our enrolment stands at 148 pupils, compared to 167 in September 2023. Coupled with broader economic challenges, this has prompted us to take proactive measures to ensure the continued financial stability of our school.

To avoid a budget deficit, we have made the difficult decision to reduce our teaching staff. This process involved seeking voluntary redundancies, and we approached it with great care to support all affected individuals. Our priority remains providing high-quality education, and taking action now puts us ahead of many schools facing similar challenges.

The necessary changes have led to a restructuring of classes in Reception and Years 1-2, as outlined in our prospectus. We remain committed to maintaining a nurturing and effective learning environment for all pupils.

In the classroom, continued emphasis is being given to improving Welsh oracy, in line with the recommendations of ESTYN. We have an enriched learning environment where our pupils are both improving their Welsh oracy but also developing a deeper cultural appreciation of our country's heritage. At the same time our pupils are spreading their wings in wider European language and culture with our French project. This has seen both a visit from our French



partner school and a visit by our school to them in France. A truly exciting and challenging time and well done everyone for making these events such a success for the children!

In addition, much attention is being given to encourage the children to understand and use numeracy in everyday life across all aspects of the curriculum.

In line with the ESTYN recommendations, a more interactive approach to assessing pupil learning is being used. Two-way questioning, constructive self-assessment, peer assessment are all contributing to a much more productive means of assessing and progressing learning.

As Governors, we are extremely proud of how our pupils have been involved in fundraising initiatives. Each year, we encourage our pupils to participate in a variety of fundraising events that support a range of charitable causes. We are exceptionally proud of our pupils' efforts in raising funds for charities such as MacMillan, the Flintshire Foodbank, and Children in Need. Their enthusiasm and commitment to contributing positively to the community are commendable and align perfectly with our mission to develop ethically aware individuals, in line with the principles of the new Curriculum for Wales.

We also wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the staff and parents who help organise and support these initiatives. Your contributions are invaluable and play a crucial role in the success of these events. Together, we continue to build a community where compassion, awareness, and social responsibility are at the forefront of our shared values.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our headteacher, Mrs. Lynne Harrison and the entire school team for their dedication and hard work in maintaining the high quality of teaching and learning. The Governing Body would like to express our heartfelt thanks for their on-going commitment.

The Governors would like to extend their congratulations to Mrs Watkins, who has successfully completed a 12-month Welsh language sabbatical, as well as to Mrs MacGregor and Miss Thomson, who completed a 5-week Welsh language sabbatical for support staff. Their hard work throughout these programs have resulted in excellent progress in their Welsh language skills. We



look forward to the positive impact their new language skills will have within the school community.

We also extend our congratulations to Mrs Harrison for her outstanding achievement in September 2024, representing Wales in Table Tennis at the Home Nations Championships in Guernsey. Mrs Harrison and the women's team secured a bronze medal—a fantastic result that brought pride to our school and community.

At the end of the summer term we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Griffith, who has been an integral part of the school for 23 years. Her commitment and passion for teaching will be greatly missed. Additionally, we will be saying a sad goodbye at the end of the autumn term to our Deputy Head, Mr. Roberts, who will be taking up a new role as Deputy Head at Sandycroft. We wish him every success in this new chapter of his career and express our sincere gratitude for his positive contribution to the school. He will be greatly missed by all.

I wish all staff and pupils an enjoyable and successful year ahead as they continue to work on the New Curriculum and the Additional Learning Needs reform alongside the challenges of reducing budgets. I would like to thank parents and carers for their on-going support and involvement in the school. Your interest and input is so valuable.

Finally, I'd like to thank Governors for their volunteering throughout the past year. I welcome the new Governors who have come on board this year already, and look forward to their input over the next years as the school goes from strength to strength.

As always, we have started the report this year with the school's mission vision. It summarises the tenet of how the staff and governors want this school to perform and operate successfully for the children:

“Believe, persevere, succeed” (“Credwch, Dyfalbarhwch, Llyddwch”)

which truly reflects the schools' ethos.



Thank you all for your continued support of the school.

Diolch yn fawr; a ddymuniadau gorau,

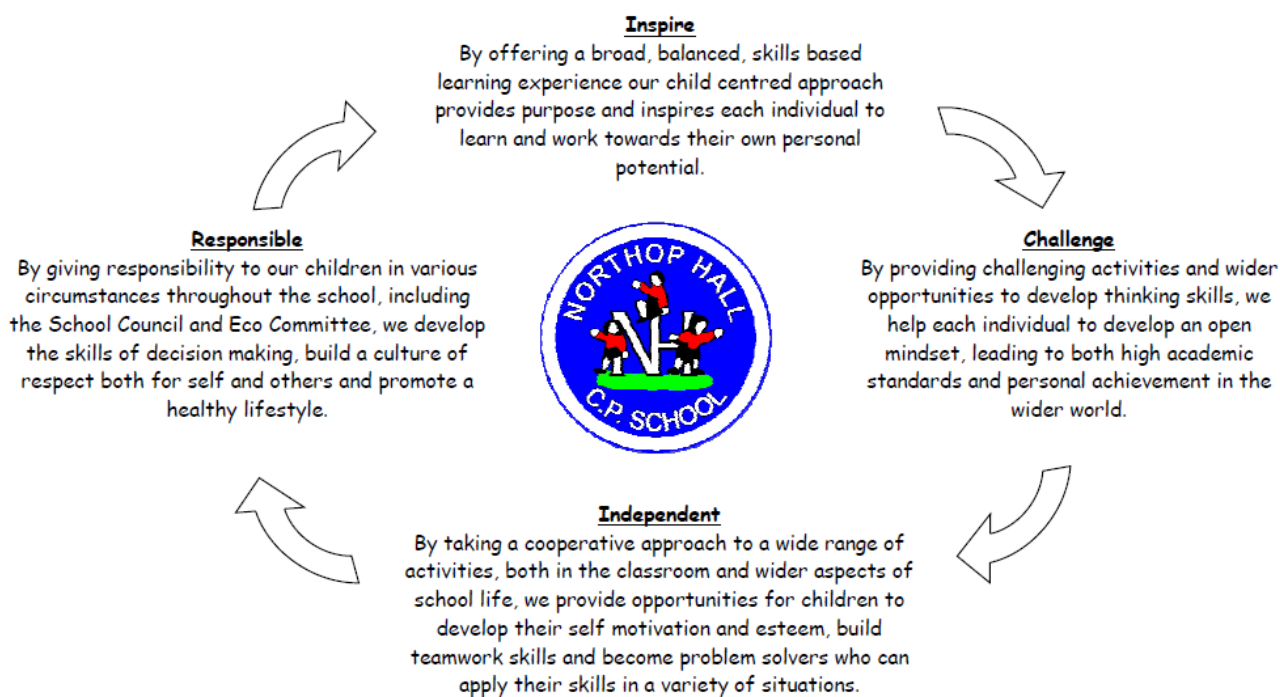
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Hughes", written on a light-colored background.

Michael Hughes, Chair of Governors.



Northop Hall CP School:

A happy environment where children are inspired and challenged, enabling them to develop into independent and responsible lifelong learners.



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Curriculum Organisation and Teaching

At Ysgol Northop Hall we support the concept of lifelong learning, recognising that both adults and children learn new things every day. We maintain that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone. Through our teaching, we seek to equip children with the skills, independence, knowledge and understanding necessary for them to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives. We aim to provide a rich and varied learning environment that supports children in developing their skills and abilities in a range of ways, to enable them to achieve their full potential. With our current pupil numbers, we have four single year group classes, two mixed year classes and a Nursery class each with dedicated teaching and support staff. Classes range from our part time Nursery pupils to the eldest Year 6 pupils.

As a school we are committed to a mastery approach to learning, where we encourage pupils to develop appropriate skills and a deep understanding of a subject, rather than being able to memorise key procedures or resort to rote learning. The school fully utilises and embeds the Literacy and Numeracy framework into teaching, alongside the Digital Competency Framework. We are now fully up and running with the New Curriculum for Wales, which is now statutory, and we continue to be reflective and on a continuous cycle of improvement. Our Estyn Inspection in May 2022 reported; "The school is developing a stimulating and purposeful curriculum, focused on supporting pupils to become inquisitive, independent learners. The 'inquiry' approach to learning ensures that pupils develop a solid body of knowledge that they then use to help them decide what and how to learn next. This results in high levels of engagement."

Through our teaching we aim to develop pupils who are:

- Ambitious, capable learners
- Enterprising, creative contributors
- Ethical, informed citizens
- Healthy confident individuals

Moving forward as a school we will aim to do all we can to ensure that our pupils are provided with the best learning experiences and continue to "Believe, Persevere and Succeed".



Current Governing Body Membership, Ysgol Northop Hall

The Governors' meeting held on Thursday, 19 September 2024, confirmed the following governors:

Name	Designation	Term of Office
Mrs Lynne Bowen	Headteacher	From September 2012
Mr Michael Hughes	Community Governor	06/10/2024 – 06/10/2028
Mrs Marie Goble	Community Governor	22/10/2023 – 22/10/2027
Danielle Carrigan	Community Governor	21/09/2021 – 21/09/2025
Mr John Golledge	Minor Authority	13/04/2021 – 13/04/2025
Mr Jonathan Hodgins	Local Authority	01/06/2023 – 01/06/2027
Cllr Linda Thew	Local Authority	01/09/2022 – 01/09/2026
Mrs Susan Pritchard	Local Authority	01/06/2023 – 01/06/2027
Suzanne Dinwoodie	Parent Governor	17/09/2021 – 17/09/2025
Clare Roberts	Parent Governor	21/02/2024 – 21/02/2028
Katie Peers	Parent Governor	17/09/20/21 – 17/09/2025
VACANCY	Parent Governor	
Gavin Roberts	Teacher Governor	03/09/2021 – 03/09/2025
Nicky Christiano	Staff Governor	15/07/2023 – 14/07/2027

Changes to Governing body during 2023-2024

- Clare Roberts was added as a parent governor



Summary of Changes to the School Prospectus since Publication

The names of staff and Governors has been updated within the school prospectus.

The revised class structure is listed.

An up-to-date version can be found on the school website.



Outturn for the last financial year, 2023-2024

BUDGET HEADING	BUDGET 2023/2024	EXPENDITURE 2023/2024	DIFF + OR (-)
BALANCE FROM 2020/2021	111,331	0	111,331
EMPLOYEES	747,884	839,331	-91,447
PREMISES	77,441	73,523	3,888
TRANSPORT	200	27	173
SUPPLIES	40,123	33,331	6,792
ADULT MEALS/LINK COURSES	0	11,246	-11,246
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS	29,797	30,134	-339
TRANSITIONAL FUNDING	0	0	0
INCOME	-144,330	-218,767	74,437
TOTAL 2023/2024	862,414	768,825	93,589

No gifts were made from the school budget. Charitable donations are made through collections raised into the school fund.

No travel or subsistence allowances were made to any governors this year.



Term Dates and Training Days for 2024-25 academic year

The school adopts Flintshire County Council term dates and some of the suggested Training Day dates. Dates for 2024 - 2025 are as follows:

Term	Begins for pupils	Half Term ends	Half term starts for pupils	Term ends	Training Days (closed to pupils)
Autumn	Tuesday 3rd September	Friday 25 th October	Monday 4 th November	Thursday 19 th December	Monday 2 nd September Friday 20 th December
Spring	Tuesday 7 th January	Friday 21 st February	Tuesday 4 th March	Friday 11 th April	Monday 6 th January Monday 3 rd March
Summer	Tuesday 29 th April	Friday 23 rd May	Monday 2 nd June	Friday 18 th July	Monday 28 th April Monday 21 st July

The school Day

Nursery	12.40 – 3.15p.m.
Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	8:50 -12.00 noon; 1:00-3:05 pm
Key stage 2	8:45 -12.00 noon; 1:00-3:15 pm



Population and Attendance Summary

Attendance 2023/24

The Governing Body of Ysgol Northop Hall are committed to improving our whole school attendance. The school works closely with an education welfare officer to actively encourage, monitor and promote daily attendance at school. Regular attendance at school is essential if children are to reach their full potential.

Attendance record

The overall attendance figure for academic year 2023/24 was 93.9% - an improvement of 2.1 percentage points from 2022/23.

The improvement was in line with the average attendance in Wales for this academic year to date which is 92.1%. - an improvement of 2.7 percentage points from 2022/23



School Leavers

We recognise that moving between primary to secondary school is an important life transition that can affect children's attainment and wellbeing in the longer term. We have strong links with the local high schools and work collaboratively to support all pupils to make a successful transition between one stage of education to the next.

Transition to High School.

In July the following number of pupils left Northop Hall C.P. School for their chosen high school:

- Hawarden High School - 6
- Mold Alun - 13
- Connah's Quay High School - 4
- The Argoed - 1
- The Elved - 1

The children were all offered support to aid them with their transition to high school.

Several children this year received enhanced transition days at their chosen high school, while other enjoyed the usual visiting days offered up by their new school. Staff from the schools also came to visit the children in their year six classroom environment. All the children agreed that they had received a warm welcome when they visited their respective schools.

Mrs Harrison received a lovely comment from a teacher at Mold Alun.

"What a privilege I had today teaching your young people they were an absolute credit to your school"

This made the Governors feel very proud.

Conversations with the pupils in year six, elicited the comments they had all enjoyed the time they had spent at Northop Hall C.P School and were leaving with some very happy memories, but realized they had to look to the future and were looking forward to what lay ahead of them.

The Leavers' Assembly

As usual this was a very special occasion in our school calendar.

The Assembly was well attended by parents and family of children in year six and also School Governors. As the year six children were entering the hall a photograph of each child was shown this was taken when the child first came into school, these moments were accompanied by lots of exclamations from the audience.



Each child spoke on a significant time for them during their time in school and their ambitions for the future. Mrs. Harrison read out a poem she had written for every child. Then Mrs. Marie Goble the Vice Chair of the Governors in the absence of Mr. Michael Hughes the Chair wished the children well on behalf of the Governing Body and success in their future aspirations. She then presented them all with a small gift before reading out a lovely poem which was very apt for this occasion.

The Assembly ended with a final song after which the all of the other children in school made a tunnel out in the playground which year six children ran through accompanied by many cheers and much laughter.

The Governors believe all the children have settled down well into their new school but once again would like to take this opportunity of wishing them all every success.



School Improvement Priorities 2023 – 2024

Progress against school improvement policies 2023-2024	
School Improvement Priority	Comments
Developing Welsh across the curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are using Welsh language frequently and with increased confidence. • Regular Welsh assemblies led by the Iaith Cymraeg are taking place – this involves a group of pupils leading an assembly with a strong Welsh element. • Welsh songs such as “Calon Lan” performed by pupils at our “Grandparents Tea” afternoon. • Welsh Male Voice Choir came to school on Friday 8th March – pupils thoroughly engaged when listening to their performance. • Our entry for the Chapel’s Flower Festival was named “Wonderful Wales”. We received very positive feedback from people visiting the Flower Festival on our entry. • Year 2 pupils enjoyed participating in the Welsh Jambori in the summer term. • Two teaching assistants attended a 5-week Welsh language course. • One teacher attended the 12-month Welsh Sabbatical. • Year 5 pupils participated in a program called “Play Pals – Young Leaders’ Training” – this is a course which helps older pupils to lead playground games for younger pupils - there is a strong Welsh element in the training, which gives pupils the confidence to use Welsh language when leading the games. The Year 5 pupils really enjoyed the training. • Pupils invited parents into school to view their work on their inquiry about “Wonderful Wales”. Pupils felt proud to show off their learning and our visitors were impressed with the pupils’ knowledge and their communication skills. This project proved a fantastic way for pupils from different year groups to work together. Pupils had researched a wide range of areas linked to Wales such as Welsh Cookery, Welsh landmarks, Famous people, Welsh wildlife, Jobs in Wales, Wrexham Football Club and so much more!



<p>Developing numeracy across the curriculum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good progress made by pupils between September 2023 to July 2024 • High standards of maths and numeracy skills • Pupils demonstrate perseverance when working on numeracy problem solving activities. • skills across the curriculum. For example, the whole school topic on growth enabled pupils to conduct science investigations linked to plants. These investigations have helped pupils to develop and apply their measuring and data handling skills across the curriculum. For example, the whole school topic on growth enabled pupils to conduct science investigations linked to plants. These investigations have helped pupils to develop and apply their measuring and data handling skills. • Reception pupils have developed their data handling skills. They enjoyed collecting data for their question “Do you like Spiders?” survey. • Pupils in Year 2 have been very busy planting vegetables and plants – this has created many opportunities for them to develop and use their numeracy skills e.g., counting out the seeds, dividing the compost into the pots, making predictions of how tall the plants will grow, regular measuring of the plants. • Pupils benefitted from two days of input provided by HSBC on financial literacy. • Maths workshops were provided for parents in the summer term.
<p>Developing assessment and feedback techniques to support pupils to make progress in their own learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff use skilled questioning techniques which support pupils to develop deeper learning. • Teachers use questions and feedback to help pupils to consolidate their learning and to challenge them to make more progress. • When questioned about their learning most children are able to describe the progress which they have made in their learning. • Pupils have completed their own reviews of their learning for this academic year. Pupils show good perception and understanding of where they are in their learning and what their next steps are. • Good use being made of success criteria to support pupil to identify what they need to include in piece of work. • Pupils showing greater skills in ability to peer assess – more specific feedback being provided to others.



Some comments from our pupils....

"I love the fact that we get lots and lots of clubs after school and other things in general e.g. Sports, P.E. Play Pals, Wrexham football coaches, going to the zoo, HSBC staff, Generation Rock Band, Singing solos, Dance teacher, High School visits, Science activities and Christmas celebrations, Pentre, Nant BH, DangerPoint, Forest school, people from France visiting, Christmas tea, Grandparent tea, Table Tennis club, Football, Netball, Cricket, Rounders, Stay and Play, athletics, and that's just to name a few! " Key Stage 2 pupil.

"I love this school. It is really good. All of the teachers are just really nice to be around." "Key Stage 2 pupil"

The Governing Body works closely with the Headteacher and senior leadership team to review progress towards the school's improvement priorities.



Additional Learning Needs

Ysgol Northop Hall follows the procedures set out in the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act and Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales. Person-Centred Practice is central to this and is all about putting the child or young person at the centre of identifying their needs, planning their provision and reviewing this. The majority of our pupils have their needs which are met through the high-quality teaching and learning offered at our school. Ysgol Northop Hall addresses pupil's needs by following a graduated response. Differentiated teaching and a wide range of targeted support interventions are used to help our pupils make progress.

The school currently have 6% ALN. These pupils require an Individual Development Plan, or IDP, to support their learning and emotional well-being. This plan replaces Statements of Special Educational Needs and in some cases Individual Education Plans. Person-Centred review meetings are carried out throughout the year to monitor, track and review the pupil's progress. The pupil and family are an integral part of ALN process. School work closely with all outside agencies which can play a key role in supporting some of our pupils with ALN.

Ysgol Northop Hall have robust tracking and monitoring systems in place which ensure pupil's needs are identified early and that appropriate interventions are put in place to meet their needs. These systems show that pupils with ALN make positive progress.

The post of additional learning needs co-ordinator (ALNCo) is shared between Miss N Hughes who oversees the additional needs provision in KS2 and Mrs A Foley who oversees the additional needs provision in the Foundation Phase. The Link governor for ALN is Clare Roberts. The Additional Learning Needs policy can be found on the school website.

Ysgol Northop Hall have strong links with the surrounding Secondary Schools and successful enhanced transitions were organised for Year 6 pupils with additional needs to support the transition to Year 7.



More Able and Talented (MAT)

More Able and Talented includes learners who are more able across the curriculum as well as those who show talent in one or more specific areas. This could include practical, creative and social fields of human activity. In Ysgol Northop Hall children in every class are challenged. More able and talented learners require opportunities for enrichment and extension that go beyond those provided for the general cohort of learners.

The school supports MAT by identifying pupils as soon as possible and enriching the curriculum in a number of ways, which include: additional classes, special projects, subject educational trips, opportunities to apply practical and creative skills e.g., Performance Arts, community projects, MAT consortium projects, hosting of MAT events in Ysgol Northop Hall, working with pupils in other schools.

The MAT policy is available from the school office.



Behavioural Needs

The school follows the local authority guidelines on providing an inclusive environment. This means that we do have pupils with a wide variety of emotional and behavioural needs within our school community. Pupils with complex behavioural needs have support both from within school and from several external agencies such as educational psychologists, behaviour support and CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services). The work of the school to support pupils with complex behaviour is monitored by the school inclusion team and the school follows guidance given by external agencies. The school works very hard to adjust the environment to support pupils with complex needs within a mainstream setting. The county admissions team gives authorisation to enable pupils to join our school and pupils cannot be declined places if the school has spare spaces on the role.

If a pupil has a statement of educational need or Local Authority maintained IDP, they have the right to request that the Local Authority consider their request for a more specialist educational setting where their needs may be met by a more bespoke environment.



Action taken to strengthen links with the community

We are committed to working closely with the local and wider community. Some of the ways in which we strengthen these links over the past academic year include:

- Inviting parents to attend many events such as Parents' evenings, Harvest and Christmas Concerts, Sports Day, Pancake café, Mothers' Day and Father's Day celebrations and Year 6 leavers service;
- Inviting Grandparents to our Grandparents' afternoon tea in the summer term;
- Hosting a MacMillan Coffee morning for parents, relatives and friends;
- Making donations to the local foodbank;
- Performing songs at the village Remembrance Service;
- Excellent links with PC Woodworth the local Police Community Support officer who visits the school regularly and delivers sessions to pupils such as Cyber Safety, Dangerous Substances, Safe Haven and Antisocial Behaviour;
- Working with Rev Jonathan our minister of the Presbyterian Chapel and Rev Martin Batchelor the Vicar of Northop Church;
- Working closely with College Henri Dunant in France as part of our work on developing International Languages within the curriculum. In March students from France came over to visit and later in April, 11 of our year 6 pupils went over to France.
- Strong links with local primary and secondary schools, we regularly work together on activities which include sports, art, drama and music.
- Pupils took part in litter picking in the village.
- We continue to support students from Chester and Bangor universities and from Coleg Cambria-Deeside;
- Pupils have also participated in fund raising activities to support a number of important causes such as Children in Need;
- The School and Community Council engage with each other and with the Community at the Remembrance Services held annually at the War



Memorial. The involvement of Deeside Radio, who have kindly broadcast the Services, has ensured that the Service has been shared far and wide.

- The Community Council has sourced Litter Picking equipment for children to use around the Village. The route chosen to Litter Pick around the Gorse and the "Buckley Line" not only improves the environment but gives pupils an opportunity to learn not just about Flora and Fauna but about the industrial history of our Village.
- The Harvest Festival was held at the Presbyterian Chapel. It was lovely to see the older pupils holding hands with the younger pupils as they walked down Village Road on such a bright, sunny day. The pupils entered the chapel, quickly filling all the seats. They wore crowns decorated with all manner of vegetables and sang all manner of songs with a vegetable theme, set to contemporary tunes. From the youngest to the oldest, pupils exuded confidence and were word perfect. Well done to the pupils and the staff who had so obviously worked so hard perfecting the performance. Family and Friends were also able to attend the festival to join in with the pupils. It was a very memorable festival.
- Armistice Day - Monday 11th November at 11 am at Northop Hall War Memorial. Year 5 & 6 pupils remembered the 17 servicemen named on the War Memorial. Family and Residents attended the Event, introduced by Mr John Golledge. Pupils had composed 10 poems, which they shared, it was fascinating to hear their view of War. Bugler Neil Wilcox played the Last Post and Reveille, Ian Gibbons from Radio Deeside took part in the ceremony and shared a poem in memory of the 80th Anniversary of Arnhem. Pupils sang a beautiful song set to the music of Fields of Gold changing the words to remember the poppy fields and read out the names of the 17 servicemen. Prayers were offered by Rev Bachelor and Jonathan Hodgins. The pupils again were a real credit to the Headteacher Mrs Harrison and staff alike.



Sporting and Physical opportunities

Sport, fitness and outdoor activities form a very important part of the ethos of the school. Members of our senior leadership team play sport competitively to a very high level and understand the benefits of sport for health and wellbeing. We are proud to offer a wide variety of opportunities to children of all ages and are always looking to partner with outside providers to introduce children to new opportunities and challenges.

We are extremely proud of our Forest School and how it is integral to our curriculum. We have a passionate and dedicated Forest School Leader who ensures that many classes spend time in the Forest School area every week. We witness the positive benefits of Forest School on children's overall education. This includes increasing self-confidence, communication skills, resilience and problem solving. Forest School immerses students in the natural environment, helping to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the world around them. Taking learning outdoors also has a positive impact on children's health and mental well-being, contributing to a more holistic and enriching educational journey.

Every child from Year 1 upwards has two sessions of PE each week. Children in Nursery and Reception classes continually develop their fine and gross motor skills through a wide range of hands-on activities, thoughtfully designed for both indoor and outdoor environments.

We see clear benefits in participating in inter-school activities and have represented at a variety of events over the past year. These have included Rugby, Football, Netball, Table Tennis, tennis, cross country, wheel chair rugby, gymnastics and indoor and outdoor athletics.

We were delighted to organise residential visits to Pentre Llyn Cymer (Year 4) and to Nant BH (Year 6). Residential trips hold immense significance for our pupils. During the three-day visit pupils develop independence and self-confidence, while partaking in a variety of outdoor adventures such as gorge walking, canoeing, climbing, orienteering, cycling, and caving.

Last academic year our extra-curricular sports clubs included, Netball, Rugby, Tennis, multi-ball and performing arts. We are grateful to the staff members



who volunteer to run these clubs and to Lauren from “Big Stars” who leads the performing arts club.

We continue to take great pride in our pioneering work on the Flintshire Nurturing Schools programme. As part of that work, we continue to encourage, train, and equip children in Year 6 to become Young Leaders and provide fun activities for children at lunchtime.

We congratulate Mrs Harrison-Bowen for her success in September 2024 when she represented Wales playing Table Tennis at the Home Nations Championships in Guernsey. Mrs Harrison and her ladies’ team, gained bronze medal which was a fantastic result.



Buildings and Facilities

We continue to use the school budget to maintain and improve the fabric of the building and the school grounds.

Newydd Catering Service installed a new cooker over the last academic year.

A new patio area was laid in the Foundation Phase outdoor area to replace a wooden decked area which had become old and in bad repair.



Welsh Language and culture

Whilst pupils are educated through the medium of English we actively promote and develop bilingualism. Welsh is taught as a discrete lesson and incidentally through school.

We encourage staff to increase their knowledge of Welsh and have supported two staff members who chose to take Welsh language sabbaticals. We continue to draw on their experience as we implement the Welsh language provision in the new curriculum.

We celebrate Welsh throughout the year. We encourage the use of incidental Welsh daily, sing Welsh songs in weekly assemblies, and hold an annual St David's day celebration.

We continue to follow the Welsh language and culture programme, "Cymraeg Campus" and are moving towards achieving our other Bronze award.



Disabled Pupils – Arrangements for Admission and Access

Should a child have a Local Authority IDP or be going through an ALN consideration, then the Local Authority determines whether our school is suitable to cater for that child's specific needs. If it is determined that the school is suitable the child is admitted and welcomed. Their needs are monitored and discussed with the necessary agencies at regular review meetings during the year.

The building is one storey at ground level, with outside ramps to the Foundation rooms that are slightly elevated from the play area. The doors are wide enough to allow wheelchair access, and this includes toilet facilities. The Foundation Phase and the KS2 National Curriculum are made available to all. Our school philosophy is about equal opportunity for everyone, and this ensures that those with any disability will be cared for and included as far as the school is able.



The Pupil Development Grant (PDG)

The purpose of the PDG is to improve outcomes for learners eligible for free school meals (FSM) and for looked after children (LAC). It is intended to overcome the additional barriers that prevent learners from disadvantaged backgrounds achieving their full potential. The Welsh Assembly Government allocates additional funds to all schools in Wales on the basis of the pupils on roll who take free school meals or who are looked after children.

Every school is required to account for its allocation by creating a budget and accounting for it.

The school typically uses the grant for identified staff training, support and resources for small group and one-to-one support and targeted learning programmes. A good example of this is the Gareth Metcalfe Maths initiative being run throughout the school.

Full details of the school's use of PDG is published on the school website.



Action Taken to promote Healthy Eating and Drinking

We continue to try to encourage pupils to make healthy choices over the food they eat and what they drink in the following ways;

- All pupils are asked to bring their own piece of fruit to school for their snack time.
- Pupils are asked to bring in a bottle of water which they can access throughout the day.
- Pupils discuss the importance of a healthy diet as part of their curriculum work in PHSE and science.
- Healthy food is made available at breakfast club and at lunch time.



Staffing updates

Staffing Updates

Miss C Bellis returned to school following maternity leave in December 2023.

Mrs J Watkins commenced a 12-month Welsh sabbatical, from September 2023 to July 2024.

Mrs S Latham covered Mrs Watkin's teaching and leadership responsibility, whilst Mrs Watkins attended the sabbatical.

Departing Staff

Mr J Griffith – Teacher

Mr M Moody – Apprentice

Miss M Fryer - Apprentice

Joining Staff

Mrs S Randles - Class teacher - maternity cover until December 2023 and then job sharing with Miss Bellis from January 2024 onwards.