Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Westwood
Stryd y Tabernacle
BWCLE
Sir y Fflint
CH7 2JT
Ffôn: 01244 543207

Westwood Community Primary School
Tabernacle Street
Buckley
Flintshire
CH7 2JT
Phone: 01244 543207
Friday 6th November 2026

Mrs S. J. Jones B.S.C Hons; PGCE; N.P.Q.H.
Headteacher/Pennaeth
wwmail@hwbcymru.net

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had an enjoyable half-term break and that your children have returned refreshed and ready for the remainder of the Autumn Term.

As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our school. We have a busy and exciting few weeks ahead and there is much to look forward to. Before we do, I would like to take the opportunity to share a few important reminders and updates.

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance remains one of the most important factors in ensuring children achieve their full potential and make the most of every learning opportunity.

We are asking all parents and carers to support us by ensuring that children arrive at school on time every day. Regular lateness not only disrupts your child's start to the day and learning, but repeated late arrivals can also have a negative impact on their overall attendance percentage.

We would also like to remind parents that authorised holidays taken during term time can have a significant impact on a child's attendance percentage, particularly when taken early in the academic year. Even where up to 10 days' holiday absence is authorised, attendance can quickly fall below expected levels.

Please note that where a child's attendance falls below **90%**, they may become subject to Flintshire County Council's attendance monitoring and intervention processes, regardless of whether absences have been authorised.

In addition, if parents do not notify school of a child's absence, we are required to record the absence as unauthorised until a satisfactory explanation is received.

We ask all families to work with us to ensure children attend school regularly, arrive on time and are able to access the best possible educational experience.

Collection Arrangements

We would also like to remind parents and carers of the importance of being punctual when collecting children at the end of the school day.

Repeated late collection causes concern and can be distressing for children. Please ensure arrangements are in place so that children are collected promptly each day.

When collecting your child, please remember to:

- Greet your child positively and warmly.
- Supervise them appropriately once they leave staff responsibility.
- Leave the school site promptly and safely.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe environment for all children and families.

Uniform and Outdoor Clothing

As the weather becomes colder and wetter, it is essential that children come to school with appropriate outdoor clothing.

Please ensure your child has:

- A warm coat every day.
- Suitable footwear for outdoor activities.
- Any additional cold-weather clothing they may require.

We would also appreciate all items being clearly labelled with your child's name, including coats, jumpers, cardigans, water bottles and lunch boxes.

This is also a timely reminder regarding our school uniform expectations. We will continue to monitor uniform standards and will contact parents where expectations are not being met. Wearing the correct uniform helps promote a sense of belonging, pride and readiness for learning.

Toys, Fidgets and Personal Belongings

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of toys, collectables and other personal items being brought into school.

Whilst we recognise that some children with Additional Learning Needs may require fidgets to support regulation, concentration and learning, these items should never be used to distract others intentionally.

From this point forward:

- Children who have agreed use of fidgets as part of their support arrangements should have a maximum of **three fidgets.**
- These should remain with the child or in their tray when not in use.
- If fidgets are used inappropriately or become distracting, they will be removed and returned to parents.
- Children who do not have an identified need for fidgets should not bring them into school.

Unfortunately, we are also experiencing increasing issues with belongings being lost, swapped or damaged.

Please note that school cannot accept responsibility for personal items brought from home, particularly items that are not required for learning.

As agreed by staff, **all squishy or "squidgy"** style fidgets are **not permitted** in school.

All children will be asked to take home their personal belongings today inclusive of fidgets (Friday 6th November). Then from Monday 9th November we will proceed as outlined above.

Energy Drinks and Appropriate Drinks

We have also noticed an increase in children bringing energy drinks and electrolyte-style drinks to school.

Many energy drinks contain high levels of caffeine and sugar, which can negatively affect children's concentration, behaviour, sleep patterns and overall health. Research has linked high-caffeine energy drinks with disrupted sleep, increased anxiety and reduced concentration in children.

Whilst a legal ban on the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to under-16s is being introduced, it is not currently accurate to say they are already illegal for under-16s in Wales. However, governments in both England and Wales have recognised the concerns associated with children's consumption of these drinks.

We therefore ask that no energy drinks should be brought onto the school site.

Communication with School

We value positive communication with parents and carers and always want to resolve concerns as quickly as possible.

If you have any concerns, please direct them initially through the school office for the attention of the appropriate staff member. This ensures that enquiries are dealt with efficiently and by the member of staff that is best placed to help.

Revised Home-School Agreement

Attached to this email is our revised and final **Home-School Agreement**, as previously promised.

All parents and carers are asked to read the agreement carefully and complete the electronic acknowledgement form via the link provided below.

Home School Agreement - Westwood Community Primary School – Fill in form

By completing the form, you are confirming that both you and your child have read, understood and agree to the expectations outlined within the agreement.

Thank you in advance for your support with this important matter.

Parents' Open Evening

We would also like to remind you about our upcoming Parents' Open Evening on:

Monday 9th November
3:10pm - 5:00pm

There is no appointment system for this event. Instead, parents are invited to come into school, visit classrooms and celebrate their children's learning by viewing the work they have completed so far this year.

You will also receive your child's Interim Report during the event. If you are unable to attend, the report will be sent home with your child the following day.

Teachers will be available throughout the session for brief discussions and questions. However, if you feel a longer or more detailed conversation is required, we kindly ask that you arrange a separate appointment so that sufficient time can be given.

Looking Ahead

We have a fantastic half-term ahead and there is much for the children to enjoy and celebrate, including:

- Remembrance activities.
- Christmas events and celebrations.
- A visit from Father Christmas.
- Exciting learning experiences linked to our new whole-school curriculum focus:

Humanities

*Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs.

*Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. By working together, we can ensure that every child has a happy, successful and memorable term at Westwood.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Open Evening.

Kind regards,

Mrs. S Jones
Headteacher/ Pennaeth
Westwood Community Primary School