



Dear all,

Welcome back to the start of a new year, albeit a delayed start due to the refurbishment of the demountable building. Thank you for your patience and support on this delay. However, it was definitely worth the wait, as the updated building looks clean, fresh and modern.

It has been wonderful to see the children so happy returning to school. I would like to welcome our new pupils in Nursery and their families to St. Robert's School. We are delighted that they have chosen to come to our school and welcome them as part of our community.

### **A Prayer for the New School Year**

God of all wisdom, we praise you for gifting us with curiosity and learning.

Give to all pupils, staff and caregivers a clear sense of your love.

May they feel your presence throughout this school year.

Guide their choices, their quest for knowledge, and their relationships.

Use their successes and failures as opportunities to grow in understanding of who you would have them to be.

Continue to shape them, that they may walk in the way of Jesus,

May they grow strong in their relationships with others and know the complete joy of life in you.

In the name of Jesus, our Great Teacher, we pray.

Amen.



## Headteacher Awards: **Gwobr y Pennaeth**

**Dosbarth Haul** - Grace for her super writing of her full name  
Harrison for his brilliant sitting and listening on the carpet

**Dosbarth Enfys** - Isaac and Louie Harris-Waters for being superb role models in class and using their beautiful manners.

**Dosbarth Blodau** - Gethin for being very independent when completing his challenges in provision this week. Emily for her wonderful manners, she is always polite and courteous to adults and children.

**Dosbarth Seren** - Joey for a fantastic attitude towards his learning, and his readiness to share answers in class.  
Athena for an excellent effort with her learning and willingness to share some artefacts from home related to our topic!

**Dosbarth Afon** - Daniel and Ethan for settling in so well as new members of St Robert's School and Dosbarth Afon.

**Dosbarth Coed** - Griff for his excellent listening skills and always respectful and hardworking nature. Tianna for being hardworking, helpful and building upon her confidence in school life.

**Dosbarth Mynydd** - The whole class for being fantastic ambassadors for the class on our school trip!



## What's been happening in our classes: **Beth sy'n digwydd yn ein dosbarthiadau** Dosbarth Haul-

Our nursery pupils have all settled into the new school year so well!! It's been a busy fortnight learning the rules and routines in the classroom, sharing toys and making friends. They've had lots of lovely play indoors and outdoors with a variety of different areas to play in - the bikes, play dough and the home corner are definitely the most popular at the moment! We're looking forward to you all staying for lunch next week and having a full day of fun! The reception pupils have been working hard practising their letter formation and counting skills plus enjoying their first PE session practising jumping, hopping and their favourite warm up game Huggy Bear!!



### Dosbarth Enfyys-

We have had a lovely start to our first few weeks of term in Dosbarth Enfyys. All of the children have settled in wonderfully and have gotten to know their new classroom and friends. We have been painting some lovely self portraits focussing on including our correct eye colour, hair colour and size of our facial features. During our phase worship we learnt about the story of The Lost Sheep and made some sheep of our own to remind us of this Bible story. We made rainbows to help us think about our positive attributes and shared these with our friends.



### Dosbarth Blodau-

Dosbarth Blodau have had a very exciting start back at school! We are all settling well into our new class and have been working very hard. We've really enjoyed using our new areas of provision and working hard with our independent challenges.

We were all very excited today, when a letter was delivered to our class! We've got a new client and commission for our work this term. Dr Ranj from Cbeebies has written to us asking us if we would work hard as Junior Doctors to find out how to keep our bodies strong and healthy. Of course, we all agreed and are very excited to get underway with our work!

Bendigedig Dosbarth Blodau, a great start to this academic year.



### **Dosbarth Seren-**

It has been a fantastic start to the year for Dosbarth Seren! Over the past fortnight, Dosbarth Seren have been very busy settling into their new class. During our outdoor PE sessions, we have been learning how to effectively collaborate as a team and what characteristics we need to be a good team member. We are learning about 'What is the Church?' in RE and learning how the people of the church come together as the body of Christ. We have been busy developing our mathematical skills and recognising place value. We very much enjoyed meeting our client Will, Lord of the Stone Age, who sent us a mysterious letter and some clues linked to our new topic. We have begun to explore our topic 'Rocks and Fossils', looking at some facts about the Stone Age. Many of the children have enjoyed bringing in rocks they have found in nature and sharing them with the class, we have also had some fossils brought in too! We have been making the most of the sunshine and enjoying outdoor learning. We looked at the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy and used his work which inspired us to create structures using natural resources. We have also begun classifying rocks and grouping them in our science lesson. What a busy few days we've had and a wonderful start to the new school year- well done everyone, keep up the great work!



### **Dosbarth Afon-**

Dosbarth Afon have had a very successful start to the new academic year and have settled in very quickly. We were a little sad to say 'Hwyl fawr' to Brianne who has moved but very excited to welcome Daniel and Ethan as new members of our class. We have received a message from our client, Prince Llywelyn the Great who has asked us to help him build a better castle with good defences in order to keep out the Normans who are giving him a bit of trouble at the moment. We weren't sure who he was so we have been finding out about the Princes of Wales from long ago. We now have to become experts in castle design and medieval methods of defence. Prince Llywelyn has very kindly invited us to become Knights and Ladies of his court so we are very excited to be visiting his court in October.

We have also started our learning in Science and have been learning about the different states of matter - solids, liquids and gases. We had great fun learning about how the particles behave in the different states of matter by becoming particles and moving around.



### Dosbarth Coed-

Dosbarth Coed are settling well into year 5! During the last fortnight we have started working on our new topic, 'The Ancient Maya Civilization,' which focuses on the history and geography of the ancient Maya. We started our topic by using pupil voice to create a plan filled with questions and areas of learning which we would like to research and find answers to. We then looked at a competition advert from the Young Historians Association which we decided to enter! For this we will need to research the Ancient Maya and produce leaflets, videos and art work to showcase our knowledge. We have also started to learn more about place value in maths and we have begun some RE work, learning about Vatican II and what the different parts of a church are. We have worked hard on handwriting in Literacy and are really enjoying our new class reader, The Snow Spider! We have also managed to fit in some PE and play Welsh quizzes on the ipads... what a busy start to the year! We are looking forward to lots more learning and fun in class!



### **Dosbarth Mynydd-**

We have had a fabulous start to the school year in Dosbarth Mynydd! We have started our new topic, Blowin' in the Wind with a visit to Cenin Renewables at Parc Stormy. We attended a workshop on climate change, looked at the wind turbines and solar panels and visited the eco house. We also met the client for our topic, Jo, who has given us our final commission - to design and make a model of an eco-friendly house! We have also used our numeracy skills to explore climate data and used this as inspiration to create some artwork using powder paints. Our other favourite part of the day has been our French sessions and we are becoming whizzes at counting to 20 in French. Tres Bien!





## St. Robert's Pupil Profile

### Proffil Disgybl St Robert



The St Robert's School Pupil Profile is made up of pairs of virtues or qualities we aspire to grow in, to be the person God wants us to be.

Each half term we will explore a different pair of virtues.

This half term we have been focusing on the virtues of **GRATEFUL** & **GENEROUS** as part of our St Robert's Pupil Profile.

Pupils in St. Robert's Catholic Primary School are growing to be.... **grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others.

Pupils St. Robert's Catholic Primary School we help our pupils to grow . . . by encouraging them to know and be **grateful** for all their gifts, developing them to the full so that they can be **generous** in the service of others.

To be **GRATEFUL** is to always appreciate the gifts and blessings we have been given. To be **GENEROUS** is to give something to someone else, to share with someone else, willingly and happily, without expecting anything in return.



"If the only prayer you said was 'Thank you', that would be enough." Meister Eckhart OP (1260-132

### **Prayer for Generosity**

*Jacques Sevin SJ (1887-1951)*

Lord, teach me to be generous:  
to serve you as you deserve;  
to give and not to count the cost;  
to fight and not to heed the wounds;  
to toil and not to seek to rest;  
to labour and to ask for no reward  
save that of knowing I do your will.

**Amen.**



### St. Robert's Pupil Profile

This fortnight the following pupils have demonstrated the Virtues of being **GRATEFUL & GENEROUS**



**Dosbarth Haul-** Marley receives our grateful virtue for his outstanding manners used everyday without being reminded. Matilda receives our generous virtue for giving her time to help the new nursery around the classroom.

**Dosbarth Enfys-** Nevaeh receives our grateful virtue for using beautiful manners with everyone. Layla receives our generous virtue for being generous when playing with her friends.

**Dosbarth Blodau-** Matilda and Lynette for being generous with their gifts; they are always willing to share their gifts in class and are so helpful to the children and adults in class.

**Dosbarth Seren-** Kyra for demonstrating generosity by always being willing to help her peers and teachers. Oliver B for demonstrating generosity by always using his lovely manners and being kind towards his peers and teachers.

**Dosbarth Afon-** Reggie for always showing gratitude and beautiful manners by saying 'diolch yn fawr. Florence for being generous with her time by helping other children.

**Dosbarth Coed-** Caleb S for his excellent manners and showing generosity and kindness in every aspect of his school life. Logan for showing kind words and generous actions when people are feeling sad or are hurt.

**Dosbarth Mynydd-** Oliver and Charlie for being so polite in class and offering to help staff members.



On behalf of all the children and staff at St Robert's Primary School **Happy Birthday** to:

**Summer holiday birthdays-**

Grace (4), Piper (4), Sonny (5), Oliver R (6), Ellis (7), Harry (7), Kaylen (7), Layla (7), Olivia (7), Megan (8), Rose (8), Tomas (8), Erin (8), Freya & Sophie L-D (10), Hector (10) & Gwen (10)

**& birthdays since coming back to school**

Leo (4), Athena (8), Reggie (9), Caleb H (10), Griff (10), Jacob (10) Logan (10), Freya E (11)



**Other information:** **Gwybodaeth arall**

**BCBC Pupil Attendance Focus**

On Monday 18th September all schools throughout Bridgend County Borough will promote the importance of school attendance and punctuality as part of a BCBC 'Attendance Launch'. All schools will participate in a range of activities with a focus on improving attendance and punctuality. As part of this launch, there will be a multi-agency approach where learners who are not in school with an unexplained absence, i.e., you have not notified the school why your child is not in school, may receive a visit from partner agencies, including Early Help and Education Welfare Service.

## **Parental Questionnaire Findings**

I would like to thank all those parents that took their time to complete the questionnaire and here are the main findings and how we are going to address the areas to develop:

### **Areas of Success**

- We were thrilled with how positive many of the responses were. It's great that nearly every statement on the questionnaire was agreed with.
- 20 questions scored a 100% agreed response. We are especially thrilled to see this for statements like 'The school reflects the ethos and practices of a Catholic School', 'The school is welcoming' and 'The school caters well for the individual needs of my child and where appropriate my child receives the additional support that they need.'
- 100% of parents agreed that the teaching in St Robert's was good and that staff expect children to work hard and achieve their best. We are constantly monitoring the teaching and learning in our school, to ensure that it is to a good standard.
- 100% of parents feel that overall the school promotes good behaviour and that the behaviour of children in the school is good.
- 100% of responses agreed with the statement 'The school helps my child to become more mature and take on responsibility'. This is especially pleasing to see as a whole school focus this year has been on developing pupils' independence.
- There were a number of highly positive comments from parents - thank you for these!

### **Areas to Develop**

- **Being kept up to date with school events and information** - Our newsletter has a list of dates for the Autumn term. Dojo and Twitter are also used so please make sure you follow these. Our Twitter handle - @strobertsrc. We recently developed a St Robert's School Facebook page, please follow us using this link <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550648147692> . For further information we can direct you to the St Robert's PFA Facebook page where PFA events are shared.
- **Parental Involvement/feedback**- Throughout this academic year, we will be focussing on parental engagement through a range of activities. These included: beginning of the new academic year 'Meet the Teacher'; parent drop in coffee mornings; engagement with your child's class curriculum; establishing a toddler group; parental workshops and attendance at learner forums.
- **Complaints Procedure** - A copy of the school's complaint policy can be found on our school webpage at <http://www.strobertscath.co.uk/documents.html> In all incidences of complaint we would ask you to speak to your child's class teacher first.

## Diary Dates    Dyddiadau Dyddiadur

### 2023-24 Term Dates

#### Autumn term 2023

**Start:** Monday 4 September 2023

**Half-term:** Monday 30 October 2023 - Friday 3 November 2023

**End:** Friday 22 December 2023

#### Spring term 2024

**Start:** Monday 8 January 2024

**Half-term:** Monday 12 February 2024 - Friday 16 February 2024

**End:** Friday 22 March 2024

#### Summer term 2024

**Start:** Monday 8 April 2024

**Half-term:** Monday 27 May 2024 - Friday 31 May 2024

**End:** Monday 22 July 2024

#### School Training Days 2023-24 (School closed to pupils)

- 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023
- 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023
- 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023
- 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024
- An additional day TBC

Up and coming events: **Digwyddiadau i ddod**

19 <sup>th</sup> September	First day at School photographs (Gazette photographer) NURSEY PUPILS ONLY
6 <sup>th</sup> October	School Photographer in - individual & sibling photographs
16 <sup>th</sup> October	School Nurse- Flu vaccinations
26 <sup>th</sup> October	PFA- Halloween Disco
27 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>CLOSURE DAY</b>
W/C 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term
6 <sup>th</sup> November	School resumes after Half term break

Thank for your continuing support    **Diolch am eich parhad cefnogaeth**

*Mrs C Beveridge*