

# **BRYN COCH PRIMARY SCHOOL MOLD**



**Governors' Annual  
Report to Parents  
2023-2024**

**Bryn Coch Primary School  
Victoria Road  
Mold  
Flintshire  
CH7 1EW**

24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer/Annwyl Rhieni/Gofalwyr

**OPEN EVENING/ GOVERNORS' ANNUAL PARENTS' MEETING – 2024**

The format of Parents'/Carers', meeting Governors on an informal basis, has proved successful over the years. You are cordially invited to meet the Governors of Bryn Coch School, who will be in school during the Open Evening of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, between 3.30 p.m. and 8.20 p.m., to discuss the content of the Annual Report.

Yours sincerely

*M Tanton (Mrs)*

**Merrill Tanton**  
Chair of Governors

**BRYN COCH COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL****Governors' Report for the Academic Year 2023/2024  
(Education (No. 2) Act 1986)**

Presented to parents for discussion at the school Open Evening

**GOVERNORS end of academic year**

		Start Date	End Date
<b>Chairperson:</b> Mrs M Tanton	LEA Appointed	05.12.20	04.12.24
<b>Vice Chairperson</b> Mr G McCarthy	LEA Appointed	05.12.20	04.12.24
<b>Vice Chairperson</b> Mrs L Eaton-Jones	Parent Governor	01.11.20	31.10.24
Mrs J Rogers	LEA Appointed	03.09.23	03.09.27
Mrs L Davies	Teacher Governor	01.9.22	31.08.26
Miss M Davies	Teacher Governor	01.9.22	31.08.26
Dr E Poyner	Parent Governor	22.01.22	21.01.26
Mrs L Ledsham Jones	Parent Governor	29.09.22	28.09.26
Mrs L Birch	Parent Governor	28.1.20	28.01.24
Mr P Deaves	Parent Governor	04.12.22	03.12.26
Mr M White	Community Governor	01.07.21	02.07.25
Cllr G Collett	Community Governor Mold Town Council	20.09.22	19.09.26
Mr R Chamberlain	Community Governor	01.06.20	31.05.24
Mrs N Arrowsmith	Community Governor	15.11.22	14.11.26
Mr A Loveridge	Community Governor	07.09.23	07.09.27
Mr G Hughes	Staff Governor	01.09.22	31.08.26
Mrs L M Williams	Headteacher	03.01.22	02.01.26
<b>CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS:</b> Mrs K Williams			

Should you wish to contact the Chair or Clerk to the Governors, please write care-of Bryn Coch School (Tel: 01352 752975) or e-mail through the website: [www.ysgolbryncoch.com](http://www.ysgolbryncoch.com), [bcmail@hwbcymru.net](mailto:bcmail@hwbcymru.net)

## GOVERNORS' REPORT

I congratulate the Head, staff and pupils as they return to a full year of excellent teaching and learning. Staff and governors continue to ensure that pupils can attend school in a safe environment, whilst being supported with learning to reach their full potential. The governing body of Bryn Coch successfully fulfilled all the requirements of an explicit legal responsibility. Governors exercise their functions with a view to safeguarding for all and in promoting the welfare of the school's pupils who receive the best possible education. Governors hold face to face meetings and visit the school on a regular basis.

The reputation of the school and the staff is exemplary with colleagues from other schools visiting to share and experience good practice. Many staff continue to achieve and renew awards and recognition for their hard work, both for the school community and personally. Congratulations go to all those who have been successful this year.

Governors have a strategic view of where the school is going and they work hard to ensure staff and pupils have the resources they need. The school is kept in good repair with work carried out in several areas, including outdoor learning. This is done within the budget allocation from Welsh Government via the Local Authority and we work closely with our Local Authority Finance Officer. On appointment or election, governors attend induction training, data training and Chair training provided by the Local Authority, as set out in The Government of Maintained Schools (Training Requirements for Governors) (Wales) Regulations 2005/2013. Governors are keen to improve their own effectiveness and carry out skills audit and self-evaluation.

Governors thank the parents, carers, other family members and friends who support all the children in various ways. The Friends of Bryn Coch play an important part in the life of the school by raising money to boost resources in all areas of the school and it is good to see a return of their events.

In a large school there are always staff changes and we say thank you and goodbye to Mr House, Mr R Jones, Mr Keogh, Mr Peters and Mrs Hutchinson, we welcome Mr Pearson and Mr Owen.

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 look forward to working with you and thank you for your continued dedication supporting the family of Bryn Coch.

Merrill Tanton

Chair of Governors

## **The Governing Body 2023-24**

**In discharging its duties, the Full Governing Body met on the following dates during the academic year 2023- 2024**

2023

03 October Autumn Full Governing Body Meeting

14 November Governing Body Meeting

2024

23 January Governing Body Meeting

12 March Spring Full Governing Body Meeting

14 March Annual Report to Parents

25 April Headteacher Performance Management

14 May Summer Full Governing Body Meeting

11 June Headteacher Performance Management

11 June Governing Body Statutory Committee

25 June Governing Body Meeting

Meetings have been held face to face. Business decisions have been logged via minutes, email and the secure governor web site. A register of governors who attend meetings is maintained.

The following are items included on the agenda.

Declaration of business interests of governors

Appointment of Chair, Vice Chair, Chair of Statutory Committees

Governor Training, Terms of Office, Self-evaluation

Reports from School Council, Flintshire Governors Association, School Budget Forum

Reports from Statutory Committees

Head Teacher's Report

School Improvement Plan/ Self Evaluation

Governor Development Plan

Pupil Development Grant

Education Improvement Grant

Estyn Inspection and Action plan

Annual Report to Parents

## Welsh Government Education initiatives and guidance

### Correspondence

### Confidential items

The governing Body wishes to express its' continuing support for the Headteacher and all staff at the school. The work they do for the benefit of all pupils at Bryn Coch is outstanding. The governing body develops a clear strategic vision for the school and is aware of the accountability to parents and others in the local community. Governors demonstrate a commitment to equality of opportunity and reflect this in developing and applying the policies the school is required to have in respect of sexual orientation, marital or civil partner status, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, disability or age (as defined in the Equality Act 2010). The Governor Body is committed to safeguarding and well-being for all pupils and staff.

### **PRIMARY – HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON**

Regular meetings between Head Teachers and staff of primary and receiving High Schools ensure a smooth transition for Year 6 pupils. Mold Alun High School received the majority of our pupils, with a number this year transferring to other local schools. Mold Alun High School and Bryn Coch have a well-established Induction Programme for Year 6 pupils which includes transition especially for, Children Looked After, enhanced transition for our most vulnerable pupils and sporting, science and second language sessions for all children.

Pupils during the Autumn term visited the school to have their first look around. Then, during the summer term, there were numerous visits to the secondary schools. Our Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator, Mrs Walsh, works closely with High School Staff to ensure that they are fully conversant with our pupils' needs, thus enabling the appropriate support. With the use of an online sharing resource CPOMS, pupil records are easily transferred between the schools. Our links with High Schools are greatly valued and are constantly evolving as we continue to seek ways to further develop and improve them.

### **CURRICULUM WALES**

The New Curriculum Wales is now established in Bryn Coch and covers the education for all pupils from Nursery until the age of 11 in year 6. The Curriculum Wales provides a framework and guidelines on the skills to be covered, and the progression steps to be met in all Areas of Learning Experiences.

Skills run as a continual thread throughout all the school's book-based curriculum. Numeracy and Reading tests continue to be part of our extensive, formative and summative assessments.

The Curriculum for Wales sets out a clear, full and statutory entitlement to learning for all pupils. It determines the content of what is taught and sets progression steps for learning. At Bryn Coch we provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum for all pupils. Curriculum Wales requirements are met in all areas of learning and these areas of learning have policies and well adapted schemes of work, which effectively support teachers' planning. Across the school fruit is provided to support our Healthy

Eating initiative. If pupils decide to bring their own snack in this too must be a piece of fruit.

#### **ASSESSMENTS**

National tests and our own school-based assessments are used to identify and support all pupils.

#### **SCHOOL TARGETS 2023-2024**

As a school we worked on the following targets for improvement from 2023/24.

Priority 1: To ensure children are developing their reading skills and their love of reading.

Priority 2: Children and staff to develop incidental Welsh use both inside and outside of the classroom.

Priority 3: Develop a structured approach to peer assessment so there is progression through each year group.

Priority 4: To continue with the ALN reforms in line with Welsh Government Guidance.

#### **Timetable of Reviewing Policies and Schemes of Work**

##### **Autumn 2023**

Homework Policy  
Safeguarding Policy  
Educational Visits Policy

##### **Spring 2024**

Younger Years Policy  
KS2 Policy  
Lettings Policy

##### **Summer 2024**

Attendance Policy  
Whistleblowing Policy  
Performance Management Policy  
Pay Policy

**The Management Structure, Behaviour Policy, Marking and Layout of Work Policy and the School Prospectus will be reviewed annually. The School Council have been involved in discussions with relevant policies and have approved them.**

#### **ATTENDANCE 2023– 2024**

School attendance has been adversely affected this year by the number of holidays being taken in term time. Attendance 2023-2024 R-Y6 93.7%

### **SCHOOL LEAVERS 2023-2024**

This year our Annual Leaver Service was held in school for parents and year 3-5 pupils. All Y6 children also received their Record of Achievement and the book 'A Better Day'. The majority of our pupils went on to the Alun High School with some going to Maes Garmon, Castell Alun, Flint, Argoed, Elfed or Ruthin.

### **BRYN COCH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVISION (Mainstream)**

The school will admit all pupils whose needs can be met from the resources provided to it and whose admission will not significantly detract from the needs of other pupils. Where children have an LA prepared Individual Development Plan (IDP), their admission must be negotiated via the LA's Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Service (Tel: 01352 704030).

Due to the implementation of Additional Learning Needs Education Tribunal Act (ALNET) in September 2021, school is still, to some extent, working within two systems; SEN and the new ALN system.

All children apart from those in Year 4 who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs, have, if appropriate, had their Individual Education Plans or Statements of Special Educational Needs converted to an Individual Development Plan. Where a child is not considered to be ALN under the terms of the new code, but still requires support, this is provided through school's Universal and/or Targeted Universal Provision and documented on year group Provision Maps.

When concerns are raised for children who have not previously been identified as having SEN or ALN then ALN Consideration takes place. Depending on the outcome of this, these children may access Universal/Targeted Universal or Additional Learning Provision (ALP). In the case of ALP, they will have an Individual Development Plan.

School provides four Pastoral Support Staff for additional Well-being Support. Children who are identified are able to access a range of interventions as appropriate, including small group work and one to one counselling.

The Special Educational Needs Policy outlines the aims and objectives of the school, in line with the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs. Following the completion of ALNET implementation, school will not require a policy for Additional Learning Needs as the ALN Code will suffice.

All staff have continued to contribute to the Additional Needs Support throughout the school, to achieve a co-ordinated approach to meeting the needs of pupils. This year we have continued to provide additional staff in each year group, to target groups of children for additional literacy and numeracy support.

The Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCO) has continued to liaise with the Local Education Authority and Outside Support Agencies, for example, Educational Psychology and Speech and Language, to achieve appropriate assessment of any difficulties and ensure the best provision.

School has continued to work with the LA and consortium, to implement ALNET. This will conclude at the end of this academic year, 2024-2025.

## **RESOURCE UNIT – COMPLEX LEARNING NEEDS**

Ysgol Bryn Coch has continued to accommodate an LEA Resource Unit for pupils with complex learning needs. The Resource this year (23/24) has catered for 17 pupils aged between 7 and 11 years old. Pupils come from all over the County of Flintshire and are identified by the LEA following moderation and assessment. The Resource was staffed by 2 full-time teachers, 6 full time teaching assistants and 2 part time 1-1 positions. Close liaison with outside agencies such as Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, Educational Psychology and CAMHS occurred throughout the year. Opportunities are sought to include Resource pupils whenever appropriate, within the mainstream of the school. Resource staff also contribute to whole school activities such as attending residential trips, extracurricular clubs and functions. Some Resource pupils have successfully represented Bryn Coch School in athletics, rugby and football.

The Service Level Agreement was updated with Flintshire and additional interim reviews were necessary to address the inappropriate placement of a pupil. A new consultation process has been introduced to give the Head Teacher and Resource Teachers more involvement in the placement of new pupils.

## **Y BERLLAN – BEHAVIOUR GROUP**

Y Berllan has now been running for several years. Within that time, many children from Ysgol Bryn Coch and schools across Flintshire have accessed the highly structured ten-week programme. The programme is delivered in a small group setting addressing ways to understand behaviour, emotional state management, communication and rapport skills, self-esteem and aspiration. Feedback from participating pupils, schools and parents has been extremely positive. Y Berllan is staffed by 1 Nursery nurse who is also a trained counsellor and 3 Teaching assistants.

- . Some children may need help to:
- Understand and moderate their emotions
- Settle
- Listen
- Concentrate
- Make friends

The 'Know How' Programme is used, which is a psycho-educational programme designed to 'enable' children to think, communicate, behave and relate to one another in more useful ways. We have added a number of children who have accessed the programme from across County, with feedback being extremely positive. We now receive referrals from professionals from different groups. Mini Y Berllan for our younger pupils was also successful at the start of the year.

## **MORE ABLE AND TALENTED**

New and supply staff have been inducted into the school and MAT procedures have been shared with them. Annual reviews were completed in the summer term. Mrs McManus and every class teacher throughout the school reviewed individual pupils.

MAT pupils are then identified on a register and a class web so all staff are informed and can cater fully for the needs of our pupils.

## **BILINGUALISM**

Bryn Coch School does everything possible to promote good practice in bilingualism. As parents will be aware, our website has an excellent Curriculum Cymraeg section, with useful phrases for children to share with their families. In morning services, we hear staff and pupils using Welsh incidentally.

There are many signs around the school, labelling the hall, lunchbox areas, coat pegs and toilet facilities in Welsh, to reinforce the day-to-day language of our culture, as well as Welsh phrases to support both staff and pupils. All classrooms have sets of Welsh books for the children to use.

During the academic year 2023/2024 we have been developing Cymraeg across the curriculum, ensuring Welsh is taught across the AOLE's. Along with Cymraeg Bob Dydd activities which occur every day, to help develop language patterns, commands and basic conversational Welsh. The School Eisteddfod was completed successfully with the children competing in recitation, art and writing competitions. This year's Chair was won by Jacob in Year 6.

## **EQUALITY ACT**

In line with the Equality Act 2010, the school has an Equality and Diversity Policy. This policy brings together and replaces the previous anti-discrimination laws such as Disability Discrimination, Race Relations and Equal Pay Acts. This policy covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity.

The purpose of this policy is to provide equality and excellence for all. This applies to all members of the school community, pupils, staff, governors, parents and community members. Copies can be found on the school website or, can be requested from the school office. The Policy is supported by an Action Plan.

### **Disability:**

A pupil has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, and that this would require the school to make different provision for him/her.

In line with legislation around the Equality Act, the school Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator has worked with the LEA to audit facilities and has developed a three-year Access Plan. The Access Plan is monitored by an Involvement Group which comprises of students, parents, staff, the Link Governor and the Headteacher, along with disabled parties. The group discusses issues relating to the Access Plan and minutes are actioned on an on-going regular basis. This plan is approved by the LEA and is available from the Head teacher.

### **Additional Learning Needs:**

The school will admit all pupils whose educational needs can be met from the resources provided to it and whose admission will not significantly detract from the needs of other pupils. Where children have a Statement of SEN maintained on them, their admission must be negotiated via the LEA's Statementing Office (Tel: 01352 704030). Admission arrangements for other pupils with SEN, including those who have physical or mental impairments, are set out in the school's Inclusion Policy which is available from the Head teacher for all parents to see.

#### **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2023/2024**

Our dedicated school staff continue to give their time before school, during lunchtimes, after school, and during residential and extended day visits, to ensure our pupils receive a full and rounded education.

**School clubs include:** Cross Country, Athletics, Rugby, Choir, Football, Girls' Football, Netball, Craft Club, ICT, Chess Club, Choir, Foundation Phase Maths Club, Foundation Phase Forest Schools, Wordsworth, Rounders, Cricket and Athletics. These clubs offer our children a wide variety of experiences and disciplines beyond the traditional curriculum.

**Fee-based clubs include:** Drama, Art Club and Guitar club. Run by highly experienced instructors, these clubs are available to all children throughout the school year.

**Residential and extended day visits include:** Cardiff, Nant BH, Glan Llyn, Colomendy, London and Pentrellyncymer. These popular visits develop team building, perseverance, and resilience plus many more personal and social skills. They are an invaluable part of growing up and making lasting memories.

#### **SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS AND SCHOOL SUCCESSES**

Sports on the school curriculum allows children to develop their social skills, confidence levels, their ability to resolve problems as well as the opportunity to work together as one team.

Offering a variety of sporting opportunities, the children have benefitted from football, rugby, rounders, netball, basketball, cricket, and cross-country training throughout the year.

As a result of this extra-curricular support, Ysgol Bryn Coch has experienced multiple sporting successes in:

- Welsh Schools FA Girls' Fives Football Festival
- Football Flintshire and Wrexham Urdd (FFAW)
- Rugby Urdd 7s Mixed Squad
- Netball Flintshire and Wrexham Urdd (FFAW)
- Indoor Athletics
- Cross Country

Not all sporting achievements are gained through external events. As well as inter-house competitions, all children enjoyed a fun sports day showing off their skills in racing, obstacle courses and relays.

## **PUPIL VOICE**

**School Council** have had yet another successful year. Our main focus this year has been the Rights Respecting School Award and working towards the silver accreditation; the assessment for this is taking place on 16.10.24. As part of this work the children have:

- Been in charge of ensuring various articles are displayed in relevant areas around school.
- Looked at various school policies and linked articles to them.
- Looked at their year group's topics and identified which articles could link with them.
- Been involved in the silver accreditation process – Silver evaluation form and Evidence PowerPoint.
- Agreed on the Golden Articles that now work alongside Golden Rules.

Mrs Williams wanted Pupil Voice gathered regarding our rewards system in school. Our School Council Reps asked their peers if they felt the rewards system was still working effectively and what sort of items they would like to see more of in the vending machine.

The children organised and ran an Easter raffle for all year groups across the school. School Council reps were in charge of their own year group's raffle. Lots of money was raised for our charity – NSPCC.

School Council reps also helped organise and run the 'Childhood Day Mile', which again, raised money for NSPCC. The pupils helped Miss Holland and Mrs Eymond deliver an assembly about the fundraising event. They day was a great success and all pupils enjoyed travelling a mile in whichever way they chose.

Our used uniform shop 'Uniformd' is still doing well. Older pupils in School Council have been helping to collect orders and wrap them ready to hand to the pupils to take home. This is helping raise funds for school.

Our School Council enjoyed another visit to County Hall. The children were very lucky to be able to have this experience, meeting the Chair of Council, sitting in the Chamber and learning about the history of County Hall.

## **Eco Schools Wales**

2023/24 was another successful year for the school, with the Eco Council, year groups and staff working hard towards three main targets in our Action Plan:

Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle – we continued to work towards 'Plastic Free Schools' status, and have now met four out of the five targets we need to achieve the award. Over the year we reduced the number of single use plastic bottles being brought into school, held monthly Repair Cafes to reduce the number of fixable items

being sent to landfill and met with our Member of the Senedd to talk about how schools and the Senedd can help reduce plastic waste in Wales.

Active travel to school – in order to reduce pollution near school and increase active travel, we have been encouraging children to walk/cycle/park and stride to school rather than come by car, if possible. The results in KS2 showed that we were successful, as the number of children using one of these more active methods increased from 68% to 74% over the year.

Biodiversity – we created a wild flower garden and planted fruit trees, wild garlic, snowdrops and bluebells. We also put bird boxes, insect hotels and hedgehog houses around school to help wildlife. These all continue our efforts to encourage more wildlife onto our school grounds and increase the biodiversity of the area.

All this hard work culminated in the school gaining our second Eco Schools Green Flag in July.

### **SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

During the 2023-24 School year the following work was undertaken.

- Two rooms were painted in the Canteen
- Expired Fire Extinguishers were replaced and all checked.
- Gas Safety Check was undertaken in the canteen
- School Boiler was serviced
- Faulty Emergency lighting was replaced
- 6 New Fire doors were installed
- The Gym had a new roof
- Work was completed on the ramp exiting onto Wrexham Street
- Redecoration in various area
- Replacement of wooden gate at the top of the ramp
- Year 3 corridor to be decorated.
- Removal of barrier on School yard to improve staff parking

The school is served by 7 cleaners managed by Mr Hughes who has overall responsibility for overseeing the work and monitoring the needs of the school. All toilets are cleaned on a daily basis and extra cleaning is undertaken when and where required.

Fire Drills and lockdown were successfully undertaken each term during the school year.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

According to the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974, the overall responsibility for Health and Safety rests with the employers. However, with the advent of Local

Management of Schools, this responsibility was transferred from the L.E.A. to the Governing Body. The Governing Body of Bryn Coch has, after discussion, considered the situation and has adopted the County Health and Safety Policy. Obviously, such procedures as outlined, will need to be reviewed from time to time and amended following evaluation. Risk Assessments have been written and reviewed annually for Fire, P.E., Sun protection, Playscheme and Playground supervision and all outside visits require a Risk Assessment to be undertaken. These risk assessments are reviewed annually with guidance from an independent company Compliance Health and Safety.

#### **LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOLS**

The school has, again, managed the budget allocated to it by the Local Education Authority. A combination of good housekeeping and careful targeting of resources has ensured that, teaching staff and materials have been prioritised, to provide a sound basis for enhancing the children's education.

<b>Budget 2023/2024</b>		<b>Budget 2024/2025</b>
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>
1,817,045	<b>Employees</b> which includes Administration and Resource costs	2,051,520
187,350	<b>Premises</b> which includes Caretaking & Cleaning, Energy/ Water and Repairs/ Maintenance	205,919
330,711	<b>Supplies and Resources</b>	410,814
106,491	<b>Service Level Agreements</b> LEA Support Costs	118,667
<b>2,441,597</b>		<b>2,786,920</b>

**BRYN COCH SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNT 2023/2024****(1<sup>st</sup> April 2023– 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024)**

<b>Balances b/fwd.</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Balances c/fwd.</b>	
Current account b/fwd.	25053.62	Current account c/fwd.	7496.23
Savings account b/fwd.	0.00	Savings account c/fwd.	0.00
Less unrepresented cheques	150.00	Less unrepresented cheques	100.00
Plus outstanding credits		Plus outstanding credits	0.00
Petty cash b/fwd.	0.00	Petty cash c/fwd.	0.00
<b>Total funds b/fwd.</b>	<b>14903.62</b>	<b>Total funds c/fwd.</b>	<b>7396.23</b>

**INFORMATION TO PARENTS**

During the year, the parents of the new Nursery intake and Reception classes, were invited to the school for induction evenings, to meet staff and discuss school routine. There then followed guided tours around the relevant areas and parents were given information booklets.

A school year book in which records of all school activities are kept, continues to be a worthwhile memento to treasure for years to come. An annual written report on each child's progress was sent to parents prior to the school breaking up in July. Year 6 pupils and parents received information and visits to the relevant high schools.

A photographer visited school in September for individual photographs of the children and in the summer term to complete all class photos. In October/November, Smurfit Kappa sponsored a competition to design a shoe box and card which were subsequently used to send Food boxes from the children to Flintshire Foodbank.

Other useful information for parents can be obtained via the school's own website [www.ysgolbryncoch.com](http://www.ysgolbryncoch.com) and Twitter x page @ysgolbryncoch. We continue to use our email and messaging service Parentmail, which is used for emergency information, recording of absences and letters home. The Newsletter is a valuable document for communication to parents. The majority of events/occasions, reasons for celebration/congratulations are regularly updated for parents. Letters informing parents of events are dispatched regularly; copies of such letters are available from our school office. Parents were informed of forthcoming events and visits by regular correspondence.

**SCHOOL COMMUNITY LINKS**

The school facilities continue to be used for the local and wider community. PC Marc works with Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y6 throughout the year. Our Annual Community Week did take place this year and it was lovely to see children k in the community.

**SPECIAL EVENTS – 2023-2024**

Bryn Coch pupils continue to be very generous in their support of various appeals this year, including, Foodbank Christmas boxes which Smurfit Kappa again sponsored.

We returned to St Mary's Church for our Harvest Service, pupils brought food gifts into school which were later distributed to Flintshire Foodbank and a collection was shared between the church and NSPCC. Mrs Williams raised £9334 for the NSPCC by running the London Marathon. Children did a sponsored run, joining her to run laps of the school field while she ran 16 miles and Year 5 held a coffee morning.

Pupils also enjoyed wearing different outfits for Children in Need, raising £899, a school book fair which raised £104.88, and a McMillan coffee morning which raised £546.66.

The festive season approached, and all pupils entertained families with school or Church performances. For the first time we had the whole school Carol concert led by Year 6.

It was lovely to go to the pantomime at Theatr Clwyd Cymru and we had the annual Christmas dinner and parties which added to the enjoyment.

Year 6 organised a wonderful summer fair this year as part of their entrepreneur topic. Everyone was delighted to see the return of the annual musical evening which saw performances from those children who have learnt musical instruments, either individually or with year 3 and the school choir.

#### **GOVERNOR TRAINING AND ASSOCIATIONS**

The regulations for mandatory governor and clerk training and the provision of a clerk to a governing body came into force on 20th September 2013. These are the Government of Maintained Schools (Training Requirements for Governors) (Wales) Regulations 2013. Governors continue to follow the Welsh Government regulations for statutory training for Clerks and Chairs, Induction for New Governors and Understanding School Performance Data. This is carried out by a programme provided through E Learning for Governors in Wales. I am happy to say that Bryn Coch Governors meet all the requirements, and I would like to thank the Flintshire Governance Support Officer and other LEA Officers for their continued support and guidance with the governance of our school.

The Governance Support Officer provides advice on roles and responsibilities and liaison with local members regarding the nominations of LEA governors.

Governors are grateful to the Local Authority who continue to fund the annual subscription to Governor Cymru Services. This offers a helpline, up to date information on policy and procedural processes and informs about new initiatives and national conferences. Governor Cymru Services provide a detailed web site of general information for anyone interested in school governance.

Bryn Coch Governors are members of the Flintshire Governor Association, an independent forum for School Governing Bodies in Flintshire. We have received newsletters throughout the year but have been able to hold meetings. Governors receive information from, and have a dialogue with, officers from the Local Education Authority (LEA), from Governors Wales officers and Welsh Government representatives regarding matters affecting school organisation and effectiveness.

## FRIENDS OF BRYN COCH REPORT 2023 - 2024

Friends of Bryn Coch (FOBC) is a registered charity whose sole aim is to raise funds for the benefit of Bryn Coch School. FOBC is the Parent Teacher Association for the school. We are called 'friends' because we are an association of all those people who have the interests of the school and its children and staff at heart. The FOBC is not limited to parents but also grandparents, relatives and their friends. All are welcome as often or, as little as you can make it.

The first meeting of the Friends of Bryn Coch was held in September, which was our Annual General Meeting. At this meeting new officers were elected, and a few new faces were seen. FOBC have had another quite successful year despite a very small committee.

@school lottery which raised	£1800.53
Fayre, Grand Raffle and sweet cups at Christmas raised	£4037.74
Children designed Christmas cards	£300.90
School disco	£933.00
Urdd catering	£535.43

Thank you to all those pupils, parents and friends who supported the school.

## INDUSTRIAL LINKS

- This year saw yet another collection of Christmas Child boxes with over 200 being sent off to Flintshire Foodbank. Smurfit Kappa Packaging supported us by producing the gift boxes and donating prizes for the winners and runners up.
- Kittle Photographers came to school to take individual, family and class portraits.

It was lovely to have children go back into the community this year as part of Community week.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – 2023/2024

	School opened	School Closed
<b>Autumn Term 2023</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October
	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December
<b>Spring Term 2024</b>	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February
	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March
<b>Summer Term 2024</b>	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May

	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July
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<b>Training Days*</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
04.09.23*	
05.09.23 *	06.05.24
22.12.23*	
08.01.24*	
19.02.24*	
22.07.24*	