



Ysgol Gynradd Wood Memorial Wood Memorial C.P. School

'From little acorns, mighty Oaks grow'

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Kindness



Determination



Nurture



Respect



Integrity

Governors' Report to Parents & Carers

Academic Year 2024-2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to our 2024-25 Governor's Annual Report. I am, as ever, privileged to be able to be part of this process as your Chair of Governors. I hope you find the information throughout the report interesting and of use.

The Annual Report is a legal requirement but most importantly it should give you an insight into the education and involvements experienced by the children here at Wood Memorial (Woody).

The staffing changes outlined in a previous report are fully embedded in the school and we have been lucky enough to have continued strong leadership, led by Mr Johnson and his senior leadership team. As I said last year, he leads by example, keeping great momentum going at the school and instils his enthusiasm and drive in all staff and indeed all pupils. If any prospective parents are reading this annual report, I would encourage you to visit the school and you will be warmly welcomed and shown around. Since my last report to you, there have been some staffing changes. We are extremely pleased to welcome Mr Spencer to the Woody team where he will be working full time in Reception. We say fond farewells to Miss Pyke who has left for the Falklands and to Miss Walters who has left permanently for the Additional Learning Needs Team at Flintshire County Council where she has been seconded to over the last couple of years.

We have had even more improvements made to the school - the new Coed Woody outdoor classroom, outdoor learning spaces, and the Learning Hub has been re-modelled, which has been an incredible feat given the budgetary pressures we, as with all schools in Flintshire, faced last year. We had a further 2.5% budget cut and reduction in allocated grants which makes a huge difference to a small school like ours but with intelligent financial planning and amazing fundraising support of family and the local community, and some restructuring around internal arrangements, Mr Johnson has managed to continue to ensure the level of provision and enrichment opportunities, inside and outside of the school, for your children has remained.

The Forest School curriculum has been a huge success, with parents and carers also being invited to take part which the children have fully embraced. Mrs Ridge, as our Family and Community Engagement Officer, has organised many 'cafes' where parents have been invited in to do various activities with their children from reading, playing games and as mentioned, Forest School. The entrepreneurship topic was a huge success with the children opening the first ever Pop-Up Cinema - 'Hollywoody,' and the return of the ever popular, Pop-Up Restaurant. The 'Woodfest' theme this year was a truly unique experience for everyone lucky enough to attend.

Our learners have had the wonderful opportunity to attend residential trips which as always, are a huge success and really enjoyed by all of those who took part. These residential trips included, Manor Adventure and Llangrannog. Other activities enjoyed by the children have been day trips and many sporting opportunities which are listed in the body of the report. We had fantastic performances at Christmas and also the Leavers play, well done to everybody involved, including those behind the scenes.

As ever, I would like to thank parents and carers for all of their support in helping with fundraising that takes place at the school. It is essential for us as it enables us to ensure your children are given the right tools for learning, particularly in relation to technology to support and enhance digital skills.

Nicola Gittins
Chair of Governors

General Overview

The Governors' Report to Parents is an opportunity to reflect on the previous academic year. Our previous School Prospectus contains information regarding the members of our Governing Body, staffing structure, school session times, uniform, curriculum offer and much more. To read the current prospectus, please click here:

www.woodmemorial.co.uk/files/ugd/ade6bc_1cc4b323e864434696e297c0a9dea51d.pdf

Term Dates 2024-2025

Autumn Term 2024	
2 nd September 2024 – 25 th October 2024	4 th November 2024 – 20 th December 2024
Spring Term 2025	
6 th January 2025 – 21 st February 2025	3 rd March 2025 – 11 th April 2025
Summer Term 2025	
28 th April 2025 – 23 rd May 2025	2 nd June 2025 – 21 st July 2025
INSET Days	
2 nd and 3 rd September 2024, 20 th December 2024, 17 th , 18 th and 21 st July 2025	

Numbers on Roll & Year 6 Leavers

Pupil Numbers on PLASC Day 21st January 2025

Nursery/EE	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
22	23	21	21	22	24	13	23
Total on PLASC day: 169							

Of the 23 pupils in Year 6, the majority moved to St David's High School in Saltney. A small number of children moved to High Schools in England.

Attendance Information

We have first day of absence calls to ensure all pupils who can be in school are attending. We work closely with our Education Welfare Officer and Flintshire Inclusion Services to monitor attendance and challenge poor attendance where appropriate. We send out regular letters to all parents and carers about the importance of good attendance and how it directly impacts on academic progress and wellbeing. Average attendance percentages have fallen due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, however, we continue to work with learners and their families to raise attendance levels year on year. Our attendance during the last academic year was 90.5%.

School Development Plan (SDP)

Our main priorities on the School Development Plan were as follows:

- Priority 1: Introduce a specialised and progressive outdoor learning offer with the aim of improving the confidence, skills, self-esteem and well-being of learners, staff and the wider community.
- Priority 2: Provide opportunities to progressively apply the five connected and interdependent proficiencies, raising standards in numeracy across the curriculum.
- Priority 3: Develop our 'Culture Cymraeg' to promote and encourage everyday Welsh, and Welsh speaking skills of all school stakeholders, improving progress and raising standards.

- Priority 4: To enhance the quality and purpose of learners' extended writing skills across all AoLEs, enabling them to express their knowledge and understanding, effectively, coherently and creatively

A more detailed version of our SDP can be found by clicking the following link:

www.woodmemorial.co.uk/files/ugd/ade6bc_2471b968b70d4bacadb38f62d56326c6.pdf

Curriculum

Our curriculum offer for Wood Memorial can be found on the school website. We created a Charter of Experiences that we will offer all children during their journey at Wood Memorial. These were constructed with all stakeholders. Pupils are fully involved in the design, development, direction and evolution of our curriculum. The children will decide which direction their learning takes. We provide rich tasks which children can fully immerse themselves in, offering blended curricular and enrichment opportunities wherever possible. We have explored the way in which we teach and implement a range of pedagogical principles. You will find our Curriculum Rationale by clicking on the following link:

https://www.woodmemorial.co.uk/files/ugd/ade6bc_2f6380e3219d431f9183a506a0f69bf5.pdf

School Trips, Extra-Curricular Activities and Enrichment

Following the Covid pandemic, many events and enrichment opportunities returned to school life last year. Our enrichment programme has always been diverse and below are some examples of the projects and trips we engaged with and organised in the last academic year.

- Extra Curricular programme including Football, Cymraeg, Homework, Singing, Socks & Slippers, Athletics, Running, Cricket, Digital/Minecraft, Art, and Building
- Chester Races/Manor House Stables Numeracy Project trips
- Manor Adventure and Llangrannog residential trips
- Part of the All Wales Police Liaison programme and Anti-Social Behaviour project.
- Bikeability, Fire Service, First Aid, 'I Can,' Welsh Water and BSL workshops
- Full Forest School curriculum (all year groups)
- Dragon Sports and Consortium sports tournaments: Athletics, Football, Swimming, Cross Country, Triathlon, Cricket
- Charity/Fundraising events: Santa Dash Litter Pick, PJ day, Children in Need, Show Racism the Red Card and others
- Pop-Up Restaurant (Woodfest) and Pop-Up Cinema (Hollywoody)
- AoLE/St David's High School enrichment days (Years 5&6)
- Christmas and Leavers performances
- Woody Cafés, Family Learning sessions, Wellies in the Woods and Wild in the Woods

Flintshire Healthy Schools Scheme

We are part of the Flintshire Healthy Schools Scheme, which is part of the Welsh Network of Health and Well-being Promoting Schools (WHNPS) - we have achieved the highest recognition possible, the National Quality Award. We work hard to ensure children are made aware of how to stay healthy and safe. Children are encouraged to bring in healthy snacks and NEWydd (catering provider) ensure that all food provided meets strict nutritional guidelines. We have a water cooler in school and all pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Fresh milk is offered daily to children in Nursery-Year 2.

The Healthy Schools programme is currently undergoing significant change and we have offered to pilot the new approach when it is ready to launch shortly.

Family Engagement and Learning

Building strong links with parents, carers, families and the wider community is integral to all we do. Our Family Engagement Coordinator leads in this area and last year, we were able to offer a range of Woody Cafes focusing on board games, Christmas craft, reading, digital skills and the forest area. Further parent/carer forest school sessions took place and we delivered the 'Wellies in the Woods' and 'Wild in the Woods' programmes. We visited Douglas Place and supported a local Dementia group. The 'Come and Cook – Cooking in the Community' programme ran alongside other parent/carer learning sessions. Easter Bingo and Woody Cafes ran throughout the year, each with a different focus and theme. We also have a recycling uniform shop to support families where needed.

Policies

We have a range of policies at school (both statutory and recommended), available upon request. In line with the new Curriculum in Wales, Safeguarding procedures and ALN code, many of these are currently being updated. All policies are ratified by the Governing Body and we have a meeting schedule to discuss school policy and practice. Governing Body agreed to adopt all model Flintshire Local Authority policies in the first meeting of the school year.

Grounds, Maintenance and Health and Safety

The Local Authority and Compliance Health and Safety work the school audits in school, Governors looked at areas of the school that needed general repairs and maintenance;

- A new outdoor library/playroom has been built
- Outdoor sheltered spaces have been introduced and are currently being resourced
- Outdoor Classroom – Coed Woody has been built
- Drain work and plumbing improvements to toilets was undertaken
- Significant redecoration has taken place across the school including painting of the Learning Hub
- Significant investment has been made in Forest School provision and resources
- Electrical work has been carried out in some sections of the school

Additional Learning Needs

Additional Learning Needs (ALN), is the term used for supporting children and young people in Wales who require specific and specialised support. We are determined to deliver a fully inclusive education offer for our learners in Wales, a system where needs are identified early and addressed quickly, and where all learners are supported to reach their potential.

It is the responsibility of the school to do all it can to maximise learning and progression for every child. We are constantly exploring new and innovative ways to improve our ALN offer, resources, interventions, environment, teaching and learning strategies to allow all children to fulfil their potential.

This year we have continued to draw up and maintain relevant Individual Education Plans for learners. This involved regular meetings and reviews taking place between class teachers, parents, pupils and external agencies. We have worked in partnership with the Local Authority Additional Learning Needs team, Behaviour Support, Educational Psychologists, School Nurse team and the Inclusion Welfare Officer.

Mrs Topham is our full time ALNCO and is supported in school by Mrs Dorbin and Mrs Nowak. A number of other staff are trained to deliver specific interventions including Talkboost, ELSA and Lego Therapy.

Language Development

The first language of the majority of our pupils is English. For those pupils whose first language is one other than English we access support through the EAL team (English as an Additional Language). We work with the EAL team to support pupils and staff. We are also part of the Language Development Project and were provided with a Language Development Assistant to support pupils in school, providing intensive support for EAL learners.

We are a school in Wales and Welsh forms a significant part of our Languages, Literacy and Communication area of learning. We have a well established Criw Cymraeg as part of our Student Senedd and are part of the 'Cymraeg Campus' initiative. Staff and learners are encouraged to use everyday Welsh around the school and, where possible, signs will be bilingual.

Community Links

We continue to maintain strong links in the community and are involved in many aspects of life within our local area. We have close links with Saltney Town FC, Airbus, Douglas Place, Chester FC, Chester University, St David's High School, Tesco Broughton, Morrisons Saltney, and other local businesses. We took part in the annual Remembrance Service at Hawarden Memorial and supported a number of charities this year. PC Woodworth visited us as part of the School Police Liaison programme to work with pupils on topics such as e-safety, discrimination, stranger danger and substance misuse.

Disability Access

We work closely with children and families to ensure school meets the needs of all stakeholders. We work with external partners and over recent years we have had ramps fitted to all exit doors and have had the fire alarm upgraded to light up (as required for pupils with hearing loss). We have had doors widened within the school so that they are accessible for all.

Toilets & Sanitary Waste

Toilets are allocated to leaners groups by age/class. Nursery and Reception pupils have their own set of toilets. Year 1/2 pupils have a shared set of girl and boy toilets available which has been partitioned. Year 3-6 children have one set of girl and boy toilets located along the Junior corridor. We have sanitary bins in the Junior girl's toilets, staff toilets and the changing area in Year 1/2. We also have nappy bins situated in school which are maintained and collected by an external company. All toilets are cleaned at the end of every school day, and during should the need arise. All toilet facilities are subject to a regular daily check by the Caretaker and an annual Health & Safety check is carried out by Compliance Health and Safety.

Finance and Personnel

School Budget was shared three times during the school year and the LA finance officer attended. We approved small purchases and staffing changes as well as looking at budget forecasts and current spends. The overall budget is becoming tighter year upon year with reductions in core budgets meaning we need to ensure we are making necessary efficiencies. School used the Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) to deliver Universal Provision initiatives such as ELSA, offer enhanced family engagement experiences, and deliver a Forest School curriculum. We share a plan which demonstrates our grant spend each year and this can be viewed on the school website. Below, you will see our final financial outturn for 2024/2025.

Saltney Wood Memorial (383)

Financial Outturn 2024/2025

BUDGET HEADING	FORMULA BUDGET 2024/2025	SCHOOLS PLANNED BUDGET 2024/2025	EXPENDITURE 2024/2025	DIFF + OR (-)
BALANCE FROM 2023/2024	37,653	59		59
EMPLOYEES	601,535	816,441	873,128	-56,687
PREMISES	70,756	56,995	55,955	1,040
SUPPLIES	22,383	23,104	23,019	85
ADULT MEALS	-	-	258	-258
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS	47,147	49,148	47,144	2,004
INCOME		-166,272	-254,953	88,681
TOTAL 2024/2025	779,474	779,474	744,551	34,923