



WELCOME TO OUR

Newsletter

Good afternoon and welcome to your St Ethelwold's VA School newsletter.

Prynhawn da a croeso y cylchlythyr St Ethelwold's.

A very warm welcome to the new term, especially to our new Early Entitlement families - your children are all settling into school life and we look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with you in the coming years. Everything is new and daunting as a first time school parent initially, but we are here for you and can answer any questions you have and even reassure you if you are uncertain about any aspect of school life - just give us a call or have a chat with the staff in the morning. You will normally see me at the school gate each morning and I will happily talk with you on any concerns you have.

The term has started off very positively indeed with staff carefully planning this term's topic of 'Cynefin'. Cynefin is a Welsh word that does not have an exact translation but which roughly means 'the feeling of belonging to a place or group where the sights and sounds are familiar and reassuring'. It is a beautiful word and we at St Ethelwold's are all working cooperatively for that sense of Cynefin so that you and your children feel safe, valued and welcome in school.

Speaking of Cynefin, we are trying to reestablish our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) this term. Mrs Edwards (Class 2 TA) is very keen on running this from the school side but we need some interested parents and carers to join. The PTA helps to build a sense of community among parents, teachers and pupils and they organise social events, family orientated activities and projects that bring people together - all with the aim of raising funds for the school. This sense of community helps to build support, promotes school spirit and strengthens that sense of Cynefin which we are all working towards. If you are interested, please contact the school office - just with your name initially and we will contact you with a date for the first meeting. Meetings are very informal, we will have plenty of tea and coffee and may even stretch to a biscuit or two!

This term the teachers have assessed pupils using a Boxall profile which measures their social, emotional and mental development and this information is then used to select children to attend our nurture provision with Mrs Bow. Pupils might attend individually or in groups and will receive a 6-12 week package to help develop areas highlighted from the assessment. If your child receives nurture sessions, we will always let you know and are happy to talk to you about the nature of the nurture.

With this being a relatively short half term (we break up on Friday February 9th) the next newsletter (cylchlythyr) will be in 3 weeks.

Lord, I trust in your unfailing love, in your promises. I give this day and all that it holds to you. May I walk in your goodness, knowing your gentle hand will guide me, and keep me.