

# Schools in focus

David Thomas, deputy headteacher, and Tamsin Nellist, head of foundation phase, celebrate the report's good news with some of the school's pupils.



## 'Good' report results give school reason to celebrate

A HOLYWELL primary school is celebrating after its first Estyn inspection report gave it a rating of 'good' across all categories.

Ysgol Maes Y Felin was built in 2016 to amalgamate Perth Y Terfyn Infants School and Ysgol Y Fron.

It is situated on the same site as the new high school, Ysgol Treffynnon, and has 315 pupils accommodated within 13 mixed-age classes.

Pete Davies, headteacher, said: "We are delighted with the report which we feel is a true reflection of our school."

"To achieve good in every inspection category is fantastic."

"This comes as a result of hard work and a positive team spirit that is reflected through the school's core values."

With regard to standards, the report said: "Throughout their time at the school, most pupils, including those with special educational needs, make sound progress in their learning and achieve well."

In the wellbeing and attitudes to learning category, it states: "Nearly all pupils display high levels of respect and tolerance towards one another, staff and visitors."

"They behave well, moving around the school and their classes calmly and responsibly," and that "most pupils engage enthusiastically with their learning."

The teaching and learning experiences at the school were praised in the report: "Teachers have high expectations of each

pupil and they make effective use of a variety of stimulating teaching methods to engage pupils' interests successfully."

The report also said that the partnership it has with the local community is "a particular strength of the school". This is evident by a range of initiatives it operates, including running highly successful English and mathematics classes, enabling parents to achieve recognised qualifications to access further and continued adult education.

In its leadership and management, the report said: "The headteacher and governors provide effective leadership for the school and they set a clear strategic direction for the future development of the school successfully."

"They receive effective support from the deputy headteacher and the senior leaders."

Andy Cornwell, chair of governors, said: "I am very pleased with the outcome from the recent Estyn inspection."

"The report clearly indicates the school is well managed and that all staff work very effectively as a team to ensure that all children make good progress and achieve well. The partnership between the school and the community is particularly effective and we will strive to sustain and develop this relationship further."

"On behalf of the school's governors I would like to thank all the staff at the school for their commitment and hard work in achieving this excellent report."



Pete Davies, headteacher, with the Estyn report.



Ysgol Y Llan Rotakids group are pictured with Nicola Jackson of Hope House Hospice.

## Pupils' fundraising boost for children's hospice

A GROUP of primary school pupils from Whitford have been busy raising money for Hope House Hospice.

The children at Ysgol y Llan, near Holywell, who call themselves The Rotakids, have the specific role of generating ideas to help raise money for those less fortunate than themselves, led by senior teacher Rhian Roberts.

This year, the pupils had three specific goals. They wanted to use any money raised to help support children, they wanted to help local children and they wanted to support children with a range of illnesses.

Following this, Hope House Hospice was suggested as a worthy charity.

Hope House were contacted and Nicola Jackson, a representative from the hospice, came to school and led an assembly which informed pupils and staff about all of the work that the hospice does.

The assembly included information about the hospice using special pools to provide children with muscle therapy,

pools with special access to help wheelchair users, as well as the use of music therapy to help users interact with the environment around them.

The Rotakids organised a special 'Sparkle and Shine' glitter event, where the children paid to have eco friendly hair glitter and glitter tattoos, as well as toast and milkshakes for snack.

This was followed by a coffee afternoon for parents and grandparents, and raffles with various luxury hampers as prizes. The school collected bags with donations of clothes and toys. It was also agreed any money raised from other recent fundraising events would be added to the Hope House fundraising total.

Nathan Williams, deputy head teacher, said: "The events were a great success. In total Ysgol y Llan raised over £800, including the value of sales from our donated bags of clothes and toys."

"This is a fantastic achievement for our small school and we are very proud of our children."