

Cynefin - A Place of Multiple Belongings by Donna Caswell

This time last year we were planning our heaviest leek competition, rehearsing Sosban Fach and planning for our traditional March 1st Eisteddfod. If only we knew that this would be the last community event the school would hold for quite some time.

Our village school has 110 years of history, all of which is underpinned by an outstanding community ethos. Despite these challenging times we can still boast a community that is as strong as ever. This is “**Cynefin**”, a Welsh word that cannot be directly translated into English, but means a place of multiple belongings. We have all heard the African proverb “it takes a village to raise a child”, and never has this been more of a challenge to our families due to lock downs and self-isolation,

As the adult community that surrounds our children we all have the responsibility to ensure that we build aspirations, ambition, and positivity in our learners. These are not the “lost generation” these are the “next generation”, and I for one have every faith in each and every one of them.

Moving forward, and towards a new normal, it is vital that our learners’ experiences should be grounded in an understanding of their identities and their world to form *their* cynefin. This will not only allow them to develop a strong sense of their own identity and well-being, but to develop an understanding of the diversity of others’ and make connections with people, places and histories elsewhere in Wales and across the world.

As the Headteacher of this wonderful little school, I would like to thank our community of pupils, parents, staff, governors and beyond. We have continued to work together, striving to give our children cynefin, so that even when they are not with their family, their friends, their teachers and their school – they feel that they really do belong.

