

Patagonian boys sample life in a rural Llŷn school

by Cambrian News reporter
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TWO young boys who attend a Spanish-medium school 3,000 miles away from Wales are experiencing life in a rural Llŷn primary school.

Mabon Llywelyn Lewis, 10, and Idris Llwyd Lewis, 8, are getting to know their new classmates at Ysgol Bro Plenydd, Y Ffôr, where they will spend the next few months.

Their mother, Esysllt Nest Roberts, is originally from the village but emigrated to Patagonia 13 years ago after successfully applying for a job as a Welsh language teacher.

The 44-year-old has made a life for herself in Gaiman, a riverside town in northeast Patagonia, in the Chubut Province of Argentina, where Welsh settlers formed a colony in the 19th century.

She met and married Cristian Lewis, also 44 and a Welsh-speaking dentist from Gaiman; the couple have two sons and the family are now on an extended break in Wales, staying with Esysllt's parents John and Kathleen Roberts in Y Ffôr.

Esysllt said: "We come over to Wales every two or three years, but this time the boys said they were eager to experience going to a Welsh school."

"They are very happy at Ysgol Bro Plenydd and are getting experiences they wouldn't be getting back in Gaiman."



"There are a lot more after-school activities and clubs here, such as the Urdd, swimming classes and a gardening club and it's so valuable that they are all in Welsh."

"All their lessons are in Spanish back home it's nice for them to get a taste of Welsh-language education."

"I'd like to thank the school for giving them this opportunity to live life like children in Wales."

Above, Mabon Llywelyn Lewis and Idris Llwyd Lewis with new friends Cai Rees Jones, Kyle Ball, Danial Hughes and Loui Nottingham

Right, Esysllt Nest Roberts and sons Mabon and Idris with Ysgol Bro Plenydd headteacher Carys Hughes



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Mabon and Idris are seen (centre) with new friends Cai Rees Jones, Kyle Ball, Danial Hughes and Loui Nottingham

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