



Tree Planting

Last week saw every pupil in the school take part in planting a tree in the school grounds. As we communicated last year, when we had to fell some trees as part of our tree survey, we would replant trees as part of our replacement programme. On Wednesday Mrs Cornish, Mrs Marsh and Mrs Kyte worked with each class to plant 65 trees with pairs of children. The trees were sourced from The Woodland Trust and I Dig Trees grants. It was wonderful to see our older and younger children planting together despite the fall in temperatures.



Christmas Signing in the Community

Wednesday saw our Year Two pupils singing to our neighbours community in Llanishen. The festive season began in style with some great carols and Christmas songs being performed. We were very grateful to ASC Phillips for providing the transport for this community event.



Professional Learning: Commando Joes

Staff recently completed their Professional Learning Day with Pete, from Commando Joes. The day was a huge success in recognising how we can support our learners (and each other) using RESPECT; Resilience, Empathy, Self Aware, Positivity, Excellence, Communication. We are very much looking forward to our launch day with the pupils in the coming weeks before beginning some of the specific missions in the Spring Term.



Staying Digitally Safe

As we approach the festive season and our children receive kind gifts from Father Christmas, it is important to ensure we safeguard learners. With this in mind please find the following links that may be of use to help inform understanding and decisions when selecting games and apps.

[A parents carers guide to age ratings of apps and games - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

[In the know - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

Charity Committee: Foodbank Donations

At the beginning of the week, Monmouth Foodbank collected the generous donations for families in our local area to receive some treats this Christmas. We were once again overwhelmed with your generosity at this time of the year.



Be Bright Be Seen!

Last Friday, saw the children arrive in school in Brightly Coloured clothes as part of an initiative by our Junior Road Safety Officers led by Mrs Phillips. The pupils led an assembly sharing the importance of being bright to be seen and keeping safe. Diolch yn fawr to our JRSOs for such leading such an important event.

Healthy School

As a Healthy School, please may we remind you that snacks for breaktime should be fruit or vegetables only. These ideally should be stored in a reusable labelled container. Children will be asked to place any non- fruit/ veg items back in their bags to have with their lunch. Children should all have a labelled refillable water bottle if possible to ensure they are hydrated throughout the day. These are kept in class so access to water is readily available. Thank you for your continued co-operation.

Autumn Term 2023

Weds 13th Dec: Acorns (Rec & Y1) Christmas Nativity 10am

Thurs 14th Dec: Acorns (Rec & Y1) Christmas Nativity 2pm

Fri 15th Dec: Christmas Story Telling Sessions

Tues 19th Dec: Y4/ Y5: Christmas Carol Service St Nicholas 9.30am

Tues 19th Dec: Saplings (Y2/ Y3) Christmas Party

Weds 20th Dec: Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Weds 20th Dec: Oaks (Y4/Y5/ Y6) Christmas Party

Thurs 21st Dec: Saplings (Rec/ Y1) Christmas Party

Fri 22nd Dec: Whole School Panto Trip to The Savoy, Monmouth

Fri 22nd Dec: End Of Autumn Term

Mon 8th Jan: Spring Term Commences

Fri 9th Feb: End of Half Term

Mon 19th Feb: Spring Term Two Commences

Mon 19th Feb: INSET—School Closed to Pupils

Weds 28th Feb— Fri 1st March: Y5 Urdd Residential, Cardiff

Tues 19th March: Saplings (Y2 & Y3) Easter Celebration

Thurs 21st March: Annual Report to Parents

Fri 3rd May: INSET—School Closed to Pupils

Fri 28th June: INSET— School Closed to Pupils

Tues 11th June: Rec, Y1 & Y2 Sports Day

Weds 12th June: Y3-Y6 Sports Day

Tues 18th June: Reserve Rec, Y1 & Y2 Sports Day

Weds 19th June: Reserve Y3-Y6 Sports Day

Weds 10th July: Oaks (Y4/5/6) Summer Production 1.30pm

Thurs 11th July: Oaks (Y4/5/6) Summer Production 6pm

Fri 19th July: Leavers Assembly 9.30am

PTFA Update

What a wonderful evening our PTFA arranged last week.

Members of the school community came together over two sessions to create some beautiful Christmas Wreaths. Our committee organised a super adult event with mince pies, mulled wine and some wonderful creations! A great way to begin the festive season.

Upcoming events-

Friday 15th December - Christmas Fayre 3.30-5.30 In the School Hall. Craft Activities, Hot food & Drinks and Class Enterprise stalls.



Attendance

Attendance continues to be a priority for the school with regular meetings with the Education Welfare Officer to discuss pupil attendance and support families as necessary. Unfortunately there are a number of pupils arriving after the start of the school day. We appreciate that some mornings this is unavoidable but for some of our learners it is regular occurrence that has an impact on their well being. Those individuals arriving after the start of the day are often self conscious when walking into class, when all their peers have begun their morning activities. For some they need an adult to support this transition into class ensuring they feel safe and secure to begin their day. We as adults know the feeling walking into a meeting or appointment late, so your support in not passing this feeling onto our young learners is much appreciated.

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Dosbarth Reception

These weeks seem to be flying by as another fortnight has already passed. We've been super busy with our Nativity Practice and are looking forward to welcoming friends and family in next week to watch. We've worked very hard, Miss Light and Miss Ward are very proud of all the children as I'm sure you will be too. In maths, we've been busy looking at taking things away to find 'how many are left?' This has supported the build-up to some of us writing and completing some subtraction sums within 5 and 10. We've really been challenging ourselves in maths as we are quite the mathematicians. At the end of last week, we were greeted with 'Alfie' our class elf which was named by one of the pupils. Alfie has been up to all kinds of mischief in our classroom from leaving snowy prints, making his own binoculars having sleepovers and even trying to bring back a snowman from the North Pole! We're looking forward to having Alfie the Elf with us until the end of term. He also very kindly delivered us a sack full of goodies. We also enjoyed our visit to Trellech areas where we were able to share some of our Nativity songs with the wider community to share some Christmas joy. If you were able to join us, we hope you had a lovely afternoon and enjoyed the sneak peak of our Nativity songs. For our final forest school of the term, we enjoyed some delicious marshmallows with Year 1 for a Thursday afternoon treat. We're looking forward to some of the fun festivities that are planned for the final two weeks as we quickly approach the Christmas break. A gentle reminder that on Monday 18th December, we would like to welcome you in for our parent Christmas workshop from 1:45pm. As ever, thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend all!

Dosbarth 1

Another busy couple of weeks in Year 1. We have been busy with our Nativity rehearsals, learning our lines and singing our songs. Last week we had a visit to the church and met Reverend Dack. She very kindly told us all about the history of the church and we learnt that it was very old and that the village of Trellech used to be a very important place in Wales. We also found out about the font; where babies are christened, the pews; where the congregation sit, sing hymns and say their prayers. Reverend Dack also told us about the pulpit and the alter which was very interesting. This week in Clever Writer we have been learning how to write informal letters, and comparing to the postcards we wrote last week. We have been writing a Thank you letter to Reverend Dack for allowing us to visit the church. In maths we have started looking at Place Value of tens and ones using numicon to support our learning. We have also continued with our counting in 2s and learning the 2 times table. We have also started to create our Christmas items for our enterprise stall at the Christmas Craft Fayre, something we are very excited about. We are becoming more festive in our Toots sessions with Mrs North where we have been learning to play Jingle Bells – we have had to learn lots more notes so we can play the tune. Last week Year 1 enjoyed taking part in the whole school tree planting – thank you Mrs Cornish and Mrs Marsh, we all really enjoy our gardening activities each week.



Dosbarth 2

Can you believe it?! Just a couple weeks left, it will be Christmas and the first term will already be over. This last fortnight the pupils have been writing their own version of the fairy story: The Little Red hen using the clever writer approach as well as planning and writing their letter to Father Christmas using persuasive language. In numeracy we have been interpreting bar charts and also making up our own questions based on the charts. We have been estimating and measuring lengths. The pupils have been getting festive this week. They were very brave and confident to take to the stage and perform songs at Llanishen Hall in front of an audience. They were amazing and we are so proud of them as we did have technical issues! We have also started work on our enterprise project in readiness for the Christmas fair. At Forest School the pupils created their own fitness trails, and they also took part in the planting of trees and wildflowers to improve our school grounds. Mrs Cornish and Mrs Marsh and Tom from Keep Wales Tidy have been impressed with their listening skills and hard work.



Dosbarth 3

We have had an extremely busy couple of weeks, and Christmas has well and truly begun! To start the week, we discussed as a class all the things we have to be thankful for at this time of year, and also thought about those who are less fortunate than us. We then wrote and decorated our ideas to add to our school gratitude tree – I was so impressed by how thoughtful and mature the children's contributions were. In Literacy, we have been working on non-chronological reports. The children identified the different features and looked for examples in various texts. We then started researching Christmas around the world, looking for similarities and differences between different countries, ready to write our own report next week. We have continued to work on multiplication in Maths, and we are all now really confident multiplying whole numbers by 10. Next week we will be using the Maths skills we have developed so far this year to help us calculate costings for our Enterprise project. To finish our 'I Am the One and Only' topic, the children were keen to have a go at creating self-portraits. We started by looking at examples of self-portraits by famous artists, including Picasso and Frida Kahlo, and thinking about different materials and techniques used. We had a go at drawing a portrait of our partner using guidelines and measurements to help us get the position and proportions of facial features correct, then tried a split-face portrait of ourselves. This was not as easy as we thought, so needed lots of perseverance, resilience, and attention to detail to get it right. The children had a fantastic time building and testing out their own fitness trails at Forest School, showing great collaboration and teamwork. Finally, we have been working hard on some Christmas crafts which we hope you will really enjoy when they come home!

Dosbarth 4

Busy! Busy! Busy! The Christmas celebrations have well and truly begun. We have been trying to think of different ways we can use natural materials to design and make some natural decorations. We collected lots of interesting things at Forest School which encouraged the children to become more aware of their surroundings. It was quite exciting when we found an interesting piece of gnarled wood! We will be selling these on Friday December 15th and all the profit will be spent on Year 4 children. The children are busy learning Carols ready for the Carol Service on Tuesday 19th December. In Humanities, we have looked at the development of farming through Stone Age and the different foods people eat. We made a simple, healthy stone age stew and bread which the children seemed to enjoy. The bread was so simple to make that some of the children made some at home too. In Literacy this week we have been using all the skills we have learnt this term to create our own story based on the story of Stone Age Boy. In Numeracy we have been focussing on division by 10 and 100 and consolidating our place value knowledge as we shift digits as we divide. See the home learning blog for more information on this. It was exciting that we could all participate in the planting of some new trees around the school. We will certainly be keeping a check on their growth as we pass them on the daily mile each day. We have been thinking and discussing things we are grateful for this week and have written a little tag with a message on to hang on our school gratitude tree. The children impressed us with their mature and thoughtful responses. Thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you over the next few weeks at our Christmas activities.



Dosbarth 5 What a wonderful time of year it is! Definitely one of my favourite seasons. The children have been super at adapting to the weather, to the heavy rain and the frosty cold, dark days with positivity and get up and go. In literacy, health and wellbeing and humanities we continued to read *Coming to England* and discussed in detail the experiences Floella faced including racism and wrote a persuasive piece of writing in the form of a manifesto. We explored experiences of men and women in football and considered ourselves, our school, our community and the wider world. I was so proud of the discussions that have taken place during this topic. We studied emotive language, evidence to support points of view, opening sentences and adverbs, we also used rhetorical questions to really involve the reader. This week we have started researching for a piece of persuasive writing linked to the Caribbean islands, we are learning how to take notes and skim and scan. We are working in pairs to research, using questions to support us. In maths we have been learning about percentages which will support us with our enterprise project for the Christmas fayre. We now understand percentages and are beginning to find percentages as fractions and decimals. Dal a ti Dosbarth 5! In netball we have been getting into a space and receiving the ball which is more difficult than it sounds, the children will this week begin marking another person to stop them getting the ball. For our enterprise Christmas project we last week considered what other peoples like and dislikes are and what might be appropriate to make and sell, and this week we have looked at designs and costings, including writing a shopping list and pricing up materials, the children also helped write shoops and are enjoying taking ownership of the enterprise. At forest school we completed a team building activity where we had to create an obstacle course with a set criteria, they absolutely love being in the woodland and work so beautifully together, ensuring everyone is included and supporting one another with activities, we each completed the obstacle course and some were more adventurous than others taking some of us out of our comfort zone, we certainly didn't feel the plummeted temperatures that Thursday afternoon. In Welsh we enjoyed reading a new book about the planets and identified known and unknown words in *ditectif darllen* using our reading skills prompt card. We have begun learning carols for our upcoming carol service at the church, we hope you can join us. A huge diolch to Mrs Cornish & Mrs Marsh who supported us with the tree planting last week, the children worked alongside their little peers in Reception and were super role models as always. Home learning will be shared on Friday and spellings available every Monday. Diolch yn fawr iawn, busy few weeks ahead so enjoy a restful weekend.



Dosbarth 6 Dosbarth 6 have had another busy two weeks as edge closer to Christmas. In keeping with our topic "Who do you think you are?" all the children have researched and written their own autobiographies focussing on their memories, achievements and influences. It has been lovely to see the creative ways these have been written and displayed, really showing who they are as individuals. In readiness for our Christmas enterprise project, our maths has had a focus on percentages which they have then used to calculate the potential percentage profit they will make from their items. Using these prices, the children have finalised designs and set sale prices. I foresee a Dragon's Den future for some of our year 6 children! We also spent time analysing the census data from 1841 and 2021, with the children choosing the categories to investigate such as the number of 0-9 children in both documents. It was fascinating to see the results which the children then drew in graphs, suggesting reasons for the difference in population such as better health care and travel opportunities. We were extremely fortunate to take part in the whole school tree planting, working alongside year 2. As well as providing much needed trees to the environment, it was wonderful to see the close teamwork between year 2 and year 6. Forest school saw our children whittling wood to create sculptures of themselves using potato peelers. Huge perseverance was shown by all the class as they attempted to define the features and ensure a lifelike appearance. In health and wellbeing we have been perfecting our hockey skills of passing, dribbling and stopping the ball, culminating in some very tense and exciting matches with very tight scores. They have also been channelling their inner musician by appraising jazz and blues music and learning to play a piece of music by Burt Bacharach. Thank you for all your support this term and we look forward to seeing you at all the Christmas activities.




WIN WIN

SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY

It's A WIN-WIN Situation!

**BOOST School Funds
WIN up to £25,000**

BUY TICKETS TICKETS £1 EACH

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.

NOFIO AM DDIM I AELODAU PTL FREE SWIM FOR PTL MEMBERS

RHAGFYR 2023 **DECEMBER 2023**

Mae MonLife yn Weithredol yn creu sblass mis Rhagfyr eleni trwy gynnig sesiynau nofio cyhoeddus AM DDIM dim ond ar gyfer ein haelodau Pasbort i Hamdden. Mae croeso hefyd i aelodau newydd fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn, ond rhaid iddynt fod yn gymwys yn gyntaf er mwyn cofrestru ar ein cynllun Pasbort i Hamdden. Plymiwch yn ddyfnach i'r manylion trwy sganio'r cod QR canlynol.

MonLife Active is making waves this December by offering FREE public swims exclusively for our Passport to Leisure (PTL) members. New members are also welcome to seize this opportunity, but must first qualify in order to sign up on our PTL scheme. Dive deeper into the details by scanning the following QR code.

Telerau ac Amodau yn berthnasol
Terms and Conditions Apply




MonLife morrisshire
or fyny

Eco Christmas Alert

The Eco Committee has kindly asked you to think about being eco friendly this Christmas. Please can we ask you for no christmas cards this year in school and to think about donating your christmas card to an eco friendly charity for recycling. Thank you from the Eco Committee
eco ho ho ho



Christmas Party

Sunday, 10th December

Mitchel Troy Village Hall

Free Christmas crafts for children

BAR & FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS

SANTA*

3-5 PM

* £3 SANTA GIFTS MUST BE ORDERED IN ADVANCE
Contact: vallong4464@aol.com

