



Week Ending—Friday 2nd February 2024

Cluster Working

Over the past two weeks, we have worked closely with our cluster colleagues in continuing our journey of curriculum progression in the Areas of Learning and Experiences. Last week saw Miss Powell and Mrs Maunders attend our final PL Day as part of our Digital Project and how this looks from Year Six as our learners progress to Year Seven. Mrs Cotton collaborated with our colleagues with regard Humanities Progression and Mrs Phillips with our Health and Well Being Colleagues. This work is instrumental in ensuring our pupils from across the cluster reach Year Seven ensuring a smooth transition.

This week as a Cluster we have seen our work in developing our Initial Entry Assessment Arrangements for our youngest learners, being published as a case study on Hwb, you can read the work here: [Repository - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](https://www.gov.wales/repository) We are very proud to be part of this work as a cluster and would like to express our gratitude to the staff involved in this.

As a group of Cluster Heads we met to review our approaches to ensure as a cohesive group we are addressing Tackling Anti Poverty. This updated information can be located on the school website. With this in mind we are ensuring forthcoming National Events such as Comic Relief and World Book Day are marked without putting any additional unnecessary financial pressure on our families. We will share our plans to mark these events shortly.

Period Poverty

We continue to have available in our school entrance and at St Nicholas a stock of sanitary products for you to utilise. Please do help yourself.

Pupil Property

We have noticed an increase of children bringing personal items into school. Please can we ask that these remain at home to avoid any damages or items being lost, which may cause unnecessary upset during the school day. We do appreciate that some of very youngest pupils have a 'special' item that is kept in their bag throughout the day but is used for reassurance if they are upset.

Jewellery

Please can we reiterate that no jewellery should be worn to school apart from studded earrings and where possible these should be removed for PE/ Swimming.

Newsletter

Trellech Primary School



EAS Pupil Engagement Forum

We are very proud to share that Lowenna (Y4) following an application process; successfully gained a place on the EAS Pupil Engagement Forum. The EAS is the School Improvement Service that supports Monmouthshire, Torfaen, Newport, Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent. This week she attended her first face to face meeting at the Head Office in Ystrydd Mynach. Lowenna is one of ten volunteers from across the region from Years 3 to Year 12. In this role she will help in providing feedback to the EAS, so they can improve the ways in which they help schools. Will provide feedback on education in Wales, so this can be shared with their partners as well as working together as a group in creative ways.

Congratulations Lowenna— we are very proud of your achievement and look forward to hearing about the work you do.

Eisteddfod

As we look forward to celebrating St Davids Day on March 1st with our school Eisteddfod there is much work already taking place in readiness. It is a delight to see our older pupils working in collaboration with younger pupils to learn and create Welsh Dances. As part of this Criw Cymreig have decided on the entries that may be completed at home. These are:

Digital Technology Task: Use Digital Technology to produce a poster that promotes Wales and the Welsh Language

Photography Task: A landscape photograph that reflects Wales and/or the Welsh Culture

Art Task: Create a Welsh Dragon Collage or Dragon Sketch/ Drawing
On this day pupils are invited to wear red, traditional dress or an item of clothing that represents Wales

Message from Criw Cymraeg

Phrase of Fortnight: Dwi'n cytuno (I agree)

Dwi'n anghytuno (I disagree)

Welsh Speaker of Week: Moesha Y6 - llongyfarchiadau, dal a ti!

Communication from The Governing Body

Head Teacher Recruitment

In line with local authority procedure, the recruitment process for the permanent position of Head Teacher has now commenced. We will update you as soon as the process has been completed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Will Hockey: HockeyW5@hwbcmru.net.

Autumn Term 2023

Mon 25th Jan– Fri 9th Feb: Y2– Y6 WG National Tests

Thurs 8th Feb: Y5 Residential Meeting Y5 classroom 3:40

Fri 9th Feb: End of Half Term

Mon 19th Feb: Spring Term Two Commences

Mon 19th Feb: INSET—School Closed to Pupils

Weds 21st Feb: Y6 Visit to Senedd

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

Mon 4th– Weds 6th March: Book Fair

Fri 15th March– Y6 Cluster Netball & Football Event @Raglan

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

Weds 20th March: Netball Tournament @ Habs, Monmouth

Thurs 21st March: Annual Report to Parents

Mon 22nd– Weds 24th April– Y6 Residential: Gilwern

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

Upcoming events- Thursday 8th February - Spring Term Magical Disco



Staff Contact Details

Miss Whyte: whyteC14@hwbcymru.net

Miss Powell: powelll359@hwbcymru.net

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Mrs Maunder: maunderr2@hwbcymru.net

Mrs Peacock: peacockk2@hwbcymru.net

School Office: trellechprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tennis Club

Has begun for this term, it is a pleasure to welcome James to Trellech each Monday and leading these After School Sessions for our youngest learners. We are very much looking forward to seeing their skills developing in the coming weeks.

Monmouthshire Budget Consultation

Communication from Cllr B Callard

Monmouthshire County Council is commencing a four-week consultation on our 2024-25 budget, from the **18th January – 15th February 2024**. This is going to be a challenging period for all councils due to the costs and demands on services increasing beyond the modest rise in funding. The reality is that our funding will not cover all the services we provide in their current form. The proposals we have put forward are intended to sustain the services which we know are most important to people. Due to this, we are intending to change the way some things operate.

We want to know if you think we're making the right choices. Are there things we can do together that will better protect our services, people and the environment?

For more information on the proposals and the questionnaire to capture responses, please visit – www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2024-2025. Please feel free to share this link through your networks and encourage participation.

Scheduled Tree Works

As many of you may have seen our scheduled tree works have begun to take place, these will be completed over half term. When the trees at the front entrance will be removed safely when access isn't required. Following this work we will be able to then complete the work necessary to install our community bike/ scooter racks as well as liaise with the LA to repair our FP yard where the routes have damaged it. The pupils have been exemplary during this time and fascinated by the processes and skills of the tree surgeons as the tree works have commenced!

Dosbarth Reception

As another week passes by and we near the end of the first half of spring term, Reception have of course had another busy fortnight. We enjoyed baking biscuits for St Dwynwen's Day last week, hopefully you managed to try at least one before the children ate them. It was a great opportunity to apply our knowledge of money for the ingredients, even if they were a lot cheaper than the real-world prices... 2p for a bag of sugar? That would be perfect!! We also enjoyed reapplying some previous skills when baking through the use of measuring and weighing the different ingredients. We have also started learning a Welsh dance. It has allowed us to collaborate alongside Year 4 and it has been lovely to see the children laughing and dancing together. They seemed to have picked it up quite quickly and are looking forward to performing the dance at Eisteddfod. This week we've been looking at distance which allowed us to experiment with how far different fruit and veg would roll. It was a great opportunity to have lots of rich and in-depth discussions. We discussed how and why it's important to make it a fair test, the children all understood their role in the experiment and why we couldn't change them (in case it impacted the final result). We completed yet another Commando Joes mission where we had to reconstruct Farmer Ducks vegetable patch. The rabbits had managed to get into it and destroy it! Thankfully, the children were on hand to help. We've also been exploring symmetry and developed a great understanding of its meaning. The children enjoyed exploring symmetry through block play and thought carefully about the need for it to be the same on both sides. Our Welsh language skills continue to grow as we learnt the names of different fruits in Welsh as well as explored where different foods come from. With half term only one week away, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all again for your continued support. I really can't believe that the children are nearly half way through Reception. They have all grown so much and I look forward to seeing what more we can achieve as a class after half term. Have a lovely weekend all!

Dosbarth 1

Another busy two weeks have gone by in Dosbarth 1. We have continued with our new topic, Roots, Shoots and Muddy Boots where we are having fun learning about farming food and growing. County in the Community, continue to work with us every Monday developing our listening skills, teamwork and resilience. In I'm a Clever Writer we are continuing to look at using time openers to retell the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar, which we have really enjoyed, and we are starting to use more adventurous openers for our stories. In maths we have been using different coins to buy items from the shop and starting to give change to amounts up to 20p, we are getting very good at recognising the different coins and using them to buy items. We are also learning how to make the same amount using different coins, for example to buy something which costs 10p we can use a 10p coin, two 5p coins or five 2p coins. In Welsh we have been learning the names of different farm animals who live on a farm. We celebrated Saint Dwynwen's Day too, we listened to the story, made shortbread hearts, and at Forest School we made heart sculptures using natural materials. In PE we are continuing to learn a traditional Welsh dance ready for our Eisteddfod later this term, we are very excited about this. In our Expressive Art we are continuing to learn about the artist Andy Goldsworthy and how he uses the outside and natural materials to create his art. We are enjoying using the materials in class to recreate his patterns and design some of our own. Cori and Alex from County in the Community will continue each Monday until Easter, please ensure your child has appropriate PE kit in school to wear during this session along with hats and gloves, thank you.



Dosbarth 2

Year twos have written instructions on how to plant a seed, ensuring it has clear steps, imperative verbs, and it is in chronological order. They were able to develop the success criteria of what to include having highlighted the features of an exemplar instructional text. In numeracy, pupils have subtracted multiples of ten, added single digit numbers to two or three - digit numbers and solved written maths problems. In Welsh we have been expanding our use of the language and are now able to ask over twelve questions and answer them! In science we have been learning about the importance of soil and some groups have recorded videos of themselves explaining this. We really enjoyed our Winter walk around the wet meadow and forest school area, breathing in the fresh air; climbing over styles and up fallen trees; leaping across and stepping in brooks. Pupils have also been taking part in the pedestrian road safety scheme with Kerbcraft. We have also celebrated Santes Dwynwen, the Welsh saint of love, by creating cards. This falls on January 25th and originated way before the more commercialised St Valentine's Day. Pupils had a wonderful time during their Commando Joes lesson in which they worked as a team, used thinking skills and motor skills to create a home for the three little pigs whilst navigating an obstacle course, keeping an eye on the time and avoiding the 'Big Bad Wolf'.

Dosbarth 3

In Year 3 we have been practising reading and comprehending a text. After looking for clues in Charlotte's Web and doing some independent research we deduced that Charlotte is a barn spider. We have been busy planning a non-chronological report using the skills we learnt before Christmas so that we can share all of the wonderful information that we found. We also really enjoyed taking part in a live session with the author Steven Camden – we helped to create characters, setting and plot for a story, and then used the processes Steven shared with us to collaboratively our own story worlds in class. In Welsh, we have been learning how to name and classify different animals, using the language pattern 'Pa fath o anifail ydy...? Mae ... ydy ... See if your child can remember these at home! On January 25th we celebrated Dydd Santes Dwynwen. We read the story and watched a short animation, before deciding which facts were true and which were false. We also had a go at making origami hearts – very tricky, but we persevered and had some great results! In Maths we have been developing our understanding of fractions. We found out how to find an equivalent fraction by multiplying or dividing the numerator and denominator by the same number, then moved on to adding fractions. This was really easy, as long as we remembered the golden rule that we do not add the denominators! We have been exploring the life cycles of different animals to find out about the main stages, comparing them to find any similarities and differences. In Expressive Arts we have continued our All Creatures Great and Small topic with designing an animal mask. We are looking forward to coming up with a final design and making our mask using lots of different materials. If you have anything at home that we could use – scraps of material, feathers, card etc. – we would be extremely grateful! Our second Commando Joe session saw us working in teams to transport our rescued mountain gorilla across a lake. We had some very creative ideas, but this was a very tricky mission to complete! Communication and teamwork skills are developing well, however, and I look forward to seeing this continue.



Dosbarth 4

We are really impressed with the children's Literacy work based on the text- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The children have invented some interesting definitions and characters in the style of Roald Dahl. We have also created a story of how the Oompa Loompas were treated in Oompa Land and how they escaped; using some of the skills previously taught. We are now looking forward to creating a new sweet with some interesting and unusual features! In Forest School, we consolidated our knowledge to create fractions using natural materials. We have been learning a Welsh Dance together with Reception Class, which we will be performing at Eisteddfod. In Science/Numeracy we have analysed the nutritional content of various cereals. Discussions with the children have been interesting- initially they thought the names and what the cereal looked like, had an impact as to how healthy the cereal is. We looked at the difference in content such as vitamins and iron. The children then created graphs on google sheets and analysed the data. Currently, the children are now producing an advertisement to market a new cereal in the style of Roald Dahl- together with music and annotation. Bendigedig! We took part in a live lesson using Adobe Express on Hwb, the focus was Saint Dwynwen's Day and the children used many skills to create a flyer using various animation and features of Adobe. We continue to practise past tense Welsh language patterns, such as Es i l'r (I went) Ces I (I had) and Gwelais i (I saw). Next week we will be commencing our work in readiness for Eisteddfod. Thank you for your support.



Dosbarth 5

January has disappeared before our eyes and we are quickly approaching our Cultural Residential to Cardiff, which the children and I are looking forward to planning in the coming weeks. The children have been busy planning, measuring and designing their shared garden as part of our topic 'Scented Garden' we enjoyed working with Mrs Cornish who helped us consider what type of plants and what materials we may wish to use. When we finished our designs, we enjoyed looking at one another's, and voted for our favourite three anonymously. We then merged the designs together to create a final design which we were all involved in. We also unwrapped resources that were funded kindly by ACE Monmouth and look forward to using the garden equipment to develop our garden. The children enjoyed their first Commando Joe mission set by explorer and adventurer Sir Ranulph Fiennes, we attempted to beat world records in three activities using our measuring skills and challenged ourselves against the clock. We have been busy in literacy and numeracy revising for the national tests and have especially enjoyed completing reading comprehensions, practicing skimming and scanning. We had a lovely time together in forest school team building and working on our communication skills, we cooperated and helped one another, we love seeing the sheep on our walk over. On Thursday 25th we celebrated Dydd Santess Dwynwen, creating story maps and comic strips, and retelling the story to our peers. Did you know the name Dwynwen means "she who leads a blessed life". I would like to invite you to a short meeting on Thursday 8th February at 3:40 to discuss our upcoming cultural residential to Cardiff where I will answer any questions you may have. I look forward to seeing you then, diolch yn fawr.



Dosbarth 6

Another action-packed fortnight for year 6 and we welcome Miss Davies, a third year teaching student, to our classroom and school. Our topic of Beast Creator has taken our learning in many varied directions. The children have all made scientific drawings of insects, focussing on scale, proportion and angles and understand the difference between artistic and scientific drawings. They then transferred this skill to forest school where they used natural materials to make anatomically correct insects. In literacy, the children have all researched an animal from the Galapagos Islands that interested them, focussing on their adaptations, habitats, conservation status, diet, lifespan, glossary and a scientific drawing. They then transferred their research to make Darwin inspired sketch book pages, the results were fabulous, and you can see some of them on our X (twitter) page. We are now in the midst of writing a podcast about an aspect of "On the Origin of Species" - we will let you know when they are ready to listen to. Our science has involved learning how to classify animals and the purpose of classification. Having completed our pupil voice, the children were keen to design and make bug hotels to place in the school grounds. We have begun with creating mood boards to analyse products that are already on the market and create scale drawings of our own designs ready to make them. Many thanks for all the wonderful materials you have donated to help us with this task. Tag rugby continues to be a very popular lesson and it is fabulous to see how the children are helping each other to master the skills needed. We have paused our gymnastics to focus on Welsh clog dancing in preparation for the upcoming Eisteddfod – check out X (twitter) to see our first lesson! The second mission for Commando Joe's has now been completed. Using the spy Nancy Wake as a stimulus, the children soon realised that her treatment wasn't fair, and that teamwork was vital to overcoming adversity. Please remember, our PE days are Thursday (outdoor) and Friday (indoor), and we would appreciate all children having a coat in school each day as we take advantage of outdoor learning wherever possible. Diolch.



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