

# Newsletter



# **Purpose Coalition Awards**

We welcomed David Davies MP to breakfast club to present our Team with a Purpose Coalition Award. Once again we are very proud to have been honoured with such recognition. The awards are nominated and awarded for their commitment to breaking down barriers in order to boost social mobility across the United Kingdom. Having been recognised once again for our inclusivity for all is something we are very proud of. Please join us in congratulating and showing our gratitude to our breakfast club team; Mr Webb, Mrs Light and Miss Ward who ensure our pupils have such a positive start to their day enabling their readiness to learn.

#### **RSPB Big Birdwatch**

Led by our Eco-Committee all classes took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. We were astounded at the number of bird species we were able to observe in our local area. Observing the pupils completing this was a pleasure, as they listened for different birdsong, identification charts and digital apps to support them. Diolch to Mrs Cotton and Eco for leading this school event.

### **Booking Breakfast and Lunches via ParentPay**

We have noticed an increase of children arriving at Breakfast Club who have not booked a place. With our numbers increasing significantly it is essential that a breakfast club space is booked via ParentPay by 3.15pm the previous day (inc. Friday at 3.15pm for the following Monday) to ensure we have enough staff to supervise this facility. It will be necessary to unfortunately not allow pupils to attend breakfast club if they are not on the register.

Likewise, please could parents ensure lunches are booked in advance. We are seeing an increase of children without lunches booked and needing to have something which is not always of their choice. In addition to this, when booking a lunch please could you talk to your child to check they like the food being chosen. We are working hard to reduce the amount of food waste we produce each day. We often see large amounts of food being placed in the bin as children say they don't like the food choice and this also causes us concern as to whether they have eaten enough to ensure they are ready for the afternoon.

# Esiteddfod

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:

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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.

Please could all entries be in school by Monday 26th February in readiness for judging. For those children wishing to enter a musical item these will be judged between Monday 26th and Thursday 29th February in readiness for Friday 1st March.

#### **World Book Day**

World Book Day is celebrated on Thursday 7th March. This year we will once again take part in a variety of engaging activities linked to rich texts. As part of this children will have the opportunity to win some book vouchers. To mark the occasion, pupils are invited to dress as a book character, through 'make do and mend' or wear their pyjamas with their favourite bed time book. We are conscious of the pressure financially and on the environment by 'buying' new costumes.

As part of our World Book Day celebrations we will be holding a sponsored read. Your child will bring home a reading sponsor form today. The sponsorship will start on 26th February, ending on 3rd March. Please could any monies raised be returned to school by Wednesday 6th March. We will also be hosting a Book Fayre from 4th March to 6th March 2024. Books can be purchased each morning if you drop your child off, or you can shop online at this event using the special event code which we will share on schoop next week available from 26th February at 10:25 until 6th March at 21:30.

From the total monies raised as a school. Usborne will donate 60% to the school to buy books. We appreciate that times are hard, so please don't feel any pressure to purchase. As always thank you for your support.

#### **Autumn Term 2023**

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

Fri 1st March: Whole School Eisteddfod for Pupils

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

Fri 22nd March: End of Spring Term

Mon 8th March: Summer Term Commences

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

Fri 3rd May: INSET—School Closed to Pupils

Mon 6th May: May Day Bank Holiday: School Closed

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**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Magical Disco - it was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves and being wowed by Adam Richards Magic and we raised £255 for school projects.

We were delighted to fund the purchase of new netball equipment, including posts, balls and bibs for the school. The equipment has already been put to good use by the new afterschool netball club (y4-6), and will also be utilised for P.E lessons. Your support at events means we can fund more projects like this in the future, thank you.

#### **Pupil Success!**

We are always proud to hear about the achievement of our pupils outside of school. As you would have seen in the local press Mayhem Youth Theatre performed 'Oliver' last week. We were very proud to see Harry (Y6) as 'Oliver' himself, Oliver H as Dr Grimwig, Georgia as Charlotte, Maisie as Matron, Lucy, Sophia, Lowenna, Ethan were all part of Fagan's gang, Florence, Betsy and Beatrice were all Governors and Freddie was part of the back stage crew. Well done to you all, we are all very proud of you!



Lyra has once again achieved success in Tennis, having played at U14s as the youngest play at age 10. Congratulations on coming 2nd in this age group.



Next Event - Easter Fun after school Friday 22nd March.

#### **Staff Contact Details**

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## **Dosbarth Reception**

Croeso i nol, Welcome back once again to the second half of the Spring term. I hope you all had a lovely half term and some well-deserved time with friends and family. This week, Reception have been looking at Capacity in Mathematics and Numeracy. We have looked at estimating what we think different amounts of capacity look like from an empty cup, nearly empty, half filled, nearly full to a full cup. I was really impressed with the children's accuracy and language that they managed to pick up and use this week. We have showed a great understanding of what capacity means. In doing this, we were also able to order them from least to most capacity / most to least. We also measured and experimented with finding the total capacity that different objects can hold. I think we have all really enjoyed our Maths this week! With Eistedfodd also on the way, I just wanted to say a big thank you for all of your children's entries. They all look fantastic, and I know it will be hard to choose the winners. In school, we have completed our handwriting entries based on a Daffodil poem. Again, it was so lovely to see how much effort went into it and the progress that has been made in their handwriting since September. We have also designed our own love spoons and looked at the different features and meanings of them. Our commando Joes session was based around saving the red dragon, who was stuck on a mountain and couldn't get down. This has linked nicely to the myth that we are also retelling in Language and Literacy. Once again, we have made great progress in our weekly toot sessions with Mrs North and the children are really starting to show more accuracy when playing it. Diolch yn fawr, thank you, Reception for a lovely first week back. Enjoy the weekend and we look forward to seeing you Monday.

# Dosbarth 1

Dosbarth 1 have continued with our new topic, Roots, Shoots and Muddy Boots. On Monday, County in the Community, taught us different listening games which we had a lot of fun playing. In I'm a Clever Writer we thought of different words to describe Spring and then wrote an acrostic poem – Mrs Cotton was very impressed with our poems 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 PE we are continuing to learn a traditional Welsh dance ready for our Eisteddfod later this term, we are learning our dance with Year 3 and we are very excited about this, we can't wait to find out which house will perform their dance at the Eisteddfod. 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. We also had our second session of Commando Joe's where we had to build a new machine to help Farmer Duck – great teamwork skills on show again Year 1. We have also started our Reading Buddies with Year 3 on a Tuesday afternoon – Diolch Dosbarth 3 for reading lovely stories to us. We are also busy working on our entries for Eisteddfod on Friday 1st March, you still have time to send your entry into school if you haven't already done so, I've been very impressed with the entries sent in so far. Please remember 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

Welcome back. I hope you all had a peaceful, enjoyable half term break. Before half term Year Two enjoyed lots of out-door opportunities. We spent the time following our Daily Mile using wood chippings to tidy up the muddy patches around the reading shed and the nature area. It looks so much smarter now thanks to super teamwork. We also enjoyed taking the fraction work linked to our numeracy outside, took part in County in the community and learnt about road safety with Kerbcraft. Pupils have been uplevelling sentences by including punctuation, capitals and better choices of vocabulary in literacy. I have been really pleased by the effort and concentration shown. It has been great to see pupils engaging with reading buddies alongside year 6. In numeracy we have been recognising halves and quarters and completing procedural and reasoning online tests. Well done to the pupils for their resilience as they can be quite tricky. We have spent time revising Welsh language patterns and have carried out dialogues with partners. In humanities we have learnt about the uses of cereal crops. It was so funny that when barley was mentioned lots of pupils shouted out beer!

# **Dosbarth 3**

In Maths over the last few weeks, we have continued our work on fractions. We have become really confident representing fractions in different ways, pictorially and using concrete resources, and finding fractions of amounts. I was also blown away by how easily the children got the hang of adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator – amazing work! In Literacy we have continued reading Charlotte's Web, practising using different sentence openers to make our writing more exciting and using our sense to build descriptions. The children have been super creative when designing a mask to represent their chosen animal and we are can't wait to make them. If you have any materials you would be happy to donate – feathers, fabric, pipe cleaners etc. – we would be extremely grateful! We are really enjoying our Commando Joe's sessions, and have been carrying out different missions to help save a mountain gorilla. The activities can be tricky at times, but I am really impressed with how the children are developing their teamwork, resilience, respect, and communication. We have restarted reading buddies, and look forward to sharing stories with our friends in Year 1 every week. This week we have been hard at work preparing for our Eisteddfod. We are using our creative writing skills to retell the story of Merlin and the Dragons, as well as learning a Welsh song to perform. Using photographs as inspiration, we have started to create our own pencil sketch of a Welsh castle.

There is still time to complete homework entries for the following:

ICT: Use ICT to produce a poster that advertises Wales and the Welsh language Photography: Produce a landscape photograph that reflects Wales/Welsh culture

Art: Welsh dragon collage or a dragon sketch

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Welcome back to another busy term. We hope you all managed to get a little rest. The weather wasn't great but we are looking forward to the Spring. In maths this week we have been focusing on multiples and factors of numbers- please do ask your children about these terms- also remember to have a look at the home learning blog on Google Classroom, which is available every Friday from 3.30! This week we have been busy preparing for Eisteddfod- Learning a Welsh recital, handwriting, creating a poem about our local rivers and making a Welsh Mascot. The children are especially enjoying creating a mascot. It always amazes me how creative they are when using recycled materials. We have recommenced our Buddy reading this week with Reception class which all the children seem to enjoy, together with potting some primroses with Mrs Cornish and Mrs Marsh. We are doing a sponsored read- more details to follow, and the children will have an opportunity to buy a book on Monday 4th March, Tuesday 5th March and Wednesday 6th March. All profits will be used to buy books for all classes. Don't forget the Eisteddfod homework-use

ICT to produce a poster that advertises Wales and the Welsh language.

Photography: Produce a landscape photograph that reflects Wales/Welsh culture

Art: Welsh dragon collage or a dragon sketch







**Dosbarth 5** Welcome back! Before half term Dosbarth 5 enjoyed lots of time outdoors in our lovely school grounds. The children enjoyed taking part in the RSPB birdwatch initiative supported by our Eco Committee they spent time identifying birds and then they input their data into a spreadsheet. We celebrated Internet Safety Day with an assembly in class by our bigital Leaders, we also had a special Adobe live lesson which taught them how to uplevel their designing of a poster. They learnt how to split screen, how to get rid of a background on a photo, how to fill a background and how to dual tone a picture. The live workshop also taught them other skills which will enhance their digital work. In literacy the children described how technology and the internet has changed over time and had to think creatively about changes that might happen in the future, they wrote a persuasive, explanation text about how to stay safe online. In maths we had a whistle stop tour identifying angles, exploring properties of 2D and 3D shape and reading and plotting coordinates, some revision for our National Tests. The children worked really hard and should be extremely proud of themselves. We continued working on identifying a job we would like to do when we grow up and had to consider what motivates us and what we need to do to achieve it, the children had to find out about and record, the job title, job description, what qualifications needed and what salary we should expect. They also had to consider what 3 steps are needed to achieve their dream job, e.g. go to college, get A levels, graduate from university or begin work as an apprentice. In Welsh we began to learn a play script, the play Merched Beca about the farmer tax riots, and showed their understanding of the text by highlighting words they knew and translated them into English. We were lucky to welcome Mrs Cornish in to work with us on the scented garden, we were very busy and made huge progress in the shared area including removing the plants from the tyres, measuring and plotting our garden outline and planting snowdrops, as well as checking our planted trees and putting together a wheelbarrow. This week we have been busy as always learning about Welsh myths in literacy including the myth of the golden harp, we will create and write a Welsh myth for the Eisteddfod. We also began creating our Welsh mascot, completed our handwriting entries and began learning our recitation, a busy week of Cymraeg. We began investigating ratio and proportion in maths. We are really looking forward to our residential next week.... our Cultural visit to Cardiff. All information available on Google Classroom including menus, itinerary and packing list. Please remember to source a sleeping bag. If there is anything you do not have please ask, and we will help. It is not too late to enter the Eisteddfod home learning activities:

ICT: Use ICT to produce a poster that advertises Wales and the Welsh language Photography: Produce a landscape photograph that reflects Wales/Welsh culture

Art: Welsh dragon collage or a dragon sketch. Diolch yn fawr. Miss Whyte

<u>Dosbarth 6</u> Welcome back to the second half of our Spring term. Before half term, we had an extremely busy time in all sorts of ways. For literacy, all the children wrote and recorded their own podcasts about either natural selection / evolution or an animal specific to the Galapagos Islands. Their work was truly amazing, as they wrote the scripts, recorded, edited and added sound bites to engage the listener. Following some revision for our Nations tests, the children all focussed and gave them their all and should be very proud of themselves. This week our numeracy has a focus on rounding, in particular the place rounding has to play in everyday life and why it is useful. Linking to our topic of Beast Creator and helping to develop our school grounds, all of year 6 have designed and made a bug hotel to encourage the wildlife. They began by making mood boards, then analysing existing products, designing their own and finally making and evaluating it. The bug hotels they made were outstanding, using all recycled materials. Their woodwork skills increased at a rapid rate during they week as they learnt to saw, drill holes and hammer nails. I am sure the insects are going to love them! This week we have been preparing for our school Eisteddfod by analysing narrative poetry in readiness to write a narrative poem based on the myth of St Govan. We have also begun designing new Welsh mascots and learning the poem "Y Parc" for a recital. Year 6 continue to work with Mrs Cornish on designing and developing the allotment area, designing it to scale using 3D software. Safer internet day brought up some fascinating discussions of what the children would like to see in technology in the future. We had games that could immediately block abusive people and desks that built in solar powered chromebooks! I can't wait to see these in the future. We have had a wonderful trip to the Senedd in Cardiff this week where we had the opportunity to have a tour of the building, including the Chamber viewing gallery, and then a debate in the Siambr Hywel. It was a brilliant opportunity for the children to see how their roles as Committee ministers in school relate to the roles of the Senedd ministers. Remember it is not too late to enter the Eisteddfod home learning tasks:

ICT: Use ICT to produce a poster that advertises Wales and the Welsh language Photography: Produce a landscape photograph that reflects Wales/Welsh culture Art: Welsh dragon collage or a dragon sketch

