



**Week Ending—Friday 17th February 2023**

# Newsletter

**Trellech Primary School**



## Thank you...

...to all of you who have contributed to our Fundraising to enable us to purchase a defibrillator for the school. The support has overwhelmed us and the family of our young learner. Your donations have exceeded our expectations and will enable us to purchase the defibrillator, ensure maintenance for the foreseeable future as well as train staff, governors and volunteers appropriately in the event of an emergency. The staff completed their challenge in two hours early last Sunday morning and whilst the weather was kind, it certainly blew away the cobwebs on occasions. I am sure you will join me in thanking each of them for completing the challenge on a fresh February morning!



## Eisteddfod Homework Competition

On our return to school after the half term break we will hold our annual Eisteddfod. Children are invited to wear red or something 'Welsh' on this day. (Wednesday 1st March). As part of this day children are invited to enter a homework entry. This year our Criw Cymreig have chosen the categories. They are to design a 'house' Shield for pupils in Y3 up and for those children in Rec, Y1 and Y2 to design a 'Croeso' sign that can be used within the school entrance. Please could all entries be in school on Tuesday 28th February in readiness to display and judge for Wednesday 1st March.

## Attendance

As we continue to see a return to normal school routines it is important to ensure your child attends school regularly. Our school target is 96.4%. Our actual attendance is currently 94.1%, whilst an improvement from last year, we are hoping to work together to achieve this target. We are seeking support to work with you when your child/ children are unwell and follow guidance from Public Health Wales. If your child is unwell please can we ask that you inform us of the specific illness to help us monitor and pattern of illnesses. Punctuality is a key feature of our positive attitudes to learning, those children who arrive after registration has closed often show signs of anxiety as the lesson has often

begun and they feel on a 'back foot' as others engage in the activity having received all the relevant information necessary to complete a task successfully. Likewise, those leaving school early often don't have an opportunity to complete a task fully or with the same motivation that it has been started with. Your co-operation in working toward improved attendance is very much appreciated.

## Conjunctivitis

Following several cases of conjunctivitis, I have spoken to the Health Protection Team. Please find the following information that maybe of use: [NHS 111 Wales - Health A-Z : Conjunctivitis](#)

## World Book Day

World Book Day will take place on Friday 3rd March. Children are invited to 'dress up' for the day or simply bring in their favourite book. For those who wish to dress as their favourite book character we encourage utilising what you have at home already and not buying new. During the day all learners will design a book cover with prizes for the most impressive one in each year group.

## PTFA Funding

We were delighted to receive funding from our PTFA towards some much needed Block Play for our youngest pupils. Following a recent visit from Mrs Brimble (EAS) who is supporting the continual improvement of our learning environment, we identified the need for further investment in this resource. Block Play will enable our children to collaborate, solve problems and show their creativity.



## Healthy Snacks and Jewellery

We are proud to be a Healthy School, please can I ask that all pupils only bring fresh fruit or vegetables for breacktime snacks in a reusable container. This along with our water ensures we fuel our bodies in a healthy way. It also helps us reduce our waste and non recyclable packaging. Please may I also remind you that jewellery should not be worn to school, this is to ensure the safety of the children. Rings, earrings and necklaces in particular can cause serious injury if 'caught' at breacktime and during physical activity.

### Spring Term 2023

**Fri 17th Feb**— INSET Day School Closed to Pupils

**Fri 17th Feb**— Half Term Commences

**Mon 27th Feb**— Spring Term Two Commences

**Weds 1st Mar**—Eisteddfod (Wear Red/ Welsh Outfit)

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar**- World Book Day (Costumes Welcome)

**Thurs 30th Mar**— Pupil Reports Issued via Email

**Fri 31st Mar**— Year Five Easter Service at St Nicholas 9.30am  
(Y5 Parents Welcome)

**Fri 31st Mar**— End of Spring Term

**Mon 17th April**— Summer Term Commences

**Weds 26th—Fri 29th April**—Yr6 Residential Gilwern

**Mon 15th—Weds 17th May**—Yr5 Residential Viney Hill

**Fri 26th May**— Half Term Commences

### Summer Term 2023

**Mon 5th June**— Summer Term Two Commences

**Weds 14<sup>th</sup> June**: KS2 Sports Day

**Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> June**: FP Sports Day

**Weds 21<sup>st</sup> June**: Reserve KS2 Sports day

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> June**: Reserve FP Sports Day

**Fri 30th June**: INSET Day School Closed to Pupils

**Weds 12<sup>th</sup> July**: PS3 Summer Performance

**Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> July**: PS3 Summer Performance

**Fri 21st July**—End of Summer Term

### Staff Contact Details

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peacock@monmouthshire.gov.uk

School Office: trellechprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk

### Thank you to.....

Miss Light who has completed her final placement as part of her OU PGCE. Year Five thoroughly enjoyed her lessons which were always engaging, I'm sure if you follow our twitter feed you will see some of her wonderful activities. I'm sure you join me in saying thank you and will wish her well as she completes her studies and looks forward to having her own class in the very near future.



### Children's Mental Health Week

Last week saw our learners thinking about taking care of their mental health. We discussed during our Assembly the meaning of the words 'Let's Connect!', completed activities in class as well as end the week by connecting with friends from across the school as we spent our lunch break together. As part of this day we launched our first 'Free Fruit Friday', enabling all pupils to access a healthy snack at break time. We look forward to holding our Free Fruit Friday again very soon.

### Active Travel Plan

We are updating our School Travel Plan with the support of the Local Authority. The aim of the travel plan is to set out and implement a number of practical measures and initiatives encouraging sustainable transport use; walking, cycling, bus, train and car sharing, to school. We are hoping to address the traffic and safety issues around the school with the intention of developing solutions to try and relieve congestion, cut the amount of pollution from car exhausts and promote healthy living at school. We would like to make you aware of what is happening within the school and give you the opportunity to comment or make any suggestions to include within the Travel Plan. Please add your views using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/zHtkhnhPVF>

## **Class News**

### **Reception:**

Reception have had a busy two weeks before half term. We've had the opportunity for the Size of Wales to come into school to talk to us about the environment and how we can make changes to support our planet. As part of our topic, we also had the chance to go to our local church to find out what it means to belong to a Christian faith. The children enjoyed exploring the church and asking questions about the objects they had found. In literacy, we have been focusing on creating a wanted poster for Goldilocks as the bears. They were not happy that she broke their chair or ate their porridge. In numeracy, we have been working on counting to 20 accurately and our number bonds to 10. This week we have started our preparations for our school Eisteddfod, the children have submitted an entry for their handwriting, their art, a story and we have been practising our song 'Lliwiau enfys'. We have also created a bug hotel in our outdoors area to encourage more insects and give them a place where they feel they belong; this links nicely with our topic of Cynefin. The children have shown great interest in protecting the world around them. Finally, Reception had a visit from Rugby Tots on Thursday to finish off our week with some rugby skills. I was very impressed! Bendigedig Reception, have a lovely half term, thank you for your continued support.

### **Year One:**

This fortnight Year 1 have been busy! We are continuing to learn to play our toots with Gwent Music and have enjoyed a brilliant UPbeat Curriculum Cymreig Session this week. We were also lucky enough to speak to the vicar of Trellech's local church and ask her some questions we had written about Christianity and how Christians' faith is involved with their cynefin. A big thank you to Rugby Tots for coming in to consolidate our rugby skills and learning. We have also been focussed on enhancing our outdoor area, and this week we have begun to create a bug hotel. Thank you to all that have donated seeds for our garden – we're looking forward to hopefully having some vegetables to eat in the Summer! Please see j2launch for details about Eisteddfod preparations you can do over the half-term, including a poem, Welsh song and poster.

### **Year Two:**

So here we are, halfway through our time together in Year 2! It is good to see that the hours of daylight are steadily increasing as well as the temperature. As a result, the pupils are back to constructing, exploring and using the mud kitchen outside more often. We have also had resources for block play delivered and the pupils have been enjoying making shopping malls, communities and castles with them. I have been really impressed with the pupils' imagination. In literacy we have been improving our writing skills and it has been so lovely to see the progress all children are making. Wonderful choices of vocabulary, sentence openers, descriptive words and similes are really being embedded. In numeracy we have been adding tens to numbers and subtracting 10 from a 2, 3 or even 4-digit numbers. We have also started to look at fractions and will continue with this after half term. We have been reading a Welsh book confidently, understanding it and answering questions on it. Da iawn! Well done to the pupils who performed their Welsh country dances. They were judged and the points will go towards our Eisteddfod. Pupils have enjoyed taking both portrait and landscape photographs and had more fun editing them using Ipads. Have a relaxing and enjoyable half term.

### **Year Three:**

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through our time in Year 3! The last couple of weeks have been busy preparing for our Eisteddfod. We have been using all of our Clever Writer skills to write the story of Megan a'r Ddraig Fach, and I have been really impressed by the progress made this term. We are using different sentence openers confidently, thinking about including senses and similes to build description, and choosing exciting vocabulary to improve our writing further. Following our collaboration with Year 2 all of the children performed their Welsh country dance in house groups, earning points for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Highly Commended to go towards the Eisteddfod totals. Da iawn pawb! We have experimented with oil pastels and colour wash to create some fabulous observational art of daffodils. Our Cynefin topic work has continued – we have been finding out more about the area we live in and our community, including identifying and classifying different features, and using our ICT skills to make a video slideshow about where in the world we are. I have really enjoyed seeing all the brilliant homework that has been brought in, thank you so much for all the support you have given your children with this. I hope you all have a relaxing half term break, and look forward to seeing you all recharged and refreshed following the holiday!

### **Year Four:**

This week the children are busy preparing for Eisteddfod. We have been singing, painting, writing and practising a Welsh recital. We have been going from strength to strength with our writing and this week our focus has been a Welsh Myth- Devils Bridge. This is a story based around the village of Pontarfynach in mid Wales. The children retold the beginning of the Myth using the skills they have been taught. We used simile openers, adjectives to describe the setting together with interesting connectives to extend the sentences. Year 5 are retelling the middle section and Year 6 the end of the Myth. We are then hoping to retell this Myth, but even better than the original! We are continuing to develop our photography display, so thank you for any photographs you have uploaded onto the Year 4 folder in Hwb. In Numeracy, we have looked at some problem solving challenges this week, in particular with a focus on recording all possible outcomes. See this week's homework on Google Classroom for some links to look at. The children have now completed their block of swimming lessons. Forest School will commence again after half term on the first Wednesday back. It's our Eisteddfod in the morning, so they can bring their forest school clothes to change before we leave. We will continue to do every other Wednesday. We are continuing to learn 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 x tables. We will move on to 6 and 7 after half term. Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely half term.





**Year 5** Another busy two weeks in Year 5 as we come to the end of half term. We are all really enjoying our topic Cynefin, learning about our local community and our place in Wales and linking our learning with our Eisteddfod activities. Since the beginning of the Spring term we have been becoming clever writers in Year 5, learning how to use a range of features in our extended writing activities. For our Eisteddfod writing entry we have been using what we have learnt by being a clever writer to retell the part of the story of The Devil's Bridge; it's going to be tricky judging who is the Ysgrifennau Seren. This year we decided to retell the same myth as Year 4 and Year 6, each having a different part to retell. I know we are all really looking forward to reading the collaborative retell once they are completed. During our French we have been learning about towns which are twinned with Welsh towns and where they are in France., developing our understanding of different communities. During Expressive Arts we continue to learn a variety of traditional Welsh dances, choosing one to enter for the Eisteddfod. It's lovely to see all the children listen carefully to the music and work with a partner to recreate the dance—I wonder which house will be the winner? This week we were fortunate to welcome in Upbeat, where we were introduced to different traditional welsh musical instruments and dances—we had a lot of fun trying to dance the Welsh clog dance. For our Eisteddfod art we have been inspired by the Welsh artist, Rhiannon Roberts, using local landmarks to add to her colourful designs. We have chosen from different local landmarks including the Harold stones, the virtuous well and Monnow Bridge and added them to our colourful watercolour background. I know I'm looking forward to seeing the House Shield designs set for homework over half term, and I'm sure its going to be very difficult to choose an overall winner. Thank you for your continued support and I would like to wish you all a restful half term.



### **Year Six:**

The last two weeks have seen Year 6 delve deeper into our topic of Cynefin and then linking this to our work in preparation for the Eisteddfod. They truly have shown themselves to be clever writers, having learnt about fronted adverbials of time, manner, place, simile openers, setting descriptions and connectives- all in the space of a few short weeks! Our Eisteddfod writing focussed on the myth "Devils Bridge", with year 4 taking the beginning, year 5 taking the middle and year 6 taking the end to make a truly collaborative story. For health and well being, we completed our modern Welsh dances and focussed on traditional Welsh clog dancing. The children picked this up incredibly quickly and many thanks for the improvised clogs! Expressive arts for the Eisteddfod saw us focus on the Welsh artist Carissa Tanton, who specialises in ink drawings using a variety of patterns. The children used her work as inspiration to draw their own ink based artwork using the landmarks of Trellech, Monmouth or Wales; their work was fantastic and we will be displaying lots of them around the school. We were also very fortunate to have UPbeat in school to demonstrate Welsh musical instruments and help us to build on our clog dancing. Year 6 have also been looking at potential careers for the future through Careers Discovery week, such as journalists, archaeologists, pharmacists, digital media managers, physiotherapists and cyber security engineers. The children have really enjoyed making their own podcasts inspired by the journalist and seeing the different career paths they could take and listening to the advice these professionals would give their 10 year old selves. Many thanks for your continued support and enjoy your half term break.



# Book donations

Got unused or outgrown children's books!?

we would love donations for our book sale.  
donations gratefully taken from monday 13th  
Feb in the school foyer ready to be sorted for  
the book sale on March 3rd  
thank you in advance.

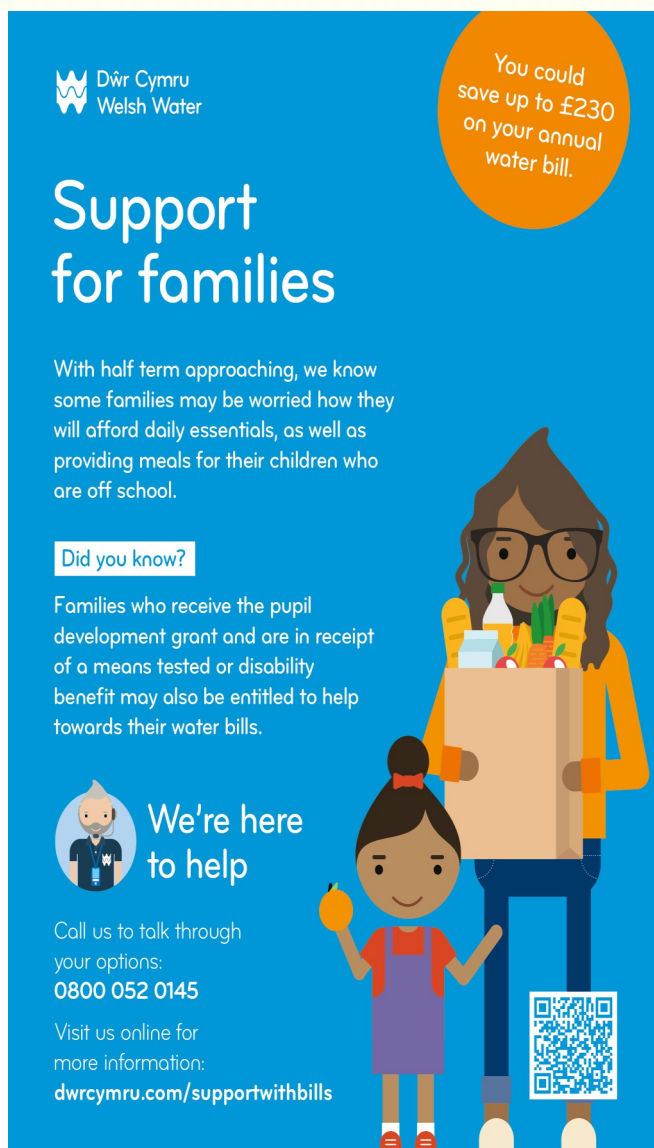
TRELLECH PRIMARY PTFA. REG CHARITY NO: 1101355



## Trellech Teas Thank you

After the terrible earthquake in Turkey and Syria we decided to donate the profits from Trellech Teas last Friday to the earthquake appeals fund.

The delightful sum of £200 was raised and we would like to say a big thank you to all the parents and children who came to tea and supported the appeal.



**Dŵr Cymru  
Welsh Water**

You could save up to £230 on your annual water bill.

## Support for families

With half term approaching, we know some families may be worried how they will afford daily essentials, as well as providing meals for their children who are off school.


**Did you know?**

Families who receive the pupil development grant and are in receipt of a means tested or disability benefit may also be entitled to help towards their water bills.

**We're here to help**

Call us to talk through your options:  
**0800 052 0145**

Visit us online for more information:  
[dwrcymru.com/supportwithbills](http://dwrcymru.com/supportwithbills)



## **Free Activities in the Area**

### **Leisure Centre Provision:**

#### ***Free Swimming Sessions***

MonLife leisure centres provide free swimming sessions for children under 16 with a MonLife membership card;

- Monmouth Leisure Centre
- Saturday 2.45pm-3.45pm

FREE with MonLife membership card

To register for a membership please follow the link, <https://monlife.legendonlineservices.co.uk/enterprise/account/login>

#### ***Passport to Leisure (PTL) membership***

MonActive operates a Passport to Leisure Scheme (PTL), which offers discounts to those on low incomes through an eligibility criteria. PTL membership entitles you to 25% and 50% off single use activities. With a PTL membership, you will be able to access our facilities on a discounted pay as you go or monthly basis. For more information please see - [Concessionary Membership - MonLife](#)

### **Holiday Provision:**

All information regarding FREE holiday provision can be found on the MonLife Holiday Activities page; [Activities – MonLife Holiday Activities](#) which is updated periodically throughout the year in line with upcoming provision. The free programmes are;

**Stay and Play** - Free stay and play sessions during the holiday periods where children and families will have the opportunity to freely choose from lots of activities including physical play, den building, arts and crafts or wherever their imagination takes them.

**Active Play** - Free Supervised provision with our highly trained and experienced playworkers for children aged 5-11 years old.

They can choose from a range of activities to play activities including physical play, archery, arts and crafts or wherever their imagination takes them. Children can be left to attend the session independently for the duration of the 1 hour 55 minute sessions through prior registration.

### **Community Provision:**

#### ***Parkrun***

Parkrun is all about inclusiveness and wellbeing. We want as many people as possible to feel part of a real local community brought together by our events, as well as our global parkrun family.

- Dixton Junior parkrun
- Every Sunday Morning at 9am
- Monmouth Leisure Centre, Old Dixton Road, NP25 3DP
- FREE

[How do I register? – parkrun Support](#)

#### ***Youth Service:***

Junior Youth club;

Attik Commerce House, 9 Monnow Street, Monmouth NP25 3XR

- Thursdays 4pm-5.30pm and 6pm-7.30pm
- Year 6 pupils only in readiness for transition in to Year 7

Contact [ianwheeler@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:ianwheeler@monmouthshire.gov.uk) (Youth Support Worker)

£1 per session

