



Week Ending—Friday 17th January 2025

Newsletter



Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

I trust you had a peaceful Christmas and wish you health and happiness for the New Year. I would like to thank you for your very kind words as we approached the festive as well as generous gifts. As we begin 2025, it is with a continued commitment to ensure all pupils have the most positive primary years here in Trellech through a range of experiences that develop their knowledge and experiences. Please don't forget to use the school website for continued updated information along with 'X' (twitter) for an update of day to day life here in Trellech.

Severe Weather Procedures

As we have faced a range of weathers this winter so far including wind, rain and the risk of snow. Please be assured that the LA Severe Weather Procedure would be followed accordingly. Any decisions are made together by the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors. We are grateful to be supported in any decisions we make by Mr S Phillips (ASC Phillips) and Mr L Price (Caretaker) who has first hand knowledge of the locality early each morning. As soon as any decision has been made this will be communicated via Schoop and on X (Twitter). Likewise, if there is any change of weather during the school day the same process of decision making will be made and any communication will be made via Schoop and X (Twitter). In the event of an early closure please be assured that children will be supervised until they are able to be collected. If you require your child to be collected by another adult please contact the school as soon as possible so we can release them in line with our safeguarding procedures.

Nursery Building: Busybodies

This week the final progress meeting took place for the Nursery Building on school site. We are very pleased to share that despite the challenging weather that has been faced during the build it will be completed early February. We look forward to welcoming Busybodies to the school site after half term when they will have had an opportunity to move from their current building.

School Essentials inc. Free School Meals

In Wales, many parents are not claiming the School Essentials Grant that that their children are entitled to. We are writing to remind you to check eligibility and of the additional support that might be available to you. School meals promote healthy eating, increase the variety of food your child might eat, and can improve behaviour and social skills. If you receive certain benefits, or your circumstances have changed, check if your child is eligible for Free School Meals and the School Essentials Grant through [Free School Meals & School Essentials Grant - Monmouthshire](#). The form is short and only takes a few minutes to complete. If your child already gets Free School Meals, there could be up to £200 available for School Essentials. This helps with the costs of School Essentials like uniforms and equipment to make sure they are ready for the school day.

Be Bright Be Seen

The Junior Road Safety committee are running a campaign this half term to raise awareness of the importance of being visible to drivers/ other pedestrians when out and about on and near roads. With darker mornings and evenings, they want children to be aware of how wearing particular clothing/accessories, they can be much more visible to other road users. The committee are asking pupils to send in photos of themselves/family members wearing bright/fluorescent clothing and accessories to create a display at school. They are encouraging pictures of when out walking, riding, scooting, dog walking or any other outdoor activities you maybe doing. Please either send in a photo or email in the photo to your class teacher who can forward onto the committee. We look forward to seeing your 'bright' photos.

Community Links

Last week saw the first Trellech Teas of 2025 and our continuing links with the community. Two of our Ambassadors join the team to help set up and serve members of the community their tea, coffee and cake. It was a privilege to see our pupils attend with such maturity and engaging with all generations of our community.

Key Dates : 2024/ 2025

Mon 10th– Weds 12th Feb: Y5 Residential Urdd, Cardiff

Mon 10th– Fri 21st Feb: National Test Window (Y2– Y6)

Fri 14th Feb: Café Cynefin

Fri 21st Feb: End of Spring 1 Half Term

Mon 3rd Mar: Spring 2 Commences

Tues 4th Mar: Whole School Eisteddfod

Tues 4th Mar: See How they Learn Parent Workshop (Rec Parents)

Thurs 6th Mar: World Book Day

Fri 28th Mar: Café Cynefin

Weds 9th April: Pupil Reports Published

Fri 11th April: End of Spring Term

Mon 28th April: Summer Term Commences

Weds 30th April– Fri 2nd May: Y6 Residential to Gilwern

Mon 12th May: Sharing Session

Tues 13th & Weds 14th May: Parent Consultations

Fri 23rd May: End of Summer 1 Half Term

Mon 2nd June: Summer Term 2 Commences

Weds 4th June: FP Sports Day 1.30pm (Reserve Date 11.6.25)

Thurs 5th June: KS2 Sports Day 1.30pm (Reserve Date 12.6.25)

Fri 27th June: **INSET Day** School Closed to Pupils

Weds 2nd July: Move Up Day

Weds 2nd & Thurs 3rd July: Y7 Taster Days @MCS

Mon 21st July: **INSET Day** School Closed to Pupils

Mon 21st July: End of Academic Year.

Labelling Uniform

Please may we ask that all items of clothing are labelled with your child/ family name so we can reunite items easily. At the end of the autumn term we had accumulated a significant number of items that we are unable to return to the owner as they have no name label. Name tags and stickers are perfect but a sharpie can also be a great quick way of naming an item. Thank you for your co-operation in advance.

Please be reminded that if you are looking to rehome or purchase additional uniform our PTFA run a uniform shop. Further information can be found via the school website and <https://forms.gle/XyL64eEcGkduNXtk6>

Café Cynefin

Following the successful launch of Café Cynefin in the Autumn Term, we are pleased to share the dates for the Spring. We look forward to welcoming you on the 14th February and 28th March from 2.15pm for a cuppa and a chat with friends whilst being look after by some of our older pupils!

Extra Curricular Activities

Spring Term sees lunchtime Choir and Minecraft clubs continuing as well as County Football Club for Y4, Y5 and Y6 after school each Monday. Girls football recommenced on a Thursday 3.30– 4.15pm with Mrs Phillips & Miss Ward and Book club being launched with Miss Whyte & Miss Light along with Sign Language Club on Tuesday 21st January 3.30 – 4.15pm Y3-Y6 in first instance.

Healthy Schools

Please may we remind families ready for the new year that children should only bring water to school to drink throughout the day. Squash and juice should only be part of a packed lunch at dinner time.

Cold weather reminder

This is a friendly reminder that children need to come to school appropriately dressed for the weather. As the weather gets colder, children need to have the following items: winter hat, mittens/ gloves, scarf/neck warmer, appropriate footwear and a warm winter coat. A recommendation is to dress your child in layers, which allows your child to remove or add clothing as required. This will enable the children to continue to enjoy their break times, lunch times, outside activities including forest school and PE. We appreci-

Staff Contact Details

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Dosbarth Reception

Blwyddyn Newydd Da! Welcome back to our second term! As always, the first fortnight back has been a busy but lovely one. Last week we spent some time settling back into the school routine and got stuck in to our new topic – ‘Ein ni gymru’ (My Wales). We’ve spent some time looking at some of the symbols of Wales along with their meanings. Ask the children about them and see what they can remember! We looked at rugby, daffodils, leeks and the Welsh flag. We started to understand that rugby is seen as one of the sports of Wales, the daffodil is the flower of Wales, in the war soldiers wore leeks on their helmets to identify as Welsh and finally red is the colour of Wales due to our Welsh dragon. We also spent some time checking back in with our number formation, recognition and ordering between 5,10,15 and even 20 for some of us. We looked at the weather in Welsh and enjoy singing our daily weather song to keep it on the boil. This week, we have started looking at symmetry in our maths. To support some gentle recapping of our 2D shapes, we created symmetrical pictures using them. The children are starting to grasp the concept that something is symmetrical if two halves or both sides are the same. We also explored our outdoor area to identify symmetry in nature. In Science and in P.E we have started to look at the life cycle of a daffodil. The children have been creating movements to help to remember the different parts of the cycle (bulb,leaves, bud and daffodil). As always, we hope you have a lovely weekend with some well-deserved rest. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday for a new week.



Dosbarth 1

Blwyddyn Newydd Da! Welcome back to the Spring term, the days are getting lighter, and the spring bulbs are beginning to spring up on the banks. If your snowdrop bulbs the children planted for you with Mrs Cornish has sprouted, then please do re-pot it or plant it into the ground. Our new topic is Cŵl Cymru with the focus on our nearby surroundings ‘Trysor Tryleg’ the children have been busy naming the landmarks of Trellech and building them in the block play and Lego. In Literacy the children have been re telling the story of Farmer Duck and have impressed us with their careful writing, excellent openers as well as capital letters and full stops. In Maths we have been learning the time. We have been beginning with O'clock and half past. Please do practice with us at home. We have been very lucky to welcome Count in the Community into Y1 with weekly sessions of football skills, this week we worked on finding space and spatial awareness as well as marking our peers through games. During indoor PE we have been exploring world dance including learning some Bollywood and Bhangra dance moves and routines. We have been looking at a variety of paintings of churches by various artists in Wales and next week we will focus on the paintings of churches by Welsh artist Anthony Evans, we are planning to visit the church and draw and paint it in the style of Anthony Evans. As part of our digital competency, we discussed and wrote sentences to describe our favourite part of the school, we then recorded one another in video showcasing the place, we then put it in a video. We are also creating sentences about the village of Trellech online and will make a little online book. Have a lovely restful weekend.



Dosbarth 2

Blwyddyn Newydd Da! I hope you have all had a peaceful, relaxing festive period. It flew by didn't it? The children are settling into our routines again and really working hard already. We have written a recount of a favourite day over Christmas, and it's been lovely finding out about all the things they've done and the places visited. We have also started to learn about the features of instructions and have been planning a set of these. In numeracy we have been using checking strategies to check whether given answers are correct. To do this the children have counted on or back or used fact families to help solve. We have also been doubling and halving numbers and adding and subtracting multiples of 10. It's been wonderful to see how much Welsh the pupils are retaining, and we have been enjoying oracy games to learn language patterns. The children have been brave enough to take questions from each other in front of the class and are doing extremely well. Bendigedig! We have enjoyed PE with Newport County in the community. Here the children have been learning thinking skills, communication skills, teamwork and raising their fitness levels.



Dosbarth 3

Blwyddyn Newydd Da! It has been so lovely to see the children back and share all their exciting news. Although it was a chilly start to the term, the children took this wonderful opportunity to take the lead by planning the activities. The children wanted to explore where in the school grounds would the ice melt the quickest, #seize the season. They combined their ideas to come up with group names and planned their investigations. They decided how they would monitor the results and discussed their predictions giving superb reasons why. This was a fantastic pupil led task that brought together a range of skills for the children to thrive in lots of areas of learning. In literacy the children have begun their new text, Leon and the place between. This is a fantastic text full of possibilities which I know Year 3 will embrace into their future learning. We have also investigated the use of prepositions in the text and the children have then used these amazingly well in their own writing. Our focus in maths has been exploring sequences of patterns using shapes and numbers. The children have also used their reasoning skills to find the important information in word problems and apply their mathematical skills. Our new topic is called Cwl Cymru. As part of the topic the children will explore a range of Welsh artists and musicians. We look forward to sharing all our ideas over the next few weeks.

Dosbarth 4

Blwyddyn Newydd Da and we hope you had a lovely Christmas-seems ages ago now. There is just a tiny bit of additional light at the beginning and end of the day, so that's good news. Our new topic this term is Cwl Cymru (Cool Wales). We are not sure at this stage where we are going with the topic, as we are led by the children's interests and ideas; and they have already given us some food for thought. We tried to find a Welsh Artist with the theme of Community, and we found a very helpful Welsh Artist who lives in Southwest Wales. She creates beautiful and evocative paintings of nature and the countryside. There she has said she will support the children with specific techniques and skills to create a painting in her style. So exciting! In Literacy, we have begun to read "How to Train a Dragon" by Cressida Cowell. The focus has been on collecting adventurous vocabulary and prepositional language to write a description of a dragon. In Science, we have started to identify the organs of the digestive system and recognise how they work together to digest food. Next week, we will complete an experiment to demonstrate this process. Our focus in Maths for the first few weeks has been decimals and fractions, looking at place value of two decimal place numbers and their equivalent fractions. We are lucky to be welcoming in James Williamson for the next four Thursdays to lead our P.E sessions. James works for Cricket Wales and is delivering a programme called 'Chance to shine' - introducing cricket to our pupils. We really enjoyed session one yesterday and look forward to the coming weeks. The season was certainly seized last week as we made some ice decorations to hang in the school grounds. We think they were there for several days due to the icy temperatures. Thank you for your support.



Dosbarth 5

Blwyddyn Newydd Da and welcome back to the spring term. The children have completely immersed themselves in our new topic, Gwlad y dreigiau (Land of dragons). Our new novel is called "Land of Roar" by Jenny McLachlan and so far we have analysed the map of Roar, generated our own class map using Ai and compared and contrasted characters. We have also evaluated what home means to each of us, creating metaphors about the meaning behind our home, in readiness to write our own sensory poems. Numeracy has been all about fractions – finding fractions of amounts and adding and subtracting fractions. The perseverance shown in year 5 to understand the methods involved has really paid off. We have been discussing our Christmas holidays in Welsh using lots of past tense sentence starters such as I ate, I drank, I saw and I went. In expressive arts, we have begun to design a dragon eye which we will eventually make out of clay with a glass eye in the centre. All of the children have created a mood board of styles and colours they like as inspiration and then followed a tutorial to draw an eye as practice. Their attention to detail was amazing as was their ability to blend colours for dramatic effect. As a class we have been discussing what information we should share about ourselves online, categorising it as either personal or private. There were lots of great discussions about whether information such as email addresses should be shared depending on the circumstance. It is wonderful to see our learners knowing how to stay safe in our ever-increasing digital world. We have also been incredibly lucky to have started the first of four cricket sessions delivered by Cricket Wales under their programme "Chance to Shine". These will be held on Thursday for the following three weeks. Diolch yn fawr for your support and enthusiasm with all that we do in class.



Dosbarth 6

Blwyddyn Newydd Da! Welcome back! We've had an exciting start to the new term in Dosbarth 6, with lots of engaging learning already underway. Our new topic, Myths and Legends, has kicked off with a focus on the Welsh legend of Cantre'r Gwaelod. We've explored the history and music surrounding the story and even begun to bring it to life through creative dance. The next step in our journey is to write our own versions of the myth, adding imaginative twists and details to enhance the narrative. In maths, we've revisited key concepts such as addition, subtraction, and multiplication, and have now moved on to tackling the addition of positive and negative numbers. We have the pleasure of starting the first of four cricket sessions delivered by Cricket Wales. It's been a fantastic start, and we can't wait to continue our adventures in learning over the coming weeks!





Trellech Teas is back at Trellech Church

2.30-4.30 pm

Dates for your diary are every other Friday:

8th & 24th January

7th & 21st February

7th & 21st March

4th April 2025