

Newsletter-Spring Term 2

Wonderful Wales-Spring Term Learning

Dosbarth Calon



Dosbarth Calon have loved exploring their topic *Wonderful Wales* this term. We began our journey exploring the Welsh flag and focussing on the Welsh dragon, helping to hatch baby dragons from clay and ice eggs while exploring different textures. We have enjoyed sensory stories that have focussed on Welsh culture where we have explored the school woodland, created Welsh crafts to decorate our classroom as well as tasting lots of Welsh food.

Dosbarth Dafad

What an incredible term we've had in Dosbarth Dafad! Our adventure began with an exciting discovery—a mysterious egg found in our forest area after reading "Look Up" by Nathan Bryon. The children were eager to uncover who might have laid it, leading us on a fascinating investigation. We explored different animals that lay eggs, even examining a real bird's egg, but soon realised ours was far too big to belong to a bird. Could it be a snake or crocodile egg? After much discussion, the children were convinced—it must have belonged to a dragon! From there, we turned our focus to how much we've grown since we were babies. We thought about the things we can do now that we couldn't before, sparking wonderful conversations about our development. To bring our learning to life, we had two very special visitors—a 12-week-old baby and a 10-month-old toddler. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the differences between babies, toddlers, and children while learning about the various stages of the human life cycle.



To complete their learning journey, each child created a personal booklet, reflecting on their past, present, and future. We have been so impressed with the amazing writing taking place in class as well as the determination and resilience shown. It has been a truly remarkable adventure of discovery!

Dosbarth Maes



This half term, Dosbarth Maes have been busy finding out more about our families. We started the term writing questionnaires for our parents and took them home to be completed. We then used the information collected to create family trees, painting the trees in stages and adding family portraits. We discussed how we can belong to many different communities and created a family tree for our class, as the children decided that we are all one big family in school. For our expedition summit, we welcomed our parents to see the children's work. We

had an exhibition of our family trees and other art work created around the Welsh theme including our clay snow dogs inspired by the Welsh artist Rhiannon Roberts as well as our many Easter crafts and gifts.

Dosbarth Catwg

Year 3 have loved their 'Wonderful Wales' expedition which we kicked off with a lovely visit to Cardiff Museum. During our lessons, the children have explored the importance of tourism for Wales including how Cardiff Bay has developed over time, what landmarks there are in Wales, and famous Welsh artists. As part of our summit, we put their Maths skills to the test in a real-life scenario by paying and shopping for ingredients to make cawl for the teachers and children to try. We have loved our expedition!



Dosbarth Bronllwyn



Dosbarth Bronllwyn have thoroughly enjoyed our Wonderful Wales expedition. We kicked off with a fun-filled day, dressing up as knights and delving into the life of Owain Glyndŵr, exploring his fight for Welsh independence and his impact on Wales. We held debates to discuss whether battles were the right way to make decisions and whether Owain Glyndŵr's actions were justified. We were also fortunate to have a visit from a member of the Senedd, who enlightened us about the workings of the Welsh Parliament and the decision-making processes within the Senedd. It was fascinating to learn about

the increased powers Wales now holds and how decisions affecting our country are made. To understand fair decision-making, we engaged in discussions, speeches, and debates to decide our activities for the last day of the term. We conducted a fair vote and used our maths and numeracy skills to create graphs and analyse the data. The winning activities were a cooking lesson and an outdoor/physical education lesson, which we have been busy planning. We will use our literacy and numeracy skills to write and follow a recipe. During our outdoor PE lesson, we will use communication skills, teamwork and adopt a growth mindset to take part in the games we have planned.



Dosbarth Garth



Our amazing expedition started with a WOW visit to Rhondda Heritage park to visit the coal mine there. While we were there, we had a tour around the coal mine and learnt lots of new things. As part of our expedition, we were learning about how communities changed over



time especially when the coal mines were closed down. We looked at different censuses and looked at maps of the area where the coal mine was. We used our skills to draw a map of our village and looked at the amenities that we have. As part of our summit we have been using our designing skills to design and make our very own new village.

Dosbarth Bronhaul

We kicked off our expedition 'Wonderful Wales' with a WOW visit to Cardiff Castle, where we enjoyed a guided tour of the castle and participated in a workshop on medieval weapons and armour. Throughout the expedition, the children have learned about the conquest of Wales and the history of castles and wrote a non-chronological report about castles. In literacy, we then focused on the genre of playscripts, and the children created their own scripts based on the conquest of Wales. For our expedition summit, the children worked together to create a puppet show based on their playscripts, which they then performed and filmed for their peers.



Key events February to April 2025

World Book Day



On March 6th we celebrated World Book Day. Every class celebrated an author and looked at their books and completed fun activities based around their author. World Book Day aims to inspire a love of reading and our children were able to dress up as book characters they took part in storytelling sessions and book swaps. Additionally, our pupil leadership group have also created a brand-new library area with an aim for all children to develop a love of reading.

They launched the new school library system on World Book Day to each class.



They have made library cards to give to all the children and they now have the opportunity to visit our school library once every 2 weeks to swap their books for a new one. The Pupil Leadership Group have been given different responsibilities and are running the library independently making sure our books are being taken care of and each class is able to share the love of reading. Mia said, *"It was really fun helping all the children find new books to explore."*



Local and Regional Eisteddfod Success!!



This year, for the very first time, we entered into the Urdd Eisteddfod with pupils being given the opportunity to participate in recitations and drama performances in the Welsh language. On Saturday 8th March, pupils in year 1 to 6 took part in the local Eisteddfod at Ysgol Plasmawr. We cannot begin to express how proud we are of all of the pupils for their incredible performances, you are a credit to the

school. Particular congratulations on the day went to Heather for getting through to and then winning the main stage in the afternoon in the year 3 / 4 recitation for Welsh learners and Sophie, Martha and Lily-Mae, year 6 for coming second in their drama performance of a scene for Welsh learners. Both got through to the regional finals!! Onto the regionals on April 1st and 5th and once again our pupils shone. Faced with a huge stage, bright lights and a massive audience at Cardiff University Students Union, the children were all so incredibly strong and performed out of their skins against stiff competition.



Heather delivered an amazing performance, securing third place. We are incredibly proud of her achievement. Our Year 6 girls put on a brilliant performance to win and have now earned themselves a spot in the National Eisteddfod at Margam Park during the May half term. Da iawn girls, bendigedig! Sophie shared her excitement: *"It was an amazing experience to be on the big stage competing in such a prestigious competition. We met lots of different children and had a great time!"* A massive thanks to Miss Coombes for the hours of hard work she has put into working with the children on their performances and for giving up time at the weekends and evenings to attend the competitions. Thank you also to you for the support you have given your children and the school.

Sustrans



The Big Walk and Wheel is a UK-wide event that runs every year in partnership with Bikeability trust. As part of the Sustrans walk and wheel challenge the children have been encouraged to walk, scooter or cycle to school. This promotes healthy choices and it was amazing to see lots of children taking part in this challenge. There are plenty of

bike shelters on site that the children can use when they would like to bring their scooters or bikes to school and we encourage this going forward.

Celebrating Eid

We celebrated Eid in school on April 1st with celebrations to welcome families on the gate and also a special assembly. Children who had marked Eid with their families had the opportunity to share their experiences with the rest of the school. Dosbarth Dafad had a wonderful day learning about and celebrating Eid with Teaching Assistant, Mrs Ahmed. Mrs Ahmed brought in gifts for each child and they spent time listening to a story all about Eid.



There were lots of wonderful discussions about why and how this festival is celebrated. The children especially loved looking at the prayer mat, prayer beads and The Qur'an as well as watching the teachers have henna art on their hands.

Sport

Squash



Year 4 enjoyed a fun squash taster session this half term! They practised controlling the ball, which helped them to improve their hand-eye co-ordination. They also practised side stepping to become quicker on their feet, as squash can be a quick speed game. Catching the ball with both their 'good and bad' hands was tricky but fun, and it made the children more skilful. They learnt more about how the

game is played, within four walls. The session kept the children active, and their catching skills improved a lot. Working with partners was great, and they enjoyed throwing and catching the ball without rackets. They have continued exploring the game during their PE sessions.

Radyr Comprehensive Cluster Football Tournament-Year 6



As part of their transition to secondary school, year 6 were asked to take part in a football tournament on the brand new 4G pitch at Radyr Comprehensive. They played lots of games with the cluster schools and everyone pulled together and showed great sportsmanship. They got to meet some of the PE teachers from the high school who will become familiar faces in September.



Unfortunately, they didn't win on this occasion however they really enjoyed taking part. Jamie said, "As captain I enjoyed seeing everyone wanting to play and we enjoyed the experience of playing on the new astro pitch. I'm looking forward to starting in my new school."

Enhancing our learning – visits and visitors!

Cardiff Museum

At the start of the half term, year 3 went on a school trip to Cardiff Museum as their introduction to their learning expedition Wonderful Wales. Here's what they had to report on their visit.



'We got to find out all about Wales in the past. Firstly, we explored the dinosaur and animal section, and built a special dinosaur jigsaw. We saw a woolly mammoth, a hyena and much more. After that, we saw lots of different rocks - some were moon rocks! We investigated sparkly, beautiful crystals. We also used paper and crayons to sketch special fossils on a table. After lunch, we went upstairs to the Art Gallery and we had to be very quiet! We saw lots of interesting things such as statues and paintings. There was a humongous vase! If you have ever thought

about going to Cardiff Museum, we highly recommend it!' Year 3 pupils

Rhondda Heritage Park

As part of Dosbarth Garth's new expedition for this term, we were able to go on a school trip to the Rhondda Heritage Park to look at and experience life in a Welsh coal mine. The trip was amazing, and we had the chance to do so many different activities. We had a tour of the museum and then went down into the coal mine. Our tour guide John taught us lots of facts about what the different workers and the children had to do. He taught us about the miners using birds to tell if there were dangerous levels of carbon monoxide in



the mine and how the children were responsible for opening and closing the doors for the horses that worked underground. He told us the youngest person reported to work in the mines was 3. John also played a few pranks on us, making us think there were rats by our feet when it was darker! We also went on a virtual roller-coaster ride at the end of the tour. John also told us that the coal from the Rhondda Heritage Park was used onboard the Titanic. We had a great trip and it has helped us with our new learning expedition seeing what life was like in the Welsh Coal mines.



Medieval Wales



Dosbarth Bronllwyn transformed into a scene from medieval Wales as children dressed up as knights for their WOW day. As part of our 'Wonderful Wales' learning context, the children delved into the fascinating history of Owain

Glyndŵr and his role in calling the first Welsh Parliament. The children learnt about the history of shields and designed their own. The afternoon was filled with excitement as students applied their maths skills, specifically angles and degrees of turn, to navigate a treasure hunt around the school. The activity mirrored the movements of Owain Glyndŵr as he led the Welsh against Henry IV in their fight for land. We were also fortunate to have a member of the Senedd join us in class. They shared insights into the workings of the Senedd, explaining how important decisions are made and the types of issues that are addressed in Welsh Parliament. We continued our exploration by comparing the historical events of 600 years ago with the modern-day decision-making processes in Welsh Parliament.



Dolygaer

On the 17th March, Year 5 went on a residential trip to Dolygaer. Here is their report of the exciting time they had.



'We arrived and were shown our rooms for the night and we unpacked and went to have lunch. We sat in a big dining room where Paul cooked us all of our lovely food. We had our first activity planned where we split into 2 smaller groups, one group did crate stacking and the other group did a vertical obstacle course called a squirrel run. After we swapped over and all had a go at both of the activities. Then we headed back to where we were staying and spent a little

bit of time in our rooms, in the common room playing table football or giant connect four. We had pizza and chips and then dressed up warmly and headed out for our night activity, Bush Craft. We all had torches and walked across the fields to sit under an old army parachute. We were given some materials and had to build a waterproof shelter big enough for our team to fit under... in the dark! We learnt lots of new skills and at the end we lit a big camp fire and toasted marshmallows. After a really busy day we headed back to our room and all fell asleep quickly. We had a lovely breakfast in the morning and then headed out on the canoes with Isaac and Patrick. It was really hard to row the canoes as it was really windy. We nearly left Mrs Bates and Mrs White behind in the reservoir because of the wind!! While canoeing Isaac and Patrick told us all about the village under the reservoir called Pontsticill and that a few years ago when the water levels dropped they were able to stand on the roof of one of the houses underneath it. We have had so



much fun altogether and can't wait for Llangrannog in Year 6'. Molly said, "I really enjoyed Dolygaer because we did loads of fun activities and spent time with our friends."

Cardiff Castle



Year 6 and year 1/2 both took trips to Cardiff Castle this half term as part of their learning.

Dosbarth Bronhauil - Firstly, when we got our guide, Elizabeth, took us to a room to talk to us and show us some of the weapons that the Romans and Normans used. Towards the end of the talk Elizabeth let us try on the helmet. It was so heavy! After we had lunch, we were taken on a tour of the castle and were shown all of the rooms when it was owned by King

John III. Finally we got to go up to the huge castle in the middle called the keep. It was so tall and quite scary for some. All around it was an amazing trip and we enjoyed every bit of it. Year 6 pupils

Dosbarth Maes – The children explored the museum and castle grounds before taking part in a story telling workshop with a knight. The children heard a story about a fierce dragon who just needed a little help. Luckily along came a brave young lady that saved the Welsh town by understanding how to help the dragon. The children also went on an egg hunt and found the golden egg. Sienna said *"I loved the trip to the castle, the best part was the creepy tunnel!"* What an exciting visit!



Nature by the Taff



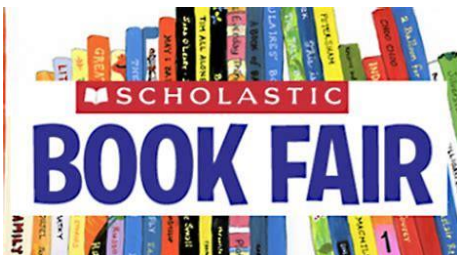
Dosbarth Dafad and Dosbarth Maes were lucky enough to enjoy a fascinating visit from Fiona at *Nature by the Taff*. They took part in an exciting bird workshop, discovering local bird species, their names, and the unique calls they make. Laughter filled the air as both children and adults tried their best to mimic the bird calls! To conclude the visit, Fiona shared a real bird's nest, allowing the children to explore the different natural materials used to build it. We can't wait to welcome Fiona back to our school soon!

Play leader training

Kate Martin from the Cardiff Council Curriculum team came into school this term to work with Dosbarth Garth. Play leader training is designed to equip children with the skills and knowledge needed to create and manage play opportunities for children. The session focused on developing leadership skills, including communication, planning, and organising activities. The children learnt about the importance of play, different types of play, and different types of games that the children could get involved in. They had a wonderful time and are ready to become play leaders when they are in year 6.



Book Fair



Thank you for supporting the book fair this half term. Your generosity has helped us raise £317 to spend on books for our new library, which will greatly benefit all of the children.



Sign language and lifesaving skills

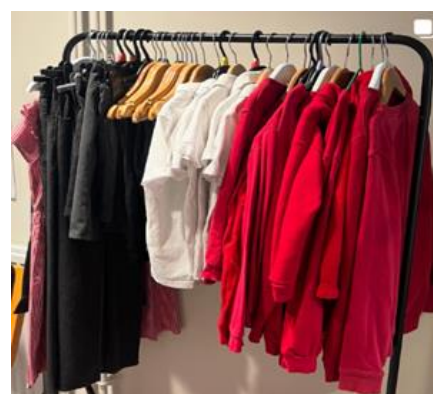


New Directions Training came into school this half term to teach the children sign language and life-saving skills. The life-saving workshop gave the children an initial insight and skills for various first aid situations that included cuts and bleeding, burns, choking, CPR and head injuries. Megan said, *"We learnt how to do CPR and how to wrap a bandage. It was fun to learn new skills."* The sign language workshop provided the children with an introduction into the world of signed language and was very interactive.

Key information

Sharing Shed

Our 'Sharing Shed' is currently available just inside the main school entrance offering a range of uniform items in different sizes. This idea was initially introduced by our Eco Council, the pupils in Dosbarth Maes, to reduce waste. This is available to all our Pentyrch Primary families so please have a look before you go shopping. We currently have summer dresses and shorts to ensure your child is summer ready. We continue to collect donations throughout the year.



Easter Egg hunt



Thank you to FOPSA for organising an amazing Easter Egg hunt on Sunday 6th April. What a gloriously sunny day it was! All the families had fun locating the eggs around the village and were given a special chocolate egg as a reward. We raised £337.25! Thank you to all the helpers on the day, it was a massive success.



Rags2Riches



Rags2Riches will collect our preloved clothes, shoes and bags on May 1st. They will weigh the bags and give us a set amount per kilo. All items will be sent to Ukraine for those in need. It's a great way for you to have a clear out of your clothes ready for the Summer! Please make sure goods are brought to school no later than Wednesday 30th April.

Little Haven Pentyrch

Just a reminder that Little Haven Pentyrch are now providing a wraparound session in the mornings to enable school to accommodate the growing number of families wanting to join our School Nursery as we welcome pupils into Pentyrch for an afternoon session. Little Haven will also be open in the mornings for children from the age of 2 years old from 9 – 11.30 am. Should you wish to take up places, please call Little Haven directly on 029 2278 1919 to discuss your needs further or email learn@littlehavennursery.co.uk



Wishing you all a restful Easter and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 28th April.

Best wishes

Pentyrch Primary School

