

Newsletter – Autumn Term 2 2024



As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term in Pentyrch Primary School, the staff and children would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you enjoy the Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 6th January.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Christmas in schools is a truly magical time of year and we have had a wonderful few weeks celebrating Christmas in style in Pentyrch.

Christmas outings and events

Sherman Theatre

Our year 3-6 children got in the Christmas spirit early this year with a trip to the Sherman Theatre at the end of November to watch 'A Christmas Carol.' Here's what Sylvie and Elin, (Garth) had to say as they gave a review of the performance.

On Friday 29th November we went to see the show A Christmas Carol at the Sherman theatre. The show was about a woman called Ebenezer Scrooge who had been at the top of the rich list for seven years in a row by forcing poor people to sign a contract, but the problem was that they couldn't read. She forced them to pay one penny a day! The ghost of her boss sent the three Christmas spirits to teach her a lesson. The first spirit was the spirit of Christmas past, she showed her what would have happened if she did not do what she did and made her re-live all her past horrors. The second spirit was the spirit of Christmas present, a man who was dressed in a Christmas tree dress. He made Ebenezer find the love she had once refused because she hadn't been loved by anyone since her mother had been separated from her. The third spirit was the spirit of Christmas that was yet to come, and it showed her what life would be like if she didn't change her ways and so she became kind. Everyone's favourite was the second spirit. We had the most amazing time!





Parc Play

To kick off the Christmas celebrations and reward the children for all their hard work this half term, Dosbarth Maes went on a class trip to Parc Play in Cardiff. The children spoke about their favourite parts, *"The zipline was amazing and so fast."* *"My best bit was all of it."* *"I loved the castle, and we played chasing games, I was the king."* The children were given hot chocolate, completed a winter letter trail, and it even snowed! Such an exciting trip!

FOPSA Christmas Fayre

One of the wonderful things about Christmas is being able to come together as a school community to enjoy the festive season. Thanks to FOPSA and our volunteers for organising a lovely evening of festive cheer at our Christmas Fayre. Along with a range of games, stalls and tasty food to buy, the children had also been given a budget from FOPSA to purchase resources to create gifts for their parents to buy. There was even a visit from the main man, Santa Claus who spent time chatting to the children about their Christmas wishes. We raised just over £800 with all proceeds going towards the development of the outdoors.



We are always looking for parents and carers to join our PTA in any capacity be it through attending meetings or volunteering before, during and/or after events. We are very grateful of any support to continue to grow our PTA.

Next meeting -come along and join us on Wednesday 22nd January in the Kings Arms at 7pm. Everyone welcome!

Role Play Lane



We were delighted that Santa and his elves were also able to take time out of their busy schedule to welcome the children of Dosbarth Dafad to Role Play Lane. The children were immediately greeted by Santa and his elves and they were completely amazed that Santa knew their names! The children enjoyed a tasty breakfast with Santa, with favourite moments being a Christmas story read by one of the elves and enjoying the tastiest hot chocolate topped off with whipped cream and marshmallows. Dafad had the most magical trip and fun was had by all, including the adults!



Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinner

There was a special buzz in school last Thursday as we dressed in our festive Christmas jumpers to support the charity 'Save the Children' on their annual Christmas Jumper Day. As well as wearing our Christmas jumpers, the children and staff were very fortunate to have the most delicious Christmas dinner made by our wonderful cooks Miss Carol and Miss Gina and served by our fantastic Midday Supervisors and the staff too. The children loved pulling crackers with their friends and sharing a joke or two!



Little Fizz – Calon Christmas Fun!



For Dosbarth Calon's Christmas treat the children enjoyed a visit from a sensory party company within their own classroom. The children had a fabulous time playing with the different instruments, exploring the different lights and playing under the sensory parachute. The snow machine was especially exciting for all the children.

Christmas concerts

Christmas in Neverland - Years 3-6

We were delighted to be able to perform our Christmas Extravaganza of Christmas in Neverland in the Village Hall this year. Thanks to the hard work of writer and director Miss Coombes along with all of the dedicated year 3-6 staff, the children put on the most incredible show for sell out audiences on both days. As the children told their story of Peter Pan with a twist of Christmas tradition and the true meaning of Christmas, once again the children rose to the occasion and beyond, demonstrating all of their skills that they have learnt in Rock School this term. From singing, acting and dancing, to prop making, sound and playing instruments, the performance had everything. They even carried on superbly through a black out backstage - as they say the show must go on and it surely did! We couldn't be prouder of the children's achievements and can't wait to get going with our next project in the new year....when Miss Coombes has had chance to have a rest!



Whoops – A - Daisy Angel -Nursery-Year 2

Next up were our youngest pupils many of whom were taking to the stage for the very first time. From the word go the children were just spectacular! They oozed confidence in their performance and Mrs Hobbs and Mrs Coleman had really put them through their paces learning so many songs in English, Welsh and Makaton too. The children told the audience the delightful story of a loveable but disorganised angel along with the Christmas story. We are so proud of all of the children in putting on a wonderful show. Thank you to the Nursery-Year 2 staff for all of their hard work and efforts. Whichever performances you were able to attend, we hope you enjoyed all of our concerts this year.



Community Carols at St Catwg's Church



On Tuesday 10th December, Carols from Kings was eclipsed by Carols from Saint Catwg's as the Church hosted its village carol service. We were privileged to be asked to take part in the service and so we sent six shining stars from our school who twinkled and sparkled winning everyone's hearts with their polished recitation of a Christmas poem. Diolch yn fawr merched! A special thank you to Mr Murphy for his commitment and support during this special service.

Welsh Christmas crafts

To celebrate Welsh culture this Christmas, our school hosted a Welsh Event Day organised by Criw Cymraeg, where the children created a variety of Welsh-themed crafts, including Welsh cakes, daffodil decorations, and Welsh themed festive wreaths. The children also practiced the Welsh language as they worked on their projects and sang Welsh Christmas songs. At the end of the day, the children came together to showcase their creations, sharing their pride in Welsh traditions. Each child took their craft home to share with their families. The event enhanced an understanding of Welsh cultural heritage, encouraged the children to express themselves creatively and fostered a sense of pride in being Welsh. Diolch i bawb am gymryd rhan!



Party time!



A great deal of excitement filled the air as party day arrived in school. The children were fortunate to enjoy a visit from the big man himself as Santa took time out of his busy schedule to spend the morning in Pentyrch. Thank you to FOPSA for supporting Santa so that each child was able to receive a chocolatey gift. The festive fun continued into the afternoon with the children enjoying their 'party on a plate' (thank you everyone) and had lots of fun playing games and dancing.

Carols at St Catwg's

We made it to the last day of term and enjoyed a stroll down to St Catwg's for our in-house carol concert with years 3-6. The church was filled with beautiful singing of carols and our year 6 pupils read beautifully as they retold the Christmas story.



Christmas cheer across the community



This year we have been continuing to put into practise one of our underlining principles across our curriculum – the ripple effect. As a school we aim to ensure that all learning has an authentic purpose and we encourage the children at every opportunity to realise that small individual acts or changes collectively make a big difference. With this in mind we jumped at the chance to spread a little bit of Christmas cheer following an email from Deb Hunt the Community Liaison Officer. Deb invited us to take part in a Christmas Card Appeal for Heol Don Care Home in Whitchurch. The children were invited to create and send cards to residents in the care home to boost morale, wellbeing and create a sense of belonging. Maes really enjoyed creating the cards knowing that they would touch the hearts of the residents who received them. Bronllwyn have also been

busy creating cards to bring a smile and warmth to the residents of Ty Hafod Care home. We hope that our cards have gone some way to making Christmas an enjoyable time for all those who receive them.



Perfect Harmony

Our learning across the school this half term has been encapsulated under the title of 'Perfect Harmony'. We have been focusing on embracing harmony through celebrating diversity, understanding that differences are not dividers but connectors and that harmony is the foundation on which societies thrive. Harmony fosters growth and nurtures understanding and creates a world in which each individual can flourish. The children have been actively building bridges, fostering an environment where respect, cooperation, and goodwill are the norm creating a ripple effect of positive change.

Here's what we have been up to!

Dafad

Dosbarth Dafad have had a jam packed half term learning about their similarities and differences and celebrating their uniqueness after reading the story, 'The Smeds and The Smoos' by Julia Donaldson. The children discussed what they thought would happen next in the story and came to the decision that we needed to hold a wedding party for Janet and Bill.



The class were eager to look at Mrs Ahmed and Mrs Hobbs' wedding photos for ideas and some of the children even tried on Mrs Coleman's wedding dress! Mrs Chandrinos shared her wedding story and the class explored weddings from different cultures. They were very ambitious making their own wedding cake, but they did it (even if it was a little bit wonky!). The party was a huge success and the class loved having their very own photographer to capture the special moment. It has been really important to learn the value of showing respect to others and

understanding the importance of living in peace and harmony with ourselves and those around us this half term.

Maes

This half term our expedition has been Perfect Harmony. The children in Dosbarth Maes began this inquiry by visiting their local park and considering the question, 'How can we make play spaces inclusive for all?' They experimented with feely boxes and experienced braille, researched inclusive play equipment and designed 3D models. They wrote letters to Deb Hunt explaining changes they believe are needed for our local park to become more inclusive, and were very excited to hear that these will be discussed at the next community meeting. We are looking forward to finding out the outcome of all their hard work.





Catwg

Year 3 have been learning about different cultures this half term. They started off with a WOW day where they spent the day exploring different cultures from their class. The children looked at Scottish tartan patterns and used ribbons to create their own. After that, they learnt about Spanish dances and followed this with a tasting session of Australian fairy bread! They ended the day with some Jamaican clay sculpting. After learning about these cultures, Catwg explored different religious beliefs throughout the half term and worked on creating a video depicting an important religious festival to summarise what they had learnt.

Bronllwyn

In Dosbarth Bronllwyn, as part of our Perfect Harmony topic, the children have been thinking about the true meaning of the festive period. They researched different Christmas traditions, such as the Christmas tree, to find out where it originated from. They looked at other religions to develop an understanding and appreciation for other religious celebrations. During lessons, they talked about what Christmas means to them. Everyone enjoyed different traditions, Christmas dinner, spending time with family, and some of the children celebrated different religious events. In literacy, the children looked at the Christmas Truce, which happened back in World War 1. They wrote a newspaper article about the special occasion when soldiers stopped fighting to put the true meaning of Christmas first.

In class the children have created Christmas cards, with a lovely poem inside about the true meaning of Christmas. They have posted these to the care home, Ty Hafod, to share the true meaning of Christmas with them – kindness, joy and love.



Garth

As part of the Perfect Harmony expedition Garth had the opportunity to learn about different religions. As part of their WOW event they worked collaboratively and chose two different religions they wanted to learn more about considering different beliefs, artefacts and celebrations before presenting their findings to their class. The children also paid a visit to our local church St Catwgs where the children were able to ask Father Owen lots of questions about the local church and what takes place there. Mia had this to say about the visit:

On Tuesday we went to St Catwg Church to visit Edward the vicar. He showed us around and told us the church was built in 1857. Edward showed us the different features of the church including the stain glass windows that told



the story of Jesus. As we entered the church we were shown a stamp which was used on a religious walk around all the church's in Wales. People would visit the church from different countries and collect stamps from each one they visited. Every Easter the church light candles and share bread and wine with everyone. We learnt that when people are baptised the vicar dips his finger in holy water and places this on the persons head. We visited the church as part of our topic 'Perfect Harmony' where we have been learning about different religions including Christianity.

In the spirit of making small contributions to make an impact on others, Garth decided to take part in Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse project. The project is a hands-on way to support children across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, personal care items, school supplies and fun gifts. Thanks to the donations from the pupils, 9 shoe boxes were filled and delivered to the All Nations Church in Cardiff to be packed and shipped in time for Christmas. The children hope their gifts go a long way to give other children a good Christmas wherever they are in the world and whatever their situation.

Bronhaul

To launch their Perfect Harmony expedition with a bang, Dosbarth Bronhaul visited Glamorgan Archives, where they participated in a workshop on the coal industry and its impact on Cardiff Docklands at the turn of the century. We also enjoyed a guided tour of the archives. Louise had this to say about the trip:

When we went to the archives we learnt that coal connected people to the point where they moved to Wales. Back then coal was so precious and it was called 'Black Gold.' The coal that was mined in Wales was shipped all over the world. If you wanted a job then the main jobs were coalminers or sailors.



During Perfect Harmony, the children explored what a census is, how data is collected, and how it helps us learn about the past and compare it to life today. Next, they studied evacuation in World War II, reading Eliza Beale's diary and writing their own diary entries from an evacuee's perspective. To demonstrate their understanding of migration, the children created news reports on inward migration (economic/political reasons) or outward migration (WWII evacuees). They planned running orders, wrote scripts, rehearsed, filmed, and edited their reports using iMovie. The expedition concluded with an evacuee-themed day filled with decoding Morse code, playing classic games like Battleships, crafting Spitfire models, and singing traditional WWII songs!





Calon

During their first term in Dosbarth Calon, the children have been very busy. They have settled in really well and have loved exploring their new school. Half way through the term the children moved into their brand-new classroom with instant access to the outdoors where they love to climb and jump on their trampolines. During class time, the children have been working on their Makaton and have become particularly good at signing 'Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer' in time for Christmas. Their favourite activity within the classroom is rhyme time with the children demonstrating confidence and good speech development in such a short space of time. Through their learning in 'Perfect Harmony,' the children have loved experimenting with different sensory experiences and exploring different books.

Whole school events

Diwali

We were straight back into school following the half term break to celebrating and learning about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. To celebrate the children made colourful Rangoli patterns, made a celebratory banner for the school gate and heard stories about Diwali. We had a special assembly sharing in the story of Rama and Sita. Some of our children talked about the special traditions such as putting out oil lamps, eating lots of tasty food and giving each other gifts such as new clothes or cakes and sweets.



Dwr Cymru



Earlier on this half term we had a visit from Dwr Cymru who led an assembly for the whole school followed by a workshop for Bronllwyn. Here's Lucy, Heather and Nia's report of the visit.

When Dwr Cymru came in to talk to us and do an assembly, we learnt about the water cycle and what the different stages are called. After the assembly, they came into our class and we took part in a really fun experiment. We had to estimate how much water a Hippo bag could hold (a Hippo bag is a paper bag that you can put in the back of your toilet to save water). We learnt that a Hippo bag can save up to 2-3 litres per flush. Then we

played a really fun game which was all about using the least amount of water. The most important part of our visit was learning how important water is to our planet and not to waste it.



Rights Respecting Schools

Earlier in the term, our Head Pupils and some of our House Captains visited Techniquet for the Rights Respecting Schools celebration event as part of the Child Friendly Cardiff initiative. The event was designed to empower pupils through the theme of social action. The pupils had the opportunity to hear about the success of student led initiatives and participate in training workshops. Sarah, Sophie, Martha and Emilie reported their first activity was to consider how to make Cardiff a better place so that is safe, supportive and kid friendly. Our children chose to focus on wellbeing and will now focus on this theme back in school.



Lest we forget



Our year 6 head pupils and house captains had the privilege of attending the annual service of remembrance organised by the PCC. As the whole community came together at the war memorial to remember those who have fought and lost lives in conflicts across the world, the children played their part in the service laying a wreath on behalf of the school and doing a reading during the service. We are proud of the children for representing the school on this important occasion.

Friendship Week - Odd socks day

As part of Friendship Week (Choose Respect) we marked 'Odd Socks Day' in November. The national event encourages schools, workplaces and individuals to celebrate what makes us unique, express themselves and show that it is ok to be different. It was an opportunity for everyone to promote kindness and respect something that goes beyond any one day in our school. Everyone joined in the fun wearing a tremendous range of colourful, plain, jazzy, long or short, bright and whacky socks!



Children in Need



Thanks to Orla, (Garth) for the following report on how we marked Children in Need this year.

We celebrated Children in Need on Friday 15th November by coming into school dressed in our PJ's. We had a special assembly where we learnt all about the important things that are done with the money that is raised. We learnt how the money helps by giving support for families, helping charities and making sure children can learn and feel better. Every class took part in a disco where we danced and drunk squash and ate biscuits. In class we drew and coloured pictures of Pudsey. We all had a great day.

Lego Satellites Workshop

Year 6 took part in a Lego Satellites workshop thanks to Cardiff Met this half term. Lucy, (Bronhaul) fed back on the event.

Cardiff Met University students came to our school to talk about satellites and we did fun tasks like making our own space brands and building satellites out of Lego. I liked designing and drawing space logos that we then made. The students also showed us a presentation all about space and satellites and everyone found it all super fascinating!



Crucial Crew

Year 6 also visited Crucial Crew recently. This is an annual workshop for pupils in their final year at primary school designed to raise awareness of the dangers the children may face in every day life. With lots of agencies working in partnership to deliver the event the children learnt a wide range of skills including:



- Becoming more aware of personal safety
- Learning how to react to a dangerous situation
- Making a contribution to crime prevention
- Avoiding being made a victim of crime
- Knowing what role the emergency services play
- Fostering good citizenship.



Miss Heather



After 8 years as a Midday Supervisor and Breakfast Club Assistant, 'Miss Heather' took the decision to move on to pastures new this half term. Miss Heather has now started in her new role as a kitchen assistant in another Cardiff Primary School which is something that she has always wanted to do. But we couldn't let her go with out making a fuss of her. William and Callum presented Miss Heather with gifts, cards and 'thank yous' whilst we heard lovely stories about how amazing Miss Heather is. She is extremely missed by us all but we wish Miss Heather every success in her new appointment. We would like to welcome Miss Nalin as Breakfast Club supervisor and Miss Vikki as a Midday Supervisor – welcome to the team!

Key information

Exciting news - Little Haven Pentyrch

Little Haven will now be 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 Dafad 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 in the wraparound provision or The Haven After School Club for Nursery – year 6 pupils, please call Little Haven directly on 029 2278 1919 to discuss your needs further or email learn@littlehavernursery.co.uk



Clubs

Thank you to families who have given expressions of interest for Spring Term clubs. Clubs will begin again from week commencing 13th January. We will notify you during the course of the first week back with regard to which clubs your children have gained places in. Should you wish to express an interest in your child joining a club, please email PentyrchA5@hwbcymru.net as the expressions of interest form has now closed. Booking remains opening should you wish to join our After School

Sports Zone provided by Future Stars Coaching.



School Uniform



We are now accepting donations of pre-loved uniform that is still in good condition. Please drop any uniform you have to the office at any time. We have a 'sharing' rail in the office and just asked for a small donation if possible with all proceeds straight back to the children.

Wishing you all a fantastic Christmas.

From everyone at Pentyrch Primary School

Term Dates 2024/25

Term	Term Begin	Half-Term Begin	Half-Term End	Term End
Autumn	Monday 2 nd September 2024	Monday 28 th October 2024	Friday 1 st November 2024	Friday 20 th December 2024
Spring	Monday 6 th January 2025	Monday 24 th February 2025	Friday 28 th February 2025	Friday 11 th April 2025
Summer	Monday 28 th April 2025	Monday 26 th May 2025	Friday 30 th May 2025	Monday 21 st July 2025

Monday 5th May 2025 is the May Day Bank Holiday so all schools will be closed.

Thursday 20th and Friday 21st March and Monday 21st July are INSET days when school will be closed to all children.



