

Newsletter – Autumn Term 1 2024

A new school year



Eight weeks into the new academic year and there is already so much to share and celebrate in our school. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the children and their families who have started with us in Nursery, Reception, our Specialist Resource Base (SRB) and children and families joining us in other year groups across the school. We are also pleased to welcome many new faces to the staff team as our school continues to grow. Miss Rowlands and Miss O Leary join our teaching team along with Mr Smith, Ms Quilter, Miss Williams and Miss Cooke boosting our Teaching Assistant team with Miss Smith joining us as a Midday Supervisor. Please see the 'Who's who' on our website for a full breakdown of staff teams across the school.

Student teachers

Through our partnership with Cardiff Metropolitan University, we welcome student teachers on a regular basis to our school. We would like to welcome Cara Riches and Emma Freeman to Pentyrch for the Autumn Term as they begin their PGCE Primary studies. They will be working with Year 1/2 and Year 3 respectively and will soon be familiar names in your homes.

Making the most of the outdoors



We are also delighted to have returned to the completion of 18 months of building work which has brought about such significant and positive changes to Pentyrch Primary. Over the summer break the builders have finished their work on the outdoor areas. We're sure you will have spotted our vibrant new signage boasting our brand-new logo across the front of the building with internal signage in all classrooms and communal areas in the new build.





Above all, the children now have full access to the upper playground (previously the main builder's yard) with freshly painted football, netball and basketball markings for playtimes and PE sessions along with access to bikes, trikes and scooters for gross motor development.

And now it is over to us to continue to develop the new outdoor spaces created by the build and

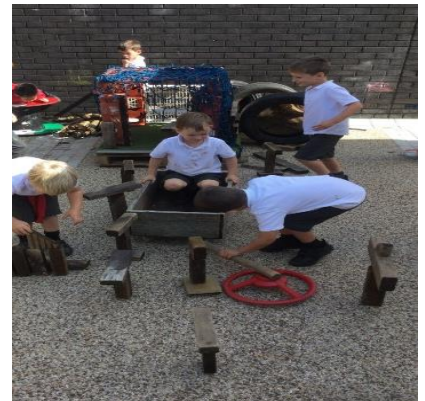


existing areas that have been inaccessible during the building project. Already significant work has taken place in the new outdoor areas in Dafad and Maes to develop provision for the children and part of the lower playground has been repurposed to create a designated outdoor area for Catwg. The children are enjoying accessing a wide range of provision appropriate to their stage of learning to allow them to develop and apply skills across the curriculum.



In addition, we continue to work on the wider grounds. The children, alongside our outdoor learning specialist Ms Davies, have been busy regenerating our school allotment area making new paths and areas for planting to enable them to grow their own produce which they can then use to make a range of healthy treats.

Existing areas of the school have also benefitted from work over the summer with Mr Murphy working tirelessly to redecorate Garth and Bronhaul and the Local Authority fitting a brand-new state



of the art kitchen. Our kitchen staff feel like all their Christmases have come at once!

Dosbarth Calon - Specialist Resource Base (SRB)



Following a visit from the Local Authority in June 2024, we were over the moon in the latter weeks of the Summer Term to learn that Pentyrch Primary was going to facilitate an additional class, a Specialist Resource Base (SRB), to support the Local Authority in helping to combat the significant shortfall in provision for pupils with ALN across Cardiff. This is a huge accolade for the school and we are delighted to be given the opportunity to open an SRB, something that we know brings positive outcomes not only for pupils in the provision but for all pupils in the school as a whole.



Over the summer the Local Authority have repurposed an existing classroom, to create a specialist 10 place provision for pupils aged 4 and 5. We have welcomed Miss Lowri Rowlands, teacher, Miss Rachel Williams and Miss Lani Cooke as Teaching Assistants and Miss Sian Smith as the SRB Midday Supervisor. The team worked incredibly hard alongside colleagues from the Local Authority and Llanishen Fach to establish the base in time for the start of term. We were delighted to meet with families and the children for a stay and play session and coffee morning at the start of term and following a staggered start to school life the children are settling in to their new provision well. In line with our inclusive ethos and vision for Pentyrch, the base is very much at the 'heart' of our school hence the name Dosbarth Calon. Children will be integrated into the mainstream with their peers as and when is appropriate for the individual with Year 6 buddies spending their playtimes and lunchtimes socialising and playing the children in the SRB.

Our Pupil Groups

In Pentyrch we place high value on the influence the children can have in bringing about school improvement.

Head Pupils and House Captains

Our Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to act as role models for the school, represent the school at events in and out of school and encourage and motivate their peers through learning and play. As is tradition in Pentyrch, each September sees the election of our new Head Pupils. Additionally, we have also introduced the role of House Captains to extend the Year 6 leadership team.



Congratulations this year goes to:

Head Boy: Jamie

Head Girl: Martha

Deputy Head Boy: Jack

Deputy Head Girl: Sophie

Ty Melyn: Lily-Mae and Emi

Ty Coch: Sarah and Thomas

Ty Glas: Daizy and William

Ty Gwyrdd: Megan and Amelia



Aside from all pupils having the opportunity to influence learning opportunities on a day to day basis, every child from year 1 – 6 has the opportunity to have their voice heard through being a part of a pupil group. Each year group takes responsibility for the following aspects of school life and have two nominated representatives to share their work in the school's Senedd.



Maes – Eco Warriors – reps – Ethan T and Anisha

Catwg – Digital Leaders – reps- Alex and Chloe

Bronllwyn – Active and Healthy – reps- Teddie and Imogen

Garth- Pupil Leadership Group – reps- Mia and Orla

Bronhaul – Buddies – reps – Lucy and Oliver

In addition, we also have a thriving Criw Cymraeg and Junior FOPSA look forward to seeing the pupil's work and the impact they have over the course of the year.

Cynefin – a sense of belonging



As we welcomed pupils back to school, we focused on the theme of Cynefin- a sense of belonging across all year groups. The children took part in a variety of learning activities that focused on building relationships and a class and school community. The fortnight ended in a celebration of each individual through a whole school 'Museum of Us'. We invited the children to bring to school an artefact that represented something that they were interested in, could do or were really proud of which then featured in a huge exhibition viewed and shared by all. The exhibition helped the children to learn about their friends and celebrate their successes.

As our youngest pupils settle into school life, Nursery and Reception have continued the Cynefin context for the duration of the half term. They have been thinking about their families and what makes us belong especially in the classroom. It has been amazing to see the connections amongst the class grow in such a short space of time with meaningful friendships being made through play and pupils learning to play cooperatively with each other.

Our Planet, Our Futuremaking a difference



Our curriculum has started with a bang this half term with Year 1-6 focusing on the theme 'Our Planet, Our Future' placing huge emphasis on making a difference and creating a ripple effect.

Bronhaul have been focusing on renewable energy and how they can promote other sources of energy to convince others to think twice about the impact energy use has on the planet. They began their learning expedition with a WOW activity that involved using solar energy to make s'mores in their home-made solar ovens. Thankfully we had a sunny day to make this activity a success!





Climate change and the impact on animals has been the focus for Garth who started their learning expedition with a visit from Animal Encounters and learnt about endangered species around the world. The children have been considering reducing their carbon footprints and are taking responsibility for raising awareness of how animals are affected by climate change.

Bronllwyn have been focusing on the importance of water and the water cleaning process. The children enjoyed undertaking an experiment to clean water and are looking forward to a visit from Dwr Cymru to look at this process on a larger scale. The children considered how fortunate they are to have clean water freely available by comparison to other countries. They are promoting the need for everyone to do their bit to conserve water.



Catwg have been learning about the issues effecting the world due to plastic waste. They began by considering how effective we are as a school at recycling and looking at how much single use plastic gets used. They had strong words in particular for the staff to make sure that they are recycling correctly! They have been looking at young people like them who bring about change for the better, such as Greta Thunberg, and have considered how they can use what they have learnt to impact change in their community.

This half term Maes have been focusing on food waste. They have been learning a lot about where fruit and vegetables come from, conditions for growth and uses for fruit and vegetables focusing in particular on what we can do with our leftover food rather than throwing them out e.g. composting, dyeing cloths and making new meals. They all brought in leftover vegetables from home and made a delicious soup enjoyed by all writing accompanying recipes.



A visit from the director

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Mel Godfrey, the Director of Education to Pentyrch in September. Our Head Pupils took Mrs Godfrey on a tour of the school introducing her to each class and in particular talked her through the building work that has recently taken place at our school with the opening of our Nursery and school extension. She also visited our SRB facilities.



Macmillan coffee morning



On Friday 27th September we were delighted to take part in the nationwide Macmillan Coffee Morning. Many of you joined us for a cup of tea, a teacake and a chat with friends, and brought in donations of cakes for the children to purchase. Thank you also for online donations if you were unable to attend. We raised a fantastic £289 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Diolch yn fawr!

Cycle To School Week



Earlier in the term we took part in 'Cycle to School Week' as part of our Active Travel Initiative. The children were encouraged to try different methods of travelling to school as we asked our families to ditch cars where possible to encourage healthy journeys to school as well as doing a bit to help the

environment. Children were encouraged to travel by bikes or scooters and use our new bike shelters for storage during the day. It was fantastic to see so many of you participating and we hope that you will continue to cycle, scoot or walk to school going forward. In the interests of keeping all of our families safe and to show courtesy to our neighbours, please can we ask that if you do travel to school by car that you are mindful of where you are parking when dropping off / collecting children from school. We kindly ask that you refrain from parking over and blocking driveways at all times. We encourage families to park a little further away from the immediate vicinity of the school where possible. Thanks for your cooperation on this matter.



Reading buddies



We are constantly striving to promote a love of reading in Pentyrch Primary School with reading being the gateway to so many things including imagination, knowledge, creativity and growth. Reading Café started in earnest in September for parents and children in Reception to Year 2 each Friday, we have parents and grandparents volunteering to listen to children read and there is an abundance of reading activities taking place daily in classes across the school.



One of the highlights of the week is our Reading Buddy initiative where older pupils buddy up with younger pupils to share in the love of reading with their peers. This is something that the children really look forward to and aside from pupils developing their reading skills, they are also forming strong relationships with peers across the school. If you are able to support us by volunteering to listen to readers any day of the week at 3pm we would be extremely grateful. Please contact the school office via phone or email.



Black History Month



To mark the start of Black History Month, we had an assembly to learn about Betty Campbell. We discovered that Betty wanted to be a teacher from an early age but faced discouragement from those around her. Betty proved them wrong by becoming the first black headteacher in Wales and taught us to believe in ourselves and never give up on our dreams. The children were fascinated to know that the school she led was Mount Stuart Primary in Cardiff Bay, a school many of them knew with some children speaking about the monument in Betty's honour that they have visited in Cardiff. The assembly inspired the children to think about their own dreams for the future and to have faith in themselves.

Collaboration choir – Cardiff City Stadium

We were honoured to be asked, with our friends in Llanishen Fach, to perform at the 'Conference on Collaboration for School Improvement' in the Cardiff City Stadium at the start of the month. This was the first of hopefully many more occasions to come where the two schools came to create a collaboration choir. The children had been practising under the leadership of Miss Coombes in the weeks building up to the performance ready to sing 'Yma O Hyd' and 'Hey Jude' for a packed audience of headteachers, academics and governors from across the city. We were also extremely privileged to perform alongside the esteemed Cardiff Arms Park Male Choir who joined us for the occasion. The children rose to the occasion in such an iconic setting and really did the school proud with their fantastic singing.



Harvest



Father Edward Owen visited our school earlier this month and talked to us about the importance of Harvest to Christians. We learnt about how we can be grateful for what we have and why it is important to support those less fortunate than us. He encouraged us to donate to our school's Food Bank Collection and, as a school, we managed to donate nearly 60kg of items to a local food bank. Thank you everyone for your kind donations.

Llangrannog



With much anticipation and excitement, our Year 6 pupils spent a week in Llangrannog for our first residential of the year. The children had a jam-packed week of outdoor activities and Welsh emersion at the Urdd activity centre in West Wales. The children were faced with many new challenges and learnt lots of new skills as individuals and as a team through tobogganing, the mud course, skiing, horse riding, low and high ropes, the zip wire, the jump bag, bushcraft activities, trampolining, archery, the go karts and the quad bikes. Most importantly the children had opportunities to develop key life skills such as perseverance, resilience, cooperation, resourcefulness and risk-taking building on everything we value so highly in school. Here are some of the children's reflections:



I've never felt more alive! -Megan

I loved the pillow jump because when I jumped from the middle level it felt like I was falling forever and never going to land...but then I did and it was amazing!-Robin

I enjoyed the high ropes because I wobbled and tumbled but I kept going!- Emi

At first I was really scared to do the tobogganing, but then after my first go I couldn't stop going back for more! -Flo

I loved the zip wire, go karts, and quad bikes. I enjoyed getting dirty on the mud course. - Carter



The class also made the most of the idyllic location with a coastal walk and free time on the beach. In an attempt to wear the children out, there was no time to rest in the evenings with a night walk, film night, quiz to keep the children busy and of course Llangrannog wouldn't be Llangrannog without the disco on the last night (which the staff enjoyed as much as the children!) The centre took care of our children so well and they were certainly well fed whilst they were there! A huge thanks to Miss Coombes and Ms Davies for taking the children and taking time away from their own families to give the children the best week and memories to last a lifetime. If you would like to learn more about the children's adventures, please look at our Instagram page – pentyrchprimaryschool



Shiwmae Sumae Day



The school celebrated Shwmae Su'mae Day earlier on the 15th October. The motto for the day was '*Rho gynnig arni!* Give it a go!' Everyone tried to speak Welsh using whatever phrases and sentences they knew. Pupils and staff greeted one another with 'Shwmae' and played passed the Shwmae like a Mexican wave in the weekly Welsh assembly. In class the children participated in a range of activities including a Welsh tongue twister challenge, playing Welsh games in class and on the playground, singing Welsh songs, listening to Welsh pop music, a Dwdl Shiwmae and art work. The whole school embraced the Welsh language and culture to celebrate Shwmae S'umae day.

Show Racism the Red Card - Wear Red Day #WRD24



We also marked the 10th anniversary of Wear Red Day in support of the Show Racism the Red Card initiative. This is the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity and was established in January 1996, thanks in part to a donation by then Newcastle United goalkeeper Shaka Hislop. In the 1990's, Newcastle United's 'Entertainers' were challenging for the Premier League title. It was with this backdrop, that Shaka was at a petrol station near St. James' Park one day filling up his car

with petrol when he was confronted by a group of young people shouting racist abuse at him. After they got closer and one of the group realised that they had been shouting at Shaka Hislop, the Newcastle United Goalkeeper. Their attitude suddenly went from abuse to admiration and instead they began asking for an autograph. We continue to educate the children to be part of the drive for positive change in order to change hearts, minds and lives. <https://www.theredcard.org/>



One Tree Day

We turned green for Just ONE Tree Day on Friday 18th October. Each year group discussed the importance of reforestation for our fragile planet. "We need trees for the little bugs and for shade." explained Oscar. Our school spent time outdoors identifying the trees surrounding our school as well as using leaves to create animals and shelters. Year 4 have been learning how trees play an important part of the water cycle and Elin explained, "Trees are really important because they absorb carbon dioxide which helps reduce climate change." <https://www.justonetree.life/>



Scarecrow

We are delighted to be taking part once again in the 'Pentyrch Scarecrow Trail' this half term. Year 4 alongside Miss O' Leary had great fun building our scarecrow for the trail around the village. Make sure you look out for our scarecrow when you are out and about! We hope that our scarecrow and the other scarecrows around the village go a long way to support fund raising for community projects.

Clubs

Now that school life has returned to normal following the big build, we were pleased to be able to offer a wide range of clubs once again. With children now enjoying Drama, Craft and Coding club we are looking to add Lego Club after half term for younger pupils. We are keen to encourage the children to participate in everything that school has on offer and will revisit starting clubs that had a low uptake such as Netball, Football and Choir once again to see if we can up our numbers and get these off the ground. Thank you to the staff for giving their time to make these clubs happen and if you would like to support us in running a club in school please contact the school office.



School uniform



We continue to encourage high standards of school uniform that brings us all such collective pride. We have widened the range of school uniform available to purchase through our supplier www.safewearuk.com all at reasonable prices. This includes brand new PE T-Shirts in house colours. Alternatively feel free to visit the uniform section of your local supermarket and look for their generic red, white and grey clothing. Please remember that we ask all our pupils to wear black school shoes to complement their uniform and that with the exception of stud earrings and 'kids' watches, no jewellery should be worn for school. The following clothing / footwear is also required on specific days of the week. Please note the change to clothing for additional PE days.

Health and Wellbeing Days – wear PE kit to school

Additional PE Days – wear school uniform but wear dark leggings / joggers and trainers

Outdoor Learning – wear school uniform, bring wellies (named) and warm / waterproof outdoor coats, hats, scarves, gloves



This year FOPSA, our PTA, will be focusing on fundraising for the continued development of the outdoors following the completion of the building work to provide a wide range of resources and areas for the children. With lots of exciting events planned for the year to help with our cause, we are looking forward to hosting lots of events for our families. At the recent AGM the following were elected / re-elected to the main administrative positions:

Chair person: Lucy O'Leary

Vice Chair person: Tamsyn Webster

Secretary: Jo-Dee Tame

Treasurer: Phillip Barry

We have already kicked off the year with our Halloween Spooktacular – a frightening evening of family fun and scarily good costumes enjoyed by all.

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!



Little Haven Pentyrch and The Haven After School Club

Little Haven provide our wraparound care for Nursery pupils and an after-school club for all pupils. Wraparound sessions run from 11.30 am -3.30 pm daily and Little Haven are registered with the 30 hours scheme and other childcare voucher schemes. The Haven After-School Club for Nursery to Year 6 pupils operates from 3.30-5.30 pm with a range of activities for all ages. Should you wish to take up places in either provision, please call Little Haven directly on 029 2278 1919 to discuss your needs further or email learn@littlehavennursery.co.uk

Wishing you all a fantastic half term.

From everyone at Pentyrch Primary School

Autumn Term Dates

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.





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Primary School

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