

Newsletter – Summer Term 2024

As we come to the end of another year, we are proud to celebrate the work of the school that continues to evolve and develop as a result of our determination to provide the very best for all our pupils. Rock School has proved to be a great hit with all our Years 3-6 staff and pupils and will next year be rolled out across the younger classes. Rucksack Day, with its focus on outdoor learning and PE is now a well-established part of the curriculum from Nursery through to Year 6, and continues to generate engagement, enjoyment and inspirational learning opportunities. This year, the expansion of our programme of residential visits, has seen our pupils spending time with their friends building on their resilience and developing in confidence and independence. This year pupils visited Llangrannog and Dolygaer where they enjoyed a range of adventurous and teambuilding activities. For



Years 4 and 6 the highlight of the year may well have been the opportunity to camp out for the first time in the school grounds while taking part in songs around the campfire, bat detecting, rocket launching, team building games, hiking up to the Garth and so much more. These opportunities, and many more, would not be possible without the continued support of our staff who go far above and beyond what is expected of them in any given school day, sharing their skills, enthusiasms and great joy in being part of such an amazing school.

Fond farewells

It is with great sadness that we are saying goodbye to two long serving members of staff. After fifteen years as a Teaching Assistant at Pentyrch Primary School, Mrs Jacki Hendry retires and is ready to embark on the next exciting, and somewhat more relaxing, stage of her life. For Mr Maddock, who is moving on to pastures new, relaxation isn't quite what is in store for him as he takes up his new post as a Sports Lecturer in Further Education whilst preparing to welcome a new baby in September. We also say goodbye to Miss Ruby Llewellyn who has cared for and encouraged pupils as a Teaching Assistant in Dafad this year. She begins her studies at Cardiff University in politics and journalism. We all wish the three of them well in all their coming adventures. Thank you, you have been amazing, and we will miss you!



Learning and
Growing Together





We also say a tearful farewell to our Year 6 cohort as they leave us for high school. We are incredibly fond of the year group and it is with pride that we say goodbye and wish them all the very best for the exciting futures that await them. Please remember the doors of Pentyrch are always open if you ever need us.

Thank you - volunteers

Thank you to all of our parents and grandparents who have volunteered over the course of this year particularly on trips, the Camp Out and as reading volunteers. So much of the work we are able to do as a school relies on the additional support and time that you are able to give us. Look out for exciting opportunities to volunteer in school next year.

FOPSA

A special thank you must go to our PTA, FOPSA who continue to work tirelessly on behalf of the school to raise valuable funds to enrich the opportunities available for the children. Their work is vital and we are so grateful to the committee for all their hard work along with parents who have given their time to attend meetings and volunteer at events. It was wonderful to welcome FOPSA back into school following the building work for a successful Film and Bingo Night, Fundraising Fridays and the Summer Fayre. Most recently FOPSA have purchased a new speaker and microphone for school, ice lollies / ice creams for the opening and the last day of term, book bags for new starters and paid for the Year 6 leavers' party. The main focus going forward will be fundraising for the development of the outdoor environment. Your PTA needs you so please look out for dates of meetings and events in the new school year. Thank you!



What a half term we have had!

New look Pentyrch Primary School

This half term we have launched our brand-new school logo and branding with the striking design being inspired by Nia in year 5. The design with our school motto, 'learning and growing together,' features a 'P' for Pentyrch with colourful branches for each year group as the children move up the leaves before leaving to continue their education journey in high school.



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.

Sports Day

In what has been a year of very unfavourable weather, unbelievably we were able to hold Sports Day as planned and no postponements were necessary. As well as being the first whole school event that we had been able to host in a while due to the building work, this year also saw, for the first time in the school's history, a Nursery Sports Day in the morning before the whole school Sports Day in the afternoon! With the day being planned and led by Year 6 pupils, all of the children enjoyed a range of field-based activities before taking part in a range of running races – sprints, obstacle and egg and spoon cheered on by family and friends. As always, the parents and teachers' races provided much entertainment for the children! This year Red house received the honours and were presented with the Sports Day trophy for a lap of honour around the field. Congratulations to them and all who took part in what was a typical Pentyrch example of exemplary behaviour, teamwork and sportsmanship!



Hazel-mania!



On 10th June our much-loved lollipop lady Hazel Davis celebrated 50 years of service as a school crossing patrol warden. We couldn't let such an incredible achievement pass by unnoticed and so a huge undercover operation took place to plan a special celebration for Hazel without the lady that knows everything about school life knowing what we were up to! Following secret phone calls from school to her husband John (also a lollipop man at Creigiau Primary) to set the wheels in motion and school staff perhaps being a little sketchy about the truth in conversations with Hazel, we gave Hazel a celebration and created memories that will stay with

her for a long time yet. With balloons and banners decorating the outside of the school and music from 1974 welcoming the children to school, Hazel was then invited into school where she was met with a guard of honour from Year 6 pupils. Each year group had a special treat for her from songs, poems, question and answer sessions and fun facts about the role of a lollipop lady. Hazel was then presented with gifts, cards and kind words from pupils, our Chair of Governors, Nicola Crocker, FOPSA (PTA) chairperson, Lucy O'Leary (on behalf of the parent community) and Paul Griffiths from the Local Authority Road Safety Team. No one could've anticipated what happened next as Hazel became a bit of a celebrity appearing on radio, TV and social media! Congratulations Hazel!



Our Grand Opening!



After a long 16 months of building work we were absolutely delighted to open our new-look school, a school where the children of Pentyrch can thrive and flourish. Friday 14th June marked our official opening; a truly momentous day for Pentyrch Primary School and the village community. The school is on an incredible journey and through the power of collaboration we have now been able to provide a Nursery for the children of Pentyrch along with a school extension to accommodate greater numbers of pupils from the local area. The newly established wrap around care, 'Little Haven Pentyrch' and an after-school provision 'The Haven' also provides much needed support for working families. After years of planning, we have now been able to realise the dream and we were delighted to officially open our new and vibrant building.





The official opening was a day filled with joy and excitement and once again the weather was on our side! With a full day of outdoor activities planned, pupils delighted in making commemorative pendants to take home; decorated pebbles to place in our new courtyard; got creative with artwork using natural materials; sang songs and toasted marshmallows around the campfire and took part in traditional and party games. It was our pleasure to welcome back past pupils now in Year 7 who were in Pentyrch when the building work started and Year 10 pupils who missed out on all of their leavers' celebrations due to Covid.

Our catering team excelled themselves in making 300 cupcakes with the new school logo on for the children and guests. The doors of the school were thrown open at lunchtime with parents and grandparents joining the children for a picnic lunch whilst being entertained by a brass quintet featuring students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Tours of the new building took place throughout the day and members of the community and guests joined us in the afternoon in time for the official opening ceremony. After a wonderful musical display from Pentyrch pupils and the renowned Pendyrus Male Choir, the school was officially opened by the eldest and youngest pupils in the school Megan and Liam.



The school would like to thank everyone who has made the new building possible: the Local Authority for enabling access to grant funding; the Consortia for brokering a collaborative partnership with Llanishen Fach Primary School to build capacity to enable improvement and Knox and Wells for building our state-of-the-art facilities often in the most difficult Pentyrch weather conditions! Thanks are extended to the Governing Body for their tremendous support and drive to ensure the school's future; the staff who have worked through unimaginable challenges and have gone above and beyond every step of the way; the parents and the community for the ongoing support they show the school and to our wonderful children who have shown huge amounts of resilience, adaptability and patience during the project.



Rock School Extravaganza!

Over the course of the last year, staff and children have been developing a new and innovative model to enhance the teaching of Expressive Arts in our school. In a post-Covid world, we were very aware that many of our pupils had lost a bit of self-confidence derived from having opportunities to stand up in front of an audience and perform. This being the case we decided that things needed to look a little bit different in Pentyrch and after just a few months of Rock School being launched in the Autumn Term pupils in Years 3-6 put on a Christmas Extravaganza to be proud of.



Not wishing to rest on their laurels and buoyed by the fun, enjoyment and confidence that had come from those performances, children and staff set about planning and developing skills to put on a performance of a lifetime this Summer. Following an initial round of taster sessions, pupils opted to specialise in one of the activities led by our staff. These ranged from drama, singing, dance, circus skills, prop and set design and much more with staff developing new skills and talents with the children or reviving skills long forgotten! This week we have seen the

most incredible performance from pupils in our Rock School Extravaganza with children performing to sold out audiences in the Village Hall. Each and every child poured their heart and soul into their parts to produce flawless performances that we are all so very proud of. The children have created memories that will last a lifetime thanks to their hard work, effort and determination to be the very best that they can be. We look forward to rolling out Rock School to our younger pupils next year and can't wait for the next Extravaganza at Christmas. We are always looking for volunteers to help with Rock School, so if you feel that you can contribute in any way big or small or just want to come along and support us, please don't hesitate to get in touch!



Pentyrch out and about!

Recognising the huge benefit of experiencing learning first hand, once again we've been making the most of all that our local area and wider parts of Cardiff and South Wales have to offer to enhance the children's learning.



The Year 5 Pupil Leadership Group have been integral in designing the new courtyard in the new build. This real-life authentic learning opportunity has seen the children measuring the area and making plans for the features they wanted to see. Thanks to the amazing support from Martha's mum, Nicola and Pugh's Garden Centre who have sponsored the Courtyard, Year 5 had the opportunity to visit the garden centre and choose the plants, trees and garden furniture for the area. We are so grateful to Pugh's for their generosity and kindness and making the children's vision come alive.

Year 3 had a brilliant morning at the BBC Studios learning about how radio and TV shows are made to help them enhance their work making their own shows as part of their 'Innovate and Create' learning expedition. As well as

looking at the work that goes on behind the scenes, they had the opportunity to watch a live radio show being broadcast!

Year 4 and 6 had an adventure with a day's hike up to the Garth mountain as part of their Camp Out in the hope that they would sleep well. Whilst that plan failed, the children and staff had a fantastic time making the most of all that our local area has to offer.

Year 6 girls had the amazing opportunity thanks to Cricket Wales to participate an inclusive girls' tournament enjoying every moment, learning lots and making new friends. Sadly, the weather got the better of the boys' tournament this time. We look forward to participating again.



Summer fun?



Relying on a decent Great British Summer very much seems to be a thing of the past these days. So with much anticipation we arrived at school on Wednesday 10th July hoping that the weather would stay on our side for our beach trip.....and it did. Despite temperatures being a few degrees lower than they should be for the time of year, compounded with rather a strong breeze, we were not stopped from having a fantastic day out at Aberavon with Years 1 – 6. The children had the best time playing freely in the sand, digging holes, building sandcastles and playing games with one another. Meanwhile back at school, **Nursery and Reception** joined by



Dosbarth Enfys 2 (Specialist Resource Base) from Llanishen Fach had the time of their lives enjoying a beach themed day with paddling pools, water fun, sand play and games with a lovely lunch provided by our amazing catering team. A great day all round and we look forward to going again next year when perhaps the sunshine will join us!



Saving the world!



One piece of litter at a time!

Our **Eco Warriors** have been out in force recently thanks to our **Year 1 and 2 Eco Team**. The children, families and staff gave up time at the weekend to undertake a litter pick around the village and in the school grounds. They found some interesting items on the way including a sock and a bucket whilst doing their bit to keep our village tidy.

Enhancing learning!

Titanic day in Year 5 saw the children dress as passengers and crew on the ship for the day. The children had the opportunity to undertake inquiry-based research into their chosen passenger, engage in a water colour session painting images of the Titanic and took part in a live learning session with Southampton Museum!



It has been lovely to welcome **parents and experts** in to use their skills and expertise to enhance learning opportunities. Year 6 had the pleasure of participating in a creative writing workshop with Griff's mum and Zander's dad provided children in Year 1 and 2 with the amazing opportunity to plan and design their own houses. And of course we mustn't forget a Pentyrch first thanks to Griff's Mum and Jonathan's dad aka 'Late Kate' and 'Papa Jon' who supported the children in writing a rap for the Year 6 leaver's assembly! The children have also had opportunities to try new skills thanks to visitors promoting Tae- Kwondo and Archery.



We had a great day celebrating **Diwrnod Seren a Sbarc Day** earlier this term. The two characters play a central part in the Siarter Iaith and help pupils and staff to speak and use Welsh in and out of the classroom. Children engaged in a range of activities during the day including creating comic strips, stories, play scripts, games for friends to play and designing their own characters and making puppets.



Having undertaken extensive studies into water, **Year 6 held an afterschool information stall** for the school community showcasing their work including leaflets, posters and computer games about our water footprint and ways to save water.

Our **Eid celebrations** this term both started off with a warm welcome from Mrs Ahmed at the school gates followed by a special whole school assemblies and activities in class. A



huge thank you to the children and Sophia and her Mum who joined us for one of the assemblies for giving us a glimpse of the celebrations they and their families enjoy.



Thanks to the wonderful **donations of plants** from our families, Dosbarth Maes have been able to fill all their new planters with the plants now blooming beautifully. They have added so much colour and texture to our new outdoor classroom area.

What a fantastic success the **Year 6's Enterprise Market** was this year. The pupils produced a wide range of imaginative merchandise to promote the Rock School Extravaganza with more than enough to meet the high demand from pupils.



Dojo reward sessions take place across the school at the end of each half term celebrating the achievements of all of our pupils. Pupils get to choose the types of activities they would like as a reward according to the amount of weeks they have hit the Dojo target. Last half term we combined Dojo afternoon with Outdoor Classroom Day and had lots of fun in the outdoors including getting messy with bubble play.



We look forward to our final Dojo reward session on our final day of term with ice creams all round for all of the children thanks to FOPSA.



Friday mornings are always a time to look forward to for our Reception to year 2 pupils as they welcome their parents and grandparents to our school **Reading Cafe**. As well as a time for grown-ups and children to spend quality time reading together, our new look café also provides a relaxing environment for grown-ups to enjoy refreshments and a catch up with each other. Reading Café will return on Friday 13th September.

Following a recent assembly with Anna from Radyr Hub, we are encouraging all of our pupils to keep reading over the summer by taking part in **Cardiff Hubs and Libraries**



2024 Summer Reading Challenge, Marvellous Makers. The challenge is a celebration of creative arts, inspiring children to read, express themselves in creative ways, explore their imagination and build their storytelling skills. To take part in the challenge you will need to join your local library, collect a starter pack and then borrow and read 6 books over the summer holidays.

As you read more books, you will collect rewards. When you complete the challenge, you get a medal and certificate. There are also a number of events taking place in Radyr Hub over the Summer. See our Instagram for more details.

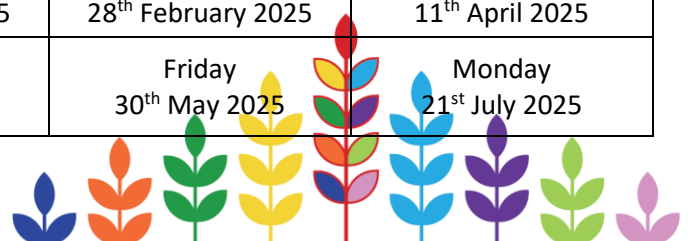
Little Haven Pentyrch and The Haven After School Club

Having spent a few months settling into school, Little Haven are now up and running as 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@littlehavenursery.co.uk

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 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September are designated INSET days.

There will be additional INSET days across the academic year during which school will be closed to all pupils; these will be communicated once the new term has started.

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

We look forward to seeing you on **Wednesday 4th September 2024**.

And finally.....

Thank you to all of our families for your incredible ongoing support. The staff of Pentyrch Primary School wish you an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday. We will see you all in September!

