

PENYGARN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016 LLYTHR CHWEFROR 2016

Annwyl Rieni (Dear Parents/Carers)

Welcome back to Penygarn after our Half Term Break. We all hope you had a fabulous week off, and are ready for an exciting second part of term.

News

I wish to inform you that Mrs Cripps will be retiring at the end of March, after 25 years service to our school, I am sure you will agree she deserves a well earned rest.

Mrs Rayner joined our teaching staff this week, to work with individual groups of children to support Literacy and Numeracy. In April, Mrs Rayner will take over the teaching of Red Squirrels' class.

Our school has been chosen to be a part of the Welsh Assembly Government scheme Creative Schools. The basic idea of the project is to teach core subjects in a creative way.

Our focus as a school is to create a Maths Toolkit; teaching Maths through Music!

Barn Owls and Kingfishers are very excited to be a part of the project and will be participating in two hour sessions every Tuesday for 10 weeks.



Mr Lockley is a specialist Music teacher and will be coming in to work alongside Miss Waldron and Mr C. We are going to have great fun and learn so much!

We will let you know more about what we are getting up to in a few weeks.

Bumblebees/Butterflies

There is a Nursery Stay and Play on Wednesday 9th March 2016. These will take place 10.45 am until home time for morning children, and 2.30 pm until home time for afternoon children. We also have a visit from PC Murphy on that day.

Nursery Class Assembly is on Friday 18th March 2016, in the small hall, at 9.30 am for morning children, and 1.30 pm for afternoon children. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Thank you for all the dragon home learning tasks, they look fantastic! We are currently making houses in Nursery and thinking about where we live. We are also practising recognising and writing numbers.

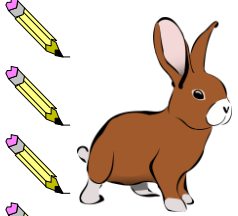


Please can we remind children to bring in a piece of fruit each day and 10p. They also need a PE kit, along with spare changes of clothes kept in school.

Please sign up to Class Dojo if you haven't already done so, and don't forget to book parent consultations with Miss Williams and Miss Otterstead.

Foxes and Bats

We have really enjoyed learning about pets as part of our Animal Magic Topic. We had



visitors from Devon the dog, Trixie the rabbit and Lulu the guinea pig.

We are now going to be learning all about farm animals. We have started a new story called "What the Ladybird Heard" which has lots of farm animals in it. We love the story and can't wait to share it with you in our Class Assembly. We are also having a visit from Zoolab, where we will be learning about habitats and will be able to see snakes and lizards and other amazing animals.

Moles and Barn Owls

It has already been a busy start for Barn Owls and Moles! We have been preparing for Welsh Week by learning a Welsh poem and designing Welsh love spoons. We are looking forward to our Class Assembly and all of the Year 1 team have worked hard to help the children present what they have been learning.

The Moles class team would also like to inform parents that there has been a change to our PE day. PE is now on a Wednesday. We would also like to remind parents that PE kit needs to be brought to school for every PE session. Both classes will be focusing on gymnastics and it is important that each child is dressed appropriately when using the equipment.

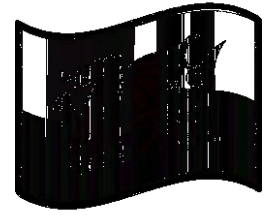


If you have any questions, please feel free to come and see us.

Hedgehogs

What a busy start to this half term. We have been busy practising for our Class Assembly and we hope you will enjoy it. We have been learning our lines, making sure we use loud voices and speak clearly.

We have also been completing work ready for our Eisteddfod, we have been learning our group recitation 'Nicars' Neli', making Welsh love spoons out of clay and learning all about St David and Welsh signs and symbols.



Just a few reminders, can you please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled including PE kits.

PE is now on a Tuesday, pupils are able to leave their PE kits in school and they will be sent home at the end of every half term.

Woodpeckers/Badgers

Just a reminder to parents that our trip to Newport Wetlands is on Tuesday 8th March 2016 and all outstanding money should be paid as soon as possible.

Year 2 Class Assembly is this Friday, 26th February 2016 at 2.30 pm.

Red Squirrels/Water Voles

Red Squirrels and Water Voles have been working hard again this month. We enjoyed taking part in Safer Internet Week was very interesting. We found out how to keep safe on the internet and how important it is to speak to an adult if we don't feel comfortable about something we have seen online.

For the last few weeks we have had great fun taking part in a drum project. We have been learning to play African music and have been making lots of noise. Our teachers have really enjoyed this!

Just a reminder to parents that our trip to Newport Wetlands is on Tuesday 8th March 2016 and all outstanding money should be paid as soon as possible.



Our PE day has now changed to a Tuesday. Please could all PE kits be in school on that day.

We are looking forward to seeing you at Parent Consultation Evenings. Please remember to book an appointment.

Kingfishers/Tawny Owls

It's been a busy few weeks as usual in the Kingfisher and Tawny Owl classrooms! We worked really hard to present our class assembly at the end of the half term. It was lovely to see so many of you turn up to support your children.

This week we have been busy preparing our work ready for the Eisteddfod: drawing, handwriting and speaking and singing!



Please can all pupils remember to bring a water bottle to school to drink from as the weather warms up. Children learn better when they are hydrated. We can no longer provide individual cups unfortunately.

Otters/Dormice

Year 5 enjoyed learning about 'The Wonders of the World' during the last half term and will now begin to learn about the 'Wonders of Wales'. Pupils will be creating information leaflets and writing to Welsh Government to persuade them to recognise a special place as a Wonder of Wales.

Pupils are also working hard this week to complete pieces of work to enter into our school's Eisteddfod. Winning entries will be entered into Pontypool's Eisteddfod on 17th March 2016.

Please remember to send in permission slips for our Newport Wetland trip as soon as possible.

Year 5's trip to Pontypool Library has been rearranged for the morning of Monday 14th March 2016.

Buzzards/Red Kites

Buzzards have been very busy over the last few weeks.

We have been reminding ourselves of The Golden Rules to help us to create a calm and focussed learning space.

At the beginning of February, we visited the library in Pontypool where we learned about our new topic 'The Wonders of the World'. We listened to some facts about them as well as making a world map and pyramid during our craft session.

We had the opportunity to register for a library card if we didn't already have one, and to take some books of our choice home. Please remind your child to return the books by the date stamped in the front. If you are unable to return them to the library, please send them into school before the due date and I will arrange for collection.

We were very lucky to receive a visit from Quantam Theatre for a workshop called 'The Writing on the Wall', which was very inspirational. It was very useful to see how the actors brought the whole show together.

We worked very hard to earn our class rewards (we collect 50 Buzzards/Red Kites over weeks at a time to achieve this and work towards a goal we have decided together). We enjoyed a fabulous day with lots of treats and fun.

Please can we remind you that homework has been set for Maths and can be accessed via:



www.activelearnprimary.co.uk

and

www.mymaths.co.uk.

They are fun and interactive ways to practise what has been learned in class.

If you have any questions or concerns, or have forgotten your child's log on details, please speak to your class teacher.

We are proposing a visit to Cardiff as part of our research in Wales and would like to ask that you return the slip as soon as possible, so we can make arrangements. Unfortunately, if money is not received to cover the cost of this trip, it will be cancelled as school funds are not able to pay.

As the National tests are coming up soon, we are busy preparing in school for this. Further details and practice tests can be found using the following links:

Numeracy:

<http://learning.gov.wales/resources/browse-all/numeracy-sample-materials/?lang=en>

Reading:

<http://learning.gov.wales/resources/browse-all/reading-sample-materials/?lang=en>

Reminders

Please ensure you complete the permission slips and send in the money for the Newport Wetlands trip (Years 1 - 6), Bristol Zoo (Reception) and the tour around Cardiff (Year 6).



St David's Day, 1st March 2016.
Children are welcome to come to school dressed up in their Welsh costumes.

On 23rd March 2016 the PTA will be holding an Easter Extravaganza. There will be a parade at 2.30 pm and all parents are welcome to attend. The children can make Easter bonnets, Easter baskets, decorate eggs etc. Prizes will be given out. More details to follow, watch this space.

Yours sincerely

L Sellars
Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

01.03.16

St David's Day

03.03.16

World Book Day

04.03.16

Year 1 Assembly, 2.30 pm - Parents invited
Year 6 Crucial Crew

07.03.16

Year 5 and 6 Newport Wetlands

08.03.16

Year 3 and 4 Newport Wetlands
Year 6 Cardiff Visit

09.03.16

Year 2 and Hedgehogs Newport Wetlands
Year 1 Newport Wetlands
6.00 pm - Curriculum Evening - Welsh
Nursery Stay and Play. 9.45 am and 2.30 pm

10.03.16

Reception Classes Bristol Zoo Visit

11.03.16

Reception Assembly 2.30 pm - Parents invited

14.03.16

Clog Workshop - all day
Year 5 Visit Pontypool Library

16.03.16

Reception and Nursery receive a visit from Zoolab

17.03.16

3.30 pm PTA Easter Bingo

18.03.16

Year 5 Languages Day at West Mon School
Nursery Class Assembly - 9.30 am and 1.30 pm

21.03.16

KS2 Science Boffins Workshops all day

22.03.16

Parents' Evening - please make an appointment

23.03.16

Easter Extravaganza - parents invited to the parade at
2.30 pm
Parents' Evening - please make an appointment
Year 1 and Year 2 - Butter Ball - Science Workshops all
day

24.03.16

3.20 pm - End of Spring Term

11.04.16

Summer Term Commences - 9.05 am

24.06.16

Training Day - closed to pupils