

PENYGARN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

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Annwyl Rieni (Dear Parents/Carers)

We can't believe it is Easter already. But with the sun finally shining, the birds waking us in the morning and the daffodils growing, we know our Easter Holiday is just around the corner. We hope you have a fantastic, sunny break with your family and we look forward to seeing you all refreshed in April.



I am sure you would all like to join me in wishing Mrs Cripps a very long and happy retirement. We will miss you Mrs Cripps!

News

The Friends of Penygarn (PTA) are holding an Easter Extravaganza on Wednesday 23rd March 2016 at 2.00 pm. There will be Easter egg prizes for best Easter bonnet, Easter basket or decorated egg. Eggs can be made from paper mache or egg shells.

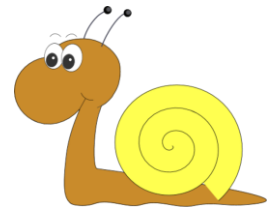
Parents are welcome to join us in the hall, where refreshments will be available at a small cost.

We look forward to all your fabulous Easter creations.

Bumblebees and Butterflies

Bumblebees and Butterflies had an exciting and wonderful visit from Zoo Lab, we were all very brave! We touched a snake, cockroach, giant African land snail, giant millipede, rat and a bearded dragon. We also

held a snake skin and tarantula skin, and saw a tarantula. We are continuing our topic of Animal Magic after Easter as we have been so interested in it, and we hope to have even more animal visitors come in to see us!



Easter home learning tasks - practise writing your name, and make a mini beast of your choice - the material, size and design is all up to you. Please bring into Nursery on 11th April 2016.

Please can we remind everyone to sign up to class Dojo if you haven't already done so. Not only can you see how many Dojos your child is getting but lots of messages and information will come to you from the Nursery teachers.

Bats and Foxes

The Bats and Foxes have had a fantastic half term learning all about animals for our 'Animal Magic' topic. First we learnt about pet and farm animals. We had an amazing trip to Bristol Zoo. The children had superb behaviour and were a credit to our school and to their families. Well done Bats and Foxes! Thank you to all the parent helpers and parents that came with their children.



After Easter we will be continuing our animal topic and learning about Zoo animals. The children have decided to create a rainforest café and block area. We can't wait to animal boogie! Happy Easter and

enjoy your break. Please remember to practise your reading books and key words.

Barn Owls and Moles

This term has been filled with lots of exciting events. Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Wetlands. The children took part in pond dipping and found lots of Water Boatman and even a fish!

We are looking forward to the last two days of term. We will be showing our craft skills in the Easter Bonnet parade and we will also have a visit from Lush to make bath bombs. Just a few changes after the Easter break, Moles PE day is now on a Friday. Please make sure PE kits are brought in for the session.

Have a lovely Easter Holiday from the Year 1 team.

Badgers, Hedgehogs and Woodpeckers

Congratulations to Woodpeckers for having the highest attendance throughout the year so far. The children had a lovely treat on Thursday to say well done.

Easter homework - our next topic is called 'Land Ahoy'. Over the Easter break please can you make something to do with pirates for us to display in our classroom. It may be a map, some binoculars, a flag, a treasure chest, an eye patch etc. I look forward to seeing your creations.



A general reminder about tuck and dinner money - please can it be in an envelope clearly labelled with your child's name.

A BIG well done to all the children for fantastic behaviour on our trip to the Wetlands. If you come to parent's evening you will be able to see some of the work they produced, up on display.

Have a lovely Easter.

Red Squirrels and Water Voles

We had a busy start to the month of March where we took part in our school Eisteddfod. We celebrated the best handwriting, creative writing and art work in our classes. In the same week we dressed as our favourite book character for World Book Day and chose to listen to different teachers' favourite stories.



We were also lucky to visit Newport Wetlands where we were able to take part in bird watching, painting mud pictures of our class animal and making natural collages. Although the weather was cold and a little damp we thoroughly enjoyed our visit.

Last week a musician came to share some traditional Welsh instruments and we had the opportunity to take part in Welsh Folk Dancing. We certainly had our exercise that day!

Kingfishers and Tawny Owls

It has been a busy few weeks in Year 4. Our trip to the Wetlands centre in Newport was amazing fun. We played and made pictures with mud, collected natural objects to make bird pictures of Tawny Owls and Kingfishers. We also did a spot of bird watching using binoculars.

The Welsh week was great, we had some really good entries for the Eisteddfod and some of us went down to Pontypool Eisteddfod to compete against other schools. We came back with lots of trophies for the school.

The Clog man came in last week to show us some traditional Welsh folk musical instruments and he taught us how to do some clog dancing. Even our teachers had a go, we had lots of fun!

Parents, please remind your children to bring

a bottle to school for a drink of water during the day. It is important to keep hydrated and unfortunately we don't have cups available.

Dormice and Otters



Year 5 have enjoyed a busy half-term. Pupils visited Newport Wetlands as part of Outdoor Week where they made mud paintings of their class' animal, created a natural collage and used binoculars to look for different species of birds. They also visited Pontypool Library to research their topic 'Wonders of the World'. All pupils were able to borrow a book. Please ensure these books are returned to the library or to school after the Easter holidays.

Buzzards and Red Kites

We have been extremely busy since half term. We had a fabulous day touring around Cardiff on an open-top bus. We stopped off at the Bay to carry out a survey and eat our lunch. The visit in the afternoon to the museum was really interesting. The children enjoyed seeing the dinosaurs.



We have also visited the Newport Wetlands to find out about Buzzards and Red Kites. Did you know that there are both of these birds in Pontypool?

Eisteddfod Pontypwl

On Thursday 17th March 2016, our children took part in Eisteddfod Pontypwl at the Active Living Centre and won the following:

- Year 2 - 1st Place in Group Recitation
- Year 2 - 1st Place in Solo Recitation
- Year 3 - 3rd Place in Solo Recitation
- Juniors - 3rd Place in Country Dancing
- Year 6 - 3rd Place in Solo Recitation
- Year 6 - 3rd Place in Group Recitation

Year 6 - 2nd Place in Drums
Year 6 - 1st Place in Strings (Guitar)

I'm sure you will agree that they have really done us, and you, proud. Congratulations to everyone who took part, and thank you for all your hard work.

Attendance

Well done Woodpeckers who are top of the leader board for attendance. They have consistently achieved the highest weekly attendance since September.



We hope you all enjoyed your well deserved ice-cream treat.

School Meals

Please be aware that as of 1st April 2016 the price of a school meal will incur a small increase.

The new prices are as follows:

- Infant meal £2.10
- Junior meal £2.20

Reminders

Please can we remind you that dogs are not allowed on school premises. If you are seen with a dog on the premises you will be asked to leave. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Don't forget that our school website is a mine of information, which you may find useful. Please take a look at:

www.penygarn.torfaen.sch.uk

Have a wonderful Easter break.

Yours sincerely

L Sellars
Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

23rd March 2016

Easter Extravaganza - parents invited to the parade
at 2.00 pm
Year 1 and Year 2 - Butter Ball - Science Workshops

24th March 2016

3.20 pm - End of Spring Term

11th April 2016

Summer Term Commences - 9.05 am

13th April 2016

Football Tournament
Year 2 - Fire Service in school

14th April 2016

Year 5 - Fire Service in school
3.30 pm Acorn Adventure Information Evening -
Meeting for parents

27th April 2016

Food Hygiene Project

28th April 2016

NSPCC Workshops

2nd May 2016

May Day - School Closed

5th May 2016

Class Photographs

30th May - 3rd June 2016

Half Term

24th June 2016

Training Day - closed to pupils

2nd July 2016

Summer Fete - 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

6th July 2016

Moving Up Day

20th July 2016

End of Summer Term