

Penygarn Community Primary School

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017

LLYTHYR NEWYDDION RHAGFYR 2017

Annwyl Rieni (Dear Parents/Carers)

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that there is only two weeks until Christmas! We've got a really busy few weeks ahead. All the dates you need can be found at the end of this newsletter.

News

Sadly Mrs Carter our Education Family Support Worker will be retiring on Friday, we wish you all the very best for a long and happy retirement. We will miss you! Mrs Daniel will be our new Education Family Support Worker and can be contacted on the school number.

At the end of term we will be saying farewell to Mrs Harris and Mrs Parfitt, good luck in your new jobs! We wish you all the very best. It will be very strange in January without you.

In January we will welcome Miss Thomas who will replace Mrs Parfitt and Mr Webb who will replace Mrs Harris. Mrs Bishop joined us in November as our new Photocopy and Display Officer.

Bumblebees

What a wonderful first term we've had in Nursery! We are now learning all about dragons.



The builders found a big egg when they were digging and we even saw some CCTV footage of a dragon swooping over our school! We have been drawing and making lots of dragons and castles. We have had so many home learning tasks in, we are very impressed!

When we return after Christmas our topic will be "Why can't we eat chocolate for breakfast?". Over Christmas please can we ask you to collect any chocolate or sweets wrappers and boxes (we're sure you will have lots!) and bring them in in January.

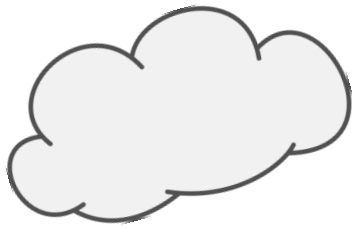
We also welcome the new Bumblebees who will be starting with us in January.

Foxes and Bats

Reception have had a very busy half term learning all about technology and how it works. During our topic the children have learnt about things that need to be switched on in order to work, and how we can communicate using the internet. During the innovate stage of our project the children were tasked with designing an invention that would help us in the classroom. They have made lists of their ideas, and drawn and labelled their designs.

During Stay and Play the children worked with parents to make their inventions then used the iPads to take photographs. We have had some fabulous inventions made.





The children have also been very busy learning songs and lines for our Christmas Concert 'Whoops A Daisy Angel'. We are excited for you to see our concert!

Barn Owls and Moles

Barn Owls and Moles have been extremely busy learning about our new topic called 'Moon Zoom'. An alien spacecraft landed in our school and left handprints, slime and footprints. We needed to use our investigation and interviewing skills to try and find out about what had happened. We used our senses to describe the slime and rocket booster. We came up with fantastic wow words which we can now use in our writing. We made missing posters to try and find the alien and learnt about the features of posters.

In Maths we have been learning to double, halve, add, subtract, say 1 more, say 1 less. We have been busy.

We have started to learn the songs for our Christmas concert called 'The Ordinary Ox.' We will all be singing and will have the parts of toys. The toys in the play are robots, cowboys, ballerinas, soldiers and clowns. Please can your child dress as a toy. Please don't go out and buy a costume, any dressing up costume that you already have will be a toy. We only ask that these don't be Halloween costumes please.

As the weather is getting much colder please can your child wear a coat every day. Adam who takes our PE lessons has asked that we leave a PE kit in school or be brought into school for every Thursday.

Big hugs from the Barn Owls and Moles.

Badgers and Woodpeckers

Badgers and Woodpeckers have enjoyed researching and learning about Brilliant Betsi. We have learnt the importance of keeping healthy, how germs are spread and how to prevent them.

We have learnt about our local area and Wales through the use of maps and ICT. We have been overwhelmed by the home learning and progress in spelling. Thank you for your continued support with learning at home.

We can't wait to share our Christmas performance with everyone and share our Christmas craft with you. We hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone in January to continue our exciting topic of Turrets, Tunnels and Castles.

Water Voles and Red Squirrels

We are settling into our new class and enjoying our topic "Mighty Metals".

In Maths we have been busy looking at perimeter, area and addition bridging 10.

In Language we have been reading The Tin Forest and how to write a diary entry. We have been making a tin forest in our class room.

We have just planned our investigation about magnets and their forces.

We are loving our sport with Adam every Tuesday. Thank you to everyone who remembers their P.E Kit! On a Tuesday we also have UPBEAT teaching us all about music, which is great fun.





Reminders:

P.E Kit every Tuesday
Reading Books every Friday

Kingfishers and Tawny Owls

Kingfishers are thoroughly enjoying our topic 'Bottoms, Burps and Bile'. During this topic we have created fantastic factfiles on teeth, using all the information we have gathered through research. We have also completed an investigation on how saliva works, where we had to chew crackers for different lengths of time and then spit them out, testing them for starch. We had a lot of fun! Don't forget to return any homework related to this topic, we look forward to seeing it and displaying it in class.

Our new task is to create a fantasy narrative all about a food's journey through the digestive system, so any help the children could have at home regarding this topic would be fantastic. Thank you.

Otters and Dormice

Year 5 have had a really productive term looking at the topics 'Castles and Kingdoms', 'Stargazers' and 'Time Traveller'. We have really enjoyed studying the stars and loved having the planetarium to visit!

For our topic of 'Time Traveller' so far we have been looking at our own time lines and how time has travelled throughout our lives - thank you to those parents that supplied photographs for this! This topic will also be continuing after Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year from Mrs Harris and Mrs Williams!

Buzzards and Red Kites

The Year 6 topic this half term is called 'Blood Heart' where the children are learning all about the circulatory system, the heart, the effects of exercise and smoking on the heart and other vital organs. The children have really enjoyed all of the tasks they have completed so far and are looking forward to finding out more.

All of the pupils also took part in a music session where they wrote and composed their very own original Christmas Song. This was a fantastic experience as they also got to record their song and we will be selling them at the Christmas Concert.

Year 6 are taking part in a reading programme this year where we are encouraging the pupils to read as many books as possible and begin to enjoy reading. It has been lovely to see the positive impact that this programme has already had in the few weeks that it has been running. We are now asking the children to put their books away as they are so engrossed in them rather than trying to encourage them to read. Keep it up!

A polite reminder that all children need their PE kits in on a Monday.

Criw Cymraeg

Penygarn Community Primary School is pleased to be participating in the Cymraeg Campus Language Charter this year. Criw Cymraeg is working alongside Miss Busby in order to obtain a Bronze award for Penygarn Community Primary School by meeting the targets set out in the Cymraeg Campus Language Charter. Criw Cymraeg have many roles within our school such as: promoting the Welsh language in our school and play a vital role in helping other children and teachers to understand and use more Welsh throughout each day, contributing to Whole School Assembly every Wednesday, demonstrating





playground games in Welsh each day, teaching children throughout the school the Welsh 'Ymadrodd yr Wythnos' (Phrase of the Week) and many more!

Every Thursday Criw Cymraeg meet to discuss progress made and to decide their next steps in order to achieve the Bronze award. They are doing a fantastic job and are making excellent progress.

Da iawn Criw Cymraeg!

Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to the Friends of Penygarn and so many parents who helped to make the Christmas Bazaar a huge success. We are currently counting your generous donations and takings from the day, and will announce the profit in January's newsletter. Thank you so much from all of us at Friends of Penygarn.

Choir

Congratulations to our school choir for their outstanding performance at the Glen Yr Afon Hotel in Usk on Sunday 3rd December 2017. We were very proud of you all.

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to free school meals, please call into the school office and request an application form.

Music Tuition

If your child receives or would like to start a musical instrument and they receive free school meals you are able to apply for a financial grant. Please collect a form from the school office.

School Website

Please see all our calendar of events that are going on in December 2017 and in 2018 on the school website www.penygarn.torfaen.sch.uk

Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner will be on Friday 15th December 2017. If your child would like a dinner please book one with your child's class teacher. Please note there will be no salad bar on this day.

Concerts

Concert tickets are now on sale £1.00 each from the school office. This includes a free raffle.

Yours sincerely

L Sellars
Headteach





Dates for Diary

- 11.12.17 10.00 am - Reception Concert - 'Whoops a Daisy Angel' - KS2 hall
2.30 pm - Reception Concert - 'Whoops a Daisy Angel' - KS2 hall
- 12.12.17 11.00 am - Nursery Concert - 'Merry Christmas Everyone!' - Small hall
2.45 pm - Nursery Concert - 'Merry Christmas Everyone!' - Small hall
3.30 pm - 4.30 pm - Year 3/4 Christmas Disco
- 13.12.17 10.00 am - Year 1/2 Concert - 'Just an Ordinary Ox' - KS2 hall
2.30 pm - Year 1/2 Concert - 'Just an Ordinary Ox' - KS2 hall
Choir perform at Plas-y-Garn Home
- 14.12.17 2.30 pm - Year 3 Christmas Concert - KS2 hall
Year 5 - West Mon School - Christmas Pantomime Production
3.30 pm - Choir Party
- 15.12.17 Christmas Dress Up Day
Christmas Dinner
- 18.12.17 Nursery, Reception and Year 1 - Visit to see Father Christmas at Community Farm
2.30 pm - Year 4 Christmas Concert - KS2 hall
- 19.12.17 Year 2-6 Pantomime - Cwmbrian Congress Theatre
2.30 pm - Choir Concert for parents
3.30 pm - 4.30 pm - Year 5/6 Christmas Disco
- 20.12.17 2.30 pm - Year 5/6 Christmas Carol Concert - KS2 hall
- 22.12.17 Christmas Jumper Day
Santa and his reindeers in school all day
End of term 3.20 pm
- 08.01.18 Spring Term commences
- 19.01.18 KS2 - 'The B Word' Anti Bullying Production
- 30.01.18 2.30 pm - Reception Stay and Play Session
- 01.02.18 10.45 am - Nursery Stay and Play
2.30 pm - Nursery Stay and Play

19.02.18 - 23.02.18

Half Term

