Tonysguboriau Newsletter 30th January

Message from Mrs Harries



The local authority has recently asked all schools to review how their Breakfast Clubs are being used. As part of this process, we want to share a quick reminder about the purpose of the scheme and how it is intended to support our pupils.

The Welsh Government's *Free Breakfast in Primary Schools* scheme is designed to give children a healthy and positive start to their school day. As stated in the official guidance:

"The Free Breakfast in Primary Schools scheme does not provide childcare. Children are supervised during breakfast... Schools may charge for childcare before the free breakfast session starts." [gov.wales]

This means that the breakfast session should be used specifically for children to enjoy a healthy meal before school begins, rather than as an early-morning childcare provision.

We completely understand that mornings can be busy, and many families appreciate the support. As part of the review, we'll be checking that our Breakfast Club continues to meet Welsh Government expectations while still supporting our community as best we can.

Thank you, as always, for your cooperation and for working with us to ensure the best start to the day for all our pupils.

Have a great weekend

Mrs Harries

https://www.gov.wales/free-breakfast-primary-schools

Update from Mr Blears

Shwmae pawb!

The past couple of weeks I have noticed a real sense of our pupil voice shining through. This has been evident with our Digital Leaders supporting and managing our device usage, Wellbeing Warrriors providing delicious snacks on a Friday and our School Council surveying the school about the name of our upcoming disco, which I can announce will be the Dance Into Spring Disco.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Mr. Blears

Healthy School Committee Update



The Healthy School Team have been working hard to develop playground games in both the KS2 and Fph playground. Each class spends a day a week supporting and encouraging

children to play a range of games and raise their fitness levels. Each child has been putting their Playground Leaders Training into action and showing great leadership, commitment and teamwork.

The judges of the RCT Healthy School Leaders were so impressed with their work and their ideas for how to incorporate Welsh into their games that they awarded the children £250 of playground equipment to support them with their ideas. The children had to put together a video to showcase what they are doing as part of the bid for this grant. Please see their video here https://tonysguboriau-primary-school.secure-primarysite.net/pupil-voice-wellbeing-warriors/

Good To Be Green



The new term has started and a new Good To Be Green challenge has satrted. Children will receive:

- A bronze certificate for 30 stars
- A silver certificate for 40 stars
- A gold certificate and a special Easter treat for 45

See the below image to learn how to see your child's stars using J2E on the HWB.

How to use JIT stars

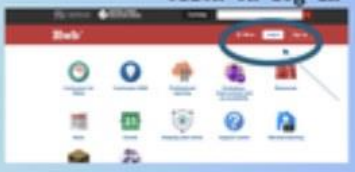
1 Google

Go to Google and type in hwb



2 login

click on log in



3 username and password

Put in your child's username, click next, then put in password and click next.

REMEMBER

Passwords are CASE SENSITIVE



4 J2E



Click on J2E.

5 J2 stars-

Click on J2 stars to see how many days your child has been on 'Good to be Green.'



Tonysguboriau Stars





Paisley won a gold medal in her kickboxing competition today and this is definitely something to celebrate. Gwaith da!



Well done to Bradley for being such a good support when he went to watch rugby that the wonderful team gave him a medal. Da iawn!

At Tonysguboriau, we love to celebrate all children's achievements. There are some achievements that we don't get to see that happen outside of school. Please send in photos and details of any achievements that your children have outside of school so that we can post them here and celebrate them with our community. Email blearsb2@hwbcymru.net with details and photos.

Any emails sent will be included in the next sway.

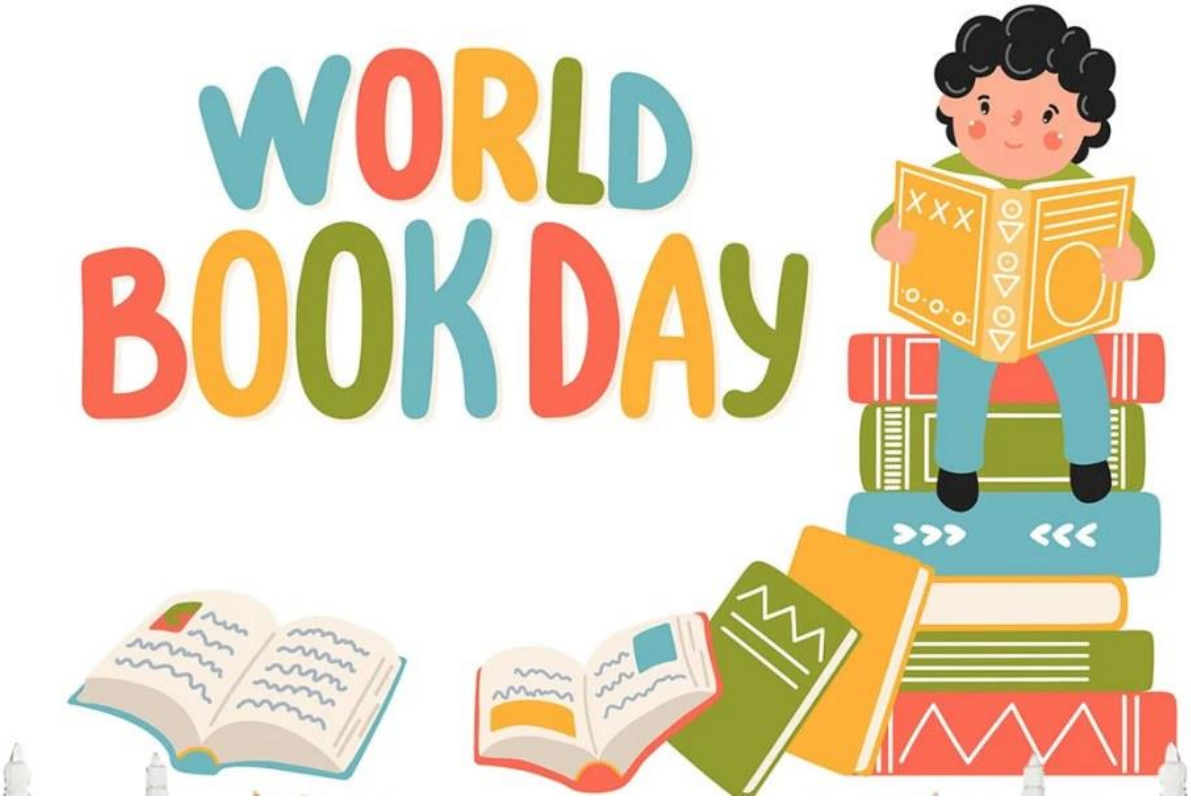
Welsh Language Speaking Opportunity for Parents and Carers



Every Thursday at 6.30pm, the Ivor Arms in Pontyclun hosts a Welsh club where people can go along to learn and practise speaking Welsh in a relaxed and welcoming environment. This is a great opportunity for anyone who would like to build their confidence with the Welsh language, whether you are a beginner or looking to improve your skills.

No pressure—just a friendly chance to learn, practise and enjoy Welsh together.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March



Our Reading Champions have been very busy planning lots of exciting, book-focused activities for World Book Day, and we can't wait to celebrate a love of reading together!

Dress Down Day

Children can come to school in their **own comfy clothes** for the day, so they're ready for a relaxed day of reading fun.

Potato Book Characters

The week before, every child will bring home a potato.

We're asking the children to **transform their potato into their favourite book character**!

Our Reading Champions will choose a winner from each class, and each winner will receive a small prize.

Free Book Fayre – After School

We will be holding our **annual free book fayre** after school on World Book Day until 5.00pm.

If you have any children's books in good condition that your child has outgrown, we would be very grateful for donations.

We will organise the books into rough age groups, and every child can choose some "new" books to take home.

Activities Throughout the Day

- **The Masked Reader** – some of our staff will be reading their favourite stories, and the children can choose who to visit… but the staff will be disguised!
- **Stories with Hot Chocolate** – later in the day, classes will enjoy a cosy storytime with a warm hot chocolate.

It's going to be a wonderful day celebrating stories, imagination and the joy of reading!

Dosbarth Dwynwen



Over the last fortnight, we have been exploring the woodlands, learning all about how and why animals camouflage and why this is so important for survival. The children experimented with face painting, creating camouflage accessories, and collaboratively painted camouflage patterns while exploring colour mixing and mark making. We even played hide and seek to help us understand how animals stay safe, learning about predators and prey in a fun and engaging way.

In maths, we have been collecting data by rescuing coloured blocks from ice, linking our learning to seasonal changes. We investigated whether table salt or grit was more effective, recorded our results using a pictogram, and discussed our findings together. We have also been learning all about shapes, recognising and naming them, describing their features, and

identifying similarities and differences. As part of this, we took part in a shape hunt outdoors, photographing a range of shapes we found in our environment.

Our language learning has been closely linked to our topic *Winter Wonderland*. The children have been recognising animals, labelling their features, and discussing the purpose of these features. They have explored different habitats, matched animals to hot or cold environments, and begun developing an awareness of migration and hibernation.

We have also been learning about St Dwynwen, exploring her story and developing an understanding of Welsh heritage and culture. The children enjoyed creating Hapa Zome artwork as a special gift for someone important to them.

Alongside all this, we have been very busy preparing for the Eisteddfod through dancing and singing. We are incredibly impressed with the children's effort and resilience and cannot wait to share their wonderful performances with you.

We have also been enhancing our classroom areas and making some exciting changes. A massive thank you to all of the parents and carers for your generous donations, these are very much appreciated and help to enrich your children's learning.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Baylis

Many thanks,

Mrs Baylis

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Thank you for your continued support.

Many thanks,

Mrs Baylis

Keep up to date with what's going on by visiting our class page - https://www.tonysguboriauprimaryschool.com/dwynwen/

Dosbarth Llewellyn



Once again, we've had a lovely fortnight full of hands-on learning, and the children have been working brilliantly.

Language, Literacy & Communication (LLC)

We have been finishing our instructional writing journey. The children practised giving clear oral instructions and explored how adding detail makes them easier to follow. Their completed instructions were fantastic and showed real progress.

Mathematics & Numeracy (M&N)

In maths, we have been finding quarters of shapes and amounts, and practising counting in 2s. The children also explored odd and even numbers through sorting games and problem-solving activities.

Topic: Back in Time

We have been comparing Edwardian rooms with modern rooms, using old photographs to discuss similarities and differences. In science, we learned about matter and looked at how some things change when heated (like ice and chocolate) and some do not.

Expressive Arts

We are continuing to learn a traditional country dance, ready for the Eisteddfod, and have started learning a new Welsh song to perform as a class.

As always, if you have any questions, please get in touch!

Mrs English

Keep up to date with what's going on by visiting our class page - https://www.tonysguboriauprimaryschool.com/llewellyn/

Dosbarth Dewi Sant



Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last couple of weeks, the children have been working incredibly hard across all areas of learning, and I'm delighted to share some of the wonderful things happening in class.

In maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction, exploring different strategies and "tricks" to help us work out and check our answers. The children's confidence is really growing, and I've noticed a big improvement in their mental maths skills.

In literacy, the children have completed their instructional writing journey. They wrote clear, detailed instructions on how to grow a flower, using time connectives, bossy verbs, numbering, bullet points and diagrams. Every child was successful, and they produced some brilliant pieces of work.

Our topic work has been centred around minibeasts, herbs, and garden birds. The children enjoyed creating pictograms and simple databases on Hwb, and they had great fun smelling a range of herbs and trying to identify them. As part of our learning about garden birds, I have asked the children to make a DIY bird feeder for their garden or a woodland area at home. Please take photos of the finished bird feeders, as we would love to share these during show and tell. Photos can be sent to my email address: **Gills279@hwcymru.net**.

In a couple of weeks, we are very fortunate to have a florist visiting the class to talk about flowers and share their expertise. The children have already been busy preparing a set of open and closed questions to ask during the visit.

Next week, we will begin our Eisteddfod art task, and we will soon be starting our writing task linked to the Eisteddfod too. Before half term, I will also share the home-school task, which will be linked to our topic, *The Scented Garden*.

The children have enjoyed learning about Santes Dwynwen and have created their own comic strips retelling the story. They have also loved listening to Welsh music on YouTube in preparation for Dydd Miwsig Cymru. Alongside this, we have been practising our country dancing for the Eisteddfod, and next week I will share the class song/act that the children will be performing in the school Eisteddfod.

We are currently organising a trip to St Fagans. More details will follow shortly. I have also enquired about a mindfulness and creative workshop at the gardens near the castle, which I think the children would absolutely love. I will update you once I have more information.

Lots to look forward to over the coming weeks.

As always, please get in touch if you need anything. Thank you for your continued support.

Diolch,

Mrs Gill

Keep up to date with what's going on by visiting our class page - https://www.tonysguboriauprimaryschool.com/dewi-sant/

Dosbarth Y Ddraig Goch



What a busy and brilliant couple of weeks we've had in Class! The days have flown by, and everyone has been working very hard, making fantastic progress in reading, writing and numeracy.

In **maths**, we've been deepening our understanding of multiplication and division, and then using these skills to explore fractions and solve real-life word problems. The children have shown amazing determination and confidence!

Our topic **"Rocks, Relics and Rumbles"** has been full of discovery. We moved from learning about different types of rocks to exploring **how fossils form** in sedimentary rock, and why they're so important for understanding life on Earth millions of years ago. This week, we also jumped into the world of **volcanoes**, finding out where they are around the world and researching famous ones, including **Kilauea**, which has been erupting 2024!

In **literacy**, the children finished their brilliant instructional writing and produced wonderful instructions for the Christmas crafts we made in class. This week, we've begun a brand-new writing journey: **story writing**, inspired by the famous Welsh tale *Gelert*. The ideas the children have already come up with are amazing!

Swimming has been going really well. The children are working hard, showing great progress, and are a real credit to the school with their behaviour at Llantrisant Leisure Centre.

Finally, I am very excited to share that I have organised a **class trip to Rhondda Heritage Park!** We will be stepping back in time to experience life as a miner and taking part in a workshop to learn how coal changed Wales and travelled around the world. It's going to be a fantastic experience! Please note the date of the school trip is the **4th of March**, not the 4th of February as per the trip letter.

Finally, for the next 3–4 weeks, PE will move back to **Thursdays** as we begin planning and practising our country dancing routines for the school Eisteddfod.





Keep up to date with what's going on by visiting our class page - https://www.tonysguboriauprimaryschool.com/y-ddraig-goch/

Dosbarth Caradog

Over the past two weeks in Year 4, we have been very busy.

In literacy, the children completed their performance poems based on our *Potions* topic. They wrote their own poems based on a potion they designed and then performed them to the class, carefully matching their actions and vocal expression to the mood and meaning of their words. We have now begun our new narrative genre, which is based on the Welsh legend of *Cantre'r Gwaelod*. The pupils have enjoyed exploring the story so far and made predictions of the story based on a range of clues for our hook for the genre.

In maths, we have continued our work on estimating and measuring length, weight and capacity, using a range of practical activities. We have now started learning how to find amounts of fractions, beginning with hands-on manipulatives. Here is a link for finding fractions of amounts. Finding fractions of amounts - KS2 Maths - Year 4 - BBC Bitesize

As part of our topic work, we have continued exploring potions by learning about their historical uses, how they were made and what ingredients were used in the past. In Welsh, the children have been learning about how to talk about illness and discuss this about themselves and others. They particularly enjoyed taking part in Welsh doctor and patient role-play activities.

Keep up to date with what's going on by visiting our class page - https://www.tonysguboriauprimaryschool.com/caradog/

My school email is larkinse8@hwbcymru.net.

Dosbarth Branwen

Literacy

Over the past fortnight, we have been completing our recount writing journey. The children wrote detailed letters based on the story *Journey*. They worked hard to extend their writing by using:

- Time connectives
- Present participle sentences to uplevel their work
- Hyphenated colour descriptions

They produced some excellent letters and should feel very proud of their progress.

Next week, we are beginning our new writing journey on Welsh myths and legends. We will explore the legend of Branwen and the Magical Cauldron and the story of Gelert. The children will then retell these legends in their own words, focusing on:

- Including real Welsh places
- Identifying the lesson or moral within each myth
- Writing detailed, engaging stories inspired by the legends

Numeracy

We have been learning about area and perimeter. The children have practised:

- Measuring accurately
- Adding all the sides to calculate perimeter
- Using their multiplication skills to find area
- Applying both skills to solve rectilinear shapes, which was challenging but they persevered brilliantly

To practise at home, you can explore:

- https://www.roomrecess.com/mobile/GeoTombs/play.html
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/z3ywxg8

Topic – Tudors & The Battle of Bosworth

Our topic work has continued with an in-depth look at the Battle of Bosworth. The children have:

- Created scaled maps of the battle
- Written their own historical reports
- Explored how the battle connects to Wales
- Learned about Henry VIII and produced biographies about his life

We then broadened our study to significant figures from the Tudor era. The children researched individuals and considered:

- How influential or authoritative they were
- How they changed events, laws, or society
- How well-liked they were at the time
- Whether their actions were ruthless, risky or threatening
- How they are remembered today and why
- A surprising or unusual detail about their life
- A short summary of who they were and what they achieved

To bring their learning together, pupils created Tudor Top Trumps cards with categories such as *Danger, Legacy, Power, Impact,* and *Popularity*. They were fantastic!

RVE (Religion, Values & Ethics)

In RVE, we have been learning about Hindu beliefs, focusing on the idea of the Atma (soul) as eternal, free, and beyond physical form. The children showed thoughtful understanding and asked some excellent questions.

Keep up to date with what's going on by visiting our class page - https://www.tonysguboriauprimaryschool.com/branwen/

Dosbarth Gelert

Literacy

Last week we completed our writing journey on recounts in the form of letters, linking this to our class book of War Horse and our topic work on Britain at War. The pupils had learnt a lot about life in the trenches through reading through sources of information such as letters from the Western Front and by interacting with an AI soldier who lived in Pontyclun. They used this information to write a letter to a soldier in the trenches or as a soldier writing back home. They used lots of descriptive language features and produced some excellent work. We have now moved onto our new writing journey of Welsh myths and legends with the children looking at narrative texts and expanding their use of vocabulary by focusing on small details, creating their own narrative stories with a moral or lesson that could be learnt from them.

Numeracy

We have been focusing on fractions and percentages, revising how to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions in different forms, how to compare equivalent fractions and simplify them. We have linked this to our topic and looked at different ways of solving problems using concrete, pictorial and abstract approaches.

To practice and revise some of the things we have covered in class please go to:

Fractions - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zdkydnb

Topic

We have continued our topic by looking at propaganda posters and how it influenced the number of volunteers in World War One. We have compared this with 'fake news' and propaganda today to see how this affects us in our everyday lives. We learnt more about life in the trenches through investigating different first and second hand sources such as photographs, audio accounts, letters from the front, videos of life in the trenches and by interacting with an AI soldier that Mr Hussey had created to tell us more about joining up to the war from someone who lived in Pontyclun at the time. We have listened to audio accounts of life back in Britain and how the lives of everyday people were affected by the war such as zeppelin attacks and rationing. We used this to help us write letters explaining what it was like at the time.

Reminders:

- Class trip to the National Archives - Thursday 5th February - all pupils need a packed lunch
- Year 6 Y Pant transition - Tuesday 10th February 9:30-1:30 - all pupils need a packed lunch. Year 6pupils need to be in school by 8:55so that we can at 9:00.

Keep up to date with what's going on by visiting our class page - https://www.tonysguboriauprimaryschool.com/gelert/

School Crossing



Please note that Mr Lampka will not be on the crossing between March 3rd and 9th so please be careful when crossing the road.

Also, a gentle reminder to park safely and please not park on the zig zag lines when bringing your children to school. Thank you!

Easter Raffle Colour Donations Day



Dates for the diary Spring 2026



Thursday 5th February - Year 6 trip Glamorgan Archives

Tuesday 10th February - Y6 Transition Y Pant

Wednesday 25th February - PTA Dance Into Spring Disco

Friday 27th February - St David's Day - Welsh Costumes

Wednesday 4th March - Y3 Trip Rhondda Heritage Park

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Friday 6th March - Colour Donations Day/ Easter Raffle Donations

Monday 9th March - St Fagans Trip Y1/2

Wednesday 11th March - Year 6 Residential Storey Arms

Monday 16th March - Parent's Evening/Booking through MCAS

Thursday 19th March - Parent's Evening/Booking through MCAS

Friday 20th March - Ser Yr Eisteddfod

Friday 27th March - End of Term

School starts back - Monday 13th April