Tonysguboriau Newsletter 16th January

Message from Mrs Harries

As we begin a new year, it's a great opportunity to update you on our key School Development Plan priorities. These focus areas help us continue improving teaching and learning across the school, ensuring every child is supported to achieve their full potential. Below is a brief overview of the main areas we are working on this year. Have a great weekend Mrs Harries :)

Maths Skills

This year, we are strengthening how maths is taught across the school to help every child build confidently on what they already know.

We will be:

- Developing a clear maths curriculum that supports steady progression year by year.
- Training and supporting our new Maths Lead to guide improvements.
- Working with other schools to improve learning as children move from Year 6 to Year 7.
- Helping all staff understand how children's maths skills develop.
- Using the CPA approach (hands-on, visual and written methods) consistently.
- Strengthening numeracy skills across all areas of learning.

Digital Skills

We are working to make sure all pupils confidently use their Digital Competence Framework (DCF) skills in all areas of learning.

We will be:

- Providing focused staff training each half term on different areas of digital learning.
- Setting up mentoring so staff can work with a digital lead or skilled colleague to build confidence.
- Reviewing our curriculum to see where digital skills are already used and where more opportunities are needed.
- Introducing digital portfolios (such as Seesaw or Google Sites) so pupils can record and show their digital learning.
- Reviewing pupil progress each term using work samples and learner voice.

Assessment

We are working to strengthen how we assess and track pupils' progress so that every child gets the support they need to succeed.

We will be:

- Developing assessment procedures for our youngest learners (Progression Step 1).
- Embedding early literacy and maths expectations to support strong foundations.
- Making better use of Read Write Inc. (RWI) data to guide teaching.
- Creating an ALN tracker to support pupils with additional learning needs.
- Using wellbeing information more effectively to shape learning and support.
- Developing a whole-school tracking system that brings all pupil data together.

Update from Mr Blears

Shwmae pawb!

Has it really only been 2 weeks?!

There is never any let off in schools and it's great to see all the pupils jump back into it. With new topics and experiences to take part in it has been great to see all our children back.

There are many projects going on around the school at the moment and we are looking forward to the new additions we will be making to the school. In the meantime, we have so many new ideas floating around the school it's an exciting time to be at our Tonysguboriau!

Have a great weekend and stay safe!

Mr. B. Blears

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

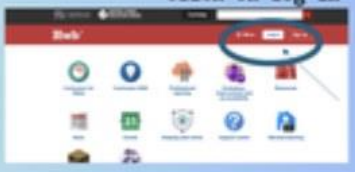
1 Google

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.'





Is Tonysguboriau the greenest of them all this Christmas?

It's that time of year again, where we write and receive lovely Christmas cards – but what happens to them when the festivities are over?

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council is calling on all our Tonysguboriau to take up the Christmas Card Challenge and have a greener New Year by recycling all their used Christmas Cards.

The challenge is easy; simply collect as many used Christmas Cards as possible and the school with the highest card to pupil ratio wins the competition.

Prizes on offer -

1. First Prize £300

2. Second Prize £100

3. Third Prize £50

Please collect all items in clear recycling bags and only include USED Christmas cards and envelopes.

Please do not include greetings cards for special occasions other than Christmas as these should be recycled separately, and any unused cards can still be kept and used.

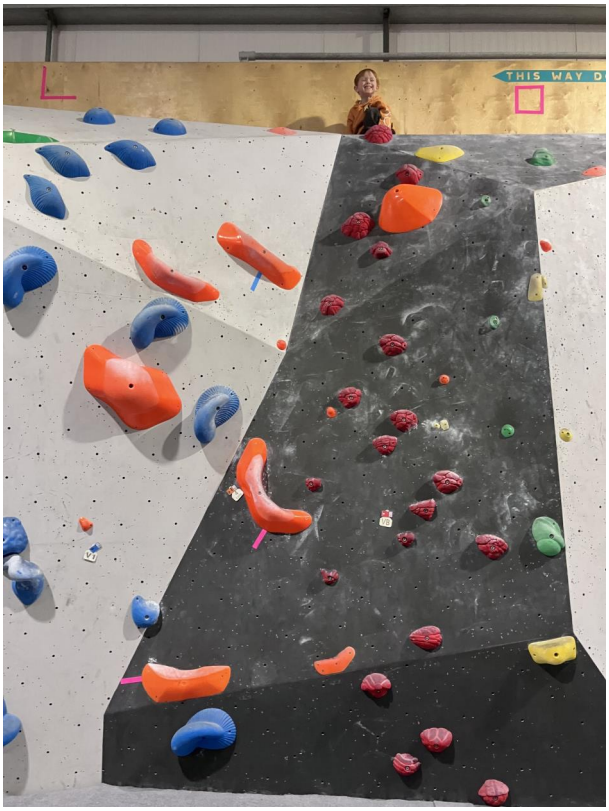
The closing date for the challenge is Friday 16th January 2026. .

Tonysguboriau Stars




V5
V6







Rowan has been taking part in bouldering since he was about 1.5 years old, he's always climbed in a child's area but after a brief go in the adults area before Christmas his parents took him back and got him some climbing shoes - he shot up the adult wall repeatedly. He was confident, strong and determined - if he failed, he tried again and he climbed some

really difficult routes. He had 4 people from the climbing centre approach him to tell him how fantastic he was and ask his age because he was doing so well. His mums are very proud of him! Da iawn!



Elinor attends football class every Sunday and has been working hard since moving into a higher age group class a couple of months ago. Today Elinor received a ‘certificate of excellence’ which is awarded to one student for outstanding football skills and learning. Elinor scored goals in the match and even got stuck in to her first tackle! Along with great listening skills and cheering on her team mates. Da Iawn Elinor, her parents are proud of her!



Matteo has passed his wave 7 swimming yesterday evening, it has taken him 5 months to complete.

He has now completed all swimming levels and has a few weeks to decide if he would like to continue with Rookies life guarding.

His parents are super proud of Matteo as he really worked hard to complete wave 7. 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.

Dosbarth Dwynwen



We have kicked off our new seasonal topic, *Winter Wonderland*, by exploring changes in weather and temperature and how these affect the world around us. A key focus has been understanding the processes of freezing and melting, helping children to develop clear cause and effect understanding as temperatures change through the seasons.

As part of our science and knowledge work, children have been sorting animals into land, sea, and sky habitats and grouping baby animals with their adult forms, supporting their understanding of life cycles and habitats. We have also been developing children's knowledge of how temperature changes across the seasons, using images and descriptive language to compare seasons and weather, including hot and cold and wet and dry conditions.

In Physical Education, children have been exploring different ways of travelling like land animals, developing coordination, balance, and imaginative movement.

In Maths and Numeracy, our focus has been on number recognition and formation, reliably counting objects, and ordering numbers. Children have also been collecting data, creating simple representations, and discussing their findings using appropriate mathematical language.

In Language and Communication, children have been identifying animal features and labelling body parts, as well as learning about animals' natural habitats. Through discussion and play, they have developed an understanding of hibernation and migration, linking animal behaviour to seasonal changes.

In Welsh, we have revisited weather-related vocabulary and have been developing children's confidence in asking and answering a range of open and closed questions. Children are extending their Welsh vocabulary through daily routines, songs, stories, and play, and are beginning to use familiar words and phrases more independently across the classroom.

Overall, the *Winter Wonderland* topic has provided rich opportunities for children to explore, investigate, and make meaningful connections across learning areas, deepening their understanding of the natural world during winter.

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

Dosbarth Llewellyn



Welcome back, and a very Happy New Year to you all!

If I haven't seen you yet, I hope you had a wonderful break. The children have settled back into school beautifully and have already thrown themselves into their new topic: **Back in Time**. You can find more information about this topic and follow our updates on our class page on the school website (link below).**Language, Literacy & Communication (LLC)**

We have begun a brand-new writing journey focused on **instructions**. The children completed a simple craft activity and then wrote clear instructions on how to make it. We explored a WAGOLL to help us identify key features of instructional writing, and we have been practising our *bossy verbs* through fun activities such as **Simon Says**, giving and following instructions in the construction area, and creating things in the creative area. We have also been working on sequencing instructions in the correct order.

Mathematics & Numeracy (M&N)

In maths, we have been learning all about **fractions**, with a focus on halving. The children can now half objects, shapes, and even numbers. We practised these skills by sharing objects evenly into two groups and folding shapes to check that both sides are equal.

Topic: Back in Time

To start our topic, we have been learning and practising time-related vocabulary and sequencing well-known events. The children have also generated a fantastic list of

interesting questions they would like to explore as we learn about how people's lives have changed over the years. Their curiosity has been wonderful to see, and we are excited to dig deeper into the past together.

If you have **any old artefacts or photos** that you would be happy for us to look at in school, we would absolutely love to see them. We promise to take great care of anything you send in.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, 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



Croeso nôl and welcome back. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. The children have settled in beautifully since returning, and we've certainly hit the ground running with our new topic, "The Scented Garden."

The class has already been learning about the different parts of a flower and what each part is responsible for. They've enjoyed observing flowers up close and sketching them with great

care. Our flower-shop role-play area has also been very popular, filled with artificial flowers for the children to explore. If you have any spare artificial plants at home that you no longer need, we would be very grateful for donations to help enhance this space.

We also have an exciting visit planned with a local florist, where the children will have the chance to ask questions, learn more about flowers, and find out what the job involves.

In English, our current writing journey focuses on instructional writing. The children have loved reading the story *If Your Monster Won't Go to Bed* and have been creating their own instructions based on the text. They have also enjoyed making their own Forkys from *Toy Story* by following a set of instructions — a task that really showcased their imagination and creativity. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be learning about bossy verbs and time connectives to support our instructional writing. This will lead into our hot write, where the children will write instructions on how to grow a flower, linking perfectly with our topic.

In Maths, we have been working on number bonds to 10 and 100. This week, the children have been learning how to add and subtract 10 from a two-digit number and have shown great progress.

It has been a fantastic two weeks back, and we have lots to look forward to this term. Once the weather improves, we will be able to pot and grow our own plants in the outdoor area, which the children are already excited about.

There is additional information about our topic in the newsletter on our class webpage. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch.

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 fantastic start to the Spring Term in Year 3!

Everyone returned happy and ready to learn, and this has really shown in the brilliant work they've completed over the past two weeks.

Numeracy

We've been focusing on **fractions** and **times tables**, and next week we'll move on to **division**.

If you'd like to support your child at home, please help them practise their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. A great free resource for this is the online game Hit the Button.

Literacy

We've made excellent progress learning how to write **instructions**. The children especially enjoyed using **bossy verbs** in their writing!

Topic

Our science topic has been all about **rocks**. We've examined, explored, and sorted different types of rocks, learning about their uses in buildings, sculptures, writing, and even tools.

Swimming

Swimming was a great success this week! Every pupil showed excellent behaviour, manners, and independence skills at the leisure centre. This week was just a short assessment, and from next week they will begin their full lessons.

PE Update

Please note: **PE day has changed to Thursdays**. We've been getting creative in PE as we focus on interpretive dance for a few weeks linked to extreme Earth events such as volcanic eruptions and Tsunamis...



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

Dosbarth Caradog

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing break. Year 4 have made a fantastic start to the new term and have already thrown themselves enthusiastically into their learning.

Our new topic this term is *Potions and States of Matter*, and the children have already enjoyed the exciting start to this unit. They have been busy mixing different substances to observe a range of reactions and have used scientific language to record what they noticed.

As part of our forces work, they have also completed an investigation into push and pull forces, linking this to how potions can be moved, stirred or affected by different types of force. In addition, the class have started creating an online database exploring the historic uses of potions, combining ICT and history skills to present their findings.

In maths, the children have been focusing on measurement. They have practised estimating and accurately measuring different lengths, and they have been converting between millimetres, centimetres and metres. Next week, they will continue this topic by learning how to measure mass and capacity.

In literacy lessons, we have begun our performance poetry unit. The children have explored how body language, facial expression and changes in vocal volume and expression can affect a performance. They have enjoyed reading, practising and performing different poems, and have worked on improving them by adding similes and alliteration to make the imagery more vivid and engaging. I have been blown away by their descriptive and effective language!

Diolch, Miss Larkins

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

We began the term by completing our instructional writing unit, where pupils strengthened their use of precise verbs and extended sentences using adverbs and relative clauses.

Our new writing journey focuses on narrative recounts in the form of letters, inspired by *Journey* by Aaron Becker. Pupils are developing their use of past tense, first and third person, and descriptive techniques such as similes, metaphors and personification. They are also learning to apply the correct layout and tone for more formal letter writing. Through drama, they have been exploring characters' thoughts and feelings to deepen their understanding and oracy skills.

Numeracy

This term, pupils have been consolidating their understanding of measure, including converting between centimetres, millimetres and metres, millilitres and litres, and kilograms and grams. They have also been working on fractions—adding and subtracting fractions and finding fractions of amounts.

For extra practice at home, you may find the following links helpful:

Fractions tasks and games - Fractions Decimals and Percentages - Mathsframe

Fractions and percentages - Fractions - Year 5 Maths - BBC Bitesize

Measurement games and activities Length and distance - Year 5 Maths - BBC Bitesize

Topic: Tudors and Stuarts

Our topic this term is '*Tudors and Stuarts'*, with strong links to our writing through biographies, letters and report writing. Pupils have been learning about Henry VII, the first Welsh king, exploring how he gained support and won the Battle of Bosworth, bringing an end to the Wars of the Roses. They have studied the symbolism of the Tudor Rose and connected this to their own cynefin, considering how traditions and laws have evolved over time.

Pupils analysed the causes and consequences of King Richard III's defeat, using a Diamond 9 to evaluate the most significant factors. We also enjoyed an engaging visit from "Henry VII", who shared stories from his early life, exile in France and eventual return to claim the crown.

The children have mapped key features of the Battle of Bosworth, considering how the landscape influenced events, and have researched and labelled important locations linked to Henry VII's life. They have also compared how Wales was governed before, during and after the Tudor period, examining the roles of princes, nobles, the monarchy and the growing influence of Parliament.

We will be moving on to Henry VIII next as we continue exploring this fascinating period.

Photos and videos from our learning will be uploaded to our class page by the weekend under Our Learning Journey – Spring Term 2025–2026: Tudors and Stuarts.

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

Dosbarth Gelert

Literacy

This term our first writing journey is all about narrative recounts in the form of a letter. We have linked this to the book **War Horse** by Michael Morpurgo. The children have been learning about use of past tense, first and third person, adding details using with, practicing their oracy by reading aloud letters, expanding their vocabulary with more powerful adjectives and learning how to use effective similes, metaphors, personification and alliteration.

Numeracy

Our focus so far this term has been on problem-solving looking at using a variety of methods to solve a problem and looking at which method is sometimes best for different situations and numbers. We have worked in small groups on problems with each member of the group having a role that rotates around during the week. The pupils have taken really well to this and shown a great understanding for trying different approaches and thinking 'outside the box' to answer their questions.

The problems have focused on the relationship between fractions and percentages and counting in steps of different sizes.

To practice some of these aspects of maths at home please follow the links below:

Fractions and percentages - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpxktcw

Factors, multiples and primes - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zs68h4j

As ever we continue to develop our mental maths though our weekly Ninja maths tests and our daily maths fluency games, using simple maths games to practice and improve the speed of recall for different facts whilst learning strategies for how to play the games.

Topic work

This term our topic is 'Britain at War' and many of our writing journeys for language will link into this as well. So far we have looked at a variety of historical conflicts with the children researching into the countries involved, the reasons for these conflicts and importantly the consequences of these. We have then started to look at the main causes of the First World War with the pupils researching and producing excellent reports on the different causes and what they think were the main things that led to the war. The pupils have also looked at why people volunteered in the First World War learning about propaganda, patriotism, peer pressure and other factors that led to many men enlisting. We have discussed the effect of this on communities in our local area and looked at how some of those pressures are still prevalent today through news and social media. Although this is a historic topic a lot of what the children will learn about is linked back to their local area today and the lessons we can learn from these past events for the future, linking in to how these affect their everyday lives today. I have been really impressed with their sensible attitudes and mature behaviour when we are discussing these issues.

We have started some dance work linked to the Blitz and videos of this will be posted on our website when they are completed. Any pictures from our week and from our topic work can be found on our class page under the heading - Our learning journey - Spring Term 2025-2026 Britain at War.

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

Dates for the diary Spring 2026

Thursday 5th February - Year 6 trip

Wednesday 25th February - PTA Disco

Friday 27th February - St David's Day

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Wednesday 11th March - Year 6 Residential

Monday 16th March - Parent's Evening

Thursday 19th March - Parent's Evening

Friday 27th March - End of Easter Term