

Newsletter

March 25th 2022

A Caring, Respectful and Open Environment, where Success and Opportunity flourish



Please find our school newsletter for March 25th 2022. Click on the links for more information.

Please visit our website
www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk

Kind regards,
Cofion cynnes,

Dean Taylor



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Deputy Headteacher: Sarah Cook B.A. (Hons)

March 25th 2022

Newsletter

Dear Parent and Carer,
Annwyl Rhieni,

Apologies for the lack of newsletter last week – covid-19 finally caught up with me! Please find some news and information for week ending 25th March.

Covid-19

All current arrangements regarding testing and self isolation will remain in place in schools until the end of term. I will write to you before Easter with an update on arrangements for the Summer term and the plan to bring school back to normal routines.

Please find a link to the letter re vaccination from the Chief Medical Officer [here](#).

Physical Punishment

Please find a letter from Welsh Government by clicking the link [here](#).

PTA

My thanks to the PTA for the lovely Mother's Day activities the children have completed. If you need to donate please do so online.



Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day



RED NOSE DAY AT SCHOOL

Red Nose Day is back on Friday 18 March, and it's bigger, better, and redder than ever. Whatever you and your pupils do, no matter how big or small, you'll be helping people in the UK and around the world live better lives.

Friday 18th March - dress as a 'Superhero', red noses or red clothes

We have had a fabulous afternoon raising money for Comic Relief. @PPSHealth_Well @PPS_Happiness



We have enjoyed dressing up as a superhero to support Comic Relief 2022 @PPSHealth_Well @PPS_Happiness



Jon Willmore
@PPSMrWillmore

Red Nose Day 2022.



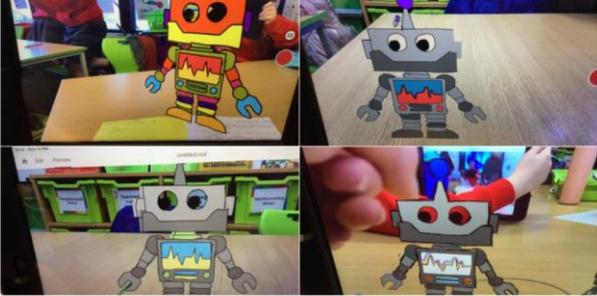
Author Claire Donald



Value Added IT Work - Augmented Reality

Jon Willmore
@PPSMWillmore

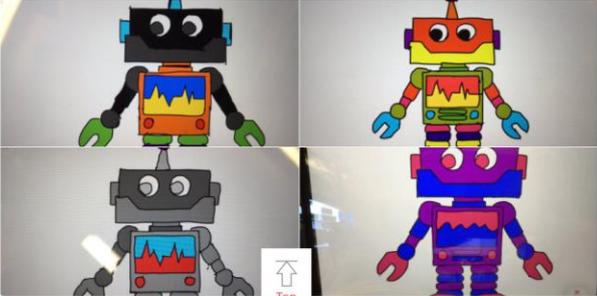
Year 5 pupils have really enjoyed designing their own robots for augmented reality tasks.



Mar 14, 2022

Jon Willmore
@PPSMWillmore

Children have been designing their own robots.




We were lucky enough to work with @ValueAddedEd today. Pupils were #enterprisingcreativeindividuals and #ambitiouscapablelearners using @PlayCraftLearn and @AdobeAero to create their augmented reality designs which came to life in our classroom @PentrepoethPrim



Mr Merriman
@PPSMrMerriman

Some new visitors in class, courtesy of @ValueAddedEd!!
@PPS_Happiness @PentrepoethPrim






Last week in **Nursery** our Sound of the Week - h, h, horse - sound hunt, letter formation, mark making, Fred talk, sound booklet

We looked at what was Heavier/lighter - We made predictions - which dinosaur do we think is the heaviest/lightest? We then weighed the dinosaurs to determine if our predictions were correct.

We talked about our sense of touch - What did a selection of dinosaurs feel like? Can the children describe how the dinosaurs feel - (hard, soft, rough & smooth) and then sort them into like sets.

Garden - The children played a spin the wheel dinosaur game - flap like a pterodactyl, stomp like a T-Rex etc

Expressive Arts - we had great fun hand printing dinosaurs.

Last week we have had a hopping time in Reception, learning all about the life cycle of a frog. Did you know a frog drinks through its skin? We have been taking special care of our class tadpoles, observing how they are changing and learning about what they eat. The children have created their very own life cycle hats and used their knowledge to draw and explain the process. Reception had a great time exploring the forest school area searching for minibeasts. They used their building skills in block play to make a bug hotel and used tweezers to pick out the bugs in the sand tray. To celebrate Science week we were set a special challenge; to create a picture using the Bee-Bots. What a fantastic week!

This week in Reception we have been celebrating our wonderful mummy's and during our circle time, had the opportunity to talk what why they are special. The children are really excited to surprise their mummy's on Sunday with all of the wonderful gifts they have created in school. In the water tray the children have been washing the dishes for Mummy and made a delicious meal for the family in the role play area. In the block play area, the children enjoyed building places that our special to them. Reception have been learning to make doubles in various ways, using pom poms, Numicon, counting bears and pegs. They absolutely blew us away and have learnt a song about doubles that we are sure they would like to share with you. We hope that you have a wonderful Mother's Day.



We built bug hotels in our forest school lesson today! #Pentrepoethprimary



Reception thoroughly enjoyed a minibeast hunt in Forest School today 🐛 @PPSHealth_Well @PPS_Happiness



We have learnt so much in year 1 during Science and Technology week. We enjoyed working in small groups to build mazes for our class beebots on Monday and gave our beebots a series of instructions to get them from one part of the maze to another. We used language such as full and half turns, forwards, backwards and left and right. On Friday we had a visit from STEM works UK and spent the whole day learning how to make our own robots. We enjoyed building a chicken with our friends and then programmed the chicken using the IPADS to make it move. We were amazed to learn that not only could our chickens move left and right but that they could also be programmed to make a chicken noise and light up! We talked about machines that can be programmed in our homes such as the washing machine and microwave. We looked at how some new vacuum cleaner robots can clean our homes too! We talked about cars on the road and how some cars are programmed to drive themselves. We talked about how helpful these cars can be as not everyone is currently able to drive a car. We wondered whether we will all be using these cars when we are older?!



Mrs Batrouni

@PPSMrsBatrouni

We've had so much fun building a chicken and programming it to move, talk and light up! Diolch @STEMworksUK @PPSSciandTech





Mrs Beard
@PPSMrsBeard2JB

Fun Friday. We practised our Coding skills and continued creating our Google Slides. We finished our Menorahs, and created our pop up dinosaur puppets. We creating amazing mazes for us to guide the Beebots around. What a busy day. @PPSSciandTech @PPS_Happiness @PPSExpressiveArt



Over the last two weeks, **Year 2** have been working very hard. First, they focused on their descriptive skills to describe the Gigantosaurus out of the book 'Gigantosaurus'. They then later created a story map to plan their ideas before retelling the story using lots of description of the characters from the book. In maths year 2 started to compare two numbers using inequality signs with numbers within 100. Other groups worked on problem solving activities with the LSA and using an interactive game on the iPads to consolidate learning. Later in the week the children then had to solve one and two stop problems involving addition within 100. The children then learnt how to code a Beebot around a course they created in maths whilst other groups used Google Chromebooks to start learning how to code. The children recapped the Jewish synagogue and

created their own stained-glass windows. As it was British Science week, learners took a closer look at ways to keep themselves healthy. This also included how exercising affects our bodies. Further to this, the children learnt how hormones can affect their bodies. On funky Friday, the children painted their own Gigantosaurus, created a wool heart with the LSA and used the reading and spelling strategies on Nessy. Learners researched information from the internet this week and created their own Google slides based on what they found out online. They then presented their Google slides to the rest of the class practising the oracy skills. With Mother's Day approaching, the children created their own Mother's Day cards and crafts with the LSA this week. Finally, year 2 created their own dinosaur pop up puppet crafts with the LSA on funky Friday and practised their spelling and phonetical knowledge on Nessy.

Year 3 have had a fun and interesting week exploring the features of a diary. In small groups we used sugar paper to identify the features of a range of diary extracts. Looking for the date, time, chronological order, first person and if it was written in the past tense. We enjoyed sharing our findings and ideas. Following this, we used our imagination and previous research to catapult ourselves into a 'day in the life of an invertebrate'. We needed to write a fact page and a timeline of events that might happen to that invertebrate. We also touched on humorous writing styles. After completing our diaries we pulled names out of a hat to work with someone new in the classroom, to guess from the diary extracts the name of the invertebrate. We then used this research during the planning process to create an invertebrate hotel for the invertebrate.

In maths we have kept our TAPAS on the boil and really focused in on 'telling the analogue time'. We revisited the fraction wall and place value chart. On Monday we made sure that we recognised the different types of coins and confirmed the relationship and understanding with the place value chart. This was then followed by adding two 2-digit monetary amounts up to the value of two pound. We then used coin stamps and real coins to make different amounts and mentally added the two values in a make believe invertebrate shop. On Thursday we revised interpreting bar graphs emphasising



Julie Baxter
@PPSMrsBaxter

We made car robots and programmed them to travel along a road map. We used a maths skills and were Enterprising and creative. @PentrepoethPrim @PPSSciandTech



the scale and half way between the numbers on the scale. This was followed by creating independent tally charts and bar graphs and asking peers to interpret the data.

In topic this week we have looked at design briefs about 'how to make an invertebrate home'. We looked at what was needed to stay safe and warm and where it would need to be placed within the school grounds. Then we all created an independent design brief based on individual chosen invertebrates and went out to explore the grounds of the school to find the best location. After our walk we wrote short descriptions of each location and gathered class opinion by completing a tally chart followed by a bar chart. On Thursday we made our invertebrate homes and placed them in our chosen spot. Next week we will look in our invertebrate rooms to see who is living in them.

Year 3 are really enjoying watching the tadpoles grow and we have needed to add rocks and ledges to the tank because they are growing at a very quick pace. We are all very excited about releasing the frogs into the school pond. We have also had success with the caterpillar eggs and will soon see them make a chrysalis. Fingers crossed we will soon see a butterfly emerging. We have also purchased duck eggs to hatch. We would be open to offers for housing the ducks on the weekends before they return to the farm. The eggs will be arriving after half term

Last week Year 3 started the week with a fun interactive session from STEM Works. They enjoyed making and programming an owl robot, making it turn its head and hoot. The children made a robot car and using forward and backward commands, turns and sounds, coded it to travel on a road mat. They developed their mathematical skills of measuring and estimation in this STEM afternoon and had an amazing time.

Year 3 have used their own imaginations to independently plan and write an adventure story. We built on the prior knowledge of using a story mountain to plan, using all of the key features. The stories included a build-up, a dilemma, a resolution and an ending. All pupils had a choice of planning tools, some decided to draw pictures and others decided to use key words. Body outlines were used to create interesting characters and pictures of scenes supported the development of settings.

We have reinforced taught methods by using our TAPAS boards and individual whiteboards to encourage participation and understanding. We addressed any misconceptions on a daily basis. We then reinforced last week's lesson of adding 2 digit numbers by adding the 10s and then rounding up to the next 10 and finally adding the rest. We followed this by using 100 squares to practice subtracting first multiples of 10 and then units. We reinforced drawing and using empty number lines and practised subtracting multiples of 10, then 2 digit without crossing the ten then crossing the 10. We found using our number bonds to 10 very useful when jumping on the number line.

Following on from this we introduced pictograms and bar charts. We did this practically and practised/developed skills of interpreting data. We enjoyed using J2 Simple Data from the HWB that children have access to at home. We will be transferring the taught skills by developing our own class tally charts and bar graphs to make class decisions about where to place our invertebrate hotel later in our project.

We have welcomed frog spawn into the classroom and they are thriving. Rocks have already been placed into the tank because they are growing at a very fast pace. We are taking turns to observe and draw their development. We have also had a special delivery of caterpillar eggs. We will compare and contrast both life cycles, documenting each stage. Then we used prior learning of symmetry to draw a symmetrical butterfly. Following this we researched different invertebrates, in groups we chose an invertebrate and gathered interesting facts. We then sorted the facts into different sub-headings and used our research to write fact files.

We have had a fun packed week!!





In Year 4 English, our focus was non-chronological texts. We used a variety of websites and information sheets to collect facts and make notes about Komodo dragons. We looked at the features of an introduction incorporating the 4W questions before writing an introduction for our own non-chronological report. We chose interesting sentence starters and technical language to incorporate in our own non-chronological reports. We used a checklist to ensure that all features were included in our independent writing before proof-reading and edited our work. In Maths we continued our work on division. At the beginning of the week, we

used concrete materials and knowledge of multiplication facts to calculate division sums, including remainders. We practised jumping along an empty number line, jotting down multiples to complete calculations. In addition to that, we used the formal short strategy, or the 'bus stop' method, to divide 2 and 3-digit numbers.

As it was British Science Week, many of our tasks have been based on scientific phenomena. We started the week by using a mixture of bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to create a volcanic eruption. We posed the enquiry question 'Which rock is the most absorbent?' During our investigation we used our maths skills to weigh rocks before putting them into water.

In addition to that, we had an exciting session with the visitors from STEM works where we worked with a partner to design and make a wind powered vehicle. Through experimentation, we designed which materials and shapes would make the best sails and we calculated costings of making the vehicles. We evaluated whether we achieved the purpose of the brief and contemplated changes that we would make in the future.

As an extension of our visit, we became ethical, informed citizens, learning about the effects of climate change and considering how we could protect our planet. We referred to our work about deforestation and were introduced to Greta Thunberg. We have thoroughly enjoyed our scientific experiences this week.

This week in maths Year 5 have been completing work based on decimals. At the beginning of the week, we looked at the place value of decimals and compared decimals to put them into ascending and descending order. We have also been using written methods to add and subtract decimals, with many children in Year 5 completing some Super Spicy Challenges! This week in Language we have been focusing on explanation texts. We started off by looking at different types of explanation texts and children used VIPERS skills to complete a reading comprehension task. Following on from this, the children have been writing instructions on how to make a simple electrical circuit and we have also started researching

Mr Merriman
@PPSMrMerriman
#RedNoseDay



different types of energy, as next week we will be writing explanation texts based on how energy is used to create electricity. This week we have continued to work on our topic 'Electrifying Energy'. The children in both classes have been researching and discussing different ways in which we can save energy, and we have used these to create Energy Efficiency posters.

As well as this, on Thursday afternoon 5TM and 5JW swapped classrooms, so that we could share different pieces of work that we are proud of. Each piece of work was left with a post-it note from a member of the other Year 5 class, what comments saying how proud and impressed they were with each other's' work! This week we were also extremely fortunate to have a visit from Value Added, who provided us with an amazing iPad workshop. Using a range of apps, the children were able to create different robots and even managed to animate these using an augmented reality tool, which made the robots come to life! We absolutely loved using these apps and certainly will be using them more in the future!!

What a fantastic week year 6 have had. The Science and technology week is as popular as the Expressive Arts week was back in the Autumn term. Year 6 have had a wail of a time completing so many interesting and practical activities. It certainly has been a very "hands on" week. As usual our children have risen to the challenges and have exceeded expectations, being resilient and effective problem solvers.

On Tuesday year 6 were fortunate to have a session with Ann and Martin from Value Added Education. They were treated to a session which involved using a variety of digital technology. iPads and chrome books

were used to great effect. Using Minecraft as a base to develop their skills they created a building from Minecraft blocks. They used a website called Plotz to create a lighthouse then, recreated this on the iPad using Minecraft Education. Resilience was most definitely needed and everyone was at hand to help solve challenges. Teamwork really helped everyone to achieve the end result and the "Wow" moment came when the children saw their lighthouse appear on their desk in front of their eyes through the iPad. Year 6 had their first experience of augmented reality. Year 6 certainly learnt new skills which have given them a taste for being creative using digital technology.

On Wednesday and Thursday, year 6 were as busy as ever when Mo from STEM Works spent a day with us. The equipment needed to complete the activities filled the classrooms to the ceiling. Chrome Books, Lego and electronic Lego took over all the tables and the track mats reduced the floor space dramatically. Year 6 were set a challenge and the expectations were high. They had to follow a set of complex instructions in order to make a Lego robot, then code the robot to complete a series of challenges. Mo emphasised the need for teamwork, the importance of communication to solve problems and being independent learners. All very valuable skills to learn for life.

After the excitement of the previous two days year 6 were asked to plan two investigations to accompany our science topic of Forces. First we completed the paper plane challenge. Year 6 made their paper planes then flew them in the corridor. The focus of the lesson was to find the mean, median and range of the measurements of the three flights. An fun activity with a mathematical outcome as well as learning about the forces acting upon a plane.

In addition to this the children planned a fair test and carried out a further investigation. They had to



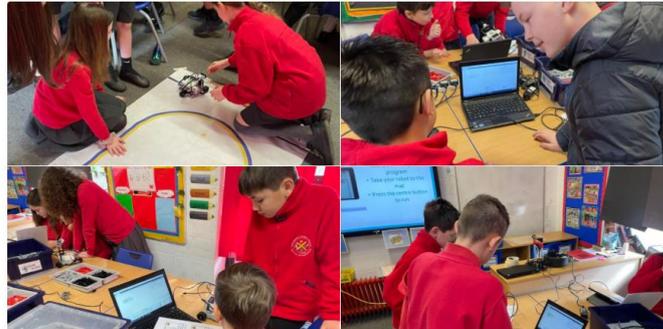
make 3 different sized parachutes from paper then time the drop of each parachute. Again, the children had to calculate the mean of each of the parachutes then produce a trend graph to show the data they have collected. Again opportunities to use numeracy across the curriculum, understanding that maths and science are linked.



Mr Cleaves
@PPSMrCleaves

Once our robots were built we then started to use code to programme them to move. First task was to get them to move straight and finish right on the finish line.

[@STEMworksUK](#) [@PentrepoethPrim](#) [@PPSSciandTech](#)



Science has not always been the focus of the whole week as year 6 have been practising singing four songs with Mrs. Berry. We have had an extra rehearsal this week as year 6 have been asked to perform the four songs to the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, Robert Aitkin CBE and The Right Worshipful, the Mayor of Newport, Councillor David Williams after they have planted a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. An altogether exciting experience for everyone in year 6 and such an honour. And our children really did sing tremendously well and we are all extremely proud of them. A real team effort and the singing was superb.

To complete the week, and start the weekend with a bang, Friday was Comic Relief Day or Red Nose Day. Everyone in year 6 looked resplendent in their red noses and super hero costumes or just their Red Nose Day T Shirts! What could be better than raising money for those who are not as fortunate as ourselves. Another fabulous themed week with plenty to talk and reflect on. Ardderchog, year 6, you really did rise to the all the different challenges set for you this week. So proud of you all.



Mr Cleaves
@PPSMrCleaves

Year 6 were honoured to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, the Mayor and Mayoress of Newport to Pentrepoeth for the planting of The Queen's Green Canopy to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. We celebrated the occasion by singing 4 songs for our visitors. [@PentrepoethPrim](#)



Website - www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk

Twitter - @PentrepoethPrim

Other Twitter Pages ...



Click on the links in blue!

Class	Twitter	Area	Twitter
Nursery - Mrs Williams	@PPSMrsWilliams	Whole School	@PentrepoethPrim
Reception - Mrs Starke	@PPSMrsStarke	Expressive Arts	@PPSExpressiveArts
Reception - Miss Ellis	@PPSMissEllis	Health and Wellbeing	@PPSHealth_Well
Year 1 - Mrs Batrouni	@PPSMrsBatrouni	Humanities	@PPSHumanites
Year 1- Mrs Drummond	@PPSMrsDrummond	Languages, Literacy and Communication	@PPSLangandLit
Year 2- Mrs Beard	@PPSMrsBeard2jb	Mathematics and Numeracy	@PPSMathsandNum
Year 2 - Mr Nocivelli	@PPSMrNocivelli	Science and Technology	@PPSciandTech
Year 3 - Mrs Baxter	@PPSMrsBaxter		
Year 3 - Mrs Davies	@PPSMrsDavies		
Year 4 - Mrs Gooding	@PPSMrsGooding		
Year 4 - Mrs Jones	@PPSMrsJones		
Year 5 - Mr Merriman	@PPSMrMerriman		
Year 5 - Mr Willmore	@PPSMrWillmore		
Year 6 - Mr Cleaves	@PPSMrCleaves		
Year 6 - Mrs Symes	@PPSMrsSymes		

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dean Taylor'.

Dean Taylor
Headteacher

