

# Newsletter

February 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

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



Please find our school newsletter for February 4<sup>th</sup> 2022. Click on the links for more information.

Please visit our website  
[www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk](http://www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk)

Kind regards,  
Cofion cynnes,

Dean Taylor



# Pentrepoeth Primary School

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

February 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

## Newsletter

Dear Parent and Carer,  
Annwyl Rhieni,

Please find some news and information for week ending 4<sup>th</sup> February.

### New Business Manager – Mrs Vicki Brown



I am delighted to inform parents and children that we have appointed a new school Business Manager, Mrs Vicki Brown. Mrs Brown has worked in Woodlands Primary School in Cwmbran and will take up her post with us from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February. I know you will join me in congratulating her on her appointment and welcoming her to Pentrepoeth.

A message from Mrs Brown...



*'I am delighted to be starting at Pentrepoeth Primary after half term as the new School Business Manager. I have heard how wonderful the school is and I am excited to join the Pentrepoeth family. I look forward to meeting you and your children very soon.'*

### Additional Learning Needs

As you may be aware the Welsh Government has introduced new procedures in schools in Wales to support children with ALN. Letters have been issued regarding the new ALN bill and One Page Profiles with targets have been sent home. Would parents please sign and return to school. Why not join us for a Parent Workshop to explain the new bill on Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Parking and School Drop Off and Pick Up

I would like to thank parents and carers for their ongoing support and cooperation with our one way system whilst we are operating under Welsh Government guidance.

I am writing to ask parents to continue to show consideration to our neighbours by not obstructing drives or parking on pavements on roads adjacent to the school.

Can I also encourage parents to walk children to school where at all possible. Also, whilst dropping off in the drop off bays please be considerate of children passing and turn off engines to limit pollution and exposure to fumes.



# PTA NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
FOR PARENTS AND CARERS.

**Thank you for your amazing gift donations we had some lovely items for future sales!**

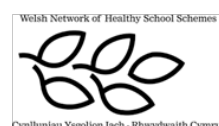
**TWO'S DAY RAISED £543.11**



We will do another donation drive next half term so please don't throw them away and keep hold of any items you want gifted.

*Thanks to your support...*

WE HAVE JUST DONATED ANOTHER **£2000** WORTH OF FUNDING TO SCHOOL FOR THE WORKSHOPS THIS TERM!  
THE FEEDBACK OFF THE CHILDREN HAS BEEN SO POSITIVE AND THEY HAVE REALLY ENJOYED IT!  
THANKS TO OUR EVENTS THATS **£5000** WE HAVE GIVEN TO SCHOOL THIS YEAR ALREADY WHICH HAS DIRECTLY HELPED CHILDREN IN ALL YEAR GROUPS. FANTASTIC!





On **Tuesday 8th February** we will be joining schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating **Safer Internet Day 2022**. Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers and more, to join together in helping to create a better internet.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. Some of the activities we'll be participating in on the day include:

Assemblies, Poster Designs, Classroom Activities and talks from our School Police Liaison Officer

We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, you may be interested in downloading the free Safer Internet Day Resources for Parents and Carers which is available at: [saferinternet.org.uk/sid-parents](https://saferinternet.org.uk/sid-parents).

There are top tips, quizzes, and films which you can use at home with your child.

Some other resources which you may find helpful in supporting your child online are:

- Tips, advice and guides for parents and carers from the [UK Safer Internet Centre \(saferinternet.org.uk/parents\)](https://saferinternet.org.uk/parents)
- Advice for parents and carers from [Childnet \(childnet.com/parents-and-carers\)](https://childnet.com/parents-and-carers)
- Reviews and information about games, apps, TV shows and websites from [Common Sense Media \(commonsense.org\)](https://commonsense.org)
- Help on using parental controls and privacy settings from [Internet Matters \(internetmatters.org/controls\)](https://internetmatters.org/controls)
- Information and reporting of online grooming or sexual abuse from [CEOP \(ceop.police.uk\)](https://ceop.police.uk)
- Information, guidance and resources for parents and carers [Hwb \(https://hwb.gov.wales/zones/keeping-safe-online/\)](https://hwb.gov.wales/zones/keeping-safe-online/)

Online safety is an important issue which as a school we're committed to teaching our pupils about.

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher/myself or Miss Cook our Designated Safeguarding Lead/Person.



#SaferInternetDay  
[www.saferinternetday.org.uk](https://www.saferinternetday.org.uk)



# 10 Top Tips for Respect Online: A DIGITAL WORLD FOR EVERYONE

Even before lockdowns inflamed the situation, one in every five 10- to 15-year-olds was experiencing bullying online: abusive messages, having rumours spread about them or being excluded from group chats, for example. Through smartphones and tablets, we're used to being able to communicate from anywhere, at any time – but digital devices became commonplace so quickly that it caused a problem: as a society, we haven't properly adjusted to how different they've made life. Our tips can help you to build positive relationships online and avoid some of the potential issues.

## WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Etiquette is a set of rules to help us interact with others: like a code of respect. People follow this code every day (mostly without even thinking about it) and it can help us decide how to act in certain situations. 'Netiquette' (etiquette on the net – we see what they did there!) is the same, except it's designed to help us interact with others online, which is sometimes a whole different ball game.

### 1 SEE THE OTHER SIDE

Usually when we're online, we can't use the other person's body language or tone of voice to give us clues about what we can say to them, or how to say it. Try to think what the situation might be like for them, how they're feeling and whether we'd say the same thing if they were actually there with us.

### 2 HIT THE PAUSE BUTTON

Without a person physically there in front of us, it's easy to send something quickly – before we've really thought about whether it's helpful or kind. Just because we can do things quickly doesn't mean we *should*; it's better to pause for a second and think it through, instead of simply reacting.

### 3 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

People have invented loads of different ways to communicate online (emojis, abbreviations like LOL, TBH and so on). Some of these can be triggering to other people (such as USING CAPS SO IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE SHOUTING!), so it's important to stay aware of the style of language you're using.

### 4 BE SURE BEFORE YOU POST

On social networks like Instagram or Facebook, vast numbers of people might see what you've posted. So if that's something negative about a person, it can feel hugely painful for them. If you're ever tempted to post something like that, ask yourself "do I really need to go public with this?"

### 5 PROTECT YOURSELF

Always think very carefully before sharing any personal information with someone else or in a group. Once something's been put online, the sender loses any control over where it goes and who might see it. If you've got any uncertainty at all, it's a good idea to talk to a trusted adult about this first.

### 6 KINDNESS IS CATCHING

Negative communication can spread rapidly online, but so can being kind and helpful (this happened quite a lot during lockdowns, for instance). A friendly, positive message can make a big difference to someone as well as helping us feel good about ourselves – so share the love!

### 7 WAITING CAN BE HARD

When we've sent a message or posted something online, waiting for a reply or for someone to respond can make us anxious. It could be helpful to think whether you really *have* to message or post right now – or if you could wait until a better time when it will cause you less anxiety.

### 8 THE NET LOVES ATTENTION

Most apps, games and sites use sophisticated technology that's designed to keep us coming back for more. It's important to keep this in mind when you feel the need to reach for your phone, tablet or console – once we understand this fact, it becomes easier to control how we use our digital devices.

### 9 REPLY WISELY

Sometimes it's tempting to fire back an instant response to a post or message we don't like. *How* we respond is important, however – whether we reply privately to the person or on a platform where lots of people will see it, for example, makes a big difference to how whoever is receiving the message will deal with it.

### 10 FORGIVE AND FORGET

Even though we try to avoid them, mistakes can – and *do* – happen online. They can sometimes feel like a bigger deal than they actually are. It's important to remember that we're all only human, and sometimes we mess up. Learn to forgive others and – just as importantly – to forgive yourself.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the mediums.



Source: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350200000>  
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350200000> | <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350200000> | <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350200000>



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# 10 Top Tips for Respect Online: INSPIRING CHILDREN TO BUILD A BETTER DIGITAL WORLD

Our ability to communicate with anyone in the world, at any time, via the internet has grown at breakneck speed. For teachers and parents, it can feel impossible to keep up. Worrying about our young people is understandable, and not unjustified: in 2020, for example, one in five 10- to 15-year-olds experienced bullying online. Our tips highlight ways that adults can support young people's positive online behaviours: by adopting and following 'netiquette', we can show them how to avoid getting into difficulty as they learn to negotiate the continually evolving digital landscape.

## WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Just like etiquette is a set of rules which guides and governs our interactions with others in everyday life, netiquette - etiquette on the net - is the framework which helps inform how we communicate with people online. The rules of engagement often aren't the same as a face-to-face meeting, so it's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

### 1 ACCEPT DIFFERENT RULES

A lot of our interaction with others is helped by non-verbal signals like body language and facial expressions. Online, of course, many of these clues are missing. Talk to your child about why this makes misunderstandings more likely to occur in the digital world and why keeping in mind that online communication is a very different process can help to prevent difficulties from arising.

### 2 PRESS 'PAUSE'

It's so easy to do things quickly online that most people (adults included) habitually send or respond to messages without considering the consequences. Pushing 'the pause button' buys a young person some time while they ponder the golden rule: "Would I still say this if the other person was right in front of me?" You could practise this with your child on some made-up tricky situations.

### 3 THE INTERNET IS ADDICTIVE

Apps and sites use sophisticated algorithms and clever marketing to keep us engaged, while notifications to our devices are designed to draw us back in. It's no wonder that people continually return to the digital world, sometimes spending long periods of time there. You and your child could trial turning off notifications on certain apps and instead agree a time to check for updates manually.

### 4 BEWARE THE DARK SIDE

Getting a hurtful or unhelpful comment on social media or in a group chat can make the recipient feel publicly shamed. That's painful for anyone - but especially for a young person whose status in a group is integral to their sense of identity. Encourage your child to think about the best and safest way to send a message: for example, doing it as a private message rather than a public post.

### 5 HARMFUL INTERACTIONS

Unfortunately, it's very easy to send a hurtful message or to spread gossip and rumours online. We all know this happens regularly. Not having to deal with actually seeing the other person's distress usually doesn't help people to make a positive decision in the moment. It's important that trusted adults help children to visualise the potential consequences and have empathy for others.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the mediums.



Source: <https://www.nos.gov.uk/learningsubjectandcommunity/online-safety-at-school/using-social-media-safely-in-school/higher-secondary/secondary-12-13>  
<https://www.nos.gov.uk/learningsubjectandcommunity/online-safety-at-school/using-social-media-safely-in-school/primary-1-6>

### 6 APPRECIATE DIFFERENCES

We're all built differently; some people are simply more emotionally sensitive than others. Young people can be particularly affected by negative online communication, such as group shaming. Even a single message (which might seem trivial at face value) can cause deep anguish. Trusted adults should be prepared to be patient and listen to any difficulties their child might have had online.

### 7 ACCENTUATED ANXIETY

Young people's online lives create a lot of anxiety. Messages go into a 'black hole' until someone responds, there are more reasons to compare ourselves negatively, and social media can make us feel like we're missing out. Encourage activities such as sports and hobbies to balance this out, and remember that merely blocking out thoughts (by gaming, for instance) isn't the same as relaxation.

### 8 PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A huge positive for the internet is how it helps people to feel connected and makes being kind and helpful easy to spread. When young people get involved in pro-social behaviours online, it creates a positive feedback loop which makes them feel good. Show your child examples of when you've done or said something positive online, and praise and encourage them when they do the same.

### 9 BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

One of the best things we can do as trusted adults is to role model positive online behaviour. Just letting your child see that you know when it's time to put your phone away and do something more productive can set a strong example. Some families set aside particular times of the week (such as mealtimes or a family walk) where digital devices aren't allowed and conversation takes precedence.

### 10 SHOW COMPASSION

Mistakes can feel much bigger online, because they're so public. If a young person does or says something regrettable on the internet, it's important to support them to forgive themselves, learn any lessons and move forward positively. Even as adults, we can often stumble when learning how things work in the fast-moving digital world, so it's important to have compassion for ourselves, too.



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**Mental Health**  
Your mental health is a priority. We want to help you prioritise these things whenever you can.

**1. Eat, Move & Sleep**  
The best of mental health is to look after your physical health. Don't forget your body. It's your superpower and it gives you the strength to push through the stress of a week at school. So make it a habit to get your body moving for at least 30 minutes and try to get a good night's sleep.

**2. Socialise**  
Your attitude towards you is so important to your happiness and health. Don't forget to smile and say hello to your friends and family. It's a great way to feel good and to be with your loved ones.

**3. Choose to be Positive.**  
Your attitude towards you is so important to your happiness and health. Don't forget to smile and say hello to your friends and family. It's a great way to feel good and to be with your loved ones.

**4. Be Grateful.**  
Gratitude is a fantastic way to feel good. Think about all the things you're grateful for. It's a great way to feel good and to be with your loved ones.

**5. Play to Your Strengths.**  
Work out what your strengths are and find opportunities to bring them to the fore.

**6. Be Kind.**  
Kindness is a superpower. It's a great way to feel good and to be with your loved ones.

**7. Get Organised.**  
Having a plan can help you to feel good and to be with your loved ones.

**8. Work Sensible Hours.**  
It's important to take breaks and not to work too hard. It's a great way to feel good and to be with your loved ones.

**9. Be Your Own Bestie.**  
Be kind to yourself. It's a great way to feel good and to be with your loved ones.

**10. Ask for Help.**  
It's perfectly okay to ask for help. It's a great way to feel good and to be with your loved ones.

**#Fact:**  
The average teenager in the world uses social media for 2.5 hours a day. It's a great way to feel good and to be with your loved ones.

Place2Be's  
**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**  
7 - 13 FEBRUARY 2023

**GROWING TOGETHER**

**WE'RE TAKING PART IN CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**

childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk  
#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek

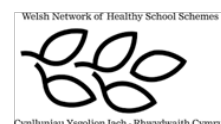
# WELLBEING CHALLENGE

Make wellbeing a priority during Children's Mental Health Week and take on a Wellbeing Challenge. How many wellbeing actions can you tick off in a week?

<b>Get 8hrs of sleep</b> 	<b>Do a deep breathing exercise</b> 	<b>Go for a walk</b> 	<b>Wear something that makes you feel good</b> 
<b>Take time out to read a book</b> 	<b>Eat your favourite food</b> 	<b>Go for a walk in your local park</b> 	<b>Drink 2L of water</b> 
<b>Do 30 minutes of yoga</b> 	<b>Give someone a compliment</b> 	<b>Have a 'no social media' day</b> 	<b>Catch up with a friend</b> 
<b>Try a 5 minute meditation</b> 	<b>Listen to a podcast</b> 	<b>Go to bed 30 minutes earlier than usual</b> 	<b>Write down 3 things you're grateful for</b> 

childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk

#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek



# GROWING TOGETHER



## TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear parents and carers,

**7 - 13 February is Children's Mental Health Week.** The week is run by the charity Place2Be, and focuses on the importance of promoting good mental health and wellbeing for children and young people.

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Human beings change and grow – we do it all the time and in many different ways. Physical growth is easy to see as we grow from babies to children, teenagers to adults. But growing emotionally is also an important part of our development.

As parents or carers, you are an important role model for your child. Your child does not need you to be perfect - in fact seeing you make some mistakes can be really useful! What is important is that you are able to show them that you – and they – can continue to develop and grow even when things are hard. In fact, sometimes, this is when we learn and grow the most.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are a few simple ways you can support your child's emotional growth.

#### 1. Talk about when your child was younger

Most children enjoy hearing their parents tell stories about when they were younger. Recall stories that highlight how your child has developed and changed over the years. For example, how you enjoyed teaching them to learn to ride a bike, or swim. Or how proud you were when they took part in a school assembly – even though they were nervous.

If you are an adoptive parent, foster or kinship carer, you will still have lots of memories to share from when you first came together as a family.

#### 2. Notice when your child has developed and grown

You may have made marks on the walls to recognise how tall your child has grown over the years, or looked at old photos together. It is important to also recognise and praise emotional growth. This could be letting them know how proud you are when they have learnt to walk away rather than fight with a sibling, or how they have learnt to ask others to play when they used to be too shy to do so.

#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek





# GROWING TOGETHER



### 3. Encourage your child to try new things

This could be new foods, a new activity or a new experience. Praise their willingness to 'give things a go' rather than whether they were 'good' at it. This will give them confidence to continue to develop and grow.

### 4. Listen to your child's hopes and dreams for the future

Encourage your child to see that everything they are doing right now is a tiny step towards who they might want to become in the future. For example, your child staying away from home for a night is a step towards them being able to leave home for study or work in the future. Your child helping another child is an important step towards them becoming a counsellor, a doctor, a nurse or a teacher etc.

### 5. Support your child to learn from tough situations

It can be really hard when your child is not getting on with friends or having a problem with a teacher, or is disappointed with how something has worked out. Acknowledge the difficult feelings, but help your child to see that these situations help us to grow and develop so that we are better able to cope with life's ups and downs.

### Activities from Place2Be's Art Room

**Support Balloon** – have a go at this simple art activity with your children. Aimed at primary-age children, this activity from can help children think about who supports them to grow.

[bit.ly/3m2R9ib](https://bit.ly/3m2R9ib)

**My Changing Shapes** – try this activity designed for secondary-age children. This activity supports young people to look back at their past growth.

[bit.ly/3nhiYTI](https://bit.ly/3nhiYTI)

### Looking for free practical advice to help you support your child?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting the emotional wellbeing and growth of primary-age children.

[parentingsmart.org.uk](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)



Let your child know that if they are worried about something, they should always talk to an adult they trust. It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else in their school.

If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school.

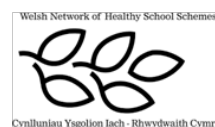
You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on our website: [place2be.org.uk/help](https://place2be.org.uk/help)

[childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)



# Diary Dates

<b>January</b>		
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> January		Planning Day 1
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> January		Planning Day 2
Thu 6 <sup>th</sup> January		Start of Spring Term
<b>February</b>		
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> February		PTA 2-2-22 Non Uniform Day
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> February		Children's Mental Health Week
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup> February		Safer Internet Day 2022
Tue 15 <sup>th</sup> February	5.00pm	<b>Parent Workshop</b> - Additional Learning Needs- introduction to the new Bill
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> February	5.00pm	<b>Parent Workshop</b> - The Curriculum – introduction to the school's bespoke 'Challenge' curriculum
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> February		<b>INSET Day 4</b> – Curriculum - School Closed for Children
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> – Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> February		<b>Half Term Week</b>
<b>March</b>		
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> March		<i>Language, Literacy and Communication Week – Welsh focus – visits from authors Daniel Morden and Claire Donald</i>
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March		St. David's Day Eisteddfod Activities – <i>Children can wear Welsh costume to school</i>
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	5.00pm	<b>Parent Workshop</b> – Reception Parents – How to help your child at home
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March		World Book Day – Activities to be decided by the School Council – CROESO team
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March		<i>Science and Technology Week – STEM workshops, visits from Techniquest and Value Added Education</i>
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March		Red Nose Day - Activities to be decided by the School Council – CROESO team
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	5.00pm	<b>Parent Workshop-</b> Helping your child with Reading - <b>All parents</b>
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	5.00pm	<b>Parent Workshop-</b> Helping your child with Spelling and Handwriting- <b>All parents</b>



Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	5.00pm	<b>Parent Workshop- Helping your child with Writing- All parents</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> March – 8 <sup>th</sup> April		Parent Consultations via Teams - details of booking and days to follow
<b>April</b>		
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April		Easter Assemblies Foundation Phase Easter Bonnet Parade School Closes for Easter Break

## School term times and holidays

### INSET Days

There are 6 INSET days next year. The dates arranged so far are:

- Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021
- Friday September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021
- Friday October 8<sup>th</sup> 2021
- *Friday February 18<sup>th</sup> 2022- Cluster Curriculum*
- *Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> 2022 – Team Teach*
- *Friday July 1<sup>st</sup> – Curriculum, Assessment, Progression*



### School year 2021-2022

Term	Start	Half-term starts	Half-term ends	Term ends
Autumn 2021	2 September	25 October	29 October	17 December
Spring 2022	4 January	21 February	25 February	8 April
Summer 2022	25 April	30 May	3 June	22 July

**May Day - Monday 2 May 2022**



Nursery have enjoyed celebrating 2.2.22 today by wearing our own clothes and having 22 minutes of extra play 😊  
 @PPSHealth\_Well @PPS\_Happiness



In **Nursery**, our 'Sound of the Week' has been **b, b, boot**. We have carried out a sound hunt to find lots of things beginning with this letter. We have also been busy discussing the features and plot of the story *The Very Smiley Snowman*. We enjoyed drawing a story map and re-telling the story in our own words. In Maths, we have been identifying and recognising numbers within 10 and counting out snowballs using tweezers into winter mittens. We have had lots of fun creating a repeating pattern on our winter hats and clapping and tapping out simple rhythms. Learning to drag and drop pictures of winter and summer clothing items into the relevant sets and matching photos to pictures of familiar winter objects has been so much fun!

**Reception** have had a HOOT this week exploring the wonderful story of Owl Babies. The children blew us away when they shared all their wonderful facts about owls and completed some lovely factual writing in their Project books. Reception used their creative skills to draw an owl in chalk and painted some wonderful owlets on the painting easels. They had to search for food in the sand tray to feed the owlets and even made their very own bird feeders to take to Forest School. Reception had to use their building skills to make a shelter big enough to keep the owlets safe and warm during the winter. We also had a lovely singing session with Mrs Berry and learnt our songs for St David's Day. You are in for a wonderful treat.



This week, **Year 1** have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year. We looked at how it is celebrated around the world and enjoyed watching a video from Mr Williams in Thailand who was lucky enough to be part of a Dragon Parade in his school! We talked about how people celebrate Chinese New Year in Wales and the sorts of celebrations people may have. We had lots of fun making Chinese Lanterns, Cards and Tigers out of paper plates in the Independent Learning Zone. We enjoyed listening to the story of The Great Race and had lots of fun carrying out our own races on the yard. We made shadow puppets for the animals in the story and organised them according to their position in the race. We have learnt so many facts about Chinese New Year and we couldn't wait to write down everything we had learnt in our writing books. The highlight of the week was when we had a go at writing our name using the Chinese alphabet. We've enjoyed listening to calming Chinese music and talking about how it makes us feel. We had lots of fun learning some dances and taking part in yoga to mark the celebration. Kung Hei Fat Choy.





**Year 2** have been working on adding 3-digit numbers to 3-digit numbers this week using mental addition strategies. Most children were able to challenge themselves to adding 3-digit numbers that crossed the tens and hundreds! All groups then had a tricky problem-solving activity in which they had to feed a dinosaur the correct amount. Finally, in maths this week, children showed their understanding of mental addition by revisiting 'mental maths train game' adding hundreds together. In Literacy this week, we read the book 'Fossils' as a class and children had to use their comprehension skills to answer questions based on the book in full sentences. Following this, we looked at the back of the book to see a Glossary. Year 2 then created their own glossaries in their books with any words they found tricky, and the correct definitions linked to these words.

In topic lessons, children started to learn their Welsh dance ready for Eisteddfod performance after half term. They learnt the dance in the 30 minutes which blew us away! We can't wait to perform it again as a year group. Pupils also looked at the Cretaceous period and pupils wrote their own opinion on what they thought caused the dinosaurs to become extinct, adding reasons to back up their opinions. Further to this, children had to create their own fossils after recovering bones and finally linked dinosaur pictures to descriptions in Welsh. This week has been T-Rexcellent!



This week **Year 3** have been very busy. In our Literacy lessons we have continued to look at the story of The Snow Queen and have written character descriptions of the main characters Kay and Gerda. We used lots of techniques to develop adventurous and ambitious vocabulary to use in our writing. Using the Spelling Planet, we have worked on words with y at the end and in handwriting we have been practising writing capital letters. In maths we have developed our confidence in our Numeracy skills with our daily TAPAS and used our times tables to divide numbers with remainders. We have been busy problem solving with perimeter, measuring the perimeter of enclosures for wild animals and have been introduced to area of a shape. We have particularly enjoyed learning about the food in ancient Egypt and found that they ate a lot of the same food that we do now. We also discovered what children liked to do for leisure. During

our Welsh lessons, we used the sentence pattern Pa lliw ydy dy llygaid? and Pa lliw ydy dy wallt? to describe hair and eye colour. We have also been developing our ball skills in throwing and catching this week too.

**Year 4** have been focusing on instructional writing this week. We used the text, 'George's Marvellous Medicine' by Roald Dahl as inspiration for our Big Write. We used a thesaurus to find synonyms for 'horrible' and 'medicine' to help us create our titles. One idea was Grandma's Gruesome Tonic! We then used the features of instructional writing explored last week to write our own instructions. We considered the ingredients and equipment that we could use before composing a goal and then writing a sequence of steps to inform others how to make the medicine. Clearly, Grandma's are not gruesome and so we discussed the importance of safety rules and not replicating our fictional, hazardous recipe at home! As a result of our writing, we have been using different spelling strategies to help us change singular nouns into plural nouns, revising the spelling rules used including irregular plurals like teeth and children. In maths, we have been applying our knowledge of partitioning, times tables and multiplying by 10 to multiply a two-digit number by a single digit. At the beginning of the week, we focused on jottings and informal methods before using the grid method as a more formal written method of organising calculations. At the end of the week, we used our understanding of the different strategies to solve word problems. During our



Chromebook time, we created a poster using Welsh. We discussed the importance of keeping our world tidy and free from litter before using the 'Rhaid' language pattern taught last week to inform others to keep our world litter free – Rhaid rhoi sbwriel yn y bin!' During our Forest Schools time, we spent a calm 25 minutes, using an identification key, making a note of all the different birds that visited our school grounds. We were amazed when a flock of birds flew over the playground. Finally, we discussed how we could develop a growth mindset to help us solve problems and challenges in the classroom. We talked about the power of 'yet' and how it is okay not to know all the answers. We talked about strategies that we could use to help us be more resilient and apply to challenging situations during our learning opportunities. Another enjoyable, busy week in Year 4.



In Maths this week **Year 5** have been learning all about angles and triangles. The children have identified the different types of angles and in groups they explored around the school looking to find different examples of acute, right and obtuse angles. They have also been measuring angles and using this knowledge to identify and draw different types of triangles too. In Language this week we have been completing activities based on a short video clip called Rock, Paper, Scissors, which the children have absolutely loved. Having watched the video, the children were able to create and answer comprehension style questions in pairs, as well as marking each



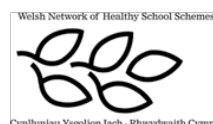
other's work and providing them with feedback. As well as this, children wrote some excellent character descriptions to describe each of the 3 characters, using relative clauses to add detail. We have also been adding dialogue to the video in the form of a play script and children have had lots of fun acting them out too! Our topic work this week has been based on clothing and appearance in Welsh. Children used Welsh dictionaries to identify and create a word bank for words linked to clothing and used this, to describe a variety of different characters. As well as this, we have also

started looking at being able to tell the time in Welsh. As well as some fantastic work in the classroom this week, children in Year 5 have been completing some very much needed gardening tasks around the school. We have been so impressed by the teamwork and determination shown to get the jobs done, well done everyone!

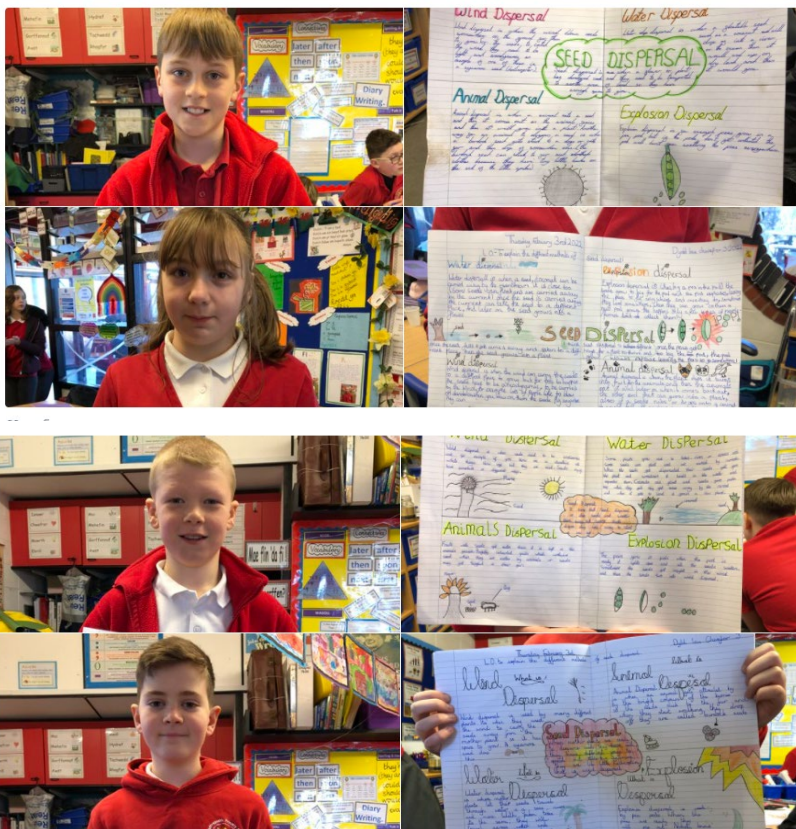


Creativity reigns supreme in **Year 6!** We have been writing scripts and stories, rehearsing our dramas, acting and performing and creating a variety of amazing costumes. In Literacy we have started to think about the quality and further development of our vocabulary. Children have used their already extensive vocabulary and have further extended and developed it by using a thesaurus. Children created a number of descriptive similes, used alliteration, onomatopoeia and personification to create a variety of effects in their writing. They were also very careful to add short snappy sentences to show they are aware of tension in the story. The results

are so well written and are worthy of publishing. As the plants topic draws to a conclusion, children have performed their Pollination dramas. The care and attention the children took with the preparation of the costumes certainly was worth it despite taking a lot of time. The joy on their faces was a pleasure to see, and the amount of discussion and teamwork to get the job done was worth the time and effort. Acting the dramas to an audience did lead to some discussion and not all groups were happy with their first take and

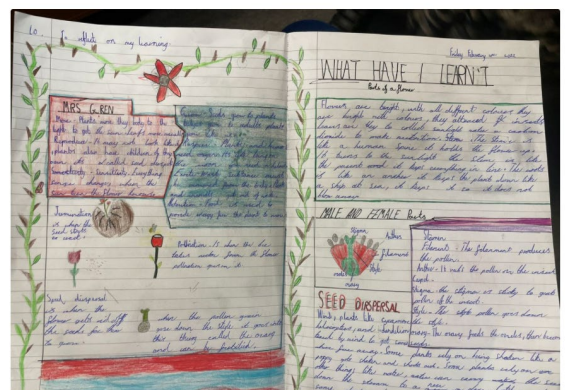


so required more time to reflect and adjust their dramas accordingly. But as we said to the children "If a job is worth doing, it's worth doing well". In Numeracy our focus has been a return to fractions, revisiting equivalent fractions through order and comparing fractions. This concept is not as easy as it seems and the children needed lots of resilience to find their way out of the learning pit. However, the depth of learning they demonstrated and the ability to move through their learning from "I can't yet" to "I can do it" is wonderful to see. Children are beginning to realise the importance of independence, attempting to find their own strategy to help them meet the objective of the lesson. In any hard working week the children need a little outdoor learning and the children have enjoyed some great games outside. They certainly love a game of dodge ball and with so many different varieties the children love the different challenges they play. They have also enjoyed a forest school afternoon and played a variety of forest based activities with Mrs Clissold. Back in the classroom, Year 6 learnt about the life of St. Bernadette, our Lady of Lourdes. The time care and attention they have put into their project books to show off their learning is beautiful. Another busy week has flown by.



Mr Cleaves  
@PPSMrCleaves

Some lovely reflective work today in year 6 where pupils had the opportunity to showcase what they had learnt about plants. @PentrepoethPrim @PPSSciandTech





Some absolutely outstanding pieces of work created by Year 6 this week about the Holocaust. Thoughtfully and carefully created and presented. Ardderchog, pawb!  
 #HolocaustMemorialDay @PentrepoethPrim



What a terrific "Twosday" we have had in year 6. Many thanks to the @PentrepoethPTA for organising a great fundraiser. The children loved their "22" mins of extra play. What a winner! @PentrepoethPrim @PPS\_Happiness

The Twosday fundraiser event is shown through four photographs:
 

- Top Left:** A girl in a grey hoodie and a boy in an orange hoodie holding a rope together.
- Top Right:** A girl in a white hoodie standing on a wooden structure, with another child visible below.
- Bottom Left:** A group of children in a field, some holding red balloons, with orange safety barriers in the foreground.
- Bottom Right:** A group of five children standing together and smiling for a photo.



# How many have you read? Check out the website



Ysgol Gynradd Pentrepoeth  
Pentrepoeth Primary School



Home | Our School | 24/7 Office | Learning | Children | Blended Learning | Parents | Classes



## Mr Taylor's 50 - 75 - 100 Reading Challenge



Mr Taylor's  
50 - 75 - 100  
Reading Challenge



Foundation Phase

Mr Taylor's  
50 - 75 - 100  
Reading Challenge



Years 3 and 4

Mr Taylor's  
50 - 75 - 100  
Reading Challenge



Years 5 and 6

Please click the links above.

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### Mental Wealth

Your mental WEALTH is our priority. We want it to be your priority too. Please please please look after yourself! We want you firing on all cylinders. Your family and friends do too! Here are 10 tips on how to SHINE at work and home.

### 1. Eat, Move & Sleep.

The first task of mental health is to look after your physical wellbeing. Treat yourself to a healthy breakfast and don't forget your 5-a-day. Take regular exercise. Join a gym, cycle, jog, stretch, do yoga, take the stairs, go for a walk at lunchtime. Do whatever it takes to keep your body moving. Turn off laptops, phones and TVs from your bedroom and get your full 8 hours.

### 2. Socialise.

With actual real people. Human beings are social creatures. Your happiness is strongly linked with friendship and family so spend more time with real people and less time with social media online.

### 3. Choose to be Positive.

Your attitude travels with you so upgrade to enthusiasm and can-do. Not unbridled. Work too, don't you just LOVE Mondays (that might be a step too far) but tackle each day with an air of optimism and enthusiasm. Positivity doesn't mean problems disappear but it does make them a whole lot easier to deal with.

### 4. Be Grateful.

Gratitude is like fertilizer for happiness. Marvel at what you have got rather than grumbling about what you haven't. If in doubt, write a list of 10 things you really appreciate but take for granted.

### 5. Play to Your Strengths.

Work out what your strengths are and find opportunities to bring them to the fore.

### 6. Be Kind.

Kindness is a super-power. Catch people doing things well and tell them. Do random acts of kindness. Doing a good deed for someone else is a sure fire way to make them, and YOU, feel amazing.

### 7. Get Organised.

Modern life is fast and hectic. Cut your multi-tasking. Get focused by prioritising what needs doing, then single task through your list.

### 8. Work Sensible Hours.

Forget work-life balance and install a life/work balance instead. We want you to be happy. We want you to have a vibrant life. Work productively, use your 48. Then go home and get your 48 there too.

### 9. Be Your Own Bestie.

You know that weird voice in your head. The one that tells you what stupid you are... everyone has it! Human thinking is biased. It's not really logical so learn to dispute your thinking. Catch yourself doing things and change the narrative. You are amazing. Tell yourself that, because it's true.

### 10. ASK for Help.

It's perfectly okay not to feel okay. If you're feeling physically and/or emotionally low, talk to someone. Find some time with one of the managers. We'll find a way of helping you SHINE again.

### #Fact:

The average lifespan is 100 weeks. We want you to live it fully. Life is a short and precious gift, don't send it back unopened.

[www.artofbalance.co.uk](http://www.artofbalance.co.uk)



**Website - [www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk](http://www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk)**

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<a href="#">Year 6 – Mr Cleaves</a>	@PPSMrCleaves		
<a href="#">Year 6 – Mrs Symes</a>	@PPSMrsSymes		

Kind regards,  
Cofion cynnes,

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

Dean Taylor  
Headteacher

