

# Weekly Newsletter

January 29<sup>th</sup> 2021

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



Please find our school newsletter for the week ending 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. 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: Tina Jenkins B.Ed. (Hons)

## Weekly Newsletter

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

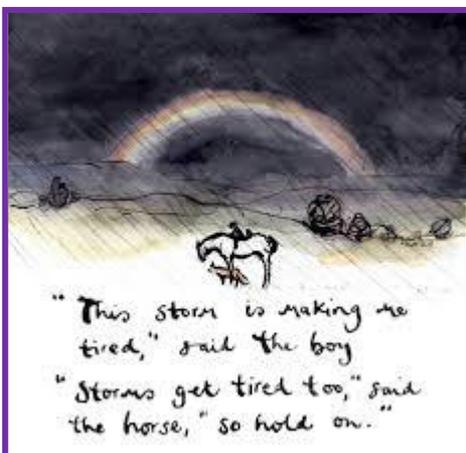
Dear Parent and Carer,  
Annwyl Rhieni,

### Possible Phased Return

As you may have seen or heard via media, the First Minister has today announced Welsh Government's intention to return more children to school 'starting with the very youngest children in primary schools' for face to face teaching and learning after the half term break. This is subject to Covid-19 infection rates continuing to fall. I have no further information at present. The First Minister stated that he will give parents a two week notice period of any change - I will, of course, update you on the detail as soon as it is available.

### Online Learning and Wellbeing

This period of lockdown has felt very different. This will be the third period of restrictions. The first lockdown coincided with a spell of lovely weather and it was at a time when we could get out, this period coincides with shorter periods of day light – it is winter, shorter day time periods and harder to get out and about. A natural weariness has set in for many and this can have an impact on our mood and mental health.



I have had some discussions with parents this week – by phone and by e-mail. Some of you are finding it hard to juggle working from home, home learning and caring for your children. Some are worrying about not being able to complete home learning set and wonder if you are supporting your children in the right way. Other parents have mentioned problems with motivation in children towards their learning. On the other hand some parents have asked for more learning and want to see an increase in 'live sessions'. All parents are concerned about missed learning through face to face teaching and worry about transition to the next year group or High school. We appreciate this totally.



I speak to colleague Headteachers across the UK regularly. This view is shared by parents everywhere. Many of our staff are parents also and are juggling the same problems. They share and understand your frustrations. I want to reassure you that all of these thoughts and responses are just fine and are to be expected. During this pandemic, the bottom line is that all families are safe and well and that children are cared for, safe and loved. Please continue to be kind to yourself and allow yourself breathing space. As I stated in the parents' leaflet last week **we are not expecting you to be your child's teacher – do what you can** and what reduces the stress and impact on your own situation and with the wellbeing of your children at the fore. We really do not want to place any additional pressure on you.

Online learning will never replace face-to-face teaching. Whilst staff will continue to provide a rich range of learning experiences and set high expectations across the week, it is important to remember we recognise it is sometimes not possible to complete all activities set. How you organise this is up to you – there is no right way, just your way and what works best for you and your family. Just do what you can do and that will be sufficient. Our staff will value and respond to all work submitted. Please do not compare what you are doing with others – all family circumstances are different. Try to limit screen time where you can. I have reminded staff to provide a range of learning activities that involve time at and away from screens.

Thank you for the supportive comments and for the continuing dialogue. We will continue to do all that we can to support our pupils and families with a balanced, bespoke to **our** school, blended online learning mix.

If we can help with anything or if you are worried or concerned about your child's wellbeing or just want to chat please call or e-mail us at school – we will help in any way we can.

This has been a real community partnership since March 2020. We will continue to support each other as we seek better days ahead in the coming months.

*No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it*

*HE Luccock*

## Live Sessions



We will be developing these sessions via Teams as the period of online learning continues.

I was going to provide parents with further information about this today.

**This will now depend on any return to school and which year groups this will affect – I will write to you next week with details of how this will operate when we know more, but for next week, the one Teams 'live session' will continue.**

**A reminder that if any families are struggling with any IT or connectivity please be in touch and we will do all that we can to assist.**





Our **Nursery** pupils have been discussing colours of the season and created drawings of things they have seen outside on their Winter walks. They had lots of fun making

marshmallow snowmen after reading "The Very Smiley Snowman". They have been strengthening their hands and fingers and developing their creative skills by making Winter Play Dough and ice decorations using natural materials from the garden. They have practised their numeracy skills by counting the Yeti and shooting snowballs at the correct number, as well as exploring and discussing time and seasons with Harold the Hedgehog.

Our **Reception** children have been finding out about lighthouses and enjoyed sharing "The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch". They have drawn detailed pictures of lighthouses and labelled the key features. They created fantastic 3D models of lighthouses, some of which even had flashing lights. They designed a healthy packed lunch for Mr Grinling and made healthy colourful fruit kebabs. Numeracy activities have involved using ordinal language to sequence events and measure short periods of time, as well as exploring and discussing the days of the week and daily events. Thank you Mrs Jenkins for helping us to count in Welsh.

**Year 1** pupils have been focussing on their phonics work and reading their Bug Club Books, as well as using Read Write Inc sessions every morning to keep their literacy skills sharp. They have been practising their reading every day and are very keen to collect extra Dojo points! Da iawn Blwyddyn 1! Mrs Hill has shared the popular story "Zog" and made delicious jam sandwiches giving clear instructions, using time connectives and bossy verbs. Our Year 1 mathematicians have been investigating number patterns and sequences as well as measuring lengths of different objects at home. They have been learning Welsh with Mr Woodham and practising the question "Beth wyt ti'n wisgo".

Our **Year 2** children read the book "Fossils" and extracted the relevant information from the text to answer the questions posed. They have enjoyed reading our Bug Club books, improved their spelling using Nesy and practised their handwriting skills. Numeracy work has involved completing number sentences and extending their mathematical vocabulary for addition. Pupils have continued to research information about dinosaurs, created their own musical performance in response to the "Roar" poem and created their own pictures using shadow drawings of dinosaurs. Thank you Mrs Ahern for helping us to practise and develop our ball skills.

Our **Year 3** pupils continue to practise their handwriting and have completed comprehension activities where pupils extracted the relevant information from the texts. They have investigated imperative verbs and looked at the difference between verbal and written instructions. Numeracy work has included using tens and units in addition, counting in 100's and understanding numbers to 1000. They are continuing with their "Our Sustainable World" topic by creating posters about Global Warming, making a compost bottles, writing reports on plastic pollution, and creating a PowerPoint presentations explaining different types of renewable energy.



**Year 4** children have identified features of newspaper reports and looked at newspaper headlines in particular. They created persuasive adverts to try and entice people to visit their planets as well as creating maps of their newly visited planets. Pupils have investigated multiplying by 9 and used their place value charts to multiply and divide by 10 and 100. They have created their own space rockets and aliens as well as taking part in the BBC Winter Watch Lesson and researched species of birds using the correct scientific language, e.g., habitat, appearance, and diet. They continue to keep fit and healthy with Joe Wicks. Da iawn Blwyddyn 4.

**Year 5** pupils have investigated key features of instructional writing. They have completed a set of instructions to present to a family member, using a slideshow or a video. Our Year 5 mathematicians have been classifying different types of triangles and identifying the properties of each type. They have calculated the area and perimeter of right angled triangles. Pupils have continued to learn about the Victorian era, made some delicious Victorian sponges and designed Victorian toys. Science work has involved conducting experiments based on marine life. Humanities work has included researching natural disasters linked with water life and retelling the Creation story.

**Year 6** children have looked at the life of Anne Frank during World War 2 and have responded to a series of open ended questions, giving thoughtful and detailed responses empathising with Anne Frank as a young girl. They have been very busy in numeracy, converting fractions to percentages, identifying and ordering equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages and finding percentages of amounts. Our Year 6 scientists have researched the forces acting on birds as they fly, as well as taking part in the Great Garden Bird Watch. They have created an EdWordle about Anne Frank using abstract nouns to describe her character and used a variety of media to create impressive word portraits of Anne Frank.

### **St Basil's**

St. Basil's church are supporting Raven House Trust and will be open for people to bring along food donations ( tins, packets) on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 11am – 12 noon.



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

# Twitter - @PentrepoethPrim

# Other Twitter Pages ...



Click on the links in blue!

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

As I write I am listening to the weather forecast and there may be some snow fall over the weekend. I will keep parents of children attending the hub on Monday up to date with any disruption should it occur.

Yours sincerely,  
Cofion cynnes,

Dean Taylor  
Headteacher

